

# HORSE RIDING IN FRANCE



FEDERATION FRANÇAISE D'EQUITATION - [www.ffe.com](http://www.ffe.com)

# The French Equestrian

Founded in 1921 by the riding centres and competition societies, the French Equestrian Federation (FFE) is today the umbrella organization in France for all sporting and leisure activities involving ponies and horses. It includes a National Equestrian Tourism Committee (CNTE) and Committees in the regions and departments.

## Role and missions

The FFE fulfils a public service remit.

- ▶ It has a Ministry of Sport delegation to develop practices, training and competition.
- ▶ It has Ministry of Agriculture approval to contribute towards the genetic improvement of horses in France.

It acts as the umbrella organization for sports bodies involved in practising and promoting equestrian activities and offers them projects for the various rider groups.

It is loyal to Olympic values and develops a special contact with the countryside and animals in order to promote harmony in social relations, the benefits of physical activity and the values of sport.

## Actions

It supports its members' efforts to develop : pony clubs, riding centres, competition organizers, equestrian tourism centres and associations linked to horses.

It organizes development operations such as the Journée du Cheval (Horse Day), Journée Nationale de l'Attelage de Loisirs (National Leisure Driving Day), Poney Ecole (Pony School), Equitation pour Tous (Horse riding for all), Equirando (Horse trekking)...

It offers training programmes for all levels of riders, including a learning experience leading to the Galops® diplomas.

It organizes initial and continuing training courses for horse riding supervisors.

It offers competition circuits for all types of riders leading to the French championships, international competitions and the Olympic Games.

It promotes equestrian activities via TV advertising campaigns and the production of documentaries, special reports and TV series.

Its headquarters are at the "Parc Equestre Fédéral" in Lamotte-Beuvron, where it organizes 55 days of competition a year, including the Generali French Open, the world's biggest equestrian event.



## THE FRENCH EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION'S EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

- ▶ Promote a life in society based on respect for others, for animal life and the natural environment.
- ▶ Give people a taste for acquiring and passing on knowledge.
- ▶ Promote the benefits of physical and sporting activities.
- ▶ Develop a taste for effort and the satisfaction that it gives.
- ▶ Place a value on commitment and a sense of responsibility.

# Federation

## Annual references\*

### France

66 million inhabitants  
101 departments  
27 regions

### Riders

2,000,000 riders  
Of whom:  
700,000 FFE licence-holders  
83% female riders, 17% male riders  
67% juniors, 33% seniors  
3rd biggest sport in France after football and tennis  
No. 1 sport for women in France  
225,000 Galops diplomas®

### FFE clubs

8,600 clubs  
5,000 of which are horse riding centres  
No. 1 employer in the sports world  
38,000 managers, managers' spouses / husbands and salaried workers

### Equestrian tourism

1 million riders  
2,500 rider establishments and associations  
350 labelled equestrian tourism centres

### FFE and FEI competitions

2,500 organizers  
160,000 competitors  
15,000 competition days  
110,000 trials, 2,000 of which are international  
1,700,000 entries, 53,000 of which are international  
A cumulative audience of 8 million spectators

### The "Parc Equestre Fédéral"

55 days of events  
30 hectares of sports facilities in the middle of a huge estate  
3 restaurants  
15 fully-equipped rooms  
5,000 m<sup>2</sup> of administrative premises  
520 boxes  
Platforms for installing 4,000 boxes  
Comfortable hotel of 40 rooms  
Sports accommodation for 200

\* Figures rounded up, 2013 references

## Editorial

Horse riding is a popular sport in France practised by over one French person in 100. The credit for this goes to the clubs, which willingly share their love of horse riding with their fellow-citizens.

The Federation supports them in their efforts to win over the public and carry horse riding beyond the circle of the initiated and to devise new projects to maintain riders loyalty.

Through the licence, clubs and riders create the means to carry out effective actions in the field of training, competition, high-level equestrianism, promotion, etc. Development is the driving force without which there is no horse riding.

