

McLain Ward *Ascends to #1 in the World*



at

OLD SALEM FARM
Spring Horse Shows

By Lindsay Brock/Jump Media



World #1 McLain Ward and daughter Lily walk the course at Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Show

The 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, have riders from all corners of the world aiming high. While most U.S. riders made a pilgrimage east to Europe in order to make a bid for medals, McLain Ward stayed stateside this spring season and further secured his place as hometown hero at the Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows in North Salem, New York.

Ward, who has planned his year around securing a spot on the Hermès U.S. Show Jumping Team for the 2016 Olympic Games, accumulated seven FEI wins during the month of May, three of which took place at Old Salem Farm. With those and other big 5* victories, Ward was crowned the number-one rider in the world after making a leap from the fourth position on the Longines FEI Jumping Rankings.

Ward hails from Brewster, New York, and has always considered the Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows his home event. This year, with friends, family, and local fans along for the ride, Ward jumped to victory in the \$35,000 Grand Prix of North Salem with Rothchild, and the \$50,000 Old Salem Farm CSI 2* Grand Prix, presented by The Kincade Group, aboard HH Carlos Z. He then capped the two-week series with a blue ribbon in the irons of rising star Tina la Boheme in the \$130,000 Empire State CSI 3* Grand Prix, presented by The Kincade Group.

“This has been a phenomenal venue for us. It’s a special place to win at,” said Ward of his storied history at Old Salem Farm. “What Old Salem has done with this facility is spectacular.”

Nestled on 120 acres in Westchester County, Old Salem Farm has made transformation after transformation to become the international-caliber training facility and event venue it is today. Founded in 1964, Old Salem Farm changed hands several times before prominent real estate investor, Kamran Hakim, purchased the farm in 2001. In the nearly ten years that followed, Hakim invested in a multi-phase project to renovate Old Salem Farm to its current status.

Today, Old Salem Farm is home to 26 weeks of on-site horse shows, which include the Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows and the American Gold Cup CSI4*-W as part of the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping North American League. Overall, the venue offers a unique atmosphere where children feed their passion for ponies in the rings next to Olympic hopefuls and horse sport stars showcasing their best horses. Ward himself even recalls competing at Old Salem Farm as a child.

“I still remember placing second in a grand prix here when I was 15 or 16,” he said.

Ward, however, wasn’t the only FEI-rider at the Spring Horse Shows able to take a nostalgic look back on their experiences at Old Salem Farm. Sitting next to Ward at the CSI3* Grand Prix press conference was fourth-place rider, Marilyn Little, who recalls her fair share of fond memories on the iconic field. She now rations her time in the tack between FEI-level eventing and show jumping, but celebrated a return to Old Salem Farm this year after not competing at the venue since her days in the junior ranks.

“The last time I was here, I skipped my prom to show,” said Little with a smile. “That was quite a long time ago – 16 years now,” she said. “A lot has changed, but it’s still an incredible venue. It’s fun to ride in front of the crowd, and the organizers do a fantastic job. I’m really happy to be back here.”

Right: Spectators enjoying the beautiful weather and grounds at Old Salem Farm



McLain Ward and Tina la Boheme winners of the \$130,000 Empire State CSI 3* Grand Prix, presented by The Kincade Group





Thank You

to all our sponsors, exhibitors, and spectators who made it possible to run an event of the highest caliber.

*We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!
Mark your calendar now for the CSI2* & CSI3* events.
May 9-14 & May 16-21, 2017*





Marilyn Little and Clearwater ride to a 4th place finish in the Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Show \$130,000 Empire State Grand Prix

Rising Talent

With a deep string of grand prix mounts under his direction, Ward is still always looking toward the future and Old Salem Farm is often the place where his young horses make their debut. In 2015, the world saw Ward and the impressive HH Azur claim some of their first grand prix wins together at the Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows, and this year Ward impressed with yet another mare.

While the crowds that gathered on the banks of the Grand Prix Field on the final Sunday afternoon of the Spring Horse Shows cheered loud for fan-favorite, Rothchild, it was Tina la Boheme that carried Ward into the winner's circle.

Turning heads with two clear efforts for a win, the 2007 Selle Français mare co-owned by Ward and accomplished hunter rider and trainer, Artie Hawkins, quickly made a name for herself. Ward and Hawkins purchased Tina la Boheme in November before developing her throughout the 2016 season in Florida.

After proving that she has what it takes to jump against international-caliber horses and riders, Tina la Boheme is facing a promising future with Ward.

“Sometimes you buy a young horse for a family friend and a great horseman and you have the best intentions, but it doesn't always go the way you want. But, she looks like a really nice horse,” said Ward. “I hope to have another grand prix horse in her next year. This is how we make them. You have to put in some work, but you have to start with talent like she has.”

Ward's wife Lauren, and daughter Lily sat alongside owners, family members, and friends both old and new while watching him dominate the Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows, adding to the comfort and pride that brings him back to the event year after year.

In the days that followed, Ward collected a CSI 5* victory in Rome, Italy and a CSI 4* win back on U.S. soil at the Devon Horse Show. With a career that has soared to highs including Olympic gold medals and unforgettable horses, Ward had yet to sit atop the world as the number-one ranked rider until this year. And, according to him, being able to hear the cheers of a hometown crowd on his way to the top made reaching number one even sweeter.

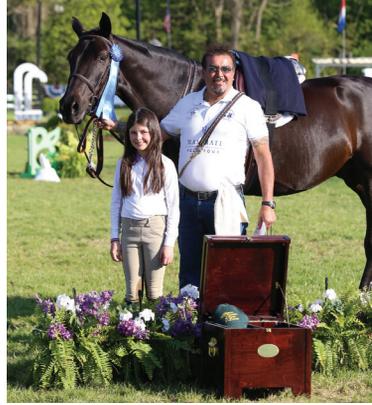


OLD SALEM FARM

Spring Horse Shows

2016 Hunter/Equitation Gallery

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1. Francesca Dildabanian and Checkland in the \$5,000 Equitation Challenge.

2. The Hunter Groom's Class featured stiff competition.

3. Kelly Tropin and Chablis as Grand Amateur-Owner Hunter Champion.

4. First round top 12 headed into round 2 in the \$10,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby, presented by The Gochman Family.

5. Madison Goetzmann and Play It Again, Winner of the \$5,000 Equitation Challenge.

6. Hunter riders await results.

Photographs by @Jump Media

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OLD SALEM FARM

Spring Horse Shows

2016 Jumper Gallery

1. McKayla Langmeier and Whistler.
 2. Lucy Deslauriers and Hester after winning the \$15,000 U25 Grand Prix, presented by T & R Development.
 3. Brianne Goutal and Zernike K
 4. Mattias Tromp and KM Whatever RV
 5. Penny Brennan and Sun Tzu winner of the Old Salem Farm Speed Derby
 6. Adrienne Iverson all smiles after a win with Donar R
 7. Adrienne Sternlicht and Helios
- Photographs by ©Jump Media





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LEADLINE
FUTURE
CHAMPIONS

- 1. Charlie Jacobs and Cassinja S
- 2. Peter Lutz and Robin de Ponthual
- 3. Georgina Bloomberg and South Street
- 4. McLain Ward and HH Carlos Z, gifting the winning ribbon of the \$50,000 Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Show Grand Prix
- 5. Leadline competition was stiff at Old Salem Farm.
- 6. A star of the leadline waves to the crowd.

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