



# THE AMERICAN HANOVERIAN

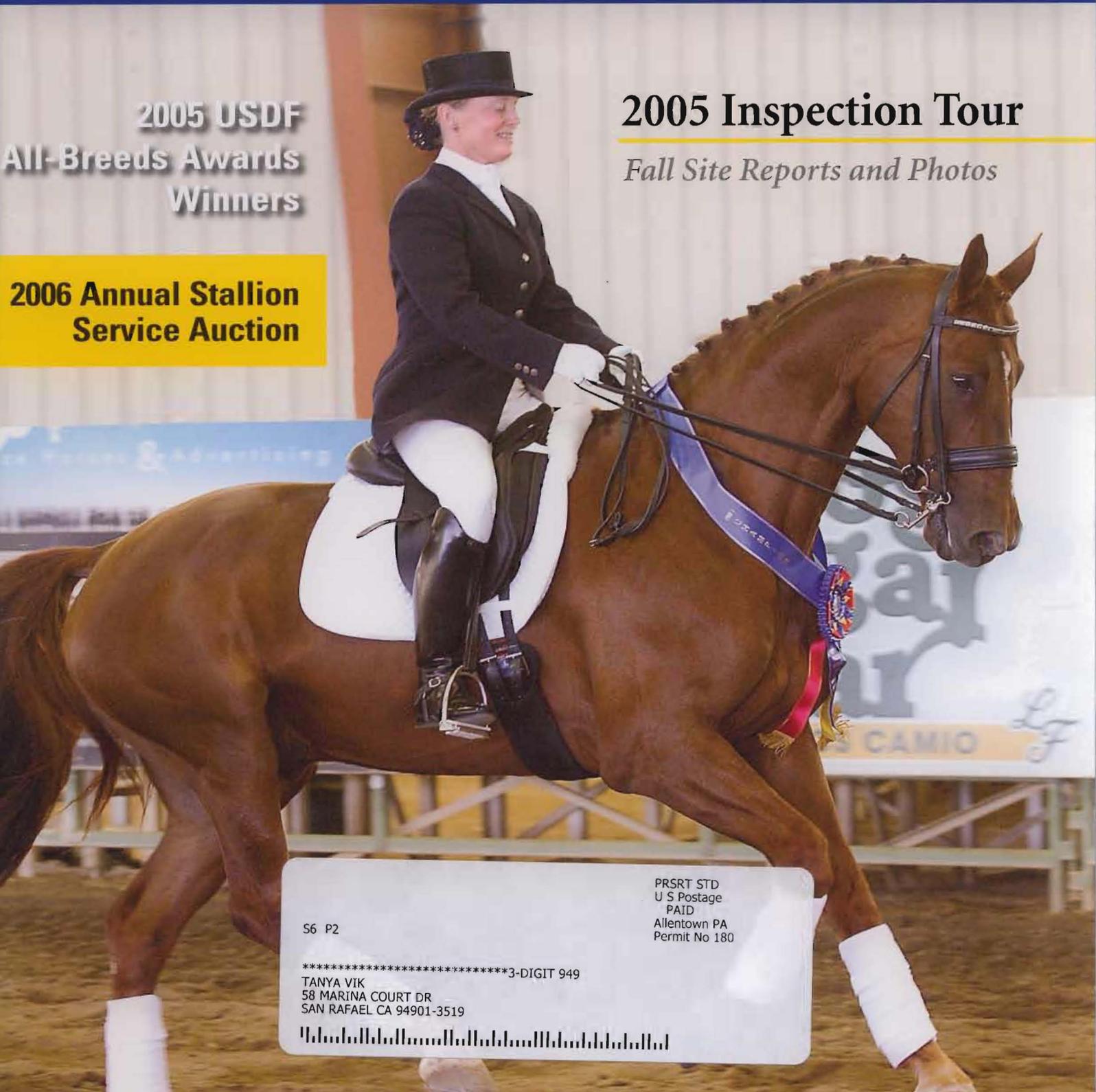
The Quarterly Magazine of the American Hanoverian Society

**2005 USDF  
All-Breeds Awards  
Winners**

**2005 Inspection Tour**

*Fall Site Reports and Photos*

**2006 Annual Stallion  
Service Auction**

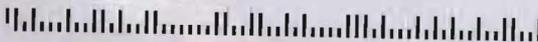


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## 2005 California Dressage Championships

Hanoverians were well represented in the winner's circle at the California Dressage Championship shows this season. The California Dressage Society Championships (CDS) and the USDF Region 7 Championships were held at Rancho Murieta, Calif., on October 12-16, 2005.

**T**ANYA VIK AND HER NINE-YEAR-OLD Hanoverian gelding Divinity 3 (registered name Divineon), by Don Primero-Rhapsodie/Ampere, won the Great American/USDF Intermediate I Open Division Championship at the show with a 69.625%.

This is the first year at Intermediate I for Vik, of San Rafael, Calif., and Divinity 3. And this is the first time that Vik has competed at this level. Last year they competed at the Championships at Fourth Level and Prix St. Georges.

