

Berlin

Proven in Sport and Breeding

The KWPN stallion Eurocommerce Berlin, now age 20, had an impressive career as a top international show jumper. His list of wins include the team gold medal at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, the 2007 European Championships in Mannheim, the 2006 Dutch Championship in Mierlo, and various Grands Prix throughout the years. Equally impressive are Berlin's achievements as a leading breeding stallion. His oldest offspring are excelling in international show jumping; and in early February of this year, Berlin was officially honored as a *keur* stallion at the KWPN Stallion Show.

TEXT: JENNEKE SMIT • PHOTOS: DIRK CAREMANS

Eurocommerce Berlin, who was originally named Casper, was born in 1994 on the property of his breeder, Josef Unkelbach of Cologne, Germany. As a three-year-old, the gray stallion was presented to the Holsteiner Verband but was not immediately approved. However, when he competed in the Hengstleistungsprüfung in Adelheidsdorf, he finished second among the jumper stallions with 133.21 points. He was then trained for the sport, and at age six, the talented jumper was discovered by Stal Eurocommerce of Lochem. Upon winning the team gold medal at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Berlin received definitive approval by his birth studbook, the Holsteiner Verband.

Good Bloodlines

With his performance pedigree, it is no surprise that Berlin excelled in both sport and breeding. His sire, the famous stallion Cassini I, competed at the highest level of show jumping for years under Franke Sloothaak and captured multiple Grands Prix. In addition, Cassini I is celebrated as a uniform producer and top breeding stallion, thanks to offspring such as Cumano, Ingmar,

Curtis, Carambole, and Carino. Berlin is a typical Cassini I offspring.

Likewise, Berlin inherited ample jumping genes from his dam's side: his dam Estia, showing under the name Cathleen W, was an international show jumper under Aloïs Pollman-Schweckhorst and Marc Wirths. Furthermore, Estia's sire Caretino has more than proven himself as a breeding stallion, and numerous good show jumpers have come out of this direct dam-line. The Visser family of Stal Eurocommerce and their rider Gerco Schröder initially acquired

Robert Dijkhuis:
 “Berlin offspring have a good temperament as well as abundant jumping talent and scope. They're often late-bloomers.”

BERLIN'S SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Team gold, WEG, Aachen 2006
- Team gold, European Championships, Mannheim 2007
- Dutch Champion, 2006
- 1st, GP, La Coruna 2006
- 1st, GP, Verona 2004
- 2nd, GP, Helsinki 2002
- 2nd, Riders Tour, Gera 2002
- 3rd, GP, La Baule 2004
- 3rd, Hannover Championnat (1.60m), Hannover 2003
- 4th, GP, Barcelona 2007
- 4th, GP, Vigo 2006

In early February, Berlin was awarded the *keur* predicate based on the outstanding performance of his offspring.



STALLIONS

1



2



Gerco Schröder:
 “Berlin has an awesome disposition: he always wanted to go for it and gave everything he had. Those kinds of horses can make the difference.”

Berlin as a six-year-old solely for his sport talent. “Berlin had been with Jan Tops and competed at the 1.30m level in southern Germany. Actually, we went there to try a different horse, but Berlin attracted our attention. When I tried him, he immediately gave me a really good feeling. He clearly needed to get stronger, but I had plenty of faith that he would. He felt like he could jump anything, and he’s more than proven that over the years,” explains Gerco Schröder, who achieved great success with the gray stallion.

