

*Jerez de la
Frontera*

*Royal Andalusian
School of
Equestrian Art
Foundation*





Andalusia's Heritage

The Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art Foundation, based in Jerez de la Frontera, is known all over the world thanks to its show entitled "How the Andalusian Horses Dance",

a unique exhibition of horsemanship which both exhibits and summarises the work which the institution has carried out since its establishment. In May 1973 his Majesty King Juan Carlos I – then Crown Prince of Spain – awarded Don Alvaro Domecq Romero the 'Caballo de Oro' (Golden Horse) trophy in Jerez de la Frontera. This is the most prestigious equestrian trophy awarded annually in Spain in recognition of dedication to, and work carried out in favour of, the horse. In honour of this award, Alvaro Domecq presented his show "How the

Andalusian Horses Dance" for the very first time, such event representing the origin of their Foundation. In its initial stage the School developed under the personal management of its creator. Later the Ministry of Information

and Tourism decided to take charge, purchasing the 'Recreo de Las Cadenas' to this end from the Duke of Abrantes, and an arena was built by the architect José Luis Picardo, which could seat up to 1,600 spectators and had stable facilities for 60 horses. In 1982 the

ministry handed over the running of the School to a Governing Body, under the charge of the Cadiz Provincial Council, thus promoting the re-launch of the school at both a national and international level. In 1983 the Governing Body purchased the School and after public tender the post of Technical Director was awarded to its creator and founder, D. Alvaro Domecq Romero.









A valuable museum

Since 1986 the Governing Body has surpassed even its most optimistic expectations, having been able to provide the Institution with all its economic, personnel and technical requirements. It was in this year that the School acquired the stables of Don Pedro Domecq de la Riva, which consisted of thirty-five Spanish breed horses and a wonderful collection of nineteen horse-drawn carriages and their corresponding harnesses, some dating back to 1730, along with saddles and embroidered clothes for both horses and coachmen, all pieces of incalculable historical value. In June 1987 His Majesty the King received the members of the Governing Body in audience at the Zarzuela Palace, accepting the post of honorary President and conferring the title of 'Royal School' to the Institution. Since October 15th of the same year, Their Majesties King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia have presided over the inaugural events from the Royal Box in the arena of the 'Royal' School Foundation. In July 2003 the previous Governing Body became the Foundation, thus obtaining greater legal entity and allowing it to receive private finance for future development. Although apparently the show "How the Andalusian Horses Dance" is considered the maximum exponent of the School's work, there are other aspects which are regarded as equally, or even more important, for the Institution. Among these, its role as a social and cultural vehicle for the equestrian heritage, the selection and promotion of horses, the training of Haute École riders, the preservation and promotion of Classical and Country Dressage (Doma Vaquera), maintaining the prestige of the schools horsemanship, the breed of Spanish horses, traditions and culture. Furthermore, the show enables the Royal School to play host to the Province of Cadiz and to act as ambassadors abroad on annual tours to different foreign countries.









Exhibitions, galas and tours

Among the different functions that the Royal School fulfills, its role as an international social vehicle of the Andalusian culture and traditions and the important cultural legacy that its exhibition "How the Andalusian Horses dance" represents is remarkable. The show is an equestrian ballet accompanied by totally Spanish music and 18th Century style costumes, all put together and choreographed using movements based upon Classical Dressage, Doma Vaquera (Country Dressage) and the daily chores of traditional equestrian work. The rider becomes one with the horse when dancing in time to the suggestive music, raising their communication to the level of art. The Royal School offers the visitor two performances of its exhibition in the indoor arena every week. Each show consists of between six and eight different choreographies based on Classical Dressage, Doma Vaquera, Haute Ecole dressage exercises and Carriage Driving. The School makes promotional tours of its show around Spain and abroad. Private exhibitions can also be arranged on the Foundation premises. The indoor arena, with the capacity to seat up to 1.563 spectators, is the venue for the "How the Andalusian Horses Dance" show and for several past national and international competitions.





Training in horsemanship with selected Purebred Spanish Horses

Training professionals in the equestrian world is one of the main objectives of the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art.

Different programmes on the different disciplines and subjects are offered: Dressage and Horsemanship, Carriage Driving, Horse Breeding, Saddlery, Stable Hand and Clinical Assistant etc. Training is given by renowned expert riders who may offer tailored courses.

These educational initiatives are aimed at perpetuating the equestrian tradition and preparing future professionals in horsemanship, offering a type of training that combines theory with practical elements. The horsemanship course is designed to instruct pupils in horse riding principles. The integrated training allows development both in the sporting arena and competition, as well as in artistic horse riding. The School takes pride in its wide experience in teaching horse riding and in its privileged facilities. It has a didactic team with an exceptional track record in competition, as well as Purebred Spanish horses and sporting horses for practising various disciplines. Intensive courses in horsemanship with selected Purebred Spanish Horses are given by internationally renowned expert riders.





Museums and tours

The Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art Foundation, as a repository of the Andalusian equestrian heritage, proposes a tour which enables you to experience and understand the art of horsemanship, its study and spread through different resources, inviting the visitor to enjoy this art with all five senses. The Visitor Reception Centre, the Museum of Equestrian Art and the Carriage Museum, the Saddlery, the Tack Room, the Stables, the Indoor Arena and other Training Exercise Rings, the Botanical Garden and the Recreo de las Cadenas Palace are the Foundation facilities that lead you into the essence of the equestrian art. The heritage collections of the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art Foundation are essential for the appreciation, understanding, preservation, study and promotion of the art of horsemanship and carriage driving. Conceived as living exhibition spaces, the Equestrian Art and Carriage museums have both been created with the latest museographic technology, such as high definition digital images, interactive games, three-dimensional projections, touch screens and a wide range of different resources that enable the visitor to have a first-hand experience of the origins and evolution of equestrian art in Andalusia up to the present day.

**Fundación Real Escuela
Andaluza del Arte Ecuestre,**
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