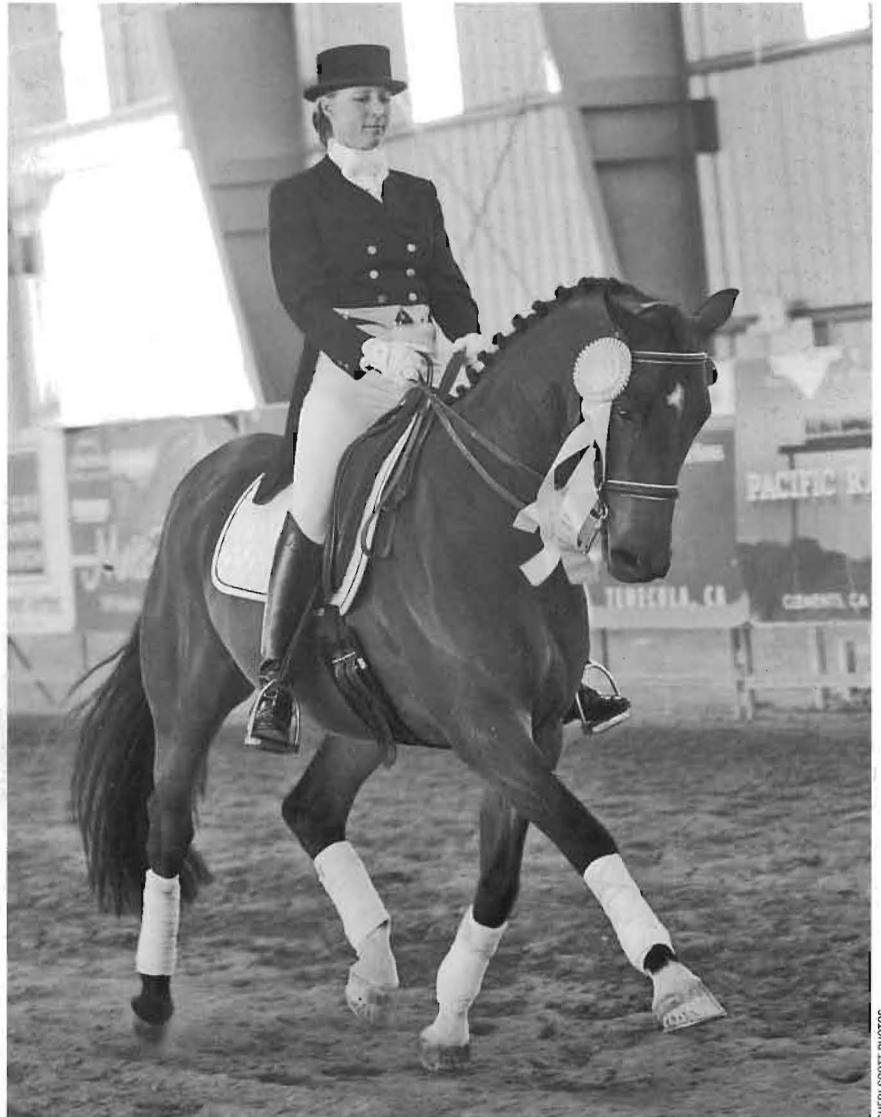
[ BY **SHERI SCOTT** ]

"He just keeps stepping up to the plate more and more and more," said Vik. "When you think maybe he's doing all he can do he puts in another notch. It's really exciting."

Vik preferred her Prix St. Georges ride on Friday morning (a 67.875% for third place in the CDS Prix St. Georges Open Championship) over her winning ride Friday afternoon in the Intermediate I. Both tests were mistake-free, but she felt the morning test had more pizzazz.

"He just keeps stepping up to the plate more and more and more," said Vik. "When you think maybe he's doing all he can do he puts in another notch. It's really exciting. One of the things he's had a hard time with was trot lateral work. In both tests on Friday he just really was easy to ride through the tests and the lateral work. They were both really good honest tests."

Divinity 3 was imported from Germany by Karen Piper of El Verano, Calif., as



**TANYA VIK AND DIVINITY 3** have met with continued success at the FEI Levels, consistently receiving top scores at both Prix St. Georges and Intermediate I classes throughout 2005. **Facing:** Roxanne Strahan and ES Mister A celebrated her 13th birthday by winning the Fourth Level Championship at the California Dressage Society Junior Championships Southern show.

a five-year-old and came to Vik for training. Vik then purchased him from Piper when he was six.

"He's really cool," said Vik. "He turned out better than I expected. I wasn't quite sure when I bought him. He's not particularly a super great mover. He just

wasn't the kind of horse you say 'wow, that's my next FEI horse!'

"But, he has a super temperament and his work ethic is to die for," she continued. "He's such a hard worker and such a good show horse. He's so focused at shows and he's always there to work for ▶

SHERI SCOTT PHOTOS

you. That makes up for a lot of other stuff. He's all business when he's showing."

Vik has been a dressage trainer since 1988. She is currently based at Riverside Equestrian Center in Petaluma, Calif.