This means a large number of adults who see horse riding as a means of getting some fresh air while having fun and generations of children who blossom by learning a taste for effort and a sense of responsibility. It also means a large number of ponies and horses that find a rider to create a major breeding ground that feeds the entire network of sporting excellence.

*Serge Lecomte,  
Chairman of the French Equestrian Federation*



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# An asset for economy

Horse riding is a major asset to the French economy.

Riding centres and competition organizers generate jobs that help to bring life to regions. The big number of horse riders explains the good health of this sector.



## Employment generating activities

The equestrian sector is the leading private sports employer in France. It employs 38,000 people in jobs which cannot be relocated, mainly in rural areas. There are also 20,000 jobs created around the activity. It is a balanced economic sector that creates non-subsidized jobs. 300,000 of the 900,000 ponies and horses in France are in riding centres.

## A sustainable sector

Growth in the number of riders is the driving force behind the whole sector. The more riders there are, the more horses, facilities, equipment and specialist services are needed. Equestrian activities therefore involve a wide range of professions and create a large number of jobs related to facilities, services and treatment.

## A promotion for territories

Equestrian activities help to protect the countryside and safeguard rural regions by offering a local activity close to nature.

The activities open to the public that are regularly offered by riding centres and organizers of equestrian events help to promote the towns and villages in which they are established.

## A dynamic sector

The State qualifications introduced in 1965 have structured the supervisory professions and developed equestrian establishments. Horse riding was the first sport to have a collective agreement. Led by practical men and women, the sector has always demonstrated an economic realism, anticipating developments and setting up training courses and schemes to ensure that the sector remains economically viable.

### FRENCH ENTHUSIASM

In a TNS SOFRES survey in 2011, 2.2 million people stated that they rode a horse or pony and 14 million French people said that they intended to do so.

Rider families are divided between the socio-professional categories as follows: 15% employees, 20% workers, 22% intermediate professions, 23% senior managers.

The average annual taxable income of rider families is 25 to 35,000 €uros.

# The French way

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Horse riding is the 3d biggest sport in France, as for the number of riders. France organizes the highest number of international competitions and is a major country for equestrian tourism, with a network of trails that make it easy to explore France on horseback.

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## French clubs

The clubs are members of the French Equestrian Federation and are the driving force behind the development of horse riding and the whole sector.

They provide initial training for riders, based on the Galops® training plan. They provide them with trained ponies and horses to help them start out on the pony and club competition circuit. They offer them rides and treks to help them get the best out of outdoor riding. They welcome them for courses and holidays during the holiday period.

There are clubs for all tastes and ambitions. The FFE lists forty different equestrian activities offered by approximately 5,000 riding centres and pony clubs.

## High-level sport

France is a great nation for organizing events at the highest level, including, in 2014, the World Cup dressage and show jumping finals, the World Equestrian Games and a record

number of 9 CSI5\* events, including 4 legs of the FEI Nations Cup or Global Champions Tour.

It has teams in all the world disciplines and takes part in all the major international championships.

It is based on a network of young people who are able to go through a training circuit on a pony, then on a horse, with the support of the Grand National circuit to launch new pairings towards an international career.

Its riders are regularly among the leaders in the world rankings, particularly in show jumping, endurance, eventing and vaulting.

## Leisure riding

The two pillars of leisure horse riding are equestrian tourism and pony riding. Equestrian tourism attracts outdoor riding enthusiasts to great festive rallies in support of riding trails, the environment and sustainable development.

Pony riding has grown so fast that we talk about a “pony boom”. This is a fun riding activity with an educational approach that gives children a sense of independence and fulfilment.



# FFE training courses

The FFE organizes training courses, from introductory courses for riding beginners to preparing the French Olympic teams. It also offers initial and continuing vocational training for people supervising equestrian activities.

