

A PASSION FOR EQUESTRIANISM

The second edition of the Longines Ladies Awards took place in the Grand Stables of the Chantilly Chateau on 14 June 2014 - the eve of the Prix de Diane Longines. The ceremony, which pays tribute to careers dedicated to the equine cause, illustrates the passion for horses shared by both Longines and the prize-winners. These awards honour the positive influence and exceptional commitment of eminent women in the world of equestrian sports.

Longines Ladies Awards 2014 – Passion and elegance rewarded

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This year, the exceptional jury brought together Louis Romanet, President of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities, Nathalie Bélinguier, President of the International Federation of Gentlemen and Ladies Riders, Ingmar de Vos, General Secretary of the International Equestrian Federation and Kate Winslet, Longines Ambassador of Elegance. They presented the Longines Ladies Awards 2014 to Sylvie Robert, Ciquette Head-Maarek, Jing Li and Bo Derek.

Sylvie Robert received an award for her contribution to the development of equestrian sport in Europe. She was in charge of the



organization of the Longines FEI World Cup Jumping in April 2013 in Lyon, an exceptional event that attracted the best riders of the world.

Criquette Head-Maarek's prize was in recognition for her contribution to developing the art of training and looking after a racehorse. Indeed, she is the only woman to have won the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe twice, and the Prix de Diane Longines three times. Last year, her filly Treve was named World's Best Racehorse and ranked first in the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings at the end of the season.

Jing Li was honoured for her contribution to the development of equestrian sports in Asia, and especially in China. She organized the Longines Equestrian Beijing Masters, the first show jumping competitions with international riders in China which was held in the Olympic Stadium of Beijing.

Bo Derek was rewarded for her efforts to promote and protect equine welfare and safety in the United States. She has worked closely with the Animal Welfare Institute, is an ambassador for the Breeders' Cup World Championships and serves as a member of the California Horse Racing Board.

the sympathique clock and its dependent watch, the tact watch, and finally the tourbillon, patented in 1801.

The Prix de Diane Longines – Perfect union of sport and elegance

In the shadow of the elaborate royal stables and the Château de Chantilly lies the prestigious Chantilly Racecourse which plays host to some of Europe's top flat races, including the Prix du Jockey Club and the Prix de Diane Longines that are held every spring. Chantilly has an impressive equine history and is the undisputed horse-racing capital of France. It is home to the Living Museum of the Horse, which is dedicated to the preservation and development of equestrian traditions, as well as Chantilly Training Centre and Racecourse.

Originally opened in 1834 and renovated in 2007, the racecourse boasts a mile-and-a-half-long course with a characteristic 10 metre incline which makes the last four furlongs particularly hard-going, allowing only the best horses to employ their full power





and determination. The annual Prix de Diane Longines is an exceptional Group I race - a one mile (two-an-a-half furlong) gallop to glory, which crowns the year's best three-year-old filly and attracts more than 40,000 spectators each year. This prestigious race is the epitome of feminine elegance, with exquisite millinery, classy attire and ice-cold champagne, the order of the day. Race goers revel in the atmosphere of the traditional picnic in the Village de Diane, the After-Diane concert, the adrenaline at the starting gates and the breathtaking climax of the races.

Elegance and adrenaline prevailed at the 165th edition of Prix de Diane Longines. The stakes were high for the twelve fillies who lined up at the start, each one of them had dazzled in recent big races, and all were champing at the bit to impress once again. At the end of this merciless mile and 2 ½ furlongs, one daring dame, Avenir Certain ridden by Grégory Benoist, made a break, leaving her rivals behind and speeding to victory under the scorching sunshine.

The unique atmosphere at the Chantilly racecourse and the emotions engendered by this top-level day of flat racing are at the heart of the public's enthusiasm for this prestigious event and the Prix de Diane Longines, the epitome of French refinement and elegance, once again lived up to expectations. From the concert, picnic, races, shows and right through to the after-party, visitors savoured every minute of this outstanding race day. As Title Partner, Official Timekeeper and Official Watch, Longines is proud to be associated with this event, enhanced this year by the presence of Longines' Ambassador of Elegance Kate Winslet. It was also involved in the Prix de La Reine Marie-Amélie Longines, a race for amateur female jockeys of the International Federation of Gentlemen and Lady Riders (FEGENTRI), of which the famous Swiss watch brand is the Official Partner and Official Watch. The talented Barbara Guenet, on New Outlook, won this 2,000 meter race, the 7th of the afternoon.

Longines' involvement in equestrian sports dates back to 1878, when the brand created a chronograph engraved with a jockey and his horse. Driven by a passion for equestrianism and admiration for the concentration, precision and experience that these sports require, the Swiss watchmakers have proudly supported equestrian events for the last 90 years.

The manufacture is the official sponsor and timekeeper of numerous equestrian competitions across the globe. As part of its partnership with France Galop, Longines is the official timekeeper at Chantilly, Deauville and Longchamp racecourses. One of the most hotly-contested events on the racing calendar, the Prix de Diane Longines is the high point of this collaboration as it epitomises style and elegance. The magnificent grounds of the Château de Chantilly and its racecourse provide the ideal backdrop to highlight the qualities that the brand represents. Loyal to its slogan "Elegance is an attitude", Longines elegance ambassador Kate Winslet, presented the "Mademoiselle Diane by Longines" award for elegance during the afternoon to Adeline Fonknechten, chosen for her outstanding elegance.

Longines Conquest Classic collection

As a partner of the most prestigious flat races in the world, Longines was keen to launch a collection of timepieces to be worn amidst the excitement of the parade rings at prestigious racecourses. For the Prix de Diane Longines 2014, Longines promoted a ladies' watch in steel from its Conquest Classic collection. Set with 30 diamonds, this magnificent timepiece with its white mother-of-pearl dial and diamond hour symbols is a perfect example of the elegance of this unique race meeting.

With a diameter of 29.50 mm, this lady model in steel, set with 30 diamonds (0.501 carats), houses the mechanical caliber L595. The black dial is set with 12 diamond indices and displays the hours, the minutes and the seconds as well as the date at 3 o'clock. Just as the entire collection Conquest Classic, this timepiece is water-resistant to 5 bar and its screw-down case back is fitted with a sapphire glass. ■ Lindsay Grubb

For more information on Longines visit www.longines.com

