

## › Vivaldi preferent

# A Legacy of Quality

The 2018 KWPN Stallion Show was filled with many memorable moments, among them an appearance by the ever-popular stallion Vivaldi. This winner of multiple VHO Trophies was awarded the preferent predicate, thanks to demonstrated excellence as a breeding stallion. The predicate is a wonderful honor for a stallion who has greatly benefited breeding by producing offspring with a good character, elastic movement and an impressive front leg.

Text: STEEF ROEST — Photos: DIRK CAREMANS

Vivaldi offspring abound. Elite riders are crazy about them as are amateurs, who greatly appreciate their good character. In the Pavo Cup and other young horse competitions, Vivaldi offspring finish first; and in the broader sport and at the sub-top level, they consistently dominate the results. And now, Vivaldi's first sons are competing in the Grand Prix, the most notable of which is arguably the Dutch team horse Cennin. Whether showing in the inspection ring or in the World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses, Vivaldi offspring excel.

### Presence

The first time that stallion keeper Joop van Uyttert laid eyes on Vivaldi he was two and a half years old. "I had heard through the grapevine that there was a nice Krack C son stabled with a friend of Vivaldi's breeder. The afternoon that I went there he had just returned from being

radiographed at the vet clinic. Even though he was still sedated, Vivaldi's movement was so special that I fell for him right then. I immediately made an offer, but Ad Valk had first right of refusal. So I phoned Ad right away to ask if we could go in halves on the horse. The rest is history. He's always had that special presence and expressive trot, and he passes those traits on to his offspring. You can tell right away if it's a Vivaldi," asserts Van Uyttert.

### Renate-Utopia

Vivaldi is a son of the Grand Prix stallion Krack C (s.Flemmingh) out of Joop van Uyttert's Jazz daughter Renate-Utopia. According to Van Uyttert, the mare is not very big; however, she possesses abundant nobility and excellent movement. A ster preferent prestatie mare, Renate-Utopia also produced Wiona-Utopia (s.San Remo), who won the National Mare Inspection championship and later competed at



the ZZ-light level. The dam-line continues with the ster preferent mare Darla-Utopia (s.Ulft), followed by another ster preferent mare: Warla-Utopia, a Duc de Normandie daughter and full-sister to the KWPN stallion Overste. Other horses from the same dam-line include the KWPN stallion Radar (s.Cocktail) and Edward Gal's international Grand Prix horse Interfloor Next One (s.Jazz). Santos Utopia (s. Flemmingh), who competed in the international Grand Prix under American Alex Robertson, is another of the many successful sporthorses from this line.

### Happy

In 2005, Vivaldi was registered in the studbook with good scores. Boasting 8.5's for the walk, trot and talent for dressage plus a 9 for the canter, the then still youthful stallion easily earned his breeding license. As a four-year-old, the fancy mover was sent to Hans Peter Minderhoud. "At

the time, he was still a very immature horse, really just a little guy. That's why we took it easy with him the first year. By the time he was five, he was a lot more developed and filled out. From the start, he was very willing and elastic; and he's always had that happy disposition," explains Minderhoud.

### Ultimate 10

Success soon followed. Under Minderhoud, Vivaldi performed well as a four-year-old in the Pavo Cup but developed more strength as a five-year-old to convincingly capture the Cup. "Obviously every win is nice, but I have particularly good memories of that win. As a young horse, it took a while before he came into his own. Shortly before the Pavo Cup, there was a spurt in his development and he got stronger. Carl Hester and Seth Boschman rode him at the time, and both gave him the ultimate 10; that was really a nice moment," recalls Minderhoud.

Vivaldi showcased a sensational trot at the KWPN Stallion Show. Based on his offspring — which have reached the Grand Prix — he was awarded the preferent predicate.



### Crowd-Pleaser

The success didn't stop: Vivaldi also excelled in the stallion competition. In 's-Hertogenbosch, he scored a 10 for his trot, which was a crowd-pleaser. He also won two consecutive VHO Trophies and brought audiences to their feet time and again with his spectacular trot. Minderhoud: "I always really enjoyed riding those rounds in 's-Hertogenbosch, and I think Vivaldi did too. This year was nice because he became preferent. You can tell that the audience enjoys seeing him, and that's how it should be at the KWPN Stallion Show."

### Combining Sport and Breeding

Vivaldi also competed successfully in the Small Tour, although the championships and the Grand Prix were not in the cards. "Vivaldi was busy during the breeding

Cennin, who is out of a Grand Prix mare, has already competed in one international championship and is on his way to his second World Cup final.

season, and it was sometimes difficult to have him in full training. He showed in nice competitions in Aachen and Munich. Then the time came when a choice had to be made between breeding and his sport career. He did some piaffe and passage but still needed some work to get them completely to my satisfaction. I didn't immediately have the feeling that he'd be a team horse," explains Minderhoud. Van Uytert adds: "We have to live from the horses, and that makes the choice between sport and breeding a bit easier."