A Change of Riders

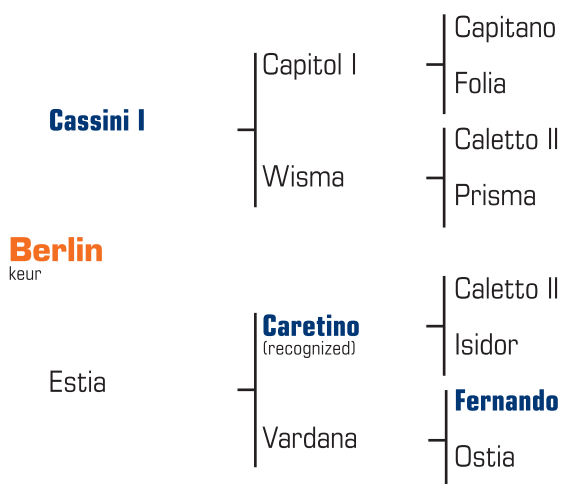
Initially, Gerco’s brother Wim was Berlin’s trainer. Wim invested ample time and energy in dressage work with the stallion, advancing him

to the highest level of show jumping. In 2002, the duo posted their first top placings together at the Grand Prix level, finishing second in the Grand Prix of Helsinki and the Riders Tour (1.60m) in Gera. The same year, they captured the Grand Prix (1.50m) of Valkenswaard. In 2004, the duo won the Grand Prix of Verona and competed on the winning Dutch team in Cannes.

In the spring of 2005, Wim unfortunately broke his leg, so Gerco took over Berlin’s training. The combination became valued members of the Dutch show jumping team, and the stallion proved to be an outstanding championship horse. One of the most memorable moments in Berlin’s sport career was the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, where the duo made an essential contribution to winning the team gold medal. Individually, Gerco and Berlin ended sixth.

“The WEG in Aachen was one of my most memorable moments with Berlin. The way he jumped there was truly amazing! Berlin was a top show jumper for many years, and he meant a lot to me. I think his awesome disposition is his best trait: he always wanted to go for it and gave everything he had. Horses with that kind of disposition can make the difference,” asserts Gerco.

At the 2007 European Championships in Mannheim, Berlin added another team gold medal to his list of achievements. The fabulous stallion continued to add to that list through 2008 (see sidebar). Finally, in February of 2009,





3



4

Berlin was officially retired from the sport at the KWPN Stallion Show in 's- Hertogenbosch.

Breeding Stallion

In 2003, the KWPN approved Berlin for breeding. As a proven Grand Prix jumper, known for his practically unlimited scope and good rideability, he was only required to undergo the five-day temperament test. And he passed it with flying colors. A remarkable number of offspring from his first year at stud now compete in the international sport (see sidebar). Robert Dijkhuis of Stal Eurocommerce is not surprised that Berlin was eventually awarded the *keur* predicate. "It's a very nice reward for Berlin's excellence as a sire. For several years now, we've heard very positive comments from international riders about Berlin offspring, and Gerco regularly sees outstanding Berlin offspring at the shows. The first few years, Berlin bred all kinds of mares; but in recent years, the pairings have been more

targeted. Berlin really passes on his good temperament, which I see time after time in his offspring: they're nice to ride and like to work in a good way. Berlin is best paired with mares that have some length and height, in other words, pretty mares that aren't too small. They don't need to have a lot of 'blood,' although it seemed so at first. Besides his excellent temperament, Berlin passes on a lot of jumping talent and scope," explains Robert.

In his first years at stud, Berlin drew ample interest from breeders. This year, there is even more interest in the stallion. "At first, he bred a good number of mares, mainly ones from abroad. Now that he's *keur*, we get a lot of phone calls about him. That's good because Berlin is in excellent condition. This year, he'll be stabled at De Radstake, where he can better serve the breeding industry. Berlin is a first-class breeding stallion. However, his offspring are often late-bloomers, so it's important not to judge them prematurely as youngsters. They'll get

1. Last December, Berlin's son Zerlin M captured the Grand Prix (1.50m) of Mechelen under Jos Lansink. The stallion is a talent for the future.

2. Last year under Patrick Lemmen, the Berlin daughter Zycalin W swept both the Grand Prix of Peel&Maas (1.40m) and the Grand Prix of Neeroeteren (1.45m).

