

EQUINUS

INTERNATIONAL

Volume: 1 2013

32
0 74470 22393 1
Spring 2013 \$7.99 U.S.

Eventing - Carriage Driving - Reining - Jumping - Dressage

Behind Barn Doors; Skara Glen



An Exclusive tour through one of Wellington's premier barns

Part of the front elevation and paddock of barn 1, the upper floor hosts a sumptuous apartment.



There is an air of tranquility at Skara Glen that is palpable; it is one of those things that defies description yet it fills the atmosphere beyond all else. That's not something easily achieved in any working environment, this place is a hive of activity.

Barn staff, grounds men, horses coming and going to show grounds, exercising and schooling, you would never think it from this picture alone, but it feels just how it looks. Located in what has to be one of the most exclusive and best equestrian communities in the world, Florida's Wellington is filled with private barns catering for the needs of some of the best riders competing today. Properties like this exist as a result of the patronage and love of horse sport by some of the wealthiest people in the world. Many equine disciplines at top level rely on this kind of support to develop both horse and rider.



Above; Paul O'Shea returning to barn 2 after morning exercise. You can see it comprises of 2 stable blocks with a shaded lounge between them. The upper level built on the central section of this barn has the staff accommodations. This barn can hold around 20 horses in fantastic style.

Below; Looking across the grass arena and adjacent all weather surface to the rear elevation of barn 2. You can see just how the grounds in general are so well cared for and manicured. The architectural form is a marvelous example of the Florida style.



One of the hexagonal rooms that flank the rear of barn 1 which brings symmetry to the building and allows the living quarters to flow down to the ground floor and garden.



We knew we were in for a treat when we snagged a guilt edged invitation to tour the exclusive Skara Glen in Florida's Wellington. Ireland's Paul O'Shea is the rider and trainer hand picked by Mr. Ira Gumberg, the owner to head up Show Jumping and run the facility. Running this operation for the mighty Skara Glen has to be one of Show Jumping's best jobs... What we discovered was about to give new meaning to "amazing".

The masterpiece was conceived and executed in the instantly recognizable Florida architectural design that has come to epitomize Wellington's signature lifestyle. The pictures you are about to see, will we Hope convey just how amazing Skara Glen is, how the horse world works in Wellington and a glimpse of the utterly fantastic lifestyle enjoyed by horse' and riders.

The shaded lounge with it's view to the lawn and lake beyond. A pretty amazing Bar-B-Cue spot and party area.





Barn 2 with post & beam construction, traditional luxury in Teak looking out to the grass arena.

Inside the 2 barns, the contrast in layout and design can easily be seen in comparison. Both are suited to horses competing in many disciplines but on the occasion we visited, the barn shown below was being used for Mr. Gumberg's western horses that are ridden by him. The tack room is dedicated to his prized McClellan saddles which sparkle like Jewels; in fact everything sparkles at Skara Glen. Don't let that fool you though, Skara Glen is very much a working barn, everyone there has adopted the standard set and have been motivated and inspired to create this fantastic environment and to live up to the standards set.

Comprising of 2 main buildings, each occupying their own distinct footprint with space enough to make their own mark in their own unique style. The pictures serve to show just how unique each barn is on the interior, whilst the exteriors co-exist in balance. Both barns not only house the horses but also the entire team along with the owners sumptuous apartment. It's all designed with the horses in mind by having the staff on hand and all the facilities they could need.

Everyone at Skara Glen stands out for the same reason; the commitment they have to caring for, producing and training horses to the highest standards. You hear about claims of care like this in lots of places, but when you witness just how relaxed, willing and happy the horses are you come to realize just what effect the environment and surroundings have had on them. Quality here isn't just in bricks and mortar, it's in hearts and minds; just the place it has to start.

Truly a home, Skara Glen lacks nothing for all it's inhabitants, you can see that it's beyond just practical and functional; even the rows of stalls are embellished greatly to make life there be so much more and mean so much more to even us as visitors. The craftsmanship used in utilizing all manner of materials goes way beyond what will do or what is easiest. It's a recurring theme with successful sportsmen and women that they strive to improve and have a clear vision at the outset of what would be best and the best way to achieve it, this place is the embodiment of that kind of attitude.



Barn 1 with an expanse of antique brickwork using lots of traditional techniques rarely seen now.