

OLD SALEM FARM U.S. FARM TOUR & AMERICAN GOLD CUP

Story by Lindsay Brock

Just ten years ago, Old Salem Farm was a modest training barn and home to only eight horses. Today, the farm is known throughout the U.S. and beyond as a top facility under the direction of manager Alan Bietsch and trainers Frank Madden and Stella Manship. Combine those credentials with its admired showgrounds and Old Salem Farm surely becomes a check box on everyone's barn bucket list.

Over the last several years, Old Salem Farm has undergone a transformation that capitalized on the style and prestige of the historic property, as well as the natural beauty of New York State's southern region, to create a facility that is second to none.

Read on to take a closer look at property, its history, and how Old Salem Farm is helping to shape horse sport in North America.

Beauty and Function

By the numbers, Old Salem Farm is a colossal facility with many moving parts, but a step back reveals a slice of horse heaven served up with a heavy helping of style.

The 120-acre farm can be spotted just tucked off of June Road in North Salem, NY. The country road weaves its way through this idyllic horse country in Westchester County, just north of bustling New York City. Old Salem Farm fits right in among the area's rolling pastures, sprawling hunt fields, and iconic stonewalls.

The main barn consists of 68 state-of-the-art stalls, offices for full-time employees, a heated viewing area, on-site restaurant and bar, a café, a stunning boarders' lounge, gym, and adjoining staff apartments. There is a spacious indoor arena adjacent to the stalls, but Old Salem Farm is probably

best known for its exquisite grass Grand Prix field. The facility also boasts five outdoor competition rings and warm-up areas, which host top riders from around the world who come to compete at Old Salem Farm's Spring Horse Shows: a CSI2* and 3* each May, and the renowned American Gold Cup CSI4*-W in September.

In addition to these FEI events, Old Salem Farm hosts nearly 30 weeks of nationally rated competitions, providing hunter, jumper, and equitation riders the opportunity to qualify for year-end finals. In 2015 alone, the shows at Old Salem Farm contributed an estimated \$282 million to the economies of the surrounding area.

Becoming Old Salem Farm

In 1964, the now Old Salem Farm was originally founded under the moniker Salem View Farms. Growth was almost immediate when a 1967 Easter Sunday horse show eventually developed into the Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows. The farm changed hands and names several times throughout its history, including a stint under the ownership of actor Paul Newman and his wife, actress and avid horsewoman, Joanne Woodward.

It was not until 1984 that the property became what is now affectionately well known as Old Salem

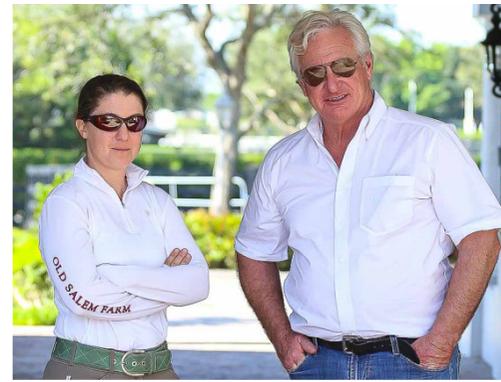


Photo: Jump Media



Riders McLain Ward, Beezie Madden, Nick Skelton, Laura Kraut, and Kent Farrington with Alan Bietsch of Old Salem Farm, Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino, Matthew Morrissey of Morrissey Management Group, and John Madden of the FEI during the 2016 American Gold Cup CSI4*-W at Old Salem Farm.

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STELLA MANSHIP AND FRANK MADDEN



ALAN BIETSCH



OLD SALEM FARM ENTRANCE

Farm. The farm has always appealed to the international show jumping community, which was evident when it hosted a U.S. Equestrian Team selection trial for the 1990 World Equestrian Games. It later sought FEI ratings for the Spring Horse Shows and became home to the American Gold Cup.

Stewarding Horse Sport

Thanks in part to Old Salem Farm championing horse sport in its local area, communities near the farm have evolved into destinations for top riders and their horses. Georgina Bloomberg is one such rider. Daughter of former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, she is a New Yorker through-and-through. As an accomplished show jumper, Old Salem Farm is conveniently located in her New York backyard, and has contributed to the launch of her successful equestrian career.

