



THE LIPICA STUD FARM

White Lipizzan mares and their dark foals, presentations of the classical riding school, romantic carriage rides along the most beautiful tree-lined avenues, and guided tours of the historic core with the oldest stable – Velbanca. A walk around the estate, which impresses with its exceptional cultural landscape. These are experiences that attract thousands of visitors to the Lipica Stud Farm every year.

However, the Lipica Stud Farm is much more than this. It is:

- the original stud farm of the Lipizzan horse breed, one of the oldest cultural horse breeds in the world,
- the oldest European stud farm that continuously breeds one and the same breed of horses – Lipizzans,
- a cultural monument of national importance for the Republic of Slovenia,
- one of the most beautiful and most popular tourist destinations in Slovenia,
- home to more than 350 Lipizzan horses.

Established on 19 May 1580

Its long and varied history started on 19 May 1580, when Habsburg Archduke Charles II, son of Habsburg Emperor Ferdinand I, purchased the Lipica estate, located in the western territory of today's Republic of Slovenia. His aim was to ensure a large supply of horses for his court.

In the area surrounding Lipica, horses had been bred long before the stud farm was established. They were famous for their strength, swiftness, persistence, and long lives. After the establishment of the stud farm, they were crossbred with Spanish, Italian, and Arab horses.

Six classical lines of Lipizzan stallions

Over the centuries, six classical lines, based on the six original stallions, were preserved. Their names are Conversano, Neapolitano, Favory, Maestoso, Pluto, and Siglavy:

- Conversano was a Neapolitan dark brown stallion that was born in Italy in 1767.
- Neapolitano was a Neapolitan brown stallion that was born in Italy in 1790.

- Favory was an Andalusian brown stallion that was born in Kladrub in 1779.
- Maestoso was an Andalusian grey stallion that was born in Kladrub in 1773.
- Pluto was a Danish grey stallion that was born at the Frederiksborg Royal Stud Farm in 1765.
- Siglavy was an Arabian grey stallion that was born in Arabia in 1810.

18 families of Lipizzan mares were also formed.

Lipizzans for the Spanish Riding School in Vienna

The development of the Lipizzan breed was also closely connected to the development of the art of classical dressage. Development of the art of classical dressage, as it is known today, can be traced back to the 16th century. At the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, that was established 1565, classical dressage was developed, and has been preserved until today. It is referred to as Spanish, because only horses from Spain were used at the beginning, although Lipizzan stallions from the Lipica Stud Farm soon replaced them.

Thus, Lipica used to breed the Lipizzan stallions for the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, and for the Habsburg court, until the beginning of World War I in 1914. After the end of the World War I, the western territory of today's Republic of Slovenia, where Lipica is located, became part of Italy, and the important historical connection between Lipica and the Spanish Riding School was brought to an end.

In 1920, Austria began breeding Lipizzan stallions for the Spanish Riding School at the Piber Stud Farm. However, the Lipica Stud Farm continued to breed the Lipizzan horses under Italian rule until World War II. In 1943, the Lipizzans from Lipica were evacuated to Hostoun in Chechia, where they were kept until the end of the war.

A new beginning

In 1947, Lipica became part of the Republic of Yugoslavia. From the former herd, only eleven Lipizzan horses returned to the stud farm, but with great effort, Lipica was eventually able to restore the breeding. In the 60s and 70s, the stud farm developed its own Classical Riding School, with breath-taking elements "on the ground" and "in the air", performing all over the world.



Today, Lipica is one of the most important cultural and historical monuments of Slovenia, and home to over 350 Lipizzan horses. With the guided tours, presentation of the Lipica classical riding school, official training, carriage rides, horse riding lessons, and family experiences, Lipica attracts visitors from all over the world to its green estate.

The UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

In the 19th century, the breeding of Lipizzan horses spread across many territories of the former monarchy. Today, the tradition of breeding Lipizzan horses is maintained at the national stud farms of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, and Slovenia, as well as in the breeding areas where the Lipizzan horse settled and established itself. This tradition represents an outstanding cultural heritage, which Slovenia, together with most of these countries, strives to include on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

In March 2020, Slovenia, on behalf of eight participating countries - Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia - submitted a multinational nomination to the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris, for inscription of the Lipizzan Horse Breeding Traditions on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The new Hotel Maestoso 4*superior

In July 2021, the renovated, four star superior Hotel Maestoso opened its doors. Its 139 rooms and five conference halls embrace the characteristics of the Karst and the traditions of Lipica, as well as the global trends. Its unique interior offers guests the opportunity for a relaxing holiday in contact with nature, while at the same time, takes them into the world of horses and equestrianism and invites them to experience the Karst.

The opening of the new hotel will be followed by the renovation of the SPA and wellness complex, which is important for the well-being of guests, and for the fact that the tourist season in Lipica is extended to the whole year. We believe that in the future, there will be much more interest in green destinations with an emphasis on active and healthy leisure time in nature, among which the Lipica Stud Farm has a special place.