For Immediate Release

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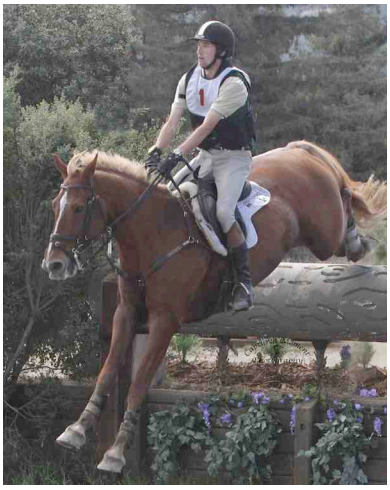
Competitors Are Ready for The Woodside International Horse Trials

Woodside, CA., Sept. 28, 2015 —Riders from around the West Coast will make the competition top-class at the Woodside International Horse Trials, Oct. 2-4, at the Horse Park At Woodside. The event will offer three international divisions—the CIC3*, the CIC2* and the CIC1*.

In the CIC3*, previous Woodside winner James Alliston, of San Ramon, CA, looks like the rider to beat, since he's entered his veterans Tivoli and Parker. Puerto Rico's Lauren Billys and Castle Larchfield Purdy, fresh from their experience competing at the Pan American Games and the winners of the Woodside CIC2* in 2014, look like his toughest challenger, but several promising newcomers are ready to gallop boldly around the viewer-friendly cross-country course to keep the pressure on.



Tivoli, winner of the Woodside International CIC3* in 2012, is one of two top mounts James Alliston is bringing to this year's event.
(Sherry Stewart photo)

In all, 10 competitors are entered in the CIC3*. After the first two phases—the elegant dressage and precise show jumping on Friday—,

they'll have to meet the test set by cross-country course designer Ian Stark on Saturday.

Stark, a former British Olympian, designed his first courses at the Horse Park At Woodside in May, and he created a third water complex for that event. The complex is in the southwest corner of then park, where no jumps had ever been before, but Stark said it won't be the same for this international event.

"[The course at] Woodside seemed to work well with the new layout we instituted in the spring," said Stark about his course plans for Woodside International. "So I plan to keep tweaking and altering around the course [adjusting the route]. Perhaps there will be a few more technical questions on the way down to the new water jump."

Some 24 competitors will test their mettle in the CIC2*, while 29 pairs will come forward for the CIC1*. Veterans on younger horses, and newcomers to the level alike will take part in these FEI divisions, joining more than 200 competitors at the six national levels.

Lauren Billys and Castle Larchfield Purdy, winners of the Woodside International CIC2* in 2014, are top challengers for the CIC3* title this year.
(Sherry Stewart photo)

"As our West Coast competitors gear up for the fall season, the Woodside International is a key part of their plans," said Organizer Robert Kellerhouse. "The FEI divisions are a key qualifying competition, and the national divisions provide important preparatory runs too."

"Ian's continued changes to the course will only increase the value of this competition for the fall season here in the West," he added.

The winners will receive their prizes at a grand catered awards ceremony and dinner on Saturday evening, starting at 6:00 p.m., complete with music and more. Fans and spectators are welcome. Tickets may be purchased at www.woodsideeventing.com.

The Woodside International Horse Trials will continue on Sunday with both show jumping and cross-country for the advanced, intermediate, preliminary, training, novice and beginner novice divisions.

On Thursday, the Woodside International Horse Trials will also host the West Coast Championships of the USEA's Future Event Horse Series presented by Priefert. This in-hand class for yearling, two- and three-year olds showcases the stars of the future in the sport of eventing. These young horses have received qualifying scores of 68% or greater throughout the year to be eligible for the championship. Each age group of young horses is judged separately on type and movement, and all are evaluated with future international eventing competition in mind.

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For tickets, go to www.woodsideeventing.com.

To learn more about the Event At Woodside, go to www.woodsideeventing.com. To learn more about eventing, visit the U.S. Eventing Association's website (www.useventing.com). For Press Credentials, please contact the press officers.