

feature

by Lindsay Brock/Jump Media
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THE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

IN PHOTOS

An equestrian tradition since 1958, the Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) is the leading metropolitan indoor show in the U.S. and has stolen the hearts of competitors and horse sport fans alike. Combining the fanfare of the world's top riders with the attraction of seeing internationally known horses in the heart of the nation's capital, WIHS is a rare and cherished horse show experience. Whether it is for the riveting competition, the atmosphere, or even the shopping, a visit to WIHS is a must on anyone's 2017 horse show bucket list.

What better way to experience all there is to love about the Washington International Horse Show running October 24 through 29, 2017, than through the lens of esteemed photographer, Vivianne Peckham. Enjoy these images, and get an insider's notes, on what to see at WIHS through these captivating photos.



BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY

With the arrival of fall, show jumping competition moves indoors and welcomes top hunter and jumper riders and their horses to some innovative locations. Injecting horses into the middle of one of North America's most bustling cities is no easy task. But, at the hands of professional horse shippers at Johnson Horse Transportation, dedicated grooms and handlers, and enthusiastic horse show staff, horses hit the big city like a well-oiled machine.

Staged at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, all horses destined for WIHS wait for their turns and are shuttled into D.C. in shifts based on when they compete. Like a cavalry charge, tractor trailers loaded with the future stars of WIHS parade down 6th St. NW and deliver hundreds of horses at a time. For the next six days, the ground level of Capital One Arena and the streets of Washington, D.C., are home to the horses of WIHS.

If you go: Take a stroll down 6th St. NW and F St. NW and experience what it's like to stable horses in the heart of a major city.



TOP COMPETITION

A ribbon earned at WIHS is undoubtedly a cherished one with championships, recognitions, and special awards being bestowed upon some of the nation's top hunter horses and ponies from coast to coast. In addition, the Lindsay Maxwell Charitable Fund WIHS Equitation Final proudly serves as one of the most prestigious year-end equitation finals and takes place on Saturday, October 28, before the level of horse sport climbs even higher later that evening. Also taking up the spotlight on Saturday, the \$130,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Washington, presented by Events DC, for the President's Cup, is part of the Longines FEI World Cup™ North American League as a coveted qualifier for the 2018 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final in Paris, France, next April.

If you go: Purchase a ticket, which starts as low as \$15, and catch a glimpse of the world's best horses and riders. We recommend the \$130,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Washington, presented by Events DC, for the President's Cup, on the evening of Saturday, October 28.

A CELEBRATION OF THE HORSE

WIHS has always been more than just a horse show. A celebration of many disciplines, WIHS embraces horse sport as a whole and strives to bring together spectators from all avenues of the equestrian world. From the fan-favorite Barn Night on Thursday, October 26, to Kids' Day, presented by Discovery Communications and EQUUS Foundation, on Saturday, October 28, you don't have to be a world-class rider to experience and enjoy WIHS. Bringing some unique interpretations of equine entertainment, 2017 exhibitions will include Australian horse master and entertainer, Guy McLean, and the return of the WIHS Shetland Pony Steeplechase Championship Series, presented by Charles Owen.

If you go: Don't miss Barn Night! Featured this year is the \$35,000 International Jumping Amateur Costume Class, the WIHS Shetland Pony Steeplechase, presented by Charles Owen, and much more.

IN THE HEART OF D.C.

A fixture in the Washington, D.C. community, WIHS is not just a visiting event to the city and its residents. WIHS is dedicated to bringing horse sport to the masses and being a contributing member of D.C.'s special event calendar. As horse fans, and D.C. locals looking for a one-of-a-kind experience, converge, WIHS thrives on introducing equestrian sport to those who may have never seen a horse, touched a horse, or watched a horse perform.

WIHS's commitment to the D.C. community is matched by its recognition and embrace of D.C. culture. While taking place in the heart of the U.S. capital, WIHS makes a special effort to honor members of the U.S. military. Friday, October 27, marks Military Night and welcomes the U.S. Mounted Color Guard to present the American Flag during the National Anthem, and hosts the Armed Forces Reception to benefit the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).

In the ring during Military Night, the \$25,000 International Jumper Pauisance, presented by The Boeing Company, takes the stage. WIHS is still home to the North American indoor Pauisance record of 7' 7-1/2", which was set in 1983 by Anthony D'Ambrosio aboard Sweet N' Low.

If you go: Have breakfast with the Mounted Police of Washington, D.C., and meet their horses in front of Hotel Monaco at 700 F Street NW on Wednesday, October 25, starting at 8 a.m.



MODERN DAY TRADITION

WIHS is recognized as an Official USEF Heritage Competition and is a longstanding reminder of the journey of horse sport in the U.S. While some of the world's most celebrated riders have competed at WIHS, the show is also an historic social event. Many notable guests have made their way to WIHS over the years, including Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Gerald R. Ford.

Today, WIHS is continuing to set standards of sport and entertainment within the equine industry. With a rich history and bright future, WIHS has cemented itself as a coveted competition, unmatched experience, and a horse show never to be missed.

If you go: Experience WIHS like a true fan on the Capital One Arena concourse with shopping, rider autograph signings, and the opportunity to bid on WIHS Silent Auction items. And, join the conversation by using tags #WIHS2017, #HorseIntheCity, #RidersParis and #FEIWorldCup.

The Washington International Horse Show returns to the heart of Washington, D.C. on October 24-29, 2017. The event attracts more than 26,000 spectators annually as riders compete for prize money totaling more than half a million dollars. The Washington International Horse Show is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization based in Washington, D.C. For a complete schedule of events and more information, please visit wihs.org.



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