



*Press release, Saturday, February 8, 2025*

## **JULIEN ÉPAILLARD SETS THE PACE!**

He left the 2024 edition of the Jumping international de Bordeaux with a victory in the AUDI Grand Prix and has now opened the 2025 edition with another victory, again with the same Donatello d'Auge. Julien Épaillard from Normandy has winning in his blood. He proved it once again in the 'big' class of this first day of show jumping, the Prix FFE Generali.



*Join Julien Épaillard and Donatello d'Auge tomorrow at 8 pm. for the Grand Prix Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ © Artiste Associé*

Better still, it was a French triple that rounded off this against the clock class, with Julien Anquetin (Ice Cube Z) and Philippe Rozier (Dirty Sweet) completing the podium. But when Julien Épaillard decides to win, it's hard to go against him.

This Prix FFE Generali is usually a dress rehearsal for the Grand Prix Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ the following day and everyone adopts a different strategy to prepare for Saturday's class. Some go for the win while others prefer a slower pace to allow the horse to get into peak condition at a quieter rhythm. Others, like Sophie Hinners (see our interview on Thursday), have even preferred to enter their World Cup horse, in this case Iron Dames My Prins, in the small class of the day, the Prix Bordeaux Events And More (won by Irish rider Denis Lynch), for a smooth ride without the pressure of height.

Julien Épaillard however made his intentions clear from the start: 'Yes, it's important for us to show that we've arrived here in Bordeaux in good shape. It's in France and it's always a special competition for us. Donatello is in good shape, he jumped very well in Basel and Amsterdam. It looks good for tomorrow because, of course, he's the one I'm going to ride in the World Cup qualifier. I don't know if it's going to be as easy as today. It's going to be bigger, but I think I've done the best possible preparation, he's got the experience, we're going to give it everything we've got, but faults can happen so quickly. The good news now is that I've already got my points for the final and I'm already working on my plans to be in top shape for Basel.'

### **Devoucoux Indoor Derby: a fifth victory for Karim Florent Laghouag!**



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*It's the fifth time for Karim Laghouag, but the first for his horse Dream de Vieve. After four victories with Punch de l'Esques (the fourth on the day of the horse's retirement), the Versailles silver medallist came back stronger than ever in Bordeaux with this 12-year-old bay gelding. A clear victory by more than a second and a half over the surprising grey with a beautiful stride, César de Roy, admirably ridden by Fabrice Saintemarie, who had just taken the lead. But, in tonight's classic scenario, it was the last to go who ended up becoming the first, encouraged by a more than enthusiastic crowd. "Dream de Vieve is a horse I've been preparing for two years. It's the first time he's won an indoor cross-country and I'm particularly pleased that it's here. We said farewell to Punch's career here with a final victory and Dream is getting his first win here, which is quite symbolic", smiles a happy Karim Laghouag.*

*As far as the international competitions are concerned, the first class (1.45m) will take place tomorrow at 3.30pm before the highlight of the event, the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Grand Prix, whose first rider, the young Norwegian Johan-Sebastian Gulliksen, will enter the course at 8pm.*



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Bookings: [www.jumping-bordeaux.com/en](http://www.jumping-bordeaux.com/en)

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