

EQVALAN[®] GOLD

Rider of the Month

Story Suzy Jarratt Photo Derek O'Leary

Rachael Sanna is back in the front line with a new Grand Prix star - Chatbam Park Jac, the gelding she bought as a foal in a paddock in Holland.

"I knew nothing about his breeding I was initially attracted to him simply because he looked cute in the paddock and he wasn't chestnut!

"Mum and I were in Holland and we were on the lookout for a young horse in an affordable price range. We went to Nico Witte's yard with Mary Hanna and saw 20 or more foals in a paddock. They were all unhandled, not even broken to halter. I found one especially appealing who had three white socks, was a good shape and had an inquisitive attitude. He was by Jazz."

After being vet checked Witte told Rachael that a Rozzie Ryan, also from Australia, had his full brother who was two years older (Jive Magic).

"I rang Rozzie who gave her stallion a good rap, so I decided to buy the colt.

"He was a year old when he arrived safely in the country. While he was in quarantine he was halter broken and when I collected him I had a groom travel with him in the float - don't tell the police!

"I decided not to keep Jac as a stallion. He had an inherently lovely nature but he was very, very colty and I didn't want to always be walking around holding a piece of polypipe! It's pot luck buying a horse, especially one so young, but I never had any doubts. He went through an ugly patch but I liked him - he wasn't mean and nasty."

Is he the best horse you've ever had?

"Considering the way he moves, the feeling he gives me when I ride him and his

performance to date - achieving 70% plus at every level - I would have to say yes. But he still has a lot to live up to when I think about what Charisma gave me.

"She might not have consistently scored such high percentages but she taught me so much. Yet Jac is also teaching me a helluva lot - every week he throws in another new feeling for me."

If you went overseas where would you go?

"If I did end up on the WEG team for this year - it's a big ask - I'd look to probably basing myself with Mary Hanna at Hubertus Schmidt's. But I'd never knock back an opportunity to go back to Rehbein's - the stables are wonderful, you have access to excellent vets and there's Kristy (Oatley-Nist) to help you."

If you got the nod what about the two kids - you didn't have them when you went away with Charisma and Aphrodite?

"Mum said she'd take the kids so I could fly with the horse, I've always done so in the past, but it's not so easy these days. Maybe if we did get the chance to go away I'd at least have my groom, Helen, fly back with him.

Or you could sell him in Europe?

"You should never knock back a 'silly' offer."

And with your ability you can make always make another GP horse.

"Maybe so, but it takes a long time. At the moment I have a 4-year-old mare by Jazz. She was Charisma's first foal so there's a sentimental attachment but no guarantee we'll make a partnership which will be equal to or better than what I have now or had in the past."

Each EQVALAN GOLD Rider of the month receives 6 syringes of EQVALAN GOLD in recognition of their achievement



RACHAEL SANNA

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