

## › The E-Year

# Stallions that Excel

More and more KWPN-approved stallions that were born in 2009 are excelling in the sport, among them the new Dutch dressage champion Expression (s.Vivaldi) and the outstanding show jumpers Etoulon VDL (s.Toulon), Entertainer (s.Warrant) and Emir R (s.Colman). E-year stallions are likewise garnering acclaim as sires. We took a closer look at them.

Text: **JENNEKE SMIT** — Photos: **DIRK CAREMANS ET AL**

**T**he E-year boasts nine KWPN-approved dressage stallions and fourteen KWPN-approved jumper stallions. In the dressage breeding direction, Expression (Vivaldi out of Melody keur sport-dres pref by Vincent, b/rp: G.W. van Norel) reigns supreme in the sport. At the Dutch indoor championships, the very talented stallion made his Grand Prix debut under Diederik van Silfhout and won the class. In the Freestyle, the duo triumphed again, taking home the gold medal as a result. “It’s mind-boggling how Expression is developing. There are few horses that learn the work just like that. Last year, he was the Dutch champion in the Small Tour; and now he’s doing the Grand Prix. He’s crazy about the work; he really likes to do it. When I see how he does this freestyle and just gets better in the test, it testifies to the fact that this horse has a fantastic character,” said Van Silfhout enthusiastically after earning the Dutch title.

### Opportunities

As a three-year-old, Expression received KWPN approval with a total score of 77.5, including a 9 for his very good rideability and trainability. For his breeder and registered party, the Van Norel family, he has become the calling card for their stud farm Pretendenthoeve. “It’s wonderful to see confirmation of something that we’ve always believed: that Expression

will become a very good Grand Prix horse. We’ve always known that he’s very capable; and if he keeps developing like this, he can also be a great asset to the Dutch team. However, we’re not getting too excited because we know from experience that a wonderful dream can end in a second. That’s why we’re not looking too far ahead, and we’re happy with what he’s shown up to now,” explains André van Norel. “With respect to breeding, it’s a matter of opportunities for young stallions; and I hope that Expression’s recent successes will ensure that he gets those now. He has a fantastic character, which perhaps is his greatest strength; and his offspring have that too. They always want to work, are naturally forward and have good movement. They really move from back to front and are nicely supple in the body. That’s where we truly see the influence of Vincent. Here in the neighborhood, the first Expressions are under saddle; and we hear unanimous enthusiasm from their riders about the horses’ willingness and rideability. As a result, Expression is truly making a good contribution to breeding.”

## Small Tour

Four stallions from the E-year compete at the Small Tour level: Eye Catcher (Vivaldi out of Ostrona elite pref prest PROK by TCN Partout), Everdale (Lord Leatherdale out of Aliska K elite EPTM-dres PROK by Negro), Ebony (Painted Black out of Vanolite stb by Jazz) and the remarkable UB40 son El Capone (out of Vamoraa elite pref PROK by OO Seven). In the performance test, Everdale was already an outlier, receiving approval with a top score of 87 points. Under Charlotte Fry, he is excelling in the international Small Tour. Everdale produced three KWPN-approved sons from his first year at stud: Inclusive (ds.Uptown), Inverness (ds.Johnson) and Inspire (ds.Don Romantic).

“Everdale is developing wonderfully. At home, he plays with the difficult movements. He does everything with great ease, so it’s our job to guide him on the right path and not force anything. Up to now, we can’t be anything other than very content!” explains his registered party Gertjan van Olst. “Everdale is now competing in the international Small Tour; and later this year, Charlotte wants to focus on the U25 classes with him, hopefully followed by the Grand Prix. He offers a lot himself and has been able to combine dressage with breeding for years. In the winter, we freeze his semen; and in summer, it’s available fresh. That works well for him. His offspring also have a very good disposition: they’re very willing and just like their sire, tireless. His offspring do reasonably well at the inspections but really show their talent under saddle. They have naturally good balance, are nicely sensitive and have ‘blood’ in a good way.”

## High Expectations

Everdale’s compatriot Eye Catcher has also achieved a number of successes, among them winning the bronze medal twice at the World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses. Under his new rider Antonio Laiz Zandio, he is continuing his success in the international Small Tour. From his first year at stud, his remarkable son In Style (ds.Lorentin I) received KWPN approval; and another In Style son was selected this year for the performance test. As a three-year-old, Eye Catcher already showed abundant talent and received KWPN approval with an excellent score of 86 points.



