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## LONGINES CHI CLASSICS BASEL 2026 PRESENT FIRST TOP NAMES

**The organisers of the LONGINES CHI CLASSICS BASEL have announced the first participants for the World Cup equestrian event taking place from 8 to 11 January 2026 in Basel. Among them are the «Queen of Dressage», an Olympic champion, and an Aachen Grand Prix winner from Switzerland. In the show segment, magician Peter Marvey will enchant the arena with his legendary 'flying carriage' Tickets are available now.**

After the successful LONGINES CHI CLASSICS BASEL in January and the well-received World Cup Final in April, the bar has been set even higher for Basel 2026. The goal, however, remains the same: to offer the loyal audience equestrian sport and entertainment at the highest international level.

With a total prize fund of one million Swiss francs, the LONGINES CHI CLASSICS BASEL rank among the world's leading indoor equestrian events. Despite strong competition - including the traditional 13 weeks of the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington (USA) and, for the first time, the nearly concurrent Al Shaqab Tour in Doha - around 75 top-ranking riders and more than 200 horses are once again expected in Basel.

Basel will maintain its proven sporting program featuring renowned 5-star jumping and dressage competitions. Another key focus remains on developing young talent: 30 up-and-coming riders will have the chance to compete in three jumping events as part of the CSIU25. Due to an increasingly packed schedule, no 3-star dressage competitions will be held this year.

### Renowned names have already confirmed

Isabell Werth/GER, seven-time Olympic champion and multiple world and European champion, has already confirmed her participation. With over 30 gold medals from international championships, fans can look forward to seeing the «Queen of Dressage» in Basel.

Show jumping will also feature a top-class field. Julien Épaillard, the French rider ranked 10th in the LONGINES world rankings, has confirmed his entry. He won the January CHI Basel show jumping event with Donatello d'Auge, and also won the 2025 World Cup Final in Basel. Swiss star Martin Fuchs (No. 27), who triumphed in the Aachen Grand Prix on 6 July 2025, becoming the first Swiss rider since Markus Fuchs in 2004 to win this prestigious event, will also thrill the audience.

Steve Guerdat (No. 13), the 2012 Olympic champion, winner of three World Cup Finals and one of Switzerland's most prominent equestrian figures, will also compete. Other notable entrants include Yuri Mansur (No. 53, BRA), double winner of the Basel Championship 'Golden Drum', and Andreas Schou (DEN), who finished third in the 2025 Global Champions Tour overall ranking. The full list of participants will be announced on 9 December.

Several other elite athletes will also compete in Basel, including the Belgians Gilles Thomas (No. 5), Nicola Philippaerts (No. 14) and Grégory Wathelet (No. 15), the French Simon Delestre (No. 18) and Kevin Staut (No. 24), the British Ben Maher (No. 3) and the Germans Marcus Ehning (No. 40) and Hans-Dieter Dreher (No. 30). Spectators can thus look forward to an international field of the highest quality.

### **Swiss Equestrian Talents**

As part of the Swiss Equestrian Talents (SET) youth development program, Swiss Equestrian will once again hold its annual cadre day in Basel in 2026. Around 40 young talents from the disciplines of show jumping, dressage, and eventing will receive extensive training opportunities during the LONGINES CHI CLASSICS BASEL.

### **Ticket sales**

Ticket sales for the LONGINES CHI CLASSICS BASEL started on 1 September 2025. Of the total 11,680 available seats, 3,840 have already been sold. «We're slightly behind last year's pace, but given the current cautious consumer sentiment, this is understandable», said president Thomas Straumann. As of 11 November, a major advertising campaign is running in Basel, featuring radio spots, tram flyers, posters around the stadium, and other promotional activities to raise awareness of the event.

### **Award of Honour goes to Canada**

In January 2026, the 'Award of Honour of the CHI Classics Basel' will be presented for the 15th time. This award recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the world of equestrian sport. To mark the anniversary, the honour will include not only the legendary golden horse figurine with blue eyes and the associated international acclaim but also a financial grant of CHF 25'000. The winner designates a beneficiary institution, which receives the amount from the LONGINES CHI CLASSICS BASEL in their name.

This year, the 'Award of Honour of the CHI Classics Basel' goes to Canada: Spruce Meadows is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025. The event and venue, built up over two generations by the Southern family, are now successfully led into the future by Linda Southern-Heathcott. Spruce Meadows is an institution that connects people worldwide through their love of horses - both within and beyond the equestrian community. This year, Linda Southern-Heathcott was also awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal, which is further recognition of her lifelong dedication to equestrian sport and the global horse community.

### **Securing the future**

The LONGINES CHI CLASSICS BASEL continue their long-term planning and are pleased to have already secured commitments from important partners for the next three years, including Range Rover, Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois, Gerüstbau Nordwest, Zollagentur Krafft, and media partner CH Media. Several service contracts and the agreement with St. Jakobshalle have already been extended through 2031.

On the sporting side, the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ has been confirmed by the FEI until 2028, and the FEI Dressage World Cup™ until 2027.

**Further information**

- All LONGINES CHI CLASSICS BASEL events will be streamed live on Clip My Horse.
- The LONGINES Grand Prix on Friday evening will be broadcast live on TV25, and the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ event on Sunday will be streamed on SRF.
- Tickets: <https://www.chi-classics-basel.com/spectators/ticketing/?lang=en>
- Accreditation: <https://www.chi-classics-basel.com/media/accreditation/?lang=en>

**Photos:** LONGINES CHI CLASSICS BASEL / Katja Stuppia

Photo: Dr. h.c. Thomas Straumann

Photo: Christoph Socin, Co-President

Photo: Media Conference in Basel

Photo: Christoph Socin, Thomas Zweifel, Ruth Haas (Team Leader Elite and U25 Dressage), Peter van der Waaij (Team Leader Swiss Show Jumping Elite), and Thomas Straumann

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