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Maria Costa Claims Victory in the \$50,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix CSI2*

Maria Costa (USA) and her own Valentino V Z closed out week seven of the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) with a win in the \$50,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix CSI2* on Sunday, February 27, 2022, in Wellington, FL.

Costa and Valentino V Z, a 13-year-old Zangersheide stallion (Verdi TN x Converter), were one of 44 horse-and-rider combinations that entered the class with the hopes of earning the top prize. After a competitive first round, 12 combinations went clear to advance to the jump-off. Costa and her mount went near the end of the order and proved unbeatable when they flew through the timers at 37.85 seconds.



Maria Costa and Valentino V Z in their winning presentation with Dr. John Cooley of Palm Beach Equine Clinic.

Photo by [Jump Media](#)

"This might sound crazy but I was on him for all of 30 seconds when I was on him, and I just knew I had to have him," said Costa of Valentino V Z. "Our relationship is really special to me. I have had him since he was a seven-year-old, and it was certainly a rocky road in the beginning. We stayed super consistent with him. He is the type of horse that really appreciates consistency so about two years in he just kind of decided he liked it. Our bond has gotten to the point where I would comfortably ride into war on him. I always know he has my back and I have his, so I would have to say it is the most special connection I have ever had with a horse. I can't imagine it ever getting better.



Maria Costa and Valentino V Z after their victory gallop.

Photo by [Jump Media](#)

"I really wanted to take a little bit of a risk today," continued Costa. "I jumped clear in the qualifier on Friday, but I was not happy with my performance in the jump-off. My goal was to do better today, and that goal was really my main motivation in my ride. He is naturally fast, and if you let him go forward a bit he thrives on the energy. He is not a big horse, but he makes himself big when he is out there in the ring."



Maria Costa and Valentino V Z soaring over the Palm Beach Equine Clinic oxer.

Photo by [Jump Media](#)

Fabio Leivas Da Costa (BRA) and Bonne Chance Farm LLC's Ilex, the winners of Friday's qualifying class, earned a second-place finish with a time of 38.29 seconds. Third place honors went to Charlotte Jacobs (USA) and North Star's Rincoola Milsean after they stopped the clock at 38.41 seconds.

Palm Beach Equine Clinic is the Official Veterinarian of the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL. Week 7 of the 13-week series featured CSI2* competition sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic. You can view results, live stream replays, and more at [PBIEC.com](#).

[View Full Results](#)

Ringside Essentials: Tips From the Pros



Learn what Caroline Holmberg keeps in her ring bag to stay organized and prepared while working for Tiffany Foster.

Check out the second installment of "Ringside Essentials: Tips From the Pros" presented by Palm Beach Equine Clinic at the Winter Equestrian Festival. In this video, Caroline Holmberg discusses what supplies she keeps in her ring bag, how she got involved with horses, and what it is like to work for Canadian Olympic jumper rider Tiffany Foster. Holmberg has groomed for Foster since 2012 and continues to be a key part of her success.

[Watch Here](#)

\$50,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix CSI2* Photo Gallery



Photos by [Jump Media](#)

Congratulations to Winners of Palm Beach Equine Clinic Sponsored Classes During WEF 7



John Perez (COL) and Gigi-Carmen bested a field of 73 horse-and-rider combinations to take the top prize in the \$6,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic 1.40m on Wednesday, February 23.

Photo by [Sportfot](#)



Ashley Vogel (USA) and Lucy in the Sky topped the \$6,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic 1.45m CSI2* on Thursday, February 24.

Photo by [Sportfot](#)



Fabio Leivas Da Costa (BRA) piloted Ilex to victory in the \$37,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic Qualifier CSI2* on Friday, February 25.

Photo by [Jump Media](#)

Learn About Pre-Purchase Exams With PBEC in Virtual Webinar Available On Demand



PBEC was part of the 2022 PBIEC Educational Series, presented by Adequan®, during the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) 3. During the virtual educational webinar, Dr. Sarah Allendorf, Dr. Bryan Dubynsky, and Dr. Scott Swerdlin discussed what to expect from a pre-purchase exam. If you missed the live session, the full presentation is now available on demand.

[Watch On Demand](#)

Palm Beach Equine Clinic Works With AcutePlus



AcutePlus is a veterinary Wellness Membership Plan offered through Palm Beach Equine Clinic. The program is designed to give veterinarian practices a way to create a customized annual plan that they can offer directly to their clients and patients. AcutePlus provides veterinary discounts, equine protection, and equine loss protection.

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