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Ebony, who was approved with 84 points, is now competing in the national Small Tour and achieving promising results. From his first year at stud, he boasts one son who was selected for the performance test.

The fourth Small Tour stallion is El Capone, who after spending time in Denmark, is back on Dutch soil and being trained for the Big Tour. The talented stallion had previously excelled under former Glock rider Marieke van der

At the Dutch Indoor Championships, Expression enjoyed a very successful Grand Prix debut under Diederik van Silfhout, the duo capturing the Dutch title with panache.



After a successful sport career under Kirsten Brouwer (photo), the World Championship medal winner Eye Catcher is now continuing his career at the international Small Tour level with Antonito Laiz Zandio.

Putten, with whom he made a successful Small Tour debut prior to his export. He also triumphed in the Stallion Competition. In addition, two sons from his first year at stud were selected for the performance test, and a third one was selected this year.

### Other talents

Another big talent from the E-year was Estoril (Zhivago out of Unette II keur pref by Gribaldi), who competed successfully twice in the World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses. Under Emmelie Scholtens, he had a bright future ahead of him; unfortunately, his life came to an end in late 2015. Enzo Ferrari (Painted Black out of Veniz stb pref prest PROK by Krack C), who was exported to Germany, is being prepared for the Big Tour. This year, his son by Jerenzo Texel (ds.Jazz) was approved. Etoile (Don Schufro out of Meli-Melo elite sport-dres pref prest PROK by Rubinstein I), who was also

exported abroad, competed in the international Youngster Tour. The ninth dressage stallion from the E-year is the Ampère son Electron (out of Zamba Sollenburg ster EPTM-dres PROK by Fidermark), who recently came under a new rider. He also produced a son who was selected for the performance test this year.

### High-Flyers

The jumper breeding direction features obvious high-flyers. Among them is the talented Etoulon VDL (Toulon out of Utareusa elite pref prest PROK by Calvados), who finished third this year in the 1.50m Grand Prix at the KWPN Stallion Show. Under Jur Vrieling, he jumped double clear to fourth place in the two-star Grand Prix at Indoor Drachten early this year. And in August, he won the Youngster Tour at an international show in Ommen. "We're building Etoulon up slowly for the major work. Every year he's shown that he's among the top horses

of his birth year, and now he's competing at the 1.45/1.50m level with Jur," explains Etoulon's co-registered party Wiebe-Yde van de Lageweg. "Every time that Etoulon goes a step higher, we think: 'Now he won't show as well,' but that hasn't happened yet. He's extremely careful, and therefore he always jumps really big. You shouldn't force anything with those horses. We're also very happy with Etoulon as a breeding stallion: he produces good jumper offspring with good rideability, and they're also beautiful." From his first year at stud, his sons It's Otto (ds. Coromino) and Insider VDL (ds. Corland) received approval. In addition, Etoulon produced four national foal champions, and he is the sire of the National Mare Inspection champion, It's A Girl GR. Another of his sons was selected for the performance test this year.

Under Michel Hendrix, the remarkable jumper Entertainer (Warrant out of Shilavsca Fortuna ster PROK by Corland) finished fourth in the 1.50m Grand Prix at the KWPN Stallion Show. He also achieved success in the young horse competitions, including jumping to seventh place in the six-year-old division in the final of the World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses. Last year, he showed again at the competition in Lanaken, where he ended



Classified at the Small Tour level, Charlotte Fry is preparing Everdale for the transition from the U25 classes to the Grand Prix. The stallion already boasts three KWPN-approved sons.

tenth in the 1.50m Sires of the World class. In addition, Entertainer is an impressive sire: several of his daughters scored well in the inspections, and three sons from his first two years at stud were selected for the performance test.

