

› Verdi preferent

A Tribute to Verdi's Unprecedented Power as a Sire

In addition to achieving excellence as an international show jumper, the Quidam de Revel son Verdi has more than proven himself as a sire. Many of his offspring compete at the highest level in the international sport. As a young stallion, breeders took a chance on Verdi and he exceeded their expectations. And because of his demonstrated excellence, he was awarded the preferent predicate this year. During the Rolex Grand Slam at Spruce Meadows last week, Verdi proven himself at its best. He finished second in the 1.70m Grand Prix with three fantastic clear rounds.

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Born in 2002 on the property of his breeder Denis Musterd, the Quidam de Revel son Verdi was purchased as a foal by his current registered parties, the Nijhof family and Kees van den Oetelaar. They subsequently sold a share of the stallion to the Van der Vleuten family, who always had unwavering faith in the stallion for both breeding and sport. Under Maikel van der Vleuten, the now 16-year-old stallion can look back upon an unusually successful career in which he excelled in 11 global championships. From World Cup Finals to two Olympic Games, Verdi has proven his enormous value under all circumstances.

A Young Sire

As a breeding stallion, Verdi has demonstrated that he is among the very best sires. In the most recent WBFSH ranking for jumper stallions, he holds 22nd place, as the first stallion born after 1999. The majority of his predecessors were born in the mid-80's or early 90's, such as Diamant de

Semilly, Baloubet du Rouet, For Pleasure, Indoctro and Kannan. Verdi's oldest offspring were born in 2006 and are now only 12 years old. From the start, the Nijhof family had great confidence in the powerful stallion; and due in part to their confidence, Verdi serviced many mares his first season. "Because we were so convinced of his qualities, we aggressively promoted him to breeders. As a result, Verdi bred a lot from the start. Of course, it's easy to say this in hindsight, but we always thought that he was a horse capable of the highest level. Besides, he's a handsome, correct and strongly built stallion with good bloodlines," explains Jeannette Benedict-Nijhof.

Verdi participated in the KWPN spring performance test as a three-year-old, which meant a shortened breeding season under the KWPN flag. Nonetheless, his first crop of foals produced Grand Prix horses. In 2016, Verdi's notable breeding results earned him the keur predicate. The preferent predicate, the highest distinction



attainable for breeding stallions, followed two years later - an achievement which was hardly surprising for a stallion of Verdi's quality.

The Highest Level

Offspring from Verdi's first year at stud include the Grand Prix show jumpers Bulavsko (ds. Corland), Baronescha (ds. Concorde), Bonjovi (ds. Corland) and New York (studbook name, Bon-Ami O, ds. Watzmann). In April 2017, Bulavsko (breeders: Peter and Anne Mieke Rinkes) jumped double-clear to fourth place under Sanne Thijssen in the 1.60m Grand Prix of CSIO5* Lummen. Bulavsko was formerly shown by Sanne's father Leon. Under Stefanie van den Brink, Baronescha (breeder: Stal Timmers of Uden) placed in the 1.50/1.60m Grand Prix of CSI3* Oliva-Valencia and successfully represented the Netherlands in the 2016 Nations Cup competition of CSIO3* Odense. This spring, she was sold to Nicola Pohl. Bred by Frits van Os and ridden by Emanuel Andrade,

Bonjovi has placed in multiple Grands Prix, several of which were in Tryon and in Lexington. The jumper New York, bred by Paul Olthof, regularly competed against his sire in international classes and achieved great success under Jack Towell. The combination's achievements include winning multiple Global Champions Tour classes; placing third in the 1.60m Grand Prix of CSI4* Wellington and capturing the 1.50m class in Tryon. New York is now continuing his career under Sayre Happy.

First Crops of Foals

Verdi also boasts a remarkable number of Grand Prix offspring from his second year at stud, his first full breeding season as a KWPN stallion. Among his most famous offspring is the Grands Prix winner Chaplin (ds. Concorde), in addition to the Grand Prix-level jumpers Calanta (ds. Wellington), Chief (ds. Argentinus), Cuidam (ds. Chellano Z), Chinook II (ds. Little Rock), Comic (ds. Heartbreaker) and Cash Sent (ds. Niveau).

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Originally named Cerberus W (breeder: G. Knoop), Chaplin has won many competitions under Martin Fuchs. The renowned Verdi son recently placed third in the GCT Grand Prix of CSI5* Hamburg, won last year's GCT Grand Prix of CSI5* Mexico City and, in early 2017, posted two 1.55m victories at the five-star competitions in Doha and Zürich.

