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The Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art

A glimpse inside the school's costume museum by Diane Barber



By Diane Barber continued...

(L-R) Founding riders' attire for the school's inauguration gala; doma vaquera (Spanish cowboy) for parades and exhibitions, doma vaguera summer, and iconic costume for the school's How the Andalusians Horses Dance shows.









he Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art in Jerez, Spain has been dedicated to preserving the heritage of the purebred Spanish horse since it was founded in 1973. Not only is it home to its regal herd of PREs, the school also meticulously appointed boasts museums, including one that pays homage to traditional riding and carriage apparel. It is located in a former winery adjacent to the carriage museum. A simple blacklettered sign on a white stucco wall reading Sala de Trajes (costume hall) beckons visitors to pass through the entry door.

An air of sophistication fills the room as guests are greeted by artful craftsmanship and the prideful elegance that is typical of the people of Andalusia. Hats and handcrafted leather footwear complement jackets, vests, and breeches made of rich fabrics with intricate stitching, beading and other embellishments that adorn each costume in its respective glass case. The exquisite attire blends Spanish tradition, equestrian arts, and classic fashion to complement the splendor of the various riding and working disciplines.

For the school's signature performance "How the Andalusian Horses Dance", the riders wear traditional costumes inspired by the Goyesque-style and doma vaguera (Spanish cowboy). costumes for carriage driving are intricately coordinated with the various historical harness styles, which include the Spanish Calesera, English, Hungarian and Russian. The apparel is so revered at the school that the 40th anniversary

celebration included a fashion show with a tribute to master tailor Antolín Díaz Salazar, whose work is showcased in the museum.



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(Top of page) (L-R) Doma vaquera; Carriage driving English-style, Goyesque-style and classical for celebrations and exhibitions.

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continued... By Diane Barber









Diane Barber with Manuel Marque (manager of the carriage department)

About the author

Diane Barber lives in Los Angeles and is a lifestyle writer, interior designer, and equestrian with an affinity for Spain. Her horse's Spanish lineage led her to Andalusia, where she has trained under the tutelage of Rafael Soto, Belén Bautista and Manuel Marquez at the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art.

Palace photo: Courtesy of the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art