## Rider training

The rider training plan is based on a series of federation “Galops” diplomas, offering a 7-stage learning pathway covering equestrian activities on foot and on horseback, horse care, general knowledge and more specific knowledge of horses. There are outdoor activities “Galops”, driving “Galops”, pony games, vaulting, western, etc. Riders can also train in Natural horsemanship or for equestrian tourism qualifications.

## Instructor training

The supervision of physical and sporting activities is governed by regulations in France and instructors need to have a State-recognized diploma. These are issued by the Ministry of Sport for most instructors. To supplement the scheme, the FFE has introduced State-recognized instructor diplomas, such as the Assistant Riding Instructor, mainly for ponies, horses and outdoor riding, and the Equestrian Tourism Guide.

Continuing training is provided jointly by the FFE and its Regional Equestrian Committees (CRE). This leads to the Federal Trainer or Supervisor Diplomas (BFE), which are

speciality diplomas for the sporting disciplines, riding for the disabled (motor, sensory or mental disability), equestrian artistic shows, etc.

## Training for competition officials

The FFE and the CREs also offer special training courses based on outlines approved by the National Technical Committee for competition officials, judges, referees and organizers.

## MANAGERS

Managers have the use of a Resources service for all legal, tax and social matters. They are regularly invited to national or interregional seminars such as the “Fédératives” or the Club Shows Conference, which offer talks focusing mainly on developing activities in clubs.



# The benefits of riding

Riding a horse is good for the health and well-being. It encourages good communication with the horse and with other people. It gives people a chance to get some fresh air while practising an outdoor sport, often with the family.



## Good for your health

Riding is a gentle, symmetrical sport that keeps you fit, invigorates you and gives you energy. With every step, the movement of the pelvis uses the muscles in the back and abdominal wall. The rider looks into the distance and sits up straight, which is good for the back. He maintains his balanced while moving, which is good for coordination and musculature.

## Good for well-being

Riding a horse or pony is a pleasure that helps to recharge your batteries. The horse's warmth is relaxing and conducive to feeling an affinity with the animal. Successfully riding a horse gives self-confidence.

## Good for social life

Riding is an individual sport that is practised in a group, giving you a chance to meet people from all horizons and walks of life who share the same enthusiasm. It's a world that you can share with family and friends at shows and events. Horses are wonderful go-betweens and offer a better quality of life to people in difficulty.

## Good for growing up

On a pony, a child becomes daily more skilful, stronger, more responsible, more sociable and more independent. He learns a taste for effort, commitment and perseverance. Movement coordination helps him to improve laterality and control his hands and legs separately. This accelerates psycho-motor development.

## Good for outdoor life

On horseback, you live outdoors in all seasons. This teaches respect for animal life and the natural environment. The rider takes an interest in his mount's behaviour and learns to understand it through observation. He learns more about animal and plant life and takes an interest in protecting it.

To summarize: "Riding is great!"

## QUALITY CHARTER FOR LABELLED CLUBS

The following quality labels have been set up: "Ecole Française d'Équitation" (French Riding School), "Poney Club de France" (Pony Club of France), "Cheval Club de France" (Horse Club of France), "Centre de Tourisme Equestre" (Equestrian Tourism Centre), "Ecurie de Compétition" (Competition Stable), "Ecole Française d'Attelage" (French Driving School), "Equi-handi Club" (Riding for the Disabled Club), "Cheval Etape" (Stopover Accommodation for Horses) and "Sports Etudes" (Sports Studies).

All these establishments offer :

- ▶ An organized, caring reception,
- ▶ Adapted activity structures,
- ▶ Well-treated ponies and horses,
- ▶ Qualified staff,
- ▶ An individual equestrian project,
- ▶ A professional approach to safety.

# Equestrian sports

Measuring up to yourself and competing with others involves wanting to give yourself the means to do better. Competition gives meaning to the love of effort. It teaches us to respect the rules and other people. It's a factor for progress for the individual, for the club, for the equine population and for the instructor.

## A means of promoting France's influence

France is the world's leading organizer of international competitions under the auspices of the "Fédération Equestre Internationale", FEI.

