



W I N T E R   E Q U E S T R I A N   F E S T I V A L

# WEEKLY WIRE

PREMIERE WEEK • DECEMBER 31, 2025

HERE'S TO 2026!





To Our Community,

As we open the gates for the 2026 Winter Equestrian Festival, I want to personally welcome you back to Wellington International for what promises to be our most exciting season yet. With the support of Wellington Lifestyle Partners, we have spent the past year making transformative upgrades to both our competition calendar and our facility. Our shared goal is simple: to elevate every aspect of your experience as riders, owners, trainers, and supporters who make competing at Wellington International your winter tradition.

We are excited to unveil below just a few highlights of what's new for the winter competition season. More than \$16 million in prize money will be on the line, highlighted by the \$1,000,000 Rolex US Equestrian Open CSI5\* Grand Prix, a Rolex Series Event. The schedule features 68 FEI world ranking classes, enhanced prize money for 4\* Grand Prix qualifiers and 5\* Grand Prix competition as well as increased prize money across Junior and Amateur divisions, and exciting new competition formats creating more opportunities for riders of every level to shine.

At the same time, we have invested heavily in our facilities with a focus on performance and comfort for our horses and athletes. The International Arena and Schooling Area now feature brand-new GGT textile footing installed by JTWG, Inc., while our FEI barns have been completely renovated with Barnwalkers Pro-Series stalls and Equitan rubber surfaces. Pony Island, the Grand Hunter Ring, and main lunging areas have all received major upgrades, alongside expanded golf cart paths, resurfaced roads, surfaced pathways through the grounds, new wash stalls, and improved drainage.

Spectators and competitors will notice new hospitality enhancements, from upgraded Tiki Hut dining and box seat food service to a refreshed Vendor Village. These improvements were made not only to enhance the competition but to create a world-class environment worthy of the incredible athletes and horses who compete here.

We have made significant progress on the South Venue with a new covered arena nearing completion and a Grass Derby Field that will open for competition in 2027. These projects represent our long-term commitment to ensuring Wellington International remains the premier destination for equestrian sport for generations to come.

I want to thank each of you for choosing Wellington International as your competition venue. Together, we will continue to build on a legacy that not only advances equestrian sport but also strengthens our community and creates lasting impact.

On behalf of the entire Wellington International team, I wish you a safe and successful season. We cannot wait to see you in the ring.

Best Wishes,

**Murray S. Kessler**

*Chief Executive Officer, Wellington International*



On behalf of the entire Wellington International team, welcome back to the Winter Equestrian Festival!

Wellington International is in the midst of change. Positive change. Exciting change. We can't wait to share those changes with you, explore what's to come and applaud the successes that are born from all corners of these showgrounds.

This letter from the editor is a new addition to The Wire. Its purpose is to provide a weekly snapshot of Wellington International, share some inspiration and serve as a guide to each week of WEF.

As I start my 12th season working from the Media Center at Wellington International, I'm reminding myself to approach this season with perspective. Despite the long hours and endless "to-dos", I think back to my first season and the childlike anticipation I felt before day 1 of WEF 2015. I tried to bring myself back there this week. In turn, I encourage you to take a moment to do the same.

We GET to call Wellington our winter home. We GET to spend our days alongside the incredible animals that give so much of themselves to us. We GET to be where champions are made. We GET to do it all. While it's easy to

lose sight of how magical it all is when you're living for Monday mornings, we hope to amplify that magic each time you sit down to flip through these pages.

The Wire is produced for, about and in celebration of YOU. If you have story ideas, want to share content with us from your Wellington International experience, or would like to submit a letter to the editor—please email [press@wellingtoninternational.com](mailto:press@wellingtoninternational.com).

