

Germain Ricardo, All-rounder from Latin America



Germain Ricardo is most likely the only Latin-American-born Gaited Horse Coach in Europe that carries the experience of training horses in numerous countries of North, Central

and South America. In Europe, he has been working in The Netherlands and Germany. Born in Curacao, the Dutch Antilles, Germain fluently speaks 4 languages (Dutch, English, Spanish and Papiamentu). He has been working with a wide range of gaited horses, in a larger scale with the Paso Fino, Paso Peruano and the Azteca horses. Today, in Europe, besides the Paso Fino, he is deeply involved in the training of the Brazilian horse Mangalarga Marchador.

Germain's background

Germain's education started in Curacao with the Paso Fino horses. In fact, he grew up around these horses and participated of many youth world championships in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. His first education in horse training was based on the *Doma Clásica*. He worked intensively together with old masters in Venezuela

and Colombia and also accomplished a lot of experience in the United States of America and Puerto Rico. Five years ago, he changed his training method to the *Doma Racional*, which is based on Natural Horsemanship, focused on teaching the horseman to better



communicate with his horse. This method had its origin when a Puerto Rican Paso Fino trainer called Jochi Rodriguez met an American trainer named Chris Cox. Together, they developed the *Doma Racional*. Germain took courses of this method with Jairo Villegas, who was the first generation of trainers from the *Rodriguez-Cox school*.

After moving to Europe, he got in touch with leading Dutch and German gaited horse breeders, who immediately realized his working skills. For this reason, his client basis in Europe is growing steadily – many of them being Mangalarga Marchador owners and breeders. That's why, today, he is also closely connected to the Brazilian horse, looking back on a 20 year's lasting experience.

Germain's philosophy

The *Doma Racional* perfectly fits to Germain's belief on how a horse should be trained. The basic idea is to build confidence between horse and rider. The horse feels that it is safer by the rider's side. Germain trains the horse using sensitivity and patience in high scale. He makes the horse understand that his work is free of violence.

Harmonize the Horse and Rider

The basic objective in Germain's training is based on mutual trust and understanding between rider and horse.

In training horse and rider, Germain certainly makes use of his riding experience including various training elements, such as the use of appropriate bits, the classical "fine helpings", the perfect sitting and many other details. For him, the private lessons one-to-one, meaning to the rider and his horse, in a practical and easy



way, is of utmost importance. *Doma Racional* provides the most advanced training method, making sure that the horse can adapt itself to different riders, not only one.

How to work with a problem horse?

With *Doma Racional*, any type of problem a horse may present can be corrected, such as:

- how to handle back problems,
- how to identify and adjust the right bit,
- how to treat the horse flexibility and one sided stiffness and many other problems commonly found in horses that did not receive appropriate training and care.

The idea is to have a good communication with the horse, treat the problems appropriately by designing an individual type of training. A fast solution will be reached by doing that.

Germain can teach the rider:

- how to see things from the horse point of view,
- anticipate his reactions to many situations and
- adjust bad behavior and so,
- build trust for a great companionship.

Germain has begun and also modified the behavior of horses of several breeds, such as Quarter Horse, Paso Peruano, jumping horses, Azteca horse, Arabian and, of course, the Mangalarga Marchador and the Paso Fino.



Get in Contact

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