



Jérôme Guéry Makes History as the First Winner of El Jadida's 5-Star Grand Prix

El Jadida, Sunday, October 18 – The final highlight of the Morocco Royal Tour, the His Majesty King Mohammed VI World Cup Grand Prix, saw Jérôme Guéry claim victory aboard Kiliman Sitte. With this win, the Belgian also becomes the first 5-star Grand Prix winner in the history of the tour. He was followed by Great Britain's Chloé Aston and France's Simon Delestre.



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The first CSI5* World Cup Grand Prix of the Morocco Royal Tour lived up to all expectations on Sunday, October 18. After three weeks of competition, the riders gathered to write a new chapter in the history of the Moroccan tour. For the 44 combinations on the start list, Italian course designer Uliano Vezzani had set a course featuring 13 obstacles and 16 jumping efforts, including the line from fences 9 to 10, running alongside the VIP grandstand, which proved to be a decisive test.

"I've been coming to the Morocco Royal Tour for 15 years, and I think the evolution of the tour has been remarkable," explained the course designer just minutes before the Grand Prix. *"El Jadida truly deserved to be upgraded to five-star status. Designing a course for a CSI4 and a CSI5* is completely different, whether in terms of time allowed, technical difficulty, distances or the choice of obstacles. Even though I'm now used to designing at this level, every course is a new story waiting to be written, especially when it's at a new venue. And I'm sure that here in El Jadida, it will be a beautiful one."*

Tenth to enter the arena, Belgium's Jérôme Guéry, riding Kiliman Sitte, was the first to produce a clear round. He was followed by Great Britain's Chloé Aston aboard Akito Von Rocherath Z, and Italy's Roberto Previtali on Quirinus 27 and Christian Marini with Chalasanga PS, all securing their places in the second round. With the Grand Prix contested over two rounds, they were joined by the seven fastest combinations with four faults.

At 3:30 p.m., the final round got underway in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan. France's Simon Delestre, who had incurred four faults in the first round, was the first to put real pressure on his rivals, stopping the clock at 41.28 seconds, a performance that ultimately secured him third place. Great Britain's Chloé Aston, the only female rider among the 11 finalists, confirmed her strong form with a double clear in 47.79 seconds, taking the provisional lead. But the final combination to enter the arena, Belgium's Jérôme Guéry and his highly promising grey stallion, had other plans. They stopped the clock in 46.45 seconds to claim victory.

"The course was quite difficult, and I was actually pleased to see that when I walked it," explained the 2022 World Championship silver medalist. *"I knew there wouldn't be many clear rounds, and that proved to be the case. However, this was a two-round competition, and in the second round, after watching Simon's performance, I decided there was no point trying to go faster and taking unnecessary risks. Going last put me in a fairly comfortable position. Chloé had been fast, but I knew exactly what I needed to do to try to beat her time. Of course, knowing what to do and actually pulling it off are two different things. Kiliman was incredible and really rose to the occasion. He's not the fastest horse, but he's extremely powerful and has a huge stride. I wasn't sure how he would perform indoors, as I had always imagined him excelling more in outdoor arenas. Yet here he is, claiming his first five-star victory, which is very encouraging for the future. We've only been competing together for three months. I've been following this horse since he was eight years old. He's had several riders but hadn't yet found the right partnership. After having a horse like Quel Homme, it's not easy to move forward. He was exceptional, and you have to rebuild, develop new horses and find successors. I genuinely believe Kiliman could be one of them. I've been coming to the Morocco Royal Tour for several years now, and I've really witnessed its development, culminating in this year's move to five-star level. That progress is evident both in the organisation and in the standard of Moroccan riders. There were eight Moroccan riders competing today. Morocco has become a nation to be reckoned with at the highest level, and that's thanks to circuits like this one."*



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BART LIPS CLAIMS HIS FIRST GRAND PRIX VICTORY

Earlier in the day, the CSI2* – Prix Province, a 1.45m Grand Prix, saw the Netherlands' Bart Lips take top honours. Riding Davinci Z, the 32-year-old claimed his first Grand Prix victory against a strong field, with 19 combinations qualifying for the jump-off.

"This is my first Grand Prix victory at this level," explained the winner. *"I'm even happier because it really wasn't an easy class. There were a lot of us in the jump-off, and the competition was fierce. Davinci was fantastic. I've been riding him for seven years, so we know each other very well, and this victory feels like the culmination of all our hard work. This is my first time competing on the tour here in Morocco, and I have to say I'm impressed by the quality of the organisation. Of course, if I have the right horses to come back next year, I'll definitely return."*

France's Laura Klein finished second aboard Girocco de Jarsay, while Italy's Lorenzo Argentano completed the podium with Dakota Blue Girl.



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About the Morocco Royal Tour

Founded in 2010, the Morocco Royal Tour has established itself over the years as one of the leading circuits on the international equestrian calendar and remains the only show jumping circuit in the world staged over three consecutive weekends in three different cities. For more than fifteen years, it has embodied the Kingdom of Morocco's ambition to develop top-level equestrian competitions and secure a lasting presence on the international sporting stage. From its earliest editions, the Morocco Royal Tour has stood out for the quality of its venues, the excellence of its organisation and a strong identity that blends Moroccan equestrian tradition with international sporting standards. Over time, the circuit has continued to evolve, both sportingly and structurally, attracting year after year some of the world's leading riders and horses. The Tour's unique format is built around a coherent sporting progression across three complementary stages. It begins in Tétouan, at the Royal Guard Stud Farm, a symbol of the Kingdom's equestrian heritage. It then moves to Rabat, the capital of the Kingdom and home of the Royal Moroccan Federation for Equestrian Sports, notably host of the prestigious Nations Cup. The grand finale takes place in El Jadida, at the Exhibition Park, during the Salon du Cheval, with the Grand Prix of His Majesty King Mohammed VI as the highlight of the circuit. Beyond competition, the Morocco Royal Tour is part of a long-term vision aimed at structuring and promoting the Moroccan equestrian sector. Through its progressive development, the continuous elevation of its competition levels and its unwavering commitment to excellence, the circuit actively contributes to Morocco's sporting, cultural and institutional influence on the international equestrian stage.



Morocco Royal Tour

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