3. More than 10 Berlin offspring from the 2-year compete internationally at the 1.45m level or higher. Among them is Zimba, a leading IBOP horse (80 pts.), formerly ridden by Charlotte Verhagen and now ridden by Ruben Romp in the 1.45m.

4. In 2012, the Berlin son Chuck (ds.Jasper) won the VION Cup in the five-year-old division under Anne-Martine van Liere.

Genetic profile

Dressage	low	91%
Jumping	low	87%
Exterior	low	87%
Free Movement	low	89%
Height	small	87%

BERLIN		CASSINI X CARETINO		average	
rel:	* * * *	* * * *	average	* * * *	* * * *
149	108	101	112	105	

high
high
high
high
big

BERLIN'S SIRE STATISTICS

Berlin's jumping index is well above average (149), with a high reliability of 91%. His score for passing on conformation (108) and free-jumping (112) are also above average. Berlin increases height (105) and produces outstanding jumpers (86), which demonstrate a tucked front leg (94), rounded back (92), and good hindquarter form (82). Furthermore, Berlin offspring show abundant scope (80) and elasticity (86). They are also careful (87). A complete overview of Berlin's sire information is available at the online KWPN Stallion Database, under the heading Genetic Profile.



there!” asserts Robert. Berlin was one of the horses sold in the online executional auction of Stal Eurocommerce in april. He was sold to Wim van der Leegte of Duyselhof Stud and VDL Groep, well-known sponsor in the jumping sport. He decided to keep Berlin at the Radstake for the coming season.

Successful Offspring

Despite being 20 years old, Berlin appeared in excellent condition at his award ceremony at the KWPN Stallion Show in ‘s-Hertogenbosch. Robert: “He got turned out in our paddock a few hours every morning and ridden four or five days a week. The girls often rode him through the forest, which he really likes! That’s how he stayed in good condition.”

Berlin’s first offspring from breedings to foreign mares are already competing at the 1.50/1.55m level, and his KWPN offspring are starting to show at that level. His oldest KWPN offspring, now age 10, include the successful jumper Zerlin M (ds.Concorde), who was selected for the KWPN performance test as a three-year-old. Bred by A. de Jong of Wouwse Plantage and ridden by Jos Lansink, Zerlin M is definitely a talent for the future. Last December, he won the Grand Prix (1.50m) of Mechelen. His other recent achievements include placing second in the 1.45m in Drachten, third in the Grand Prix (1.45m) of Oplabbeek, and fifth in the 1.45m of Amsterdam. More than ten Berlin offspring from the Z-year compete internationally at the 1.45m level or higher, among them the top IBOP horse Zuara (ds.Dageraad, breeder: J. de Crom), whose career began under Jan Verellen and advanced to the international sport under Jaime Guerra Piedra and Pilar Lucrecia Cordon. Early this year, Zuara showed in the 1.45m under Caitlin Ziegler in the Winter Equestrian Festival at Wellington. As