The Verdi offspring Comic (breeder: H.A. Heijmerink) also has a good track record. This year, he jumped to second place under Brazil's Luiz Francisco de Azevedo in the Longines Grand Prix of CSIO5* Samorin, where he also finished double-clear in the Nations Cup. Comic was second twice in the Grand Prix of CSI5* Wellington.

Under Charlie Jacobs, the Verdi son Calanta (breeder: V.B.M. Wolfkamp), also from Verdi's second year at stud, qualified at the international 1.60m level. As a result, the duo competed in the World Cup competition of CSI3* Bromont, crossing the finish line with one time fault and ending in eighth place. Since last fall the gelding has been shown by Willem Greve, who also rode him as a youngster.

Another 11-year-old Verdi offspring, Chief

(breeder: P.J.M van den Boogaard) made a successful debut in the 1.60m under Alonso Valdez Prado and even competed in the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Rebecca Conway recently became his rider.

Showcasing his talent at the highest level under Manuel Fernandez Sarohe, the Verdi son Cuidam (breeder: W. van de Mheen) has placed in multiple Grands Prix, including those of CSI4* Ommen, CSI4* Jumping Amsterdam and CSI5* Bordeaux (8th place). Other Grand Prix-classified Verdi offspring from the same birth year include Chinook II (breeder: H.A.J. Smolders), ridden by Greg Patrick Broderick; and Cash Sent, the horse on which Robert Whitaker won the 1.55m Grand Prix of CSI5*-W Göteborg this year, after placing sixth in the Grand Prix of CSI5*-W Helsinki.

Grabbing Opportunities

For his registered parties - the Nijhof family, Kees van den Oetelaar and the Van der Vleuten family - Verdi has fulfilled all expectations in both sport and breeding. "There are really a lot of Verdi's in the elite sport. He definitely bred a lot in the early years, so he's had opportunities

as a breeding stallion, and he's also lived up to them," explains Henk Nijhof, Jr. "They're not always the most remarkable in free-jumping, and their talent is usually more apparent under saddle. He was a bit of a late-bloomer, and we also see that with his offspring. The young Verdi's generally have abundant scope, excellent body use over the obstacle and the same way of jumping: good with the head down, the hind-quarters out and sometimes a bit of a long hind leg. And like their sire, they all have a very good disposition. You don't often see a Verdi standing in the corner or getting into trouble in a triple. They want to get to the other side and preferably without faults!" In recent years, Verdi has mainly serviced mares from abroad. "In the beginning Verdi bred a lot in the Netherlands, but that's tapered off a bit now. I think that in recent years two-thirds of the mares he's serviced have been foreign. There are lots of applications coming from countries such as Germany, England, Belgium, Sweden, Ireland and Italy. It's also often the case that a king is

GRAND PRIX OFFSPRING

A remarkable number of Verdi offspring compete at a high level in the international sport. The following list includes the sire's KWPN-registered offspring which are successful show jumpers classified at the Grand Prix level:

- › Bulavsko ISP 1.60m with Sanne Thijssen
- › Baronescha ISP 1.60m with Stefanie van den Brink
- › Bonjovi ISP 1.60m with Emanuel Andrade
- › New York ISP 1.60m with Jack Towell
- › Chaplin ISP 1.60m with Martin Fuchs
- › Comic ISP 1.60m with Luiz Francisco de Azevedo
- › Calanta ISP 1.60 with Charlie Jacobs
- › Chief ISP 1.60m with Alonso Valdez Prado (OS 2016)
- › Chinook II ISP 1.60m with Greg Patrick Broderick
- › Dolocia ISP 1.60m with Christian Ahlmann
- › Davinci ISP 1.60m with Luis Alejandro Plascencia
- › Dontez ISP 1.60m with Sarah Scheiring

KWPN-APPROVED SONS

To date, Verdi has produced four KWPN-approved sons:

- › First Verdi ISP 1.40m with Harry Marshall
- › Farmgraaf ISP 1.40m with Demi van Grunsven
- › Jumper Verdi
- › Just Apple

The following KWPN-approved stallion is out of a mare by Verdi:

- › Gomez TN (v.Zambesi)



Comic has a good track record under Brazil's Luiz Francisco de Azevedo. This month the combination will participate at the WEG in Tryon.

least honored in his own country. In the results lists and news reports that foreign breeders see, good Verdi's naturally rise to the top time after time," adds Henk Nijhof, Jr.

