

Saumur Complet : behind closed doors indeed, but a real support for sport and culture

To effectively combat the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Saumur Equestrian Committee and its institutional partners have decided to go behind closed doors for the 35th edition of Saumur Complet. In the name of sport, The Verrie racecourse will thus host, from April 29 till May 2, 2021, more than 200 horses and their riders, coming to run a CCI 2 * -L and/or a CCI 3 * -S and or the top competition of this weekend in Saumur, the CCI 4 * -L. The "Grand Air" artistic creation residency, a real "touch" of Saumur Complet, is maintained. The competitions as well as the visit of the «Grand Air» exhibition will be broadcast via an ambitious digital device.

A major event in the spring calendar for international eventing riders, Saumur Complet 2021 is firmly at the helm, by meeting with lovers of equestrian sports from April 29 to May 2, 2021. This 35th edition, hit hard by the health crisis, like all sporting and cultural events in Europe, will offer a unique format, behind closed doors, without an audience ... but the soul of the event is indeed there! within the limits of digital technology.



High-level sport and culture in the open air and outside the walls: the hall- mark of Saumur Complet

Three levels of competition are offered to riders: a CCI 2 * -L, a CCI 3 * -S and a CCI 4 * -L. Last qualifying stage for the Olympic Games in Tokyo and the European Championships for French riders, the CCI 4 * -L of Saumur Complet will probably welcome all the world stars of the discipline, as the opportunities will be reduced for these riders again this year, to practice their sport.

Saumur Complet is not just about sport. It is also a support for contemporary creation that the Equestrian Committee of Saumur has decided to confirm, by maintaining, despite the closed door and the absence of public, the artistic residence «Grand Air». Two artists, Antoine Birot and Karim Ould, have been selected and will present two works installed on the site of the Verrie racecourse. This exhibition will be the subject of remote visits, via the ambitious digital layout desired by the organizer.

Close to the action: a 100% digital edition

To ensure enthusiasts and families a follow-up of the competitions of the weekend, as close as possible to the action, the Equestrian Committee of Saumur is setting up a web TV, accessible free of charge to all from the Saumur.org website. From April 29, this web TV will offer two channels: a "SC Sport" channel on which the CCI 4 * -L events will be broadcast live; and a "SC Mag" channel, which will offer reports, round tables and interviews on different themes: horse, culture, outdoor sports, nature and tourism. The event will also be widely publicized on social media with exclusive behind-the-scenes access to the event.

A major European event for the international eventing competition, Saumur Complet is working to make this 35th edition a major popular festival around the horse, sport, nature and culture, in a context that requires the organizers to reinvent themselves. From April 29 to May 2, Saumur innovates. This is also what it means to be the horse and riding capital of the world!



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