

Spanish-Norman

A Unique Breed

By the Spanish-Norman Horse Registry, Inc.



Photo: Duffy

**Spanish-Norman stallion
Romantico H.H.F., owned
by Hamid Hill Farm, Ltd.,
Woodbury, CT.**

The Spanish-Norman is of noble lineage and the genetic and historical embodiment of the knight's horse of the Middle Ages. Today's Spanish-Norman is the phenotype and living symbol of the extinct Norman horse of Europe, a blending of the genes of the Andalusian and Percheron.

From the days of chivalry and pageantry, the valiant knights on their courageous warhorses thundered across the battlefields and left an indelible imprint on the history of the Western World. These medieval chargers were immortalized in paintings, statues and sculptures.

The Spanish-Norman embodies the regal heritage of its noble ancestors: majesty, power and great presence. The breed combines the elegant beauty, boldness and natural collection of the Andalusian and size, strength and bone density of the Percheron.

The Spanish-Norman possesses outstanding character and temperament and is acclaimed for its strong work ethic, exceptional stamina, enthusiasm for performance and great versatility. This descendent of the knight's steed offers his rider loyalty, obedience, trust and confidence.

The words of Charles De Kunfy seem to resonate for the breed: "Courage, wisdom born of insight and humility, empathy born of compassion and love, all can be bequeathed

by a horse to his rider." The Spanish-Norman displays loyalty, affection and an understanding of his human partner that is unique and seems to appear in a large majority of the horses in the breed.

Perhaps this is one explanation of the breed's competitive success in show jumping, driving, dressage, reining and cross-country. However, there is another dimension to the Spanish-Norman's affinity with people. They seem to sense when their human partners are dealing with illness, loss or personal and professional problems. In numerous cases from the South to New England to Canada to Europe, owners and breeders have commented on the inner strength their Spanish-Normans have given them and how the horse helped them deal with very difficult life experiences. Some of the statements are heart wrenching: "Since my husband's condition took over, my only solace has been my mare. She seems to feel my sadness," or "The hours spent bathing, grooming and riding my Spanish-Norman have brought me peace during this time of enormous loss." Other comments are uplifting: "I experience a deep feeling of spirituality when I am with my beloved horse," or "When trail riding, we seem to share a sense of joy and appreciation for the magnificence of nature."

While battling a serious, medical issue, Spanish-Norman Horse Registry, Inc. President and co-founder of the breed, Allan H. Hamid realized there was something he had always hoped to do but hadn't as of yet. He wanted to give an exhibition in public on his Spanish-Norman stallion, Romantico H.H.F. Since the stallion was dual-registered as a Half-Andalusian with the I.A.L.H.A., Allan decided to exhibit Romantico at the Eastern Region Andalusian Horse Club July show at the Mt. Holyoke College Equestrian Center. When asked to submit a few words about Romantico for the show program, Allan wrote: "To watch a foal being born and pick him up



Photo: Tom Sullivan, Sr.

**Spanish-Norman stallion
Romantico H.H.F. and
knight Garry McAllister at
the Greenwich Polo Club,
September 2000**

ROMANTIC BREED

in your arms is a joy. To raise a horse to compete at the United States Equestrian Team Festival of Champions is an awesome accomplishment. To have your horse chosen to be immortalized in a Breyer porcelain model is a great honor. To have your horse inspire, support and comfort you during a most difficult time is priceless!"

The 'Ambassador' of the Spanish-Norman breed is the 16.1 hand, Romantico H.H.F., sired by the legendary Andalusian Embajador IX, imported from Spain. Owned by Hamid Hill Farm, Ltd., Romantico H.H.F. is the sole American-bred horse of Spanish descent to have ever won a United States Equestrian Team ribbon. At the June 2000 Festival of Champions at the U.S.E.T. Olympic



Photo: Xpress Foto

Victoria Overholser on Spanish-Norman gelding *Star of Orion*, owned by Jane McKinnon of Flintstone, GA.

Training Center in Gladstone, NJ, Romantico won a U.S.E.T. ribbon in freestyle reining.

Spanish-Normans are located across the United States and Canada with a few in Germany, England, Spain and France. A DVD is available on the website: www.spanish-norman.com. For additional information, contact the Registrar, Linda Osterman Hamid, Spanish-Norman Horse Registry, Inc. P.O. Box 985, Woodbury, CT 06798, 203-266-4048. ■