NOTABLE BERLIN KWPN OFFSPRING IN THE SPORT / ABILITY TESTS

- **Zerlin M** (ds.Concorde), Intl. Show Jumper, 1.50m with Jos Lansink
- **Zuara** (ds.Dageraad) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.45m with Caitlin Ziegler + IBOP 85
- **Zimba** (ds.Corland) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.45m with Ruben Romp + IBOP 80
- **Zycalin W** (ds.Carthago) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.55m with Patrick Lemmen
- **Zilverstar T** (ds.Cavalier) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.50m with Olivier/Ludo Philippaerts
- **Zippit** (ds.Zeus) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.45m with Jelmer Hoekstra
- **Zürich** (ds.Quinar) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.45m with Satoshi Hirao
- **Oak Grove’s Beyrouth** (= Zürich, ds.Bunggraaf) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.45m with Andreas Erni
- **Zellobee** (ds.Corland) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.45m with Spartak Chistiakov
- **Zirikit** (ds.Lux) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.45m with Frederik Cattebeke
- **Zoriana** (ds.Chellano Z) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.45m with Kristian Houwen
- **VDL Groep Zamboa** (ds.Hinault) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.40m with Niclas Parmler
- **Glock’s Ambelina JB** (ds.Corland) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.50m with Robert Puck + IBOP 80.5
- **Ace** (ds.Irco Polo) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.45m with Stefanie van den Brink
- **Athene** (ds.Numero Uno) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.45m with James Paterson-Robinson
- **Antigone Quality** (= Antigone de la Vie, ds.Heartbreaker) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.45m with Candice King
- **Zalerno** (ds.Espri) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.40m with Jaime Azcarraga
- **Brooklyn** (stb.name: Anakin W, ds.L’Amour Z) Intl. Show Jumper, 1.40m with Wout-Jan van der Schans
- **Zachary** (ds.Lux) Natl. Show Jumper, 1.30m + IBOP 80
- **Beatrice** (ds.Lux) IBOP 85
- **Berline de la Vie** (ds.Coriano) IBOP 82
- **Chuck** (ds.Jasper) 2012 VION Cup champion, five-year-old division



7

a three-year-old, Zuara excelled in the IBOP, scoring 85 points. Another such Berlin offspring is the BWP-approved stallion Zilverstar T (ds.Cavalier, breeder: Herman van Triest). He was crowned an elite stallion early this year in Belgium, based on his outstanding achievements at the 1.45m/1.50m level under Ludo and Olivier Philippaerts. Likewise, the Berlin daughter Zycalin W elite sport-jump claimed the Grand Prix of Jumping Peel&Maas (1.40m) last year under Patrick Lemmen. Shortly thereafter, the duo won the Grand Prix of Neeroeteren (1.45m). Bred by A.P. de Wit, the mare is already qualified in the 1.55m, thanks to a clear round in the Grand Prix of Vechtdal (CSI3* Ommen), in which the duo finished fourth. Berlin has also produced winners from other birth years, such as Ace (ds.Irco Polo), who



8

claimed the Grand Prix for Young Riders (1.45m) under Stefanie van den Brink at Indoor Twente in December 2013.

Excellent Offspring

Berlin boasts several sons who are approved by various studbooks. From his first year at stud, Berlin's son Zürich (ds.Concorde) was declared Champion Stallion. He was approved by the KWPN with 83.5 points, having earned the highest score among the jumper stallions in the spring performance test. Wout-Jan van der Schans showed Zürich through the 1.40m level. In early 2012, a buyer from the Czech Republic purchased him for the sport. To date, Zürich is Berlin's only KWPN-approved son. Another champion Berlin offspring is Chuck (ds.Jasper), who captured the 2012 VION Cup for five-year-olds under Anne-Martine van Lieren. Berlin boasts 554 offspring which have been registered with the KWPN through 2013. Of the 71 Berlin mares which have been inscribed in the studbook, 31 are now *ster*, 6 *keur*, and 10 elite. This means that 64% of Berlin studbook mares have earned a predicate - a remarkable percentage indeed! Furthermore, Berlin has one daughter which earned the *preferent* predicate, two daughters which passed the mare test, and 18 daughters which passed the IBOP. Fourteen of his daughters have earned the sport predicate and 38 are PROK-approved. Last year, Berlin sired 32 foals. ●

- 5.** Early this year, the BWP-approved stallion Zilverstar T (s.Berlin) received elite status in Belgium. He currently competes internationally up to the 1.50m level under Ludo and Olivier Philippaerts.
- 6.** After performing a good IBOP (80.5 pts.), Glock's Ambelina JB (s.Berlin) is now excelling in international show jumping under Robert Puck.
- 7.** Berlin's daughter Zuara, who excelled in the IBOP (85 pts.), advanced to the 1.45m level this year under Caitlin Ziegler. Zuara was trained by Jan Verellen.
- 8.** The KWPN stallion Berlin, now age 20, had an impressive career as a top international show jumper.