



V RAID KALIBER ANDALUCIA 2010

French victory in spanish long distance ride

French couple Paulette and Daniel Maldera won the fifth edition of the spanish Kaliber Andalucia 472 kilometers endurance ride between Seville and Cazorla, riding their part-bred arabians LOUNA-DE-RIVOIRON and OTELLO-DE-RIVOIRON. The solo rider competition went to past year's winners Eduardo Sanchez and HERMES.

by Kristian Fenaux ■ photos by Kristian Fenaux

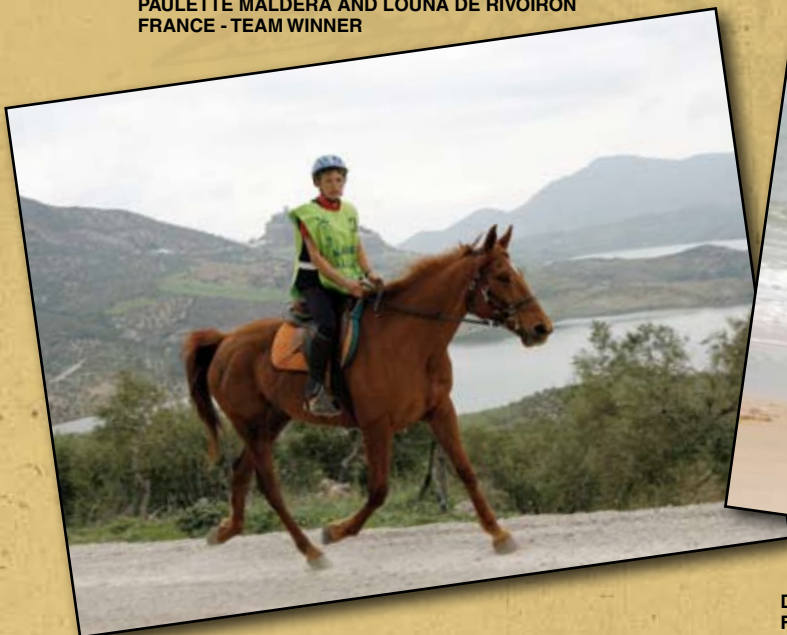
The Kaliber Andalucia endurance ride is a unique event in the world, as it combines an equestrian endurance competition with the discovery of the outstanding scenery of the spanish region of Andalusia. With 472 kilometers done in 8 days, it is probably also the longest endurance ride in the world.

This year the Kaliber Andalucia ride took place between 9th and 18th april and went from from east to west, from Seville to Cazorla, and crossed the National Parks of Doñana, Sierra de Grazalema, Sierra Nevada, Sierra de Baza and Sierra de Cazorla, as well as the cities of Seville, Ronda, Antequera and Granada.

STAGE 1 - ARRIVAL AT EL ROCIO
 from left to right: Bettina Perez and GUAPETON, Spain
 Santiago Perez and MARLBORO YAC, Spain
 Maximiliano Portes and OFF SPRING, Spain
 Francisco Lopez Maeso and ARENAL DE URGOBI, Spain



**PAULETTE MALDERA AND LOUNA DE RIVOIRON
FRANCE - TEAM WINNER**



**DANIEL MALDERA AND OTELLO DE RIVOIRON
FRANCE - TEAM WINNER**

Andalusian popular singer Jose Manuel Soto is the promoter of this ride since its first edition in 2006, and he takes special pride in finding every year some new trails through the very best parts of the andalusian countryside. He says it's National Geographic on horseback, and it's close to this, yes indeed. The competition is twofold: solo riders with one horse and one rider, and teams competition with two horses and one or two riders.

a time penalty, but can still compete during the following days if the vets think the horse is again fit to go, which is actually a better option for teams than for solo riders. If a horse needs a rest day, it may be allowed not to start but gets also a time penalty. The final standings show that all of the teams did officially finish the ride, some of them with lots of penalty time, while only seven of the fourteen solo riders managed to reach the finish line in Cazorla.

Thirty eight horses from five nations lined up at the start for the two competitions, coming from France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain. Fourteen horses and their riders entered the solo riders competitions and twenty four horses competed in the teams category. The competition rules state that if a horse is pulled at any vet-gate, then it gets

French riders came to the Kaliber Andalucia ride since the second edition in 2007, but this year they really came to win, with five teams good enough to win the final standings, and so it happened at the end, although only two of the french teams managed to finish without a time penalty.

JOSE GUNDIN AND SOPENILLA - SPAIN - WINNER STAGES 3 AND 5 TEAM COMPETITION



EDUARDO VAZQUEZ AND SHAGYA ZOZO - SPAIN - WINNER STAGES 1 AND 2 SOLO RIDER



**CHRISTIANE GUINAND AND ACHAB DU VALLOIS
FRANCE - WINNER OF THE 3 MOUNTAIN STAGES
SOLO RIDER (STAGES 4, 7 AND 8)**



**IMANOL BOVEDA AND MOKY - SPAIN - WINNER
STAGE 8 TEAM COMPETITION**



After a 4 kilometers official opening prologue at the Seville racetrack in Dos Hermanas on friday 9th of april, the ride started on saturday morning with the first of three flat stages around the Coto de Doñana National Park. The first two stages were dominated by the french, while spanish Eduardo Vazquez won the solo competition, but on the third day local rider Eduardo Sanchez used his knowledge of the trail to build up a serious advantage and win the stage arriving at his hometown in Sanlucar de Barrameda. Basque rider Jose Gundin went with him and did the same in the teams competition.

**JEAN-PIERRE LERISSET AND MASSAR - FRANCE - WINNER
STAGE 4 TEAM COMPETITION**



**ANNE DIEMERT WACH AND MAMOUR DU GUIDE
FRANCE - WINNER STAGE 2 TEAM COMPETITION**





STAGE 8 - SIERRA DE CAZORLA NATIONAL PARK
 from left to right: Stefano Chidichimo and PICAPIEDRA, Italy
 Heike Blümel and LENS AMSTRONG KL, Germany
 Eduardo Sanchez and HERMES, Spain
 Elsbeth Brunner and CAPOE, Switzerland



FRANCISCO MORENO AND SAHIDIN - SPAIN



EDOUARD WACH AND MARQUIS DE KARESI
FRANCE - WINNER
STAGE 1 TEAM
COMPETITION



STAGE 3 - MATALASCAÑAS
 from left to right:
 Jean-Luc Chambost and POLKA DES BALMES, France
 Daniel Maldera and OTELLO DE RIVOIRON, France
 Pierre Chambost and MOURAD DEL SOL, France
 Elsbeth Brunner and CAPOE, Switzerland
 Véronique Gaillard and LOUKOUM, France

The fourth stage and first mountain trail brought the french back to the top positions and from then on the teams competition was a french contest, with only the basque team challenging them. The fifth and sixth stages, semi-mountainous, did not bring much change. After a rest in Granada on friday 16th, the basque team rider Jose Gundiin challenged once more the french during the seventh stage on the mountain trail through the Sierra de Baza, and he arrived first with a nice advantage but then his mount SOPENILLA failed the trot and he was penalized.

The last day, through the Sierra de Cazorla mountains, three french teams were still in the winning positions. They rode in front in company of basque team member Imanol Boveda who went for the stage win, while the french got the final victory for teams competition.

On top of the outstanding scenery of Andalusia, from the seashore to the mountains, all riders and their crews prized the organization and the great hospitality that makes everyone feel home even when so far from home. □