

My love affair began in Brazil, July of 2004. The object of my affection was Uracum the black stallion we all dreamed of as little girls. I purchased him and shipped him to Portugal to train with Jorge Sousa and Jeanette Jenny. I am having a Lusitano love affair.



Marci on Uracum

I have spent the past 2 months, in Portugal, with my new partner Uracum. Jorge met me at the airport in Lisbon on December 2. I had been preparing for this new chapter of my life for 5 months. I had been studying Portuguese and Lusitano (not really). I left San Diego and flew to Lisbon. Excitement propelled me. I had my new world phone and was ready to meet my new world. I followed Jorge in my Seat car and 40 minutes later arrived

in Samora Corria, a small village on the opposite side of the river from Lisbon. The farm is beautiful. It is on an estuary and nature preserve. The barn is built in the classical Portuguese style with a tile roof. I was immediately impressed upon entering to see 18 Lusitano stallions housed next to each other in an immaculate stable. I knew Uracum immediately, he was the only black one there. I could hardly wait to ride him, but exhaustion prevailed and I decided to take it easy the rest of the day.

I am very impressed with the training methods Jorge uses. A lot of training is done in hand. These horses are the most respectful, intelligent animals I believe I have ever encountered. Of course the rides are not going without incident because just as any young being, whether it be horse or human, it is natural to test the limits. There is never any yelling or over



Marci and trainer, Jorge Sousa

reaction to these childish outbursts here. Everything is handled and forgotten and we continue with the education process. I like these methods very much. The young horses are all started inside, without distraction. The concentration on the handler or rider is very important at this stage and must be 100%. I am learning so much. Some days have been lessons only in hand. I am getting to know my young stallion quite well. I have the privilege also of riding 2 older stallions, Oaest, a nine year old grey and Spartacus and 5 year old who was presented at the World Dressage Forum in Holland in 2004. My horse will stay in Portugal with Jorge for the moment and I will compete him in Europe. He has his passport and I have mine. I thank the USEF for permission to compete here in the coming year. I will write soon and let you know how things are going.

Regards,  
Marci