“Old Salem is where I grew up. I rode there for over 15 years, and most of my childhood memories come from my times spent there,” said Bloomberg, who settled her own farm, Gotham North, just up the road from Old Salem Farm. “When we decided to build our own barn, I knew I wanted to stay in North Salem and close to Old Salem,” continued Bloomberg. “I love every inch of that place and feel at home when I am there. It’s been incredible to see Old Salem transform and grow.”

While Bloomberg was always sweet on Old Salem Farm, it took a lot of collaboration to develop the facility into what it is today. In the late 1990s, the

farm’s then-owner partnered with New York City real estate investor, Kamran Hakim, to shepherd in a new era for the property. In 2001, Hakim and his wife Ellen, together with their son Scott and his family (who are avid supporters of horse sport), became sole proprietors of Old Salem Farm. In the nearly ten years that followed, Hakim invested in a multi-phase project to renovate Old Salem Farm. The plan included appointment of Alan Bietsch as property manager and Frank Madden as head trainer.

“From the care of our own horses, to the footing in one of our competition rings or attracting the world’s top riders, Old Salem Farm is dedicated to constant improvement,” said Bietsch, whose past experience in the golf course industry played a significant role in developing the iconic Grand Prix field at Old Salem Farm.

While Old Salem Farm is a dream come true for many horse sport fans, the work is never finished. “The Hakim Family and the Old Salem Farm Team are very proud of this place and support any effort to advance, improve, and develop it,” said Madden, who is often on the road with Old Salem Farm’s competition riders, but admits his favorite part about training at Old Salem Farm is coming home to the facility. “I have loved seeing what this facility has done for local sport, the industry in general, and for the overwhelming dedication to show jumping that exists in this part of the country.”

Thanks to the vision of the Hakim family and their

dedicated staff, Old Salem Farm’s American Gold Cup CSI4*-W is a designated qualifier for the Longines World Cup™ Jumping Final and is included in the prestigious Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping North American League.

Gold Cup Prestige

September 13th–17th, the American Gold Cup CSI4*-W returns to Old Salem Farm in North Salem, New York. The popular and prestigious event annually attracts an international field of world-class horses and riders for what has become one of America’s most highly anticipated show jumping competitions.

The American Gold Cup’s four-decade-long history has brought it to Tampa, Florida, Moreland Hills, Ohio, and Devon, Pennsylvania, but none of those previous facilities are a match for the beautiful showgrounds in North Salem, New York. With millions of dollars in improvements, the show has grown in popularity year after year and has consistently placed as one of the highest-ranked horse shows on the North American Riders Group’s list.

Each year, in addition to the exciting show jumping schedule of events, the American Gold Cup also hosts the all-important ASPCA/NHSAA Maclay Championship for Regions 1 and 2 to earn their place in the ASPCA Maclay Finals, held in November.

With top-notch competition returning annually, the prestigious American Gold Cup trophy displays the names of 13 United States Olympians (six of them gold medalists), along with three Pan American Games gold medalists and six World Cup champions who

have all led the competition’s round of honor. This history designates the American Gold Cup as one of the country’s toughest show jumping tests, a proving ground for champions, and a launch pad for many of the sport’s future show jumping stars.

Now entering its 47th year, and its sixth year at Old Salem Farm, the American Gold Cup CSI4*-W will host four FEI rankings events, culminating with the prestigious \$216,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping New York CSI4*-W where top riders will compete for the coveted American Gold Cup. Also on the agenda is the \$35,000 Don Little Memorial Welcome Stake CSI4* on Thursday the 14th, the \$86,000 American Gold Cup Qualifier CSI4*-W, presented by Windsor Show Stables, on Friday the 15th, and the \$35,000 Hermès Sellier Classic and \$86,000 Fidelity Investments Classic CSI4* on Saturday the 16th.

The American Gold Cup is one of only seven East Coast qualifying events in the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping North American League, and its designation in this prestigious league is well deserved. It provides a wonderful weekend of family entertainment in a gorgeous, comfortable setting just an hour north of New York City, America’s hub of entertainment and sports broadcasting. Attendees of the event can enjoy a casual family experience with easy bleacher or hillside seating and a wide variety of shopping and cuisine choices throughout the grounds.

For more information on Old Salem Farm, please visit www.oldsalemfarm.net or follow Old Salem Farm on Facebook, as well as Instagram and Twitter at [@oldsalemfarmny](https://www.instagram.com/oldsalemfarmny).

Photo: Jump Media



ANDREW RAMSAY AND COCQ A DOODLE AT OLD SALEM FARM SPRING HORSE SHOWS.