

IBERICON ARTISTIC ACADEMY 2026 — PROGRAM PREVIEW

Behind the Curtain of Artistic Horsemanship

FACULTY & PRESENTATIONS

DR. MARIA SOLEDAD FERRER, DVM, MS

2 Academy Sessions

THE PREPARED HORSE OWNER

Essential Emergency Skills for Horse Owners

Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists and Professor of Theriogenology at the University of Georgia, Dr. Ferrer brings extensive veterinary and teaching experience to the Academy. In this hands-on presentation, horse owners learn essential skills for recognizing and responding to equine emergencies, including first-aid preparation, vital signs, medications, bandaging and recognizing foaling complications.

YVONNE BARTEAU

1 Academy Session

CHOOSING AN ARTISTIC HORSE FOR DRESSAGE

Grand Prix dressage trainer, clinician, author and internationally recognized equestrian entertainer, Yvonne Barteau brings a lifetime of experience developing horses for both sport and performance. She explores the qualities she looks for in a horse with the potential to combine correct training with expression, presence and artistry.

BRUNO GONZALEZ & SARAH MARTIN

1 Academy Session

KALEIDOSCOPE OF THE AIDS

Feel. Respond. Rebalance.

International Classical trainer Bruno Gonzalez joins Grand Prix dressage rider, trainer, USDF Gold Medalist and longtime USDF instructor-educator Sarah Martin to explore an essential but often misunderstood subject: the rider's aids are never static. Seat, leg and hand must continually respond as the horse's balance and movement change from moment to moment.

BRUNO GONZALEZ & TINA CRISTIANI VEDER

1 Academy Session

PURPOSE BEHIND MOVEMENTS

Every Exercise Has a Reason.

Why do we ride a particular exercise? How do we prepare the horse for it? What does the exercise develop in the horse? And what is the correct way to teach it? Bruno Gonzalez and Tina Cristiani Veder take riders beyond simply performing movements to understand the purpose, preparation and progression behind each exercise—and how one becomes the foundation for the next.

MARSHA HARTFORD SAPP

2 Academy Sessions

CREATING A LEGACY

Inspiring the Next Generation

An accomplished trainer known for developing a wide variety of horses—including unconventional, green, difficult and underestimated horses—Marsha Hartford Sapp brings broad experience in young-horse development, Classical and Western Dressage, natural horsemanship and retraining. She explores how experienced horsemen can inspire, educate and cultivate the next generation while passing forward the knowledge and values of horsemanship.

FRANCES CARBONNEL — CLASSICAL LEGACY

2 Academy Sessions • 2 Subjects

FUNCTION FOLLOWS FORM

Discover the Gifts. Understand the Challenges.

An experienced Classical Dressage trainer, clinician, USDF medalist and influential figure in the development of Western Dressage, Frances teaches participants to train their eye. Using live horses, she explores how horizontal balance and conformation can influence natural ability, performance potential and training.

FRANCES CARBONNEL — SECOND SUBJECT

CONFORMATION OR POSTURE?

Learn to See the Difference.

Building on her first presentation, Frances explores the distinction between a horse's physical conformation and the posture we actually see. She demonstrates how thoughtful Classical training can influence the way a horse develops and carries its body, helping owners recognize what may be structural and what may be changed through correct development.

KATHARINA “GIGI” GASSER

2 Academy Sessions • 2 Subjects

CLASSICAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE MODERN RIDER

Timeless Knowledge. Modern Application.

An eighth-generation horse trainer with a background spanning Classical horsemanship, groundwork, long-lining, Garrocha, Liberty and performance, Gigi brings centuries-old principles into today's arena. She demonstrates how balance, preparation, timing and thoughtful aids remain relevant to modern horses and riders.

KATHARINA “GIGI” GASSER — SECOND SUBJECT

BUILDING CONFIDENCE TOGETHER

From Understanding Comes Partnership.

Drawing on a lifetime around horses and extensive training experience, Gigi explores practical ways to understand the individual horse, develop confidence and create a stronger, more willing partnership. The emphasis is not simply on what the horse does, but on understanding why the horse responds as it does.

TOÑO SERRANO MADURGA

1 Academy Session

THE LANGUAGE OF TRUST

Speaking the Horse's Language

An internationally experienced horse trainer and Liberty performer from Spain, Toño Serrano Madurga has performed in Spain and internationally, including Italy, England, Hong Kong and Portugal, before audiences numbering in the thousands. Also known for helping troubled and previously mishandled horses rebuild confidence, he demonstrates how body language, timing and understanding create willing communication.

CHRISTINE DRENTWETT — ASTERI EQUINE

1 Academy Session

THE ART OF GARROCHA

International equestrian performer and professional trainer Christine Drentwett brings decades of experience training horses and riders for major equestrian productions throughout Europe and the United States. She demonstrates the skill, balance, timing and subtle communication required to maneuver the Garrocha with precision, fluidity and grace.

SHAWN DRENTWETT — ASTERI EQUINE

1 Academy Session

LIBERTY: THE INVISIBLE CONNECTION

A lifelong professional equestrian performer and trainer with extensive experience in Liberty, Classical Dressage, Garrocha, Spanish riding arts and exhibition horsemanship, Shawn explores the unseen communication of Liberty. Her work allows the horse freedom to move away while maintaining the relationship that invites the horse to reconnect and return.

RIANNE RUIZENDAAL — DUTCH DREAM FARM

2 Academy Sessions

THE ATTUNED RIDER

Shaping the Horse Through Thoughtful Training

Rianne Ruizendaal returns to explore the powerful impact of The Attuned Rider on the physical development of the horse. Drawing on her European training and experience in Europe and the United States, she demonstrates how the way we train today shapes flexibility, balance, correct musculature, comfort and athleticism for tomorrow. Sandra Beaulieu participates as a demonstration rider.

SANDRA BEAULIEU — THE CREATIVE EQUESTRIAN

2 Academy Sessions

THE ART OF FREESTYLE

From Arena to Stage

Dressage trainer, clinician, performer and author of a book on equestrian freestyle, Sandra Beaulieu brings both technical knowledge and creative experience to the art of riding to music. She explores how music selection, choreography, movement and horsemanship come together to transform a dressage test into an expressive equestrian performance.

ZALDI — SPAIN

1 Academy Session

TRADITION & TECHNOLOGY

Where Innovation Meets the Art of Riding.

A respected Spanish saddle maker known for combining established saddlery traditions with contemporary design and extensive customization, Zaldi brings an educational look at how saddle design can support horse and rider. The presentation explores how innovation, ergonomics and individual options can influence comfort, position, balance and freedom of movement.

CASA VIDAL — SPAIN

1 Academy Session

THE SADDLE OF THE VAQUERO

Crafted for a Way of Life.

Casa Vidal represents the craftsmanship and heritage of the traditional Doma Vaquera saddle. This presentation explores how the saddle developed around the work and riding culture of the Spanish vaquero, revealing how function, craftsmanship and the practical demands of a distinctive way of life are expressed in its design.

ALFONSO DOCE — STANDBY FACULTY

1 Academy Session if scheduling permits

THE ART OF SPANISH HORSEMANSHIP

Different Disciplines. A Shared Heritage.

International Classical horse trainer, clinician and Riding Master Alfonso Doce brings more than four decades of experience in European and Spanish horsemanship, including Classical Dressage, Doma Vaquera, Working Equitation, Airs Above the Ground and traditional Spanish equestrian arts. He explores how different disciplines developed for different purposes while sharing a common equestrian heritage. If a full session is unavailable, Alfonso may join the Academy's midday Expert Q&A.