### Good Business

Vivaldi proved to be a remarkable breeding stallion. Currently, he boasts nine direct KWPN-approved sons, each of which is an outstanding sporthorse. Vivaldi's best sporthorse offspring to date is the KWPN-recognized stallion Cennin. A chestnut stallion out of the Grand Prix mare Vitana V (ds.Donnerhall), Cennin competed in the European Championships under Madeleine Witte-Vrees and finished

Hans Peter Minderhoud:  
**"You can tell that the audience at the KWPN Stallion Show enjoys seeing Vivaldi."**

his second World Cup final in sixth place.

Another KWPN-recognized Vivaldi son, Vitalis (ds.D-Day), showed twice in the World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses and later under Charlotte Jorst and Isabel Freese in the international Small Tour ring.

## Dutch Hope

Vivaldi offspring born in subsequent years are the Netherlands' hope for the future. Among them are Glock's Dream Boy (ds.Ferro), who made a promising Grand Prix debut; and Expression (ds.Vincent), who recently drew notice by performing a very good Intermediaire II test. Vivaldi's son Desperado (ds.Havidoff) competed successfully in the Small Tour and, in the VHO Trophy competition, showed his potential for the Grand Prix. Eye Catcher (ds.TCN Partout) and Ferdinand (ds.Havidoff) have already started showing in the Small Tour, posting good scores. Vivaldi's younger offspring include Geniaal (ds.Biotop) and Jersey, the latter of which is out of a Ferro mare. He was approved in 2017.

## Grandsons

Vivaldi's power as a breeding stallion is also evident in his approved grandsons, and the preferent stallion puts his stamp on both the dam's side and the sire's side. For example, Incognito (s.Davino V.O.D.) and Indian Rock (s.Apache), the champion of the 2016 KWPN Stallion Show, are both out of a Vivaldi mare. In Style, who garnered acclaim in the stallion competition, traces his lineage back to Vivaldi via Eye Catcher. James Bond (ds.Fidertanz), Jamaica (ds.Wynton) and Dettori (ds.De Niro) are offspring from Desperado's first promising years at stud.

## Hind Leg

What kind of mares is best paired with Vivaldi? Joop van Uytert: "On average, Vivaldi is best suited for a more compact mare with a very powerful hind leg. With that combination, he can produce a bigger horse that has sufficient length, moves with an elevated wither and also has good connections."

## Vivaldi Offspring Everywhere

What kind of mares is best paired with Vivaldi? Joop van Uytert: "On average, Vivaldi is best suited for a more compact mare with a very

## HERITABILITY

Born in 2002, Vivaldi has a dressage index of 159, with 93% reliability. He passes on above average conformation and movement, both traits with 96% reliability. With respect to conformational traits, Vivaldi passes on a rectangular-shaped body, with a long, upward neck and a light head-neck connection. The walk, trot and canter have above average scope. The trot features abundant elasticity and carriage; the canter shows power and carriage. For more information about Vivaldi, his breeding registration and offspring, visit the KWPN Database.



The KWPN stallion Dream Boy (ds.Ferro) recently made a promising Grand Prix debut under Hans Peter Minderhoud, who has set his sights on the World Equestrian Games in Tryon.

## NOTABLE OFFSPRING IN THE SPORT

- Cennin (ds.Donnerhall): Grand Prix
- Dream Boy (ds.Ferro): KWPN stallion, Grand Prix
- Desperado (ds.Havidoff): KWPN stallion, Small Tour
- Dancer (ds.Tango): 2014 World Champion (six-year-old division)
- Expression (ds.Vincent): KWPN stallion, Intermediaire II
- Eye Catcher (ds.TCN Partout): KWPN stallion, Pavo Cup winner / Small Tour
- Fanita (ds.Havidoff): Pavo Cup winner / IBOP (95 points)
- Fenix (ds.Houston): Pavo Cup winner
- President's First Apple (ds.TCN Partout): Small Tour



powerful hind leg. With that combination, he can produce a bigger horse that has sufficient length, moves with an elevated wither and also has good connections.”

### Straw Habit

Minderhoud has had a number of Vivaldi offspring and grand-offspring at his stable over the years and has noticed a curious habit they share: “They actually all have the same look: a

Expression is Vivaldi's most remarkable offspring from the E-year. Under Diederik van Silfhout, he won the Dutch championship at the ZZ-advanced and Small Tour levels — and made a promising debut in the Intermediaire II.

nice, slightly long head and a thick mane; they almost all have that happy presence. Without exception, they're uncomplicated horses. They also all have an unusual habit in their stall: all

Joop van Uytert:  
**“On average, Vivaldi is best suited for a more compact mare with a very powerful hind leg.”**



The sensitive stallion Desperado (ds.Havidoff) won the VHO Trophy under Emmelie Scholtens, thus following in the footsteps of his sire.

the offspring that I've had in the stable toss their straw in the corner of their stall and stick their head in it until they're underneath it. Vivaldi does that and so do Glock's Dream Boy, Vitalis and Geniaal.”

### A Special Feeling

After standing at stud in Germany the past several years, Vivaldi is now back at his home base in Heerwaarden. The Krack C son is still ridden regularly to maintain his fitness. “Renate van Vliet rides him several times a week. She adores him and gets a special feeling from him. That's why it was nice to present him for his preferent predicate in Den Bosch. Hans Peter was able to get on and show him optimally, which can only be done if a horse like this is in training,” concludes Van Uytert. ●