



# FINALES COUPE DU MONDE FEI JUMPING ET DRESSAGE 2018

11-15 AVRIL  
ACCORHOTELS ARENA



Paris, 13 April 2018 - Press Release

## FEI DRESSAGE WORLD CUP GRAND PRIX FINAL: THE AMERICAN RIDER LAURA GRAVES DRAWS FIRST BLOOD AGAINST THE “QUEEN” ISABELL WERTH. THE BATTLE IS SET FOR THE TITLE TOMORROW.

“C’est *la vie*”. With a broad smile, these are the words that the German rider Isabell Werth used to describe her performance, which was undoubtedly not up to the standard the public expected from the most successful rider in equestrian sport. This Friday, at the FEI World Cup Dressage Grand Prix Final at the AccorHotels Arena in Paris, Isabell Werth was beaten to first place by the American rider Laura Graves, whilst her compatriot Jessica von Bredow-Werndl, finished third.

She did it! On paper, Laura Graves was one of the few riders capable of beating the “Queen” Isabell Werth, the defending champion and three-time FEI World Cup Dressage Final winner. With a score of 81.413, the Florida rider even achieved a personal best in a Grand Prix, on her faithful Verdades!

In second place, more than three points behind (78.261), Isabell Werth made some mistakes which hindered the rest of her performance on Weihegold. Tomorrow, for the Freestyle Grand Prix which will decide the winner of the FEI World Cup Dressage Final, the battle promises to be fierce between the two riders, who are both focused on giving their utmost to win: “rise to the challenge and give it your best shot”, in the words of the American, “to prove that choosing this horse for this Final was the right one” in the words of the German rider.

Another rider from Germany was on the last step of the podium of this Grand Prix: Jessica von Bredow-Werndl, riding Unee BB was third (75.668), putting in a great performance in the Final after a short maternity leave. In 2015 and 2016, the German rider finished third in the Final and she dreams of doing the same here in Paris tomorrow. We will find out on Saturday after the Grand Prix Freestyle.

The Frenchman Ludovic Henry finished twelfth on After You. He was the only French rider to qualify for this FEI World Cup Dressage Final (fifteenth qualified rider of the eighteen contenders for the title).

What they said:

Laura Graves (USA), riding Verdades

“Paris 2018 is the first FEI World Cup Dressage Final in which I have taken part in Europe. It’s very different from the conditions in America, since the qualifying circuit is mostly on outdoor courses, and here it’s indoor. Finishing in first place ahead of Isabell is a bit scary (laughs): I know that tomorrow, for the Freestyle Grand Prix (which will decide the winner of the FEI World Cup Dressage Final, *editor’s note*), Isabell will set the bar very high, and will do everything she can to win it. That makes it all the more motivating. It’s a real opportunity to be here in Paris, to be up against the best and to push back your limits.”





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## Isabell Werth (GER), on Weihegold OLD

The mistakes with the gallop and in the transitions were a bit unexpected. But let's face it, it makes the competition even more exciting! People said I was the favourite, but everything can happen in sport. Tomorrow (in the Grand Prix Freestyle, Ed.), we will do everything we can to make to take the lead from Laura. I'll take all the risks I have to. I hesitated a long time between two horses, Emilio and Weihegold. This evening you can be sure that when I call Emilio, he'll make fun of me (laughs)! But, honestly, I hope to prove that my choice was the right one tomorrow."

## Jessica von Bredow-Werndl (GER), on Unee BB

I am really happy with third place, which I will try my utmost to keep tomorrow in the Freestyle Grand Prix, in which I am performing a particularly difficulty routine. This FEI World Cup Dressage Final will be the last one for Unee BB, and I must say that everything is perfect here. The atmosphere is great and the facilities for the horses and riders are fantastic. I have enjoyed every second of the last few days. The event is really amazing."

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## TICKETING FOR THE LONGINES FEI SHOW-JUMPING WORLD CUP AND FEI DRESSAGE WORLD CUP FINALS

The ticketing is now open, offering packages that cater for every budget. Prices range from €10 for the warm-up events to €175 for the best seats on the days of the Finals, with a special rate for French Equestrian Federation license holders.  
[www.feiworldcupfinals-paris.com](http://www.feiworldcupfinals-paris.com) and [www.accorhotelsarena.com](http://www.accorhotelsarena.com)

. Wednesday 11 April: OPENING CLASS  
Cat. 2, €10; cat.1, €15; cat. Or (*Gold*), €20\*

. Thursday 12 April: LONGINES FEI WORLD CUP™ JUMPING FINAL I  
Cat. 2, €20; cat.1, €40; cat. Or (*Gold*), €60\*

. Friday 13 April: FEI WORLD CUP™ DRESSAGE FINAL GRAND PRIX & LONGINES FEI WORLD CUP™ JUMPING FINAL II  
Cat. 2, €40; cat.1, €60; cat. Or (*Gold*), €90\*

. Saturday 14 April: FEI WORLD CUP™ DRESSAGE FINAL GRAND PRIX FREESTYLE & GRAND PRIX CSI  
Cat. 2, €40; cat.1, €80; cat. Or (*Gold*), €120\*

. Sunday 15 April: LONGINES FEI WORLD CUP™ JUMPING FINAL III  
Cat. 2, €80; cat.1, €120; cat. Or (*Gold*), €175\*

\* *Subject to availability.*

## ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGES

. From Wednesday 11 to Sunday 15 April.  
Cat. 2, €150; cat.1, €250; cat. Or (*Gold*), €370\*

\* *Subject to availability.*

Bookings

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