Our riders regularly win medals at the highest levels of international competition.

As a result of the good health of horse riding in France, which encourages many breeders and owners to take action, the French equine population is among the best in the world. Everyone involved in equestrian sports is invited to work abroad: judges, organizers, international technicians, etc. Our trainers are active on every continent, carrying out international assignments at the highest level.

## A driving force for agricultural production

National competition organized by the Federation promotes horses born in France and the know-how of our breeders. It organizes the horse market and brings added value to French production. It encourages riders to train their horses and maximize their potential. It develops France's equine gene pool.



## Bringing life to the regions

Every year there are 15,000 days of competition throughout France.

All these events bring families together around ponies and horses at sporting gatherings that give 8 million French people an opportunity for an outing in the country.

They help to develop and bring life to the regions and social activities based on the horse, generally in a rural environment.

## A sporting circuit for everyone

### Club and Pony

Competition for children on ponies and club riders takes place within clubs that promote access to horse riding for all. It represents 120,000 riders who take part in an average of 10 competitions a year, i.e. nearly a million trial starts.

Riders have a wide range of disciplines and technical levels to choose from, which makes it easier for instructors to provide tuition based on success.

Their annual meetings are the "Grand Tournoi" (Grand Tournament) and the Generali French Open at the "Parc Equestre Fédéral" in Lamotte.

### Amateur

Amateur competition involves 35,000 competitors who like to spend their weekend in competition to improve their own technique and that of their horse.

## Excellence circuits for the best

With the "Tournée des As", the youngest pony and horse riders have a training circuit that helps them gain access to the highest level.

### Professional

Over 3,000 riders use the Pro circuit as a springboard for preparing for international competition, particularly for the Grand National show jumping, eventing and dressage circuit.

### High level

140 riders have Ministry of Sport "high-level athlete" status. The French Tour, Eventing Tour and Dress' Tour are circuits of the highest level in each of the 3 Olympic disciplines. The FFE takes part in disabled sport, up to Paralympics level.

# in France



## International

The FFE is a member of the “Fédération Equestre Internationale”, which is itself a member of the International Olympic Committee.

As such, it prepares and selects the French teams for the 3 Olympic disciplines, show jumping, eventing and dressage, and for the 5 other FEI world disciplines: driving, endurance, reining, vaulting and para-equestrian dressage.

The World Equestrian Games 2014 are being organized by France in Normandy.

## 5 star

The French Tour is a unique circuit of 5 5-star competitions that attracts the world show jumping elite. It includes the CSIO de la Baule, the World Cup legs in Bordeaux and Lyon and the Global Champions Tour legs in Cannes and Chantilly. There are also the prestigious Paris Gucci Masters, Saut Hermès, Paris Eiffel Jumping and Saint-Tropez events. There is a website giving users an opportunity to find out about high-level events and follow the major competitions. Address: <http://ffe5etoiles.com>.

## THE FFE'S SPORTING PROJECT

The FFE offers a sporting project appropriate to each competitor and excellence circuits for the best.

- ▶ Children have their pony circuit on which to start out and improve.
- ▶ Club riders have their club circuit on which to start out in competition on horseback.
- ▶ Amateur riders join the amateur circuit to help them improve.
- ▶ The pro circuits are for the best.

Competition is part of the French Equestrian Federation's educational project of using sport as a means of helping people to achieve harmonious development.

# Equestrian tourism

Equestrian tourism is a highly enjoyable, environmentally-friendly activity that gives people a chance to explore the heritage of our regions. Combining pleasure and a real change of scene, in harmony with the horse and nature, it is popular with all ages. Far from the stress of our daily lives, it offers a breath of fresh air, beyond time, at the horse's pace.



## A rapidly-growing activity

Equestrian tourism offers a very wide range activities and meets the aspirations of every lover of nature and horses. Outdoor riding may be practised as a club or with family and friends, offering unforgettably convivial, carefree moments in communion with your horse. Over a million riders practise the activity regularly, and 53% of French people say that they would like to have an equestrian holiday.

