



CCI 2*L / CCI 3*S / CCI 3*L / CCI 4*L : a complete event(ing)

D-1 before the launch of one of the biggest eventing competition in France ! 230 riders representing 18 nations are ready for one of the 4 levels of competition of Saumur Complet that starts tomorrow. In the CCI 4*L, the highest level of the competition, the only one this year in France in this prestigious long format, young riders will meet and compete against already well-known and experienced riders.

CCI 4*L : a strong french delegation opposed to international stars

The «foreigner» side can rely on Tim Lips, dutch rider, currently ranked 32nd in the eventing world ranking but also on the Australian Christopher Burton, 37 rider in the eventing world ranking. In 2014, Lips finished third in team at the World Equestrian Games in Caen : for Saumur Complet this year, he will be with his 9 years old mare, Lacoste Z, the combination did great at the CCI 3*S of Barroca d'Alva and on the CCI 4*S of Stzergom. It will be there first CCI 4*L together !

Burton was also third place finisher but at the Olympic Games of Rio in 2016. He will be riding Polyester I, a fourteen years-old gelding that he rides since one year, mainly in 2 and 3 stars competitions. The combination won the CCI 3*S of Bicton, one month ago. Usually, the australian rider is used to good results in Saumur, he wons Saumur competitions in 2012, 2016 and last year the CCI 3*.

On the French side, we can rely on the promising young rider Victor Levêque, Young Rider European champion individually and by team. Elected «Rising Star» by the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) last year. In Saumur, the sciences po student will be riding MNH MC Ustinov, the combination was finished 4th at the CCI 4*S of Vairano (in april 2019). The french spectators will also support one of their 2016's Olympic Champions, Mathieu Lemoine, riding Tzinga d'Auzay, participating at its first 4*. Another Olympic champion (but from the 2004's edition) will also be awaited by the spectators in Saumur Complet : the legend Nicolas Touzaint has decided to enter two horses. Absolut gold and Vendée Globe-Jac (finishing respectively third and first at the CCI 4*S of Vairano in April). Another legend in French eventing, the rider from Saumur Jean-Lou Bigot, team vice-champion of the world in 1994 and 1998, will ride his horse Utrillo du Halage, horse that will also participate to its first 4*.

Eventing for beginners : what's the difference between CCI, CIC, S and L.

Since the first of January 2019, there is no more distinction CCI and CIC, it has been replaced by S (standing for short) and L (long).

Originally, eventing competition had two formats : CCI (know CCI L) and CIC (that became CCI S). Apart the difference in the level (and the distance more important in the CCI cross country), the main difference is the order of the tests : for a CIC, it was dressage - show jumping - cross country while for a CCI it was dressage - cross country - show jumping.

The CCI L, as it is more difficult than the CCI S, is more prestigious . The Olympic Games and the World Equestrian Games are considered as CCI 5*L.





CCI 3*L : Tokyo 2020, the ultimate objective

Apart from the CCI 4*L, Saumur Complet 2019 organize 3 other levels : CCI 2*L, CCI 3*S and a CCI 3*L, the only qualificative competition for the nations of the F group (Africa and the Middle-East) and G group (South-East Asia and Oceania) in West-Europe pour Tokyo's Olympic Games in 2020. This explains why this level has so many south asian entered, from which, numerous are from Thailand, Japan, China and Hong-Kong. Competing against them, some french competitors are also entered as Jean-Lou Bigot and, from others, Thibault Valette (Ecuyer du Cadre Noir de Saumur), Olympic champion in Rio, riding his young stallion of eight years-old, Babacool de Brenne, for its first 3*.

A big party for everybody !

Saumur Complet, it is sport at the highest level but not only that. It is also a «rendez-vous» for all the family, with many activities organized, for horse lovers and those who are discovering eventing for the first time! Walk around the cross country is always an enjoyable moment for everybody, riders or not. Saumur complet also offers, saturday all day, pony treks, local producer and artisan market. For partier, afterwork parties, concerts and Dj's sets are also planned every evening of the events.

For the most courageous, the new edition of the trail running courses, La Verrie'Table is launched ! Originally called Saumur Complet Trail, the running race is a good way to discover the cross-country course for runners and walkers. They will also pass around the work of art of Grand Air, the monumental art exhibition in the middle of Verrie's racecourse, in the middle of nature.

By organizing those trails, Saumur Complet wants to introduce eventing to people not used to it and to enjoy the nature offered by the beautiful place that is Verrie's racecourse.

Useful informations :

Saumur Complet 2019, from the 22nd to the 26th of may

Free entry

Program: www.saumur.org

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