

Nadine Francois to visit New Zealand again in November 2005

One of the few top students of the late Nuno Oliveira will visit New Zealand in November to give dressage clinics in the Upper North Island.

Nadine Francois, born in Belgium, has been based in Portugal to study the classical dressage methods of Nuno Oliveira with the master himself for many years, until his death in 1988.

Nadine has continued his legacy ever since, and still has one of his old horses in her care. She owns a small stable in the town of Viana Alentejo east of Lisbon, where she trains dressage horses for Portugese and overseas clients and gives regular riding tuition. Nadine visits New Zealand and Australia on a yearly basis to give clinics in Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Hamilton and Auckland.

Originally starting a career in the veterinary field in Belgium, Nadine, who has been a dressage and show jumping rider since the age of 10, was introduced to Nuno Oliveira's classical dressage methods during one of his regular visits to Belgium. Fascinated by his teaching and his superior riding skills, she decided to re-locate to Portugal for several months every year to dedicate her time to learning with the Master.

After a short while she stayed in Portugal permanently, choosing classical dressage as her new career and profession. After Nuno Oliveira's untimely death in Australia in 1988, she spend most of her time at his place assisting his family and his son Joao and caring for Nuno's horses.

Nadine caters for all level of riders and horses. She has an amazing, keen eye and understanding for the correct training of young horses as well as the position of the rider and how this influences the horse's performance.

Combined with her knowledge of training and teaching, she exhibits a true passion and love for horses. Her lessons are clearly structured and she teaches with immense tact, combining extreme concentration with encouragement for the rider and horse. She is happy and capable of answering any questions a rider might have regarding the horse's training or the rider's training.

Most valuable of all, Nadine teaches in a way, that helps riders to understand why they are doing certain things and what works or does not work for a specific horse at the time, so they can go home after the clinic and apply their learnt knowledge on their own.