### Right on Track

Last year, the competitive Elton John (Clearway out of Vilotte by Kannan) debuted in the Nations Cup. At the CSI3\* in Aalborg, he crossed the finish line with just one fault after the first round of the 1.50/1.60m team competition. "Elton John is truly a good jumper, and he jumps a bit in his own way. Last year, he had to act as the substitute horse at the Nations Cup competition, and he did that very well. He's out of a top line and actually deserves more opportunities in breeding, but the other two stallions we had from the E-year have also bred little," explains stallion keeper Henk Nijhof Jr., referring to the good jumper Elvaro (Calvaro Z out of April Love M ster PROK sport-jump by Heartbreaker) and El Clarimo (Clarimo out of Ulrika I by Limbus), classified at the 1.40m level. "Elvaro jumped a lot of clear rounds at the 1.45m level, and we were able to sell him for good money to Mexico. He went to an amateur rider who's being trained by a Grand Prix rider. Hopefully we'll see him in the big sport because he's truly a wonderful horse." Right on track in the sport is the Vleut son



Etoulon VDL is an outlier in both the sport and breeding. Recently, he made a successful 1.50m debut under Jur Vrieling.



JACOB MELISSEN

Under Kristian Houwen, Edinburgh has proven numerous times that he is a very capable jumper. He has posted many clear rounds at the international 1.45m level.

Edinburgh (out of Olympic Queen keur sport-jump prest by Darco), who has finished in the prizes many times. For instance, he won the Stallion Competition two times in a row and qualified as a six-year-old for the final of the World Championships. Currently, he is excelling at the 1.45m level, placing in competitions including the two-star Grand Prix of Kronenberg this year, and last year in the 1.45/1.50m Grand Prix of CSI2\* Opglab-

beek and that of CSI2\* De Wolden. For the time being, he is being used for breeding on a limited basis.

### Rider Changes

A jumper with abundant power and ease, Emir R (Colman out of B.Termie R23 elite EPTM-jump prest PROK by Rubert R) has already achieved good results at the 1.50m level. His wins include the Six Bar competition at Jumping Amsterdam in 2017. The following week, Emir R placed second in the 1.40m class at the KWPN Stallion Show. In early March, it was announced that he would continue his sport career under elite rider Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, who has high expectations of the KWPN stallion. This year, one of Emir R's sons was selected for the performance test. The stallion El Salvador (Vigaro out of Antartica ster pref by Kojak) also recently acquired a new rider. Trained by Annelies Vorsselmans, he was subsequently sent to Belgium where he was ridden by Frederic Vernaet. This past February El Salvador made his debut under elite rider Jérôme Guery. At the four-star competition in Vejer de la Frontera, the duo excelled at the 1.40m level. From El Salvador's first year at stud, his talented son Invictus (ds.Nabab de



With a change in riders from Michael Greeve to Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, expectations are high for Emir R. The Colman son competed at the 1.50m level under Greeve.

STAL BROUWER



Rêve) was approved for breeding; and this year, two of the sire's sons were selected for the performance test.

After Extase (Casall out of Seelotte by Lancer II) excelled in the young horse competitions, a highpoint of which was winning the final for four-year-olds at the KWPN Championships, elite rider Willem Greve took over the reins of the talented jumper. At the end of last year, the duo jumped clear in the 1.40m at CSI2\* Roosendaal. Under his previous rider, the Casall son placed in the 1.45m as an eight-year-old.

### Exported

Ever Blue (Zirocco Blue VDL out of Thissonnevanck elite pref PROK by Indorado) performed remarkably in the young horse competitions, with victories including the Stallion Competition Z/ZZ class. In the summer of 2016, the stallion was sold to Grand Prix rider Charlie

Jayne of the USA. The combination is already competing internationally at the 1.45m level. The Numero Uno son El Primero (out of Zo-Special stb-ext pref by Indorado) was also exported to the USA, where he is showing very successfully in the prestigious hunter classes. In 2012, the Numero Uno son Envoy (out of Whoopie elite EPTM-jump PROK by Pharaon xx) received approval and competed successfully in the 1.30m until his life ended prematurely. The third jumper stallion from this birth year who is continuing his career in the USA is Everglade VDL (Kashmir van 't Schuttershof out of Adea elite sport-jump by Indoctro). He is proving himself in the sport under Katherine Newman at the national 1.40m level and in the hunter classes. Finally, Everto (Harley VDL out of Cassina by Candillo) received KWPN approval as a five-year-old. The striking bay is classified at the international 1.40m level but has no KWPN-registered offspring ●

Under Michel Hendrix, the remarkable jumper Entertainer excels at 1.50m Grand Prix level.