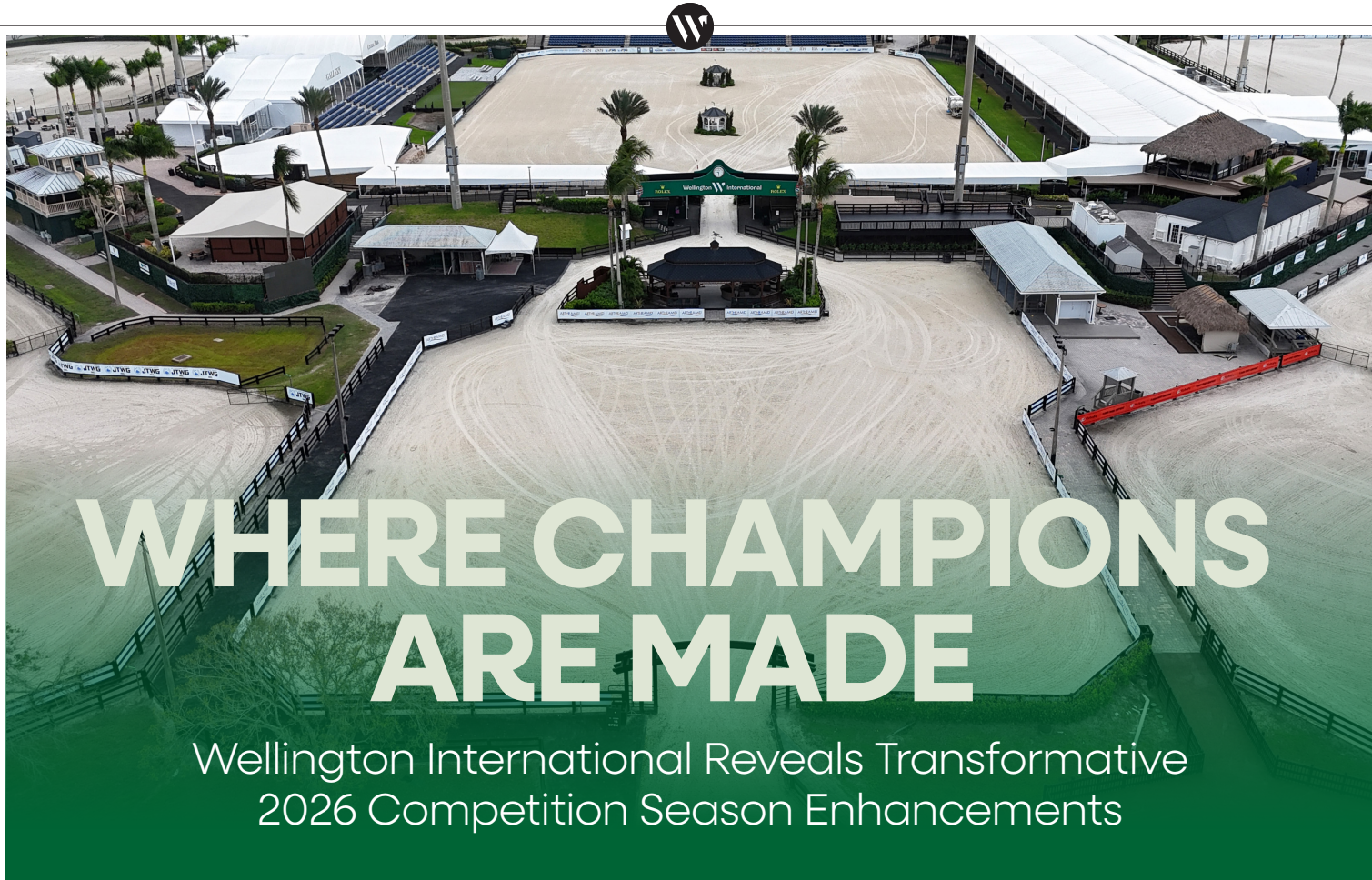
You can find The Wire distributed weekly on Thursdays throughout the showgrounds and online at [WellingtonInternational.com](http://WellingtonInternational.com).

Cheers to a spectacular season!

All the best,  
**Lindsay Brock**  
*Editor*







**COMPETITION ENHANCEMENTS**

This year, the Winter Equestrian Festival once again sets the bar high with more than \$1 million in additional prize money, bringing the season total to a landmark \$16 million. Headlining the calendar, the Rolex U.S. Equestrian Open CSI5\* Grand Prix, a Rolex Series Event, will offer \$1,000,000 in prize money, affirming its status as one of the season’s most anticipated competitions. Three additional CSI5\* Grand Prix events will each feature \$500,000. Significant prize money increases also extend to all 4\* WEF Grand Prix Qualifiers, which rise from \$62,500 to \$116,100.

The season will showcase 68 FEI Jumping World Ranking classes. The FEI Winning Round Qualifiers will feature a two-round format with faults carried forward, designed to heighten both strategy and excitement. Junior and Amateur Jumper Classics at 1.25m and above will benefit from enhanced prize money, increasing from \$10,000 to \$15,000. A new class will also be introduced: a Masters Class under the lights, bringing new dynamics to the schedule. Hunters also take center stage in 2026 with an impressive \$1.5 million in total hunter prize money. The season will include 10 Hunter Derbies and two featured WCHR weeks,

offering premier competition for top hunter combinations and heightened excitement throughout the circuit.

**FACILITY ENHANCEMENTS**

This year, the changes extend well beyond the competition, with enriched night-class entertainment and elevated spectator experiences creating an atmosphere worthy of world-class equestrian sport taking center stage.

