

# Half-Andalusian, Pure Fun!

The Andalusian crossed to just about every other breed can also be known by other names as they quite often have dual registrations. They all share the common denominator of having a purebred Andalusian parent and are eligible to be registered as a Half Andalusian with the International Andalusian and Lusitano Horse Association. Dual registered horses are eligible to compete at IALHA sanctioned shows as well as Open shows.

I'd like to introduce you to the Half Andalusian that is also known as the Spanish-Norman. They are usually a Purebred Andalusian stallion crossed with a Purebred Percheron mare and occasionally a Spanish-Norman crossed back to a purebred Andalusian stallion or mare.

The Spanish-Norman was conceived by Allan and Linda Hamid of Hamid Hill Farm Ltd., Woodbury, Ct. who share a love of the Andalusian Horse and the History of the Medieval Warhorse. After research at the University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Center showed that both the Percheron of France and the Andalusian of Spain or the Lusitano of Portugal shared common blood markers, they decided in 1991 to re-create the



*Sir Norman of Tiverton with John Blair  
Photo credit: Linda Catherine Hamid*



*Romantico HHH ridden by  
owner Judy Cardello*

now extinct Medieval Norman War Horse as a modern Sport Horse and the Spanish-Norman Horse Registry was born.

The Andalusian/Percheron, Spanish-Normans possess natural collection, bone density, size between 15.2 and 17H, and athleticism but with beauty and elegance that enables them to compete in almost every discipline. They can be found presenting the Colors in Breed Exhibitions at the Kentucky Horse Park, Mounted Police Competitions, Reining, Dressage, Western, Open Jumping, Eventing, Trail, Field Hunting, Pleasure Riding, Parades, Costumed Exhibitions, Sidesaddle Demonstrations, performances at Equine Affaire's Fantasia and in mounted Medieval games or Reining competitions in full reproduction armor or Tournament garb. Quite often individual Spanish-Normans excel at more than one discipline or are simply a good all around pleasure mount and companion.

Romantico HHH, bred and owned by Alan and Linda Hamid of Hamid Hill Farms, who excels at reining in full Medieval armor with his rider Garry McAllister, is the only US bred horse of Spanish Descent to have won a United States Equestrian Team ribbon. He also competed in Open Freestyle Reining at the

Quarter Horse Congress in 1999, was chosen to have his likeness made into a Limited Edition Breyer porcelain figurine in 2005 and has performed in numerous exhibitions including Breyerfest, Equine Affaire and the Greenwich Polo Club. Romantico HHH is the official Ambassador of the Spanish-Norman Registry.

John Blair of Fox Gate Farms in Tiverton, Rhode Island was impressed with the Spanish-Norman's "natural ability, tractability and good mind" when he competed in Open Jumper classes at the 3'6 &

3'9" levels on Guerrero aka Sir Norman of Tiverton. Blair also noted that "Sir Norman always gives 100% and is a brave, fun horse with a wonderful personality who craves attention and affection from his fans."

More important than all of their accomplishments and competitions is the special relationship between horse and human that the Spanish-Norman can evoke. It is very rare to find trained adult horses on the market since most owners have a very deep relationship with them, preferring to develop a kinship with their youngsters that carry throughout their lifetimes.

Mantilla TCV, is a 12 year old mare competing at Second Level in dressage. Her owner, Judy Cardella of Colt's Neck, NJ, says, "I purchased her for myself as a new rider at 50 years old because of her temperament and I just fell in love with her. As a Woman who never rode in her life until 50, Mantilla has become my friend and partner. To me she is a horse of a lifetime and she always draws attention wherever we go".

Victoria of Fox Run, 15 year old Spanish-Norman mare, greets visitors from all over the World daily at the rail of the Kentucky Horse Park's Parade of Breeds. The majority of her fans are of the Baby

Boomer Generation and this Half-Andalusian fits their needs. They are large, gentle horses that possess the athleticism and Panache of the Andalusian and the easy going work ethic of the Percheron. They provide a steady mount with a willing temperament and true companionship for their owners who may be rediscovering their passion for horses after taking time off for careers or raising a family.

Spanish-Normans are the perfect mount for larger men who feel under horsed with lighter breeds, but who also want a competitive edge with the style and athleticism that these Half-Andalusians bring to the arena. Laura Day of Daydream Farm says, "One thing I have noticed is that men seem to have a particular affinity for these horses. Not sure if it is their size or the idea of a knight in full armor riding their charger into battle."

The Half-Andalusian, Percheron cross, also known as the Spanish-Norman, can and will do it all with style and grace but above that will always be your best friend and companion.

Additional information can be obtained at: [www.ialha.org](http://www.ialha.org) or [www.spanish-norman.com](http://www.spanish-norman.com).

*Written by Victoria McIntire,  
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*Allan and Linda Hamid  
with Romantico HHF*