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*Paso Finos*  
& Other Spectacular Spanish Breeds



World Cup Preview • CBS President Sandra Labrucherie Looks Ahead • Dr. Robert Miller on his New Book



# Hooked On the Mangalarga Marchador

by John & Lynn Kelly



Bosa Nova de Miami, the horse that started it all

Retirement, relaxation and horse breeding – what were we thinking? We fell in love with riding Mangalarga Marchador horses in 2001 with our first mare, Bosa Nova de Miami. A striking, dark bay mare, she started us on a path that is still undetermined.

We had always enjoyed riding horses, but here was a horse that offered so much more. Her melodic voice called to us even as our car turned into the boarding barn. She went with us everywhere, even on vacation to Colorado where we ate lunch on the deck while she grazed right next to us. Soft eyes, gentle touch and always wanting to be touched, this was a dog, not a horse.

So, of course, we bought another Marchador and then another. We had never trained horses or had a foal. We were learning as we went along. The Marchador personality is such that they will wait patiently for us to figure out what we are doing and still love you through the trying times.

In 2004, we took the final plunge and went to Brazil to import horses in the hopes of finding others that want a "special" horse. This year we are experiencing the joy and wonder of newborn foals. However, there are less than 100 pure-bred Marchadors in the U.S. So

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Chanel de Miami, John's favorite trail horse, due to give birth March 1.

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many people have never heard of the breed, nor experienced it.

The Marchador horse is related to other Iberian breeds like the Andalusian and the Lusitano. They have a pleasant and willing personality that facilitates training and are commonly ridden by children. They are named for their "marcha," a gait in which there are moments of triple hoof support, which provides comfort to the rider. The marcha can be either lateral or diagonal, however, the diagonal gait is more common.

The breed developed during the 1800s, after the King of Portugal fled to Brazil to escape Napoleon. The King brought his best stallions

and mares including the legendary Royal Alter stallion, Sublime, to Brazil. These royal horses were crossed with Spanish Barbs and the smooth-gaited Spanish Jennet, which is now extinct, to produce the modern Marchador horse.

Historically, each Brazilian farm produced a heritage and a bloodline that identified their horses. The horse's name always includes the breeding farm as part of the name that remains with them for life. The breeding farms of Brazil kept impeccable written records so the history of many present-day Marchadors can be traced back 20 generations or more. Every horse has been bred for centuries to a high standard set in Brazil for conformation, gait and temperament. Horses in Brazil need to



Seamus do Boi Fe, now in dressage training. He will be available for stud in the spring of 2005.

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pass these standards to become fully registered and be allowed to enter the breeding books.

The Marchador is a working breed, used for ranch and cattle work on a daily basis in Brazil. It is known for its hardiness, soundness, and ability to learn and perform. They made history in the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest horse trip, over 6,500 miles. The same horses rode every day from the ocean to the Andes and back on a trip lasting over a year.

The Marchador averages about 15 hands in height and is of medium build. They come in many colors: bay, black, buckskin, chestnut, grey, palomino, and pinto. If you are just beginning to ride, their easy-going nature and smoother gaits inspire confidence and make you look good. If you are an experienced rider, their endurance, soundness and enthusiasm to learn means virtually any riding discipline can be pursued. Regardless of your desires, the Marchador's beauty and people-loving personality will win your heart. They are that "special" horse you've been looking for.

For more information on the breed, please visit our website at [www.summerwindmarchadors.com](http://www.summerwindmarchadors.com) or call us at 480-683-8848. The U.S. Mangalarga Marchador Association also has a website supporting U.S. horses and breeders at <http://usmarchador.com>.