



2016 HORSE OF THE YEAR – THE HICKSTEAD TROPHY FINE LADY 5



The Horse of the Year Award was created in 2011 to honour the life and memory of Canadian show jumping legend, Hickstead. This prestigious award is given to high performance horses of the highest exception, and therefore is only awarded when warranted, and not necessarily on an annual basis. To date, there have been just three recipients, Hickstead, Northern Dancer and Big Ben.

Fine Lady 5 deservedly joins this list of iconic recipients after a truly amazing 2016 season. The 2003 bay Hanoverian mare by Forsyth, owned by Artisan Farms, captured the hearts of Canadians in 2016 when, under the guidance of Canadian Olympian, Eric Lamaze, she rose far above her small stature and began racking up wins at top competitions around the world.

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A solid winner at the 1.45m level, especially in speed competitions, Lamaze and Artisan Farms didn't realize Fine Lady's true potential until a fateful day at the 2015 CSI 5* Geneva, when Lamaze's intended horse for the Rolex Grand Slam, Powerplay, wasn't feeling well. Lamaze called on Fine Lady to step up to the 1.60m level, and to his surprise she not only held her own, but placed third in the challenging €1,110,000 Rolex Grand Prix.

From there, Lamaze and Fine Lady were unstoppable in 2016, picking up major 1.60m wins everywhere, from the World Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL, to the CSIO 5* La Baule in France to the renowned summer tournament series at Spruce Meadows in Calgary, AB. With her undeniable success, Lamaze chose Fine Lady to be his partner at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Heading into the Games, hopes were high after Lamaze and Fine Lady earned back-to-back wins at their final competition before Rio, the iconic CHIO Aachen in Germany. And Fine Lady only got better from there, staying in fine form throughout the Games.

Incredibly, Lamaze and Fine Lady were the only horse-rider combination of the Games to complete five rounds of intense competition on a perfect score of zero. This helped the Canadian Show Jumping Team force a jump-off for the Team Bronze medal with Germany, and ultimately secure fourth place.

The two-round Individual Final followed, with scores being wiped clean. This led to a six-horse jump-off with medals on the line. Lamaze and Fine Lady laid it all on the table in their pursuit for gold, and crossed the timers in the fastest jump-off time - but a slight slip through a tight roll-back turn to a 1.60m vertical led to their only rail of the games - and ultimately Lamaze and Fine Lady brought the Individual Bronze Medal home to Canada.

However, Lamaze and Fine Lady's incredible accomplishments in 2016 did not end with the Olympics. In December 2016, they returned to the place where their success story began - Geneva, SUI for the Rolex Top 10 Final, which invites the top 10 riders in the FEI Longines World Jumping Rankings to go head-to-head in an epic battle. Lamaze and Fine Lady led the event from start to finish, marking the first time a Canadian has won the coveted title.

EC is thrilled to have Fine Lady 5 join the ranks of Canada's most iconic horses in history as a recipient of The Hickstead Trophy.