A Broad Range of Mares

Another great advantage of Verdi is that he is suited for many different types of mares.

"Actually, you only have to prevent the two extremes with Verdi: very small, short mares or big, heavy mares. He's best suited for a mare that brings some 'blood'; and because he's a bit French in his rideability, we also always advise people to consider that. So don't pair him with a mare that's really built on the forehand," advises Henk Nijhof, Jr. Mares by stallions like Concorde and Heart-breaker often pair well with Verdi.

Besides Baronescha and Chaplin, the Grand Prix horses Davinci (breeder: W. Peters of Weert) and De Grande (breeder: H. Klein Poelhuis) are also out of Concorde mares. This year, the 10-year-old Verdi son Davinci jumped clear in the Grand Prix and Nations Cup of CSIO5* Coapexpan under Mexico's Luis Alejandro Plascencia and emerged the winner of the 1.60m World Cup of CSI4* Guadalajara. Last year, Davinci won the Grand Prix of CSI2* San Miguel de Allende and finished second in the Grand Prix (1.50/1.55m) of CSI2* Balvanera. His

compatriot De Grande is competing at the 1.50/1.60m level under Kama Michelle Godek. The mare Dolocia (ds.Furore, breeder: Sietse van Dellen), also born in 2008, is likewise a remarkable horse. Under Christian Ahlmann, she ended second last year as a nine-year-old in the GCT Grand Prix of CSI5* Monte Carlo. From the same birth year, Dontez (ds.Wolfgang, breeder: W.L.P.M. van der Steen) is excelling at the 1.60m level. Under Sarah Scheiring, this 10-year-old has placed in multiple Grands Prix, including that of CSI3* North Salem (sixth), and the World Cup competitions of Guadalajara (fifth) and CSI3* Calgary (third). Verdi's first nine-year-old offspring are also competing at the Grand Prix level. Among them is Enzo (ds.Amethist, breeder: Van Dijk-Groot), who recently made his 1.60m debut under Ilan Bluman.

On All Fronts

In addition to a remarkable number of Grand Prix horses and many international 1.45/1.50m and 1.55m show jumpers, Verdi has also produced



Farmgraaf competes at the international 1.40m level under Demi van Grunsven and is one of Verdi's four KWPN-approved sons.



Last year, the mare Dolocia placed second under Christian Ahlmann in the GCT Grand Prix of CSI5* Monte Carlo.

GENETIC PROFILE VERDI

GENETIC PROFILE	RELIABILITY.		***	**	*	AVERAGE	*	**	***	
Dressage	72%	Low				79				High
Jumping	96%	Low				140				High
Conformation	94%	Low				110				High
Loose movement	94%	Low				102				High
Free jumping	95%	Low				109				High
OC-health		Low								High
Height	94%	Small				99				Large

four KWPN-approved sons (see sidebar). These include the two eight-year-old stallions Farmgraaf and First Verdi, both of whom compete internationally at the 1.40/1.45m level. Furthermore, Verdi has sired numerous daughters who have achieved success in the sport, ability tests, inspections and now in breeding too. For example, Verdi has sired 70 ster mares, 23 keur mares and 47 elite mares. Moreover, 20 of his daughters have passed the EPTM test, 43 have passed the IBOP test and 92 have earned the sport predicate. These achievements combined mean that the very successful sport stallion Verdi has also succeeded as a sire on all fronts. ●

VERDI: HERITABILITY DATA

Verdi's score on the jumping index is 140, with a high reliability of 96%. With respect to passing on conformation traits, he clearly scores above average: 110, with a high reliability of 94%. Verdi's score for free-jumping is 109, which also boasts a high reliability of 95%. In the canter, his offspring demonstrate good scope (88) and excellent balance (92). His offspring jumps up well (91), show quickness (96), tuck the front leg up well over the obstacle (92), round the back (89), open the hindquarters (92), demonstrate abundant scope (91), clearly show abundant suppleness (87) and a good measure of carefulness (95). View Verdi's full genetic profile in the online KWPN Database.



Cuidam is another Verdi son who is showcasing his talent at the highest level. Ridden by Manuel Fernandez Saro, Cuidam has placed in multiple Grands Prix.