



PEDRO PINGARRON, OWNER OF YEGUADA MATER CHRISTI, 2018 WORLD'S BEST BREEDER

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TEXT: LILY FORADO

For a fourth consecutive year, Mater Christi is, once again the World's Best Breeder. What does it mean to win this award?

After all the effort, hard work and continuous dedication that responsible PRE horse breeding requires, receiving this award as breeders is the highest world-class recognition of our breeding quality and the continuous evolution of our stud farm with each new brood of foals. It is a group award that evaluates from the widely awarded adult horses to the youngest ones that have just begun competing. Besides, in our case, we are even prouder of receiving this award since it's the fourth year in a row.

What is the key to your success as a breeder?

First of all, I believe that you must dream what type of horse you want to breed, what is your ideal horse; from there, you begin working in the selection to come closer each year to that ideal horse you dream about. At the same time, this must be done humbly by analyzing the score sheets to confirm that the Judging Manual is being followed; you have to study what is passed on by each breeding horse and observe what the selection scheme recommends. In essence, listening to what others have to say, especially the professionals who are an active part of this exciting task. Specifically, in this edition of SICAB, our team has proven their professionalism, devotion, coordination and team work that makes one feel extremely proud. I'd like to highlight the tasks of out presenter, Daniel Isidoro, and our rider, Juan Lecina.

With 27 horses presented in the various sections, Imenso Mater was one of your star horses. What is your opinion on this result?

Imenso Mater is a great horse that constantly progresses as seen in the results of the past two years. He is a well-rounded horse of great structure, with an athletic complexion and excellent mechanics in his paces and true to the breed. Imenso Mater carries blood of champions on all four sides: he is grandson of the three-time Spanish Champion, Triunfadora XXX, three-time Reserve Spanish Champion, Judío VII and Youngstock Spanish Champion, Duque CXIII. His mother is Emblema Mater who was part of the 2015 and 2016 World Champion cobra in Section 13 and 2018 Champion in Section 14. His father, Desaire Mater, was 2014 Spanish Movements Champion

in Section 10. As breeding stallion, he is already transmitting high quality in his offspring since two of his initial progenies hold podium positions at world championships: Hechura Mater and Imenso Mater. Imenso Mater is a horse with a friendly character, very intelligent, a fast learner and he loves to work. He's got a lot of strength and has a privileged anatomy that allows him to show in his movements three natural, great quality paces; his strides are high, ample and elastic with natural balance and very good angles and well-proportioned limbs. Imenso Mater has a powerful, well-angled croup that is inserted in a superior line to facilitate uphill movements together with good withers and a long back that is well inclined and angled and is very fluid. In summary, he is a very athletic horse, with maximum potential for sports and, at the same time, beautiful, noble, expressive and true to the breed.

Mater Christi cobras have placed at the top of the ranking, in both Section 13 and Section 14. What strong points do Farandula Mater, Gloria Mater and Hechura Mater have?

The components of this cobra are young mares, each with excellent individual quality. Among them, there are World and Reserve Mare Champions in various sections. What is most important is the sameness of their excellent conformation; that is seen in their racial and feminine heads, good chest and alignment, their powerful croups with good tail insertions at the same height, the union of the scapular-humerus joint, height at the withers and excellent upper lines. In addition to all of this, you must include the quality of their movements; this is seen in the extraordinary synchronization of a flawless presentation by Daniel Isidoro. In fact, it is a dark gray cobra, which is even more difficult when trying to achieve uniformity.

Juramento Mater, a 3-year-old foal, has been proclaimed World Champion of Movements in his sections. How would you define his paces?

I believe that the main virtue of both Juramento Mater and Estoque Mater, who also won World Champion of Movements in Section 12, is their mental balance that is expressed in their ability to concentrate when maximum performance is required. In an unknown environment, in many cases hostile due to the amount noise and decibels. with the commotion produced



Pedro Pingarron.

by people in and out of the arena, they are able to express themselves and maintain the consistency and capabilities of their natural paces. Juramento has a long striding active walk, with a great overstep, is loose through the shoulders and uses his top line well. He is flexible and clearly defines his four-time rhythm. He offers a quality trot, one that is true to the breed, with ample flexion of his front limbs but with good proportions between elevation and length of stride, with very good hindquarters that overstep the front hoof print and he has great forward flexion in his hocks. In other words, more protraction than retraction of the hind limbs that truly work to reach the center of gravity and have proper retraction with suspension and a somewhat uphill tendency. In his canter, his powerful croup comes into play, along with his powerful loins that are capable of bending, lowering the hips and carrying the weight of the hind legs, while maintaining the action and range of movement. He has a strong back that eases the upward movement of his flexible shoulders, elevating the whole of his forehead. He shows longitudinal and cross-sectional balance with impulsion, suspension and rhythm.

Over the years, the results obtained by Yeguada Mater Christi are the result of hard work and effort. What are the lines of work for 2019?

There is nothing but truth in the saying "to reap the fruits of one's efforts", since in one's life, just like in a dictionary, "efforts" precedes "success" and it is only one part of the formula to reach our current position. In competitions, what other objectives can one have when in 2018, Mater Christi once again appeared in golden letters on another page in the history of the Spanish Horse? Is it the first time in 28 years of SICAB

history that a stud farm receives the award of World's Best Breeder four times in a row. With regards to the World Championship, we are the only stud farm that has been awarded World's Best Breeder in all four times since its beginning. However, from a breeder's perspective, you always feels like there's room for improvement. Therefore, we will continue to devote all five senses to this noble and passionate task, which is breeding Spanish Horses and trying to evolve towards the ideal horse we dream about.

How would you summarize the success of Yeguada Mater Christi at this 28th edition of SICAB?

Our main objective was to enjoy and share with everyone our stud farm jewels, to show how and what we breed and receive the recognition that excellence appears in all our foals, and therefore, at the various ages and in all sections. It has been the first time in SICAB history that a stud farm has participated with 27 horses, all of which were bred on the same stud farm. Twenty-one bibs, two 3-mare cobras and another two 5-mare cobras being all of the components with his brand showing great excellence in these four cobras. In Section 13, there is a 2015 and 2016 World Mare Champion and another 2017 and 2018 World Mare Champion. While in Section 14, one first-time cobra component has been proclaimed 2018 World Mare Champion and the other World Reserve Mare Champion the same year. By winning at an individual level with youngstock and adults, stallions and mares, both in conformation and movements, the quality of the stud farm as a whole has been proven. This does not necessarily correspond to a given moment in time, a brood or a specific horse, but rather the fact that excellence has been fixed in all generations and sexes making up the stud farm as a whole. ■■