## Promoting equestrian tourism

The National Equestrian Tourism Committee (CNTE) is part of the French Equestrian Federation and is responsible for promoting equestrian tourism activities.

It runs a number of flagship national initiatives: Equirando, Equirando Junior, National Leisure Driving Day and Sustainable Development Week.

It publishes L'Estafette, a quarterly magazine for equestrian tourism enthusiasts, and the Cheval Nature catalogue, a directory of equestrian tourism establishments.

## Holidays on horseback

Travelling on horseback is an ideal way to explore the cultural and natural heritage of France's regions. There are options for all tastes and levels, from a few hours' ride to a few days' trekking, on horseback or in a carriage. With a solid network of trails and accommodation offering services for riders and their mounts, equestrian tourism offers great opportunities to get away from it all.

## An asset for the regions

Criss-crossed by equestrian trekking routes, the regions enjoy the economic benefits engendered by equestrian tourism activities: accommodation, meals, shops and services, tourist sites.

Equestrian tourism works alongside outdoor sporting activities and countryside management bodies to bring life to rural regions and protect the amenities that they use.

### EQUIRANDOS

The heir to the Polignac rally in 1961, Equirando is an invitation to go trekking and explore the regions on horseback. It is the biggest rally in Europe for riders and drivers practising outdoor horse riding.

Equirando Junior is the version for children and teenagers aged 7 to 17.

### FITE

Founded in 1975, the International Equestrian Tourism Federation, FITE, works to organize, develop and promote equestrian tourism, competition trekking techniques and traditional riding for work purposes throughout the world. It currently has 21 member countries.

# in France



## A brief history

Following on from the structures that went before it, the CNTE works to develop and promote horse-related tourism activities.

The CNTE-FFE is responsible for the European Conference for equestrian tourism routes and plays an active role in building up a European equestrian tourism network.

## Waymarked equestrian routes and overnight accommodation

A network of accessible equestrian routes and overnight accommodation are essential to travelling on horseback, allowing nature-lovers the opportunity to try outdoor horse riding.

The CNTE-FFE manages the official orange equestrian waymarks, which have been registered with the french intellectual property organization INPI. These waymarks make route-finding easier and show other users that the trails are being used for equestrian activities.

Equestrian tourism is represented among local authorities, which helps to protect sites and routes.

## Training for riders and professionals

Riders can add value to the skills they have acquired by qualifying for trekking diplomas, outdoor “Galops”, Certificates of expertise or driving diplomas.

Special professional qualifications are issued to ensure that equestrian tourism services are delivered safely: Assistant Riding Instructor (AAE) and Equestrian Tourism Guide (ATE).

## Labels

High-quality equestrian tourism services are identified by two federation labels:

- the Equestrian Tourism Centre label identifies equestrian establishments that specialize in organizing equestrian tourism activities: rides, treks, holidays, etc...
- the Cheval Etape label concerns establishments that welcome ponies and horses for stays of at least one night, offering indoor or outdoor accommodation.

# The Federation Horse

The “Parc Equestre Fédéral” is the only venue capable of hosting the giant event which is the pony and horse club rider championships, in July every year, and is the FFE’s major development resource and headquarters.

## Welcome to the Park

Situated in Sologne, in central France, the Park offers all French club riders a place to meet and share their love of horses. Clubs can organize their own courses with their own riders, instructors and horses. Over 100 clubs do this every year with over 1500 different riders.

### FRENCH TEAMS

Screening and advanced training courses are organized by the national selectors in several disciplines for pony, junior or senior riders. The “Pôle France Attelage” (French Driving Centre) is in the Park and organizes the meetings required to prepare and select the French teams.

## Major events

The Park is the biggest equestrian stadium in France and a key venue for the major events organized directly by the Federation: the Generali French Open, the amalgamated French pony and club championships, the Grand Tournament, the meeting for team equestrian sports, the Owners’ Meeting and the Instructors’ National Meeting. It also hosts a wide range of equestrian and other events.

