

History of Lipizzan

- The Lipizzan breed dates back to the 16th century, when it was developed with the support of the Habsburg nobility.
- The breed takes its name from one of the earliest stud farms established, located near the Kras village of Lipica in Slovenia

Characteristics

- Most Lipizzans measure between 14.2 and 15.2 hands (58 to 62 inches, 147 to 157 cm)
- Lipizzans have a long head, with a straight or slightly convex profile.
- The jaw is deep, the ears small, the eyes large and expressive and the nostrils flared.
- They have a neck that is sturdy, yet arched and withers that are low, muscular and broad

Color

- Aside from the rare solid-colored horse (usually bay or black), most Lipizzans are gray.
- Like all gray horses, they have black skin, dark eyes, and as adult horses, a white hair coat.
- Gray horses, including Lipizzans, are born dark—usually bay or black—and become lighter each year as the graying process takes place, with the process being complete at between 6 and 10 years of age.
- Contrary to popular belief, Lipizzans are not actually true white horses.

Training

The traditional training methods for Lipizzans were developed at the Spanish Riding School and are based on the principles of classical dressage, which is in turn based on the writings of Xenophon, a Greek commander whose works were rediscovered in the 16th century.

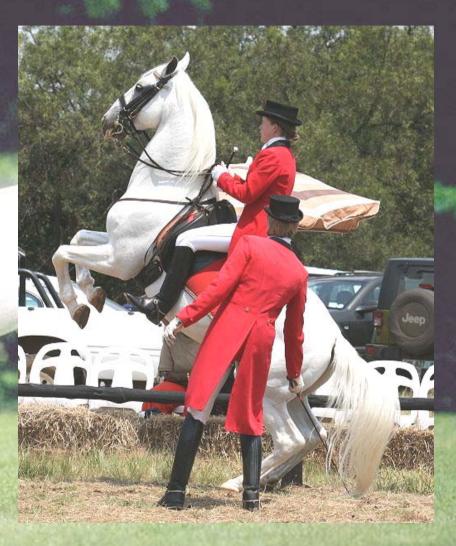
 Young stallions come to the Spanish Riding School for training when they are four years old. Full training takes an average of six years for each horse, and a horse is considered trained when they have mastered the "School Quadrille". There are three fundamental skill sets taught to the stallions, which are:



- <u>Campaign school</u>, teaches collection and balance through all gaits, turns and maneuvers. The horse learns to shorten and lengthen his gait and perform lateral movements, and is introduced to the double bridle. This is the longest training phase of the three.
- <u>High-school dressage</u>, which includes riding the horse in a more upright position with increased angling of the hindquarters, regularity, skill and finesse in all natural gaits as well

The "Airs"

 The "airs above the ground" or exercises above the ground are the difficult "high school" dressage movements made famous by the Lipizzans



Some more pictures