## Bocelli

Kathy Pavlich of Highland, Calif., also brought home Championships with her seven-year-old Hanoverian gelding Bocelli. They won all of their classes, including the CDS Third Level Adult Amateur Championship with 69.425%, the GA/USDF Third Level Adult Amateur Championship with 70.222%, as well as their Third Level warm-up class with a 69.048%.

Judge Janet Brown of Colorado Springs, Colo., commented on one test "he was lovely to watch," and gave him a 74.0%. Bocelli won the trophy for the highest score at Third and Fourth Levels in the CDS Championships.

"It's always nice when you feel that your ride feels that lovely and that the judge likes it too," said Pavlich.

"I enjoyed every single ride that I had on him," said Pavlich. "He's just really a nice show horse because he takes everything in stride and doesn't get tense. He's very easy to train. He loves to get out and work."

"The changes and half passes are very easy for him," said Pavlich. "He's just very supple naturally. What I need to really work on more now is getting him to collect. It's all a strength issue, the stronger he gets the easier it's going to be for him. I'm looking forward to working with Debbie (McDonald) and Charlotte (Bredahl-Baker) on it."

Pavlich trained with the late Carol Plough and is now riding with Charlotte Bredahl-Baker. She also trains with Debbie McDonald and clinics with Bert Rutten when he comes to California.

Pavlich purchased Bocelli three years ago. Debbie and her husband Bob McDonald found the gelding in Germany. He is by Brentano II, who is also the sire of Brentina, and out of the mare Palinka, by Palisander.

"He's a lot like Brentina in some of his mannerisms and his easy way of going. He has a super disposition," said Pavlich.

"He's perfect for me. I remind myself every day how fortunate I am to have him."

## Mister A

For the seventeenth year, the California Dressage Society hosted two very successful Junior Championships. The North show was August 11-14 in Rancho Murieta, Calif., just outside of Sacramento, and the South on August 27-28 in Burbank, Calif. Both shows saw an increase in entries, with 154 horses in the North and 72 in the South. The northern show at the Murieta Equine Complex expanded to four full days of competition in three rings, their largest show yet. In the south, two days of competition ran in two rings at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center. The South show hosted a pizza party on Friday and a dinner on Saturday with sports psychologist Dr. Timmie Pollock speaking on "How to Focus like

**Strahan's favorite part of the show was the awards ceremony.**

**"The victory lap was very fun," she said. "He has a huge trot and trotting out (of the ring) with the music—that was a blast!"**

a Superstar". The North held a welcome party on Friday evening and ice cream socials in the late afternoons. "S" Judge Paula Lacy of Eureka, Calif., gave a "View from C" talk on Friday and Saturday at Rancho Murieta.

Roxanne Strahan just turned 13 on August 15th, and celebrated by winning the Fourth Level Championship at the Southern show on her family's Hanoverian stallion Mister A (Matcho x-Goldeiche/Goldstein). Mister A, now 21 years young, was trained to Grand Prix when he was standing at Celle State Stud in Germany. He was imported by Spruce Meadows and purchased by Creek Hollow Ranch in Ramona, Calif., five years ago. Strahan started riding him a year and a half ago.

A heat wave hit Burbank in time for the Championships and Strahan started out riding Mister A conservatively in her Third Level and Fourth Level tests on Saturday. The stallion was a little tired

that day after "bouncing around like a two-year-old" when she brought him to the show grounds on Friday. She didn't want to push him in the heat, and had some mistakes in her trot half passes.

"Sunday's tests were much better," said Strahan. "I figured out that he had survived the first day perfectly fine, so I could push him a little harder. My Third Level test was all right. My Fourth Level test was the last one so I pushed him extra hard and we had a pretty good test."

Strahan thought her first ride, Third Level Test 2 on Saturday and her last ride, Fourth Level Test 3 on Sunday were best.

"They were the most energetic and through," she said. "My biggest problem was just keeping him energetic. He likes to do his halts a lot earlier. He'd rather halt at L instead of at X where he's supposed to. He's kind of lazy about it. I think he's just trying to make me work!

"I'm not really good at sitting the trot because I'm really short and he's really fat," she said (Strahan is 5'1" and Mister A is 16.1 ½ H"). "So when he's doing the half pass and shoulder in I can sit his trot pretty well because he's bent. But trotting around getting from some place to another place – then that's the hard part!"

Strahan's favorite part of the show was the awards ceremony.

"The victory lap was very fun," she said. "He has a huge trot and trotting out (of the ring) with the music—that was a blast!"

Strahan has been riding since she was two. She had a pony for two years and then graduated to a National Show Horse mare, which she still rides. She had only ridden at First Level before riding Mister A. With all that she's learned from him she's been able to train her mare to Third Level. Strahan rides with her mother, Suzan Strahan, who competed with Mister A at Intermediate I before handing the reins over to Roxanne. ■

*AHS member Sheri Scott is a nationally acclaimed photographer who resides in Folsom, Calif. Sheri's articles and award-winning photographs regularly appear in such publications as The Chronicle of the Horse, Dressage Today and Hunter & Sport Horse.*