

**SAUT
HERMÈS**

au GRAND PALAIS

3-4 April 2010

With the inauguration of *Saut Hermès au Grand Palais* on 3rd and 4th April 2010, Hermès resumes the great tradition for equestrian events in the heart of Paris. The Parisian saddler is organising its first international level show-jumping competition along with a specially devised performance around the horse.

The *Saut Hermès au Grand Palais* will be open to the public and will celebrate the horse in all its diversity with an equestrian extravaganza combining culture with technical expertise. Over a two-day period there will be a series of show-jumping competitions – graded CSI 5★ by the Fédération française d'Équitation and the Fédération équestre internationale (FEI) – and premières of equestrian performances in the central atrium.

Initially conceived by Hermès, the event will be coordinated and run by GL events, working in partnership with the house.

Hermès has been a saddler and harness-maker since 1837, and still keeps in step with its first customer: the horse.

The horse returns to central Paris

The Grand Palais is a key site in the Parisian cultural and artistic scene and, thanks to its exceptional position in the very heart of Paris and its vast 13,500 m² space, it was the natural choice for Hermès in staging this event.

After its inauguration in 1900 with the Universal Exhibition, and up until 1957, the Grand Palais hosted equestrian events and competitions, carriage driving competitions, and speed and agility trials. The architecture of the central atrium was designed to house a sand arena, and the space around the two grand staircases is still known as 'the paddock'. Countless people once thronged the galleries to admire heavy horses, thoroughbreds and Anglo-Normans. Paris became known for annually hosting show-jumping world champions in front of enthusiastic audiences.

Next April, the Grand Palais' glass roof will reverberate once again to the thunder of hooves and the passionate roar of the crowd for *Saut Hermès au Grand Palais*.

Sharing technical expertise

Hermès has partnered with GL events, in order to bring this event to life. An international group founded more than 30 years ago by Olivier Ginon, GL events is renowned worldwide for its expertise in engineering events on a grand scale.

The company was solely responsible for the design and build of the equestrian section at the Beijing Olympics and is especially committed to the world of the horse. It is particularly involved in Equita'Lyons, one of the major events in this field, which hosts key annual World Cup qualifier show-jumping classes.

Hermès, and GL events, called on the expertise of French rider Michel Robert in planning these new show-jumping classes. He was World Champion in 1982 and has just won the final of the Global Champions' Tour, a year after taking the Top 10.

The show-jumping classes

Show-jumping is one of the most spectacular equestrian indoor disciplines. Although first and foremost an exacting sport, it perfectly marries a rider's skill and elegance with the power and beauty of his horse.

On Saturday 3rd April 2010, between 3 and 5 pm, "Le Prix GL events", first class in the competition, will see each rider compete on one or other of their two horses registered for *Saut Hermès au Grand Palais*. The prize money will be 50,000 euros.

From 6 to 8 pm, "Le Saut Hermès" will offer a new style of team competition with a unique premise: each team will comprise one male and one female rider from the same nation. The competition will have two phases, one un-timed and one against the clock over a "Grand Prix" style course. The prize money will be 100,000 euros.

On Sunday 4th April, the day will begin at 11 am with a speed class (one round against the clock) for a prize of 50,000 euros.

"Le Grand Prix Hermès" at 3 pm will be the highlight of the event. Run on the classic format (with an un-timed first round and a second round against the clock), this five-star graded competition will run at maximum height (with obstacles up to 1.6 m). The 200,000 euro prize money establishes "Le Grand Prix Hermès" amongst the most important competitions on the international circuit.

The significant prize money means that each of the competitions featured in *Saut Hermès au Grand Palais* will be taken into account in FEI world ratings. Thus, show-jumping's world elite are sure to be found at the Grand Palais just a few days before the finals of the FEI World Cup.

INTERNATIONAL HERMÈS PRESS OFFICE

Ina Delcourt

PRESS CONTACT

Anne-Laure Pandolfi

13-15, rue de la Ville-l'Évêque, 75008 Paris

apandolfi@hermes.com

Tel.: + 33 (0)1 40 17 48 23 - Fax: + 33 (0)1 40 17 49 34