Theme Nights during Saturday Night Lights bring fresh energy, while the YETI Box Seats offer a premium experience. The launch of the newly refreshed BrainJuice Tiki Hut introduces updated vibes and furniture, creating a

vibrant venue for athletes, friends and families.

Accessibility resources are also available throughout all hospitality venues, including large-print menus, reading glasses, flashlights, magnifying glasses, and sensory bags, ensuring a welcoming and inclusive experience for every spectator.

In late fall, a new website was launched that is focused on user experience and offers enhanced accessibility, multi-language support, and all events in a single destination. New merchandise is now available featuring an expanded apparel line and new Winter Equestrian



Festival branding is available in-store and online.

This season begins with a full renovation of the FEI barns, partnering with IDA Development and Barnwalkers, to bring all-new Barnwalkers Pro-Series stalls and Equitan rubber surfaces to the stabling area.

Significant footing enhancements follow across the grounds, with JTWG, Inc. installing new GGT textile additives into their footing in the International Arena and the International Schooling Area, as well as updated footing in the Grand Hunter Ring, main lunging ring, and Pony Island.

Pony Island underwent a transformative renovation with rebuilt Rings 11 and 12, featuring improved base, footing, and drainage, along

with new restroom facilities, picnic tables and more.

Additional upgrades around the venue include paved surfaces between the barns and expanded golf cart paths & parking to improve the traffic flow throughout the property as well as strengthened drainage systems. Bridle paths have also been redesigned with new Ebb & Flow layouts and Equitan surfaces, providing improved footing and better drainage across the grounds. The barns now feature upgraded Wi-Fi connectivity, refurbished wash stalls, and newly improved manure bins to support a more efficient daily routine for exhibitors and staff.

Ongoing enhancements extend into hospitality

and guest experience with elevated hospitality offerings, including enhanced YETI Box Seat service, new furnishings in the BrainJuice Tiki Hut and the Modon International Club will enjoy upgraded buffet bars, additional action stations and bespoke experiences.

These improvements are complemented by extensive landscaping enhancements across the property, including the refurbishment of DeNemethy Hill with new irrigation and the removal of old wood, replacement of the former International Arena deck with fresh sod, refreshed plantings at the main entrance and within Vendor Village, and overall landscape enhancements that elevate the beauty and functionality of the venue.

Wellington International's growth into the South Parcel spearheaded by Wellington Lifestyle Partners advances with four rings, all open for exercise during WEF 2026, while the Grass Derby Field is currently propagating and will mature for competition in the 2027 season.

Construction is almost complete on a new 205' x 420' covered arena, further enhancing the facility's world-class infrastructure.

In addition, ongoing roadwork improvements at Pierson Road & South Shore and Gracida & South Shore are helping to improve traffic flow and overall accessibility throughout the grounds.

There is much to look forward to in the 2026 Winter Equestrian Festival season, and we can't wait to cheer you on!







# 2026 WEF VENDORS

## INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Lugano  
Stefano Ricci  
Ritz Carlton Residences,  
West Palm Beach  
Sean Rush  
Wellington Lifestyle Partners  
Human Touch

## TIKI TERRACE

French Boutique (WEF P-2)  
Flor de Campo (WEF 3-4)  
Irene Neuwirth (WEF 5-6)  
Zoe (WEF 7-11)  
SR Blackinton (WEF 12)  
WEF Store  
Hermès  
DandyLion  
Karina Brez Jewelry  
Serenella

## BRIDGE DECK AT TIKI TERRACE

DADA Sport  
Coastal Steel Structures (WEF 5-7)  
US Equestrian Store (WEF 12)  
Cara VL (WEF P-1)  
Horsehair Jewellery (WEF 3-4)  
Hangai Mountain Textiles (WEF 5-7)  
The Calvert Collection (WEF 8-12)  
Weatherly Stroh Studio (WEF 8-11)

## HUNTER HILL

LeMieux  
Gladiator Equine  
Lash LaRue  
VMJ for Horses (WEF P-10)  
Coastal Steel Structures (WEF 11-12)

## INTERNATIONAL RING WARM UP

Prestige Italia  
Horcery  
Bruno Delgrange Maître Sellier  
Barnwalkers  
IDA Development

## RING 6

Antarès Sellier  
Voltaire Design  
Theault

FOOD VENDOR

## RING 9

Arion Sellier  
Forestier Sellier  
Sportfot  
Graceful Oaks   
Nathalie's Café

## RING 10

Ringside Health  
McGuinn Farms  
Magdalena's Mexican

## VENDOR VILLAGE SOUTHSIDE

Danny & Ron's Dog Rescue  
Equestrian Team Apparel  
Optic Nirvana  
Fab Finds by Sarah  
JODS  
Sofie's Boutique  
Best Buds Florist  
Odette Boutique (WEF P-4)  
Respoke (WEF 5-8)  
Flor de Campo (WEF 9-10)  
Renrod Equestrian (WEF 11-12)