## Headquarters

The FFE offices are in the Park, which allows the permanent staff to be in direct contact with the 2,500 or so clubs that come here every year.



# Park in Lamotte



## Generali French Open

The Generali French Open is the world's biggest equestrian competition with 13,838 participants recorded in the Guinness World Records in 2012. It is a meeting point for all the clubs in France who come together with their riders and instructors for their French championships in 15 different disciplines.

## Phenomenal

The people who experience this giant event can't find enough superlatives to describe it. 2,500 clubs take part with their riders, ponies, horses, instructors, families and friends. There are sports areas, rows of boxes, car parks and camps for as far as the eye can see. For three weeks in July every year, it's a vast bivouac on the banks of the Beuvron river, in the heart of the Sologne forest, making the Park the biggest family home for French riders.

## Multidisciplinary

Everyone knows the international equestrian disciplines. They can all be found at Lamotte, along with what are known as the development disciplines, devised by the FFE to enable clubs to offer their riders new opportunities. Emphasis is placed on team trials, with the pony games, equestrian displays and what are called Club Cups, which combine a cross-country or show jumping trial with an

equestrian display and a vaulting test. Then there's the "TREC", which is a demonstration of the skills useful for trekking, Equifun, a test that combines handling ability, dexterity and jumping, Equifeel, a test of the affinity between rider and horse on foot, the Hunter, a test of jumping style, and the Mini-opens, presentation tests for ponies and children, all dressed up and hand-held.

## HISTORY OF THE PARK

The Park is the former estate of the Lord of Vouzon, who, in the Middle Ages, built a keep on a mound on the banks of the river Beuvron. It was, for a time, the imperial estate of Napoleon III and was then turned into a prison colony for children.

Since 1994, the French Pony Club and subsequently the French Equestrian Federation have turned it into the biggest equestrian stadium in France.

## PRACTICAL

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[www.ffe.com/parc](http://www.ffe.com/parc) Contact : [parc@ffe.com](mailto:parc@ffe.com)

# The FFE information

Most of the information concerning the federation can be found online on [ffe.com](http://ffe.com) and FFE TV. There are also printed publications, theme-based Newsletters and pages on the social networks.

## Publications

Every month the FFE publishes its official magazine, La Ref, which you'll find free on [www.ffe.com/publications](http://www.ffe.com/publications). In September, December, March and June it publishes L'Estafette, which is dedicated to equestrian tourism. You'll find this free on [www.ffe.com/tourisme/Publications](http://www.ffe.com/tourisme/Publications). In December, it publishes Cheval Nature, a directory of equestrian tourism activities. Available on request from [www.ffe.com/tourisme/Publications](http://www.ffe.com/tourisme/Publications) or by e-mail to [tourisme@ffe.com](mailto:tourisme@ffe.com).

The FFE publishes the Federation "Galops" Guides and the Discipline Guides. On sale from the online shop on [boutique.ffe.com](http://boutique.ffe.com).



## CONTACT THE FFE

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Web site : [www.ffe.com](http://www.ffe.com)

## Newsletters

La Lettre Fédérale is available every Monday on [www.ffe.com/journaliste/Lettres-Federales](http://www.ffe.com/journaliste/Lettres-Federales): this covers the latest sports and federation news.

The FFE sends out Newsletters about circuits, events, themes and particular groups to the people concerned. On subscription via e-mail to [communication@ffe.com](mailto:communication@ffe.com), stating which Newsletters you would like to receive.

## FFE TV

FFE TV offers a collection of videos for which the FFE has the broadcasting rights. It's both a streamed TV station that continuously broadcasts the FFE catalogue and an on-demand video platform. The catalogue is organized into themed channels: sporting events, Health channel, Federation Horse Park, horse riding in France, equestrian disciplines, etc

[www.dailymotion.com/playlists/user/FFETV/1](http://www.dailymotion.com/playlists/user/FFETV/1).

