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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**White Turf St. Moritz 2019 - Passion for Races!**

## **Start of the season heralded with a fanfare at White Turf 2019**

**Race Sundays on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**Top-class fields featuring snow specialists and interesting newcomers will gather as the bell rings to signal the start of this new season of Swiss horse races on the first race Sunday of the 2019 White Turf meeting. In the first race, at 11.30 a.m., we will already see a pack of 13 trotting teams zooming across the track of ice and snow. Fifty-six race horses and ten gallop ponies will be at the start in a total of seven races, for which quadruplets from five nations are coming to the Engadine. Moreover, some of the best amateur jockeys in the world, from a total of eight countries, will be in the saddle. “We have ideal conditions. January was colder than last year, and we have had an average of 40 centimetres of best quality, compact ice on the lake. The tent city and the technical innovations proved successful last year. Therefore, all lights are switched to green, or rather to white. Everything is ready, so that participating riders and spectators alike, will be able to experience high-quality sport at White Turf 2019”, rejoices Thomas C. Walther, President of Rennverein St. Moritz. He is looking forward to the first race day that brings with it a world premiere in the form of a pony gallop race on snow.**

### **GP LONGINES featuring two hot favourites for the LONGINES 80<sup>th</sup> Grand Prix of St. Moritz at the finale meeting**

Traditionally, some candidates rehearse on the first Sunday for the highlight of the White Turf meeting, with a purse of 111,111 Swiss francs. Just like the Grand Prix of St. Moritz, the preparatory test on the first Sunday will also take place sponsored by LONGINES. The GP LONGINES will see seven interesting gallopers line up at the start, among them two of the big favourites for the final day. Nimrod (Kieran O’Neill) trained by the Swiss champion trainer Miro Weiss is none other than the defending champion. A year ago, he won the GP LONGINES and just two weeks later the LONGINES 79<sup>th</sup> Grand Prix of St. Moritz - and each time the English guest Berrahri came second. The eight-year old from the stables of John Best will be participating at White Turf for the fifth consecutive year. Berrahri has one of the most successful jockeys in the saddle in the shape of Raphael Lingg. Two years ago, at their only joint participation on the frozen lake of St. Moritz thus far, the pair finished successfully. Raphael Lingg is also the jockey of Filou, one of the favourites for the GP Koller Elektro sprint, where newcomer Hakam ridden by Clément Lheureux (Swiss champion jockey 2017) will be a tough opponent for everybody. Miro Weiss with seven protégés, Philipp Schärer with six and Christian von der Recke from Germany with a quartet, are the trainers with the highest number of starters.

### **High calibre field of ten contests the CREDIT SUISSE - GP of Celerina for the “royal title”**

At the Skikjöring, the public favourites, also dramatically known as the gladiators of modern times, the King or Queen of the Engadine will be crowned. In recent years, local lass Valeria Holinger with her mare Usbekia have taken top position. The two of them will be striving for their hattrick this year by winning the Credit Suisse Trophy, a feat achieved by only two drivers to date, both of whom will again be at the start



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on Sunday with Skikjöring newcomers, Jakob Broger - who will line up with the promising Strade Kirk, and Franco Moro, who is unlikely to rank among the favourites with Lips Legend. Peter Schiergen, who trains Usbekia in Cologne, has prepared a second protégé for the St. Moritz world exclusive in the form of Epako. The St. Moritz ski instructor Leo Luminati - winner of the Credit Suisse Trophy 2010 with Gallardo - will be pulled by the five-year old grey. Pinot, the winner of the last Skikjöring, will again feature with "Lupo" Wolf, whilst multiple champion Adrian von Gunten will now race with the excellent Zambeso since his legendary mare Mombasa has been retired from racing on age grounds.

### **Will Spike, the king of trotting on snow, remain unbeaten in St. Moritz?**

An encouraging number of trotters will be at the start in the two sulky races. At the Handels und Gewerbeverein St. Moritz Prize, there will be 13 starters, among them Top Gun du Citrus and Italianec - both already victorious on snow. At the subsequent GP DQ Solutions, all eyes will be on Spike, who has turned all his five starts on snow into victories. His preparation for White Turf 2019 went differently than in recent years: his new entourage (trainer Loris Ferro, owner stable Allegra Racing Club) had prescribed several weeks of swim-training near Munich. In a field including Pipilo Jet, Rubis du Gilet, Ramona Lap and Terry Gahn, there will be several seasoned snow winners as well as some interesting newcomers such as Ultra du Gade or Apollo San competing against the favourites.

### **World premiere with pony gallopers and world-class amateurs**

For the first time ever, a pony gallop race on snow will take place on Sunday. At the Calixus AG winter prize, ten ponies will compete for glory and honour with children and adolescents in the saddles. The Fraumünster Insurance Experts FEGENTRI prize will provide further international flavour: eight of the world's best amateur jockeys (five young ladies and three young men) from just as many nations, will attempt to win points for their countries as part of the overall rankings in the "Longines Fegentri Amateur Riders Champions Cup".

### **Good entry yields for the second race Sunday on 10<sup>th</sup> February**

For the middle White Turf race day of the three, 76 entries have been received, which would indicate seven interesting races due to the high number of big names. For 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019, four flat races, two trotting races and a Skikjöring race will all figure on the programme. Furthermore, the pony gallopers will be lining up again.

Tickets for grandstand seats and standing places are available by advance booking either online at [ticketcorner.ch](http://ticketcorner.ch) or directly from the Tourist Information in the village of St. Moritz.

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All documentation of the tourism organisation Engadine St. Moritz can be found at the following link: <https://www.engadin.stmoritz.ch/winter/en/media/basisinformationen/>

#### Main sponsors:



#### **Credit Suisse – Main sponsor of White Turf**

White Turf celebrates winter sports in a special way: Here tradition meets innovation, as horse racing takes place over an icy course and enthusiastic spectators witness a truly impressive spectacle. Because this combination is as fascinating as it is unique, Credit Suisse has been involved with White Turf for more than 40 years.

Since 2016, it has been awarding the "Credit Suisse King's Cup," created by the Swiss artist duo Aubry/Broquard, as part of the contest for the Credit Suisse Skikjöring Trophy. This individually designed trophy is awarded to all the daily winners and the overall winner of the trophy, who is deemed the "King of the Engadine." In 2017 and 2018, however, Valeria Holinger reigned as Queen of the Engadine.

Further information on Credit Suisse's sponsorship commitments can be found at: [www.credit-suisse.com/sponsorship](http://www.credit-suisse.com/sponsorship).

#### **BMW (Schweiz) AG – Main sponsor of White Turf**

Thanks to its commitment as a principal sponsor, BMW ensures year after year a successful performance on ice and snow at the White Turf in St. Moritz. Equestrian sports are part of the selected sports events that BMW supports with its sponsoring activities. The support of top performances at the highest level matches the ethos of BMW because as a premium automobile manufacturer, the company offers products to its clients that are renowned throughout the world for their quality and efficiency. Equestrian sports and the BMW brand values share the same essential core attributes of dynamic force, aesthetic sense and performance.

#### **Longines – Main sponsor of White Turf**

Based in Saint-Imier, Switzerland since 1832, Longines watchmakers enjoy an expertise steeped in tradition, elegance and performance. With generations of experience as the official timekeeper for world championships, and as a partner of international sports federations, Longines has created strong and long-lasting relationships in the world of sports, over the years. Known for the elegance of its timepieces, Longines is a member of Swatch Group Ltd., the world's leading watchmaker. The Longines brand, with its winged hourglass emblem, is established in over 150 countries.