



- March 03, 2009
- [Home](#)
- [Articles](#)
- [Headlines](#)
- [Spotlights](#)
- [Showing/Events](#)
- [Equine Protection](#)
- [Horse Care](#)
- [Educational](#)
- [Diseases/Health](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Disaster Planning](#)
- [Training Tips](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [Of Interest](#)
- [Contributors](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Resource Guide](#)
- [Equine Directory](#)
- [Market Place](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Advertising & Web Services](#)
- [Past Newsletters](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Banner Request Form](#)
- [Sales & Specials](#)

[Home](#) » [Press Releases](#)

Scenic Trail Ride to Be Auctioned Live at Strides of Hope Fundraiser for VTRC
By: Newsroom Associate
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Photo Credit: Andres Weisz, a member of the Luchesse Polo Team, will be leading the exciting trail ride being auctioned at the Strides of Hope fundraiser. Photo courtesy of the Hobe Sound Polo Club.



LOXAHATCHEE, FL - February 16, 2009 - A scenic trail ride led by Andres Weisz for six to eight participants is the latest addition to a long list of auction items for the Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center (VTRC) Strides of Hope Fundraiser. The fundraiser is being held Friday, February 20, at the International Polo Club. The 23rd annual auction, dinner, and dance is the main source of funding for the VTRC, which offers many opportunities to those with special needs.

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The trail ride will be taking place at the beautiful Hobe Sound Polo Club, located on Florida's Treasure Coast. The extensive bridle trails extend through the beautiful Atlantic Ridge State Park and offers the perfect setting for a scenic trail ride. Renowned polo players Andres Weisz, a member of the Luchesse Polo Team, will be hosting this special auction item. At the end of the day the group will have the opportunity to participate in a traditional Argentine Asado, which is a famous Argentinean barbeque. This exciting auction item will offer a once-in-a-lifetime experience to a lucky bidder and his or her guests.

"I have children, and I have friends that have been through difficult moments with their children; I believe this donation is a great way to support something that allows for such a rewarding experience," said Weisz. "The VTRC is unique because it combines horses, something that I am very passionate about, with a great cause, and I think this trail ride is something people will really, really enjoy."

Other great auction items donated include: two Extreme Key West Scooters, donated by Mad Dog Motorsports; Cool Press Kombi Boots; a four day, three night stay at the Sherry Netherlands Hotel in New York City with \$1,000 of "Mad Money" to spend, donated by Mr. and Mrs. David Page; a dream dinner at a private estate in the Palm Beach Polo Club, donated by Mr. Fredrick Boyer, Mr. Juan Gomez, Mr. & Mrs. David Page, Mrs. Karen Lloyd, and Mrs. Lee Syben; a Las Vegas World Cup jumping package or dressage package, including two plaza level tickets, two tickets to the Equestrian Aid Foundation party, four nights at the Marriott, and a \$500 visa card, donated by the Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center; one horse, one way equine air transport from Miami to either Argentina or Amsterdam or from either Argentina or Amsterdam back to Miami by Lazcar International Equine Air Transport, donated by Mr. Tony Alessandrini; and a chance to be Sheriff for a day, donated by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

A. Alexander Events will provide this year's exceptional dining experience for the event. Lead by Chef Felix Alexander, the company has over 25 years of experience in the catering business, and always provides the highest quality in gourmet dining. Several top-notch equestrians will be in attendance at this year's event and will have the opportunity to enjoy the fine dining experience.

Olympians such as McLain Ward, Margie Engle, and Michael Barisone take great pride in being associated with this worthwhile cause, and are excited for this year's live auction, dinner, and dance.

The "Strides of Hope" event will host its annual live auction this year with renowned equestrians Mason Phelps, Jr. and Michael Barisone as celebrity auctioneers.

The VTRC includes over 350 clients, and has four different programs to participate in: Therapeutic Riding, Hippotherapy, Horses for Heroes and Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy. Founded in 1986, the annual Strides for Hope fundraiser has raised more than two million dollars for therapeutic and recreational horseback riding for special needs children and adults of Palm Beach County.

The 2009 "Strides of Hope" Annual Benefit Auction, Dinner and Dance is an event that takes the hard work and dedication of a lot of people to come together. The VTRC would like to thank the host committee, chairpersons, auction committee, and board of directors for all of their contributions. The host committee includes Mr. and Mrs. Mark Bellissimo, Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Boyer, Ms. Carol Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Miller, Mrs. Lee Sable Freund, Ms. Tamara Gerber, Ms. Terri Kane, Ms. Milo Mott, and Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Polston. The chairpersons are Candace King and Arlene Tuny Page.

The auction committee consists of Iseult Broglio, Mikey Bundy, Jesse Coppola, Darlene Curti, Barbara Drury, Lynn Evans, Claire Falik, Marley Goodman, Susan Guinan, Patti Hadden, Caroline Johnston, Emily Marschok, Allyn Schiavone, Charlotte Smith, Lee Syben, Cetty Weiss, Brenda Wells, and Cathy Zagal.

The board of directors includes Emily Marschok, President; Patti Hadden, Vice President; Steve Carroll, Treasurer; Charlotte Smith, Secretary; Iseult Broglio, Teri Brant, Jesse Coppola, Neil MacMillan, Mary Ellen McDonald, and Lee Syben.

For more information on the Vinceremos Therapeutic Equestrian Center, please visit www.vinceremos.com.

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