## VENDOR VILLAGE NORTHSIDE

Loopy's Crepes   
The In Gate  
Ride EquiSafe  
Miki Saddlery  
Parlanti  
Equ Lifestyle Boutique  
EQUIS  
Vogel NYC  
Kelly's Lemonade

## PONY ISLAND

Farm Stand  
Hunters Landing  
Silva's Tacos   
Florida Snow   
Best Pizza Heaven   
Palm Beach  
International Academy  
House Call The App (WEF 1-2)  
Fashion Farm Girl (WEF 3, 4, 6, 10, 11 & 12)

## OASIS

Charles Ancona  
La Enovesé Designs  
Erica Wilson (WEF P-4)  
J Wilder Imports (WEF 5-6)  
Odette Boutique (WEF 7-8, WEF 11-12)  
Ryde Equestrian (WEF 9-10)  
Devoucoux  
70 Degrees  
CWD Sellier  
Paulina Velez Designs  
The Oasis Café

## TRAILER ROW

Stephex  
Tony Hanley Horse Supplements  
Kelly Kocher Tack  
Running Fox  
Turner & Co.  
Personalized Products  
CM Hadfield's  
Equine Tack & Nutritionals  
Equiline  
Tack N' Rider  
Toasties Gourmet

## THE BARNs

Paddock Paws Veterinary  
Dandy Products  
FarmVet  
Josey's Laundry  
Anonymous Coffee

## SOUTH BARNs

Rider's Boutique  
Zest  
Blue Ribbon Carts  
Tampico Hermoso





# Ringside Health

## Staying Healthy During Flu & Cold Season: An Equestrian's Guide



Flu and cold season doesn't pause for show schedules, early mornings, or long days at the barn—and for equestrians, staying healthy is essential to staying competitive, safe and present for their horses. Frequent travel, close contact with others, physical exertion, irregular sleep and exposure to the elements can all increase the risk of viral illness during peak respiratory season.

The key to staying ahead of illness is early recognition and proper management. Many viral upper respiratory

infections (URIs), including influenza and COVID, can start subtly—fatigue, congestion, sore throat, body aches—but can quickly escalate if ignored. Prompt testing and medical guidance help ensure appropriate treatment, reduce downtime and prevent spread within barns and teams.

Ringside Health understands the unique demands of the equestrian lifestyle, and offer rapid flu and COVID testing, which allow for quick answers and timely

decisions. Their physicians provide expert diagnosis and management of viral URIs, ensuring symptoms are treated appropriately while monitoring for complications. When dehydration, fatigue, or immune strain set in, IV hydration and supportive therapy can help accelerate recovery and restore performance.

Care is designed to meet you where you are—literally. Ringside Health provides onsite medical care at competitions, barn and house calls and

telemedicine visits for equestrians on the road or between shows. Whether you're managing symptoms, seeking guidance, or trying to prevent illness during a busy circuit, Ringside Health is at Wellington International to support you.

Your health is as important as your horse's. Staying proactive during flu and cold season helps keep you show-ready, safe and performing at your best—all season long.

Stay tuned for more health and wellness tips from Ringside Health in each upcoming issue of The Wire.



Care is designed to meet you where you are—literally.

### Ringside Health

CONCIERGE MEDICINE • URGENT CARE • WELLNESS & LONGEVITY

#### ON-SITE AT WELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL

##### On-Site Medical Care

Acute injuries, sprains, illness visits & emergency coordination  
X-rays, casting, laceration repair  
Onsite lab testing (flu/COVID/strep), advanced diagnostics  
In-house pharmacy & medication refills  
Return-to-sport & FEI/USEF clearance

##### IV & Recovery Services

Hydration, immune & energy drips  
Vitamins, recovery blends, NAD+ therapy  
Injection therapy: Vit C/D, Tri-Immune, Lipo-B, Zinc, Biotin & more

##### Wellness & Longevity

Hormone therapy, peptide therapy  
Weight loss & metabolic management  
Functional and Integrative Medicine  
Primary care & nationwide telemedicine

##### Cosmetic & Dermatology

Skin health treatments & medical-grade products  
Hair growth therapies



• Located On-Site at Wellington International  
• [www.RingsideHealth.com](http://www.RingsideHealth.com)  
• (561) 247-2373  
• [info@ringsidemds.com](mailto:info@ringsidemds.com)



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