



DRESSAGE STALLION RUBIN JAMES

WINNING NZ OVER WITH BEAUTY & TALENT

WORDS: JENNIFER BOYES

When Cindy Rowe first saw 'RUBIN JAMES' at Andrew Buckley's E.B Lodge in New South Wales, Australia she was immediately struck by his biddable temperament, beauty and natural talent under saddle. Now, the same qualities which appealed to Cindy are making this nine year old 16.2hh black stallion a hit amongst individuals breeding for dressage, showing and even show jumping.

After initially purchasing one of his progeny, black derivative Arabian filly 'EBL Posh,' Cindy decided that she couldn't leave 'RUBIN JAMES', who is by the legendary WESTPHALIAN dressage sire 'Rubinstein 1,' behind either. 'RUBIN JAMES' eventually arrived in New Zealand in October 2009. He now shares Cindy's Auckland based property with several of her champion purebred Arabians, derivatives and the black riding pony stallion, 'MERIVALE PARK OPENING NIGHT.'

'I wanted something to put over my Warmblood mare, either a purebred Arabian or something else that was suitable, and looked into importing semen at first,' said Cindy. 'However, I decided that the expense and the risk just weren't worth it so went in search

of a stallion. I knew as soon as I saw Rubin that he was right. He has such an extraordinary amount of ability but is good looking too, which probably comes from the 1-2% drop of Arabian blood in him.'

'The conversation about him actually came about on Facebook! I was chatting with Andrew and he mentioned that he had decided to put Rubin on the market. He was very busy with several client stallions on his yard, plus another of his own, and Rubin had been put on the back burner a bit. I jumped at the chance to snap him up and definitely haven't regretted it. He's an absolute superstar and is wonderful to handle.'

'RUBIN JAMES' is rapidly proving his worth as a valuable and reliable sire, with progeny in both New Zealand, Australia and further afield excelling in a vast array of disciplines. His youngstock are regularly in the ribbons at youngstock shows around Australia. In fact, at the 2010 East Coast Arabian Championships, four of his progeny won every single one of their sections and championships.

'He really stamps his offspring, passing on his amazing

temperament, conformation and natural ability' says Cindy. 'They all look like him with good strong backs, powerful hindquarters, very long legs and fantastic movement. This has led to many of his progeny picking up champion and supreme awards all over Australia. Rubin's yearling daughter that I purchased in January 2009 is also making her mark in New Zealand, recently picking up New Zealand National Reserve Champion Junior Derivative over 148cm at the 2010 NZ Arabian Nationals.'

'RUBIN JAMES' has been as successful as his offspring in competition, achieving multiple accolades in the show ring. In Australia, he was the 2007 and 2008 Supreme Exhibit at Sydney Royal, was the 2007 Dual Australian Champion, 2006 National Champion, 2006 State Champion and 2006 Silver Snaffle Champion. Here in New Zealand, he was named Supreme Champion Warm-blood and Supreme Champion Stallion at the 2010 North Island All Breeds Show, with many bystanders commenting on his quiet, relaxed nature.

His versatility and admirable temperament are also shown in the fact that, as well as performing in the show ring and dressage arena, he loves jumping and has also turned his hoof to side saddle. 'We are focusing on his dressage now as that is where his true talent lies,' explains Cindy. 'I have been working with Hamilton based dressage rider and trainer Scott McKenna who was extremely helpful when I was thinking about purchasing Rubin, even coming over to Australia to put him through his paces for me.'

'Rubin has been in full time work with Scott for a month and will continue his training throughout winter. While he was serving, his schooling was a bit inconsistent. However, he is really thriving now it is not so intermittent. He picks things up really quickly and enjoys learning.'

Cindy can't hide her excitement when it comes to discussing Rubin's future in New Zealand.

'He has had one ridden outing in New Zealand, at the Whangarei Dressage Championships in January. He did some very good work and placed fourth in the level 5 challenge class, which means he has made it onto the National Accumulator list. However, at the end of this winter, I think he will be even more established and will be beginning to show just what he is capable of,' says Cindy. 'Next year, we will be bringing him out at Prix St George level with aims to compete him at Grand Prix in the very near future. He is quite old fashioned. He does not have the overly flamboyant trot that some of the dressage horses out there have but his canter work is sensational- that is his gold card. He is also showing a true aptitude for collected work. I think he will really come into his own at the upper levels and I'm so glad that I am along for the ride.'

RUBIN JAMES is available for public stud in New Zealand by AI only. Cindy is looking forward to the first New Zealand foals hitting the ground and expects them to be just as stunning as his previous crops.

'He arrived a little late in the season but still had countless enquiries and bookings from mare owners. It is hugely flattering to see how much interest there is in him,' smiles Cindy. 'I think a lot of breeders are keen on using him due to the rarity and quality of his bloodlines. He is the first direct descendant of 'Rubenstein I' to come to New Zealand but is also out of a very correct Hanoverian TB mare called 'CURRENT MARK XX'. His breeding is top notch. A number of mares have been scanned in foal and we can't wait to see how his first progeny in this country turn out. If they are anything like the Rubin youngsters in Australia, I will be over the moon.'



This image: Mendip Farm Photography