## SOCIAL NETWORKS

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/FFEofficiel](http://www.facebook.com/FFEofficiel)  
[www.facebook.com/pages/FFE-Equipes-de-France](http://www.facebook.com/pages/FFE-Equipes-de-France)  
[www.facebook.com/ParcEquestreFederal](http://www.facebook.com/ParcEquestreFederal)  
[www.facebook.com/GrandNationalFFE](http://www.facebook.com/GrandNationalFFE)

### Twitter

@FFEequitation pour les informations générales  
[@twitter.com/FRA\\_Equitation](https://twitter.com/FRA_Equitation) pour l'actualité des équipes de France

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# The horse institutions

The Ifce is a public administrative body. The FFE deals with horse riding and sport, the SHF with the breeding and training of young sporting horses, “France Galop” and “Le Cheval Français” with racing. They are the main horse institutions in France.



## L'Ifce

The “Institut Français du Cheval and de l'Équitation” (French Institute for Horses and Horse Riding – IFCE) is the umbrella organization for the National Riding School, the “Cadre Noir” in Saumur and the National Stud establishments. This public administrative body is responsible for supporting the development of the equine sector by promoting breeding and horse-related activities and developing the influence of French horse riding and the equestrian arts.

## France Galop

It is responsible for encouraging improvements in flat racing and steeplechasing in France, drawing up a race schedule, ensuring that races are lawful and coordinating the horse racing sector.

It owns or operates race courses at Longchamp, Auteuil and Saint-Cloud, as well as courses and training centres at Chantilly, Maisons-Laffitte and Deauville.

It is the organizer of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the Prix de Diane, the Deauville Summer Meeting, the Prix du Jockey Club and the Grand Steeplechase de Paris.

## Le Cheval Français

It is responsible for encouraging improvements in trotting races in France, drawing up a race schedule, ensuring that races are lawful and coordinating the horse racing sector. It owns race courses at Vincennes, Enghien, Caen and Cabourg and the training centre in Grosbois.

It is the organizer of the Prix d'Amérique. Its two main circuits are the Grand National du Trot and the Trophée Vert, each involving 14 stages. It also organizes pony trotting races in partnership with the FFE.

## La SHF

The SHF deals with the breeding and training of young sporting horses and ponies. It organizes the Great Breeding Weeks at Fontainebleau for show jumping, Pompadour for eventing, Saumur for dressage and Lamotte for ponies.

## SPÉCIALIST BODIES

**GHN:** The “Groupement Hippique National” (National Horse Association) represents employers and agricultural commitment in the equestrian sector.

**PMU:** France Galop and Le Cheval Français run the “PMU”, which organizes betting on races based on pooled bets between the players, from which an amount is deducted to finance the sector.

**FNC:** The “Fédération Nationale du Cheval” (National horse Federation) is the horse branch of the agricultural union, the FNSEA.

**UNIC:** The “Union Nationale Interprofessionnelle du Cheval (National Inter-branch Horse Union) has the key responsibility of bringing the entire sector together for international actions, attendance at Shows, hosting buying commissions, etc

# HORSE RIDING IN FRANCE

The widespread practice of club riding means that a pony or horse is ridden by several riders who all benefit from the facilities and the instructors, which makes horse riding affordable for many families. The licence issued to riders by the clubs creates a resource pool that allows the FFE to support their efforts to develop and finance the sport at a high level.

## What the French Equestrian Federation does

- ▶ Training for riders, riding managers and competition officials via the rider training plan and the federation's supervisory diplomas.
- ▶ Supporting the development efforts of its members – the equestrian spots – by providing projects for each of their riders.
- ▶ The quality approach, by issuing labels that help to improve the quality of the facilities.
- ▶ Organizing competitions and awarding French championship titles, with circuits adapted to every type of competitor in 30 different disciplines.
- ▶ Preparing and selecting the French teams, with the aim of achieving excellence.
- ▶ Promoting equestrian activities, mainly through advertising campaigns and via TV series on all the major channels.

