

## Quotes of the masters

"My belief in life is that we can all get along together if we try to understand one another... You'll meet a lot of people and have a lot of acquaintances, but as far as having friends—they are very rare and very precious. But every horse you ride can be your friend because you ask this of them. This is real important to me. You can ask the horse to do your thing, but you ask him; you offer it to him in a good way. You fix it up and let him find it. You do not make anything happen, no more than you can make a friendship begin." **Ray Hunt**

"Recognize the smallest change, the slightest try." **Ray Hunt**

"Let your idea become the horse's idea." **Ray Hunt**

"Make the wrong thing difficult, and the right thing easy." **Ray Hunt**

"Confidence is knowing you are prepared." **Ray Hunt**

"The horse is a reflection of the rider's ability." **Ray Hunt**

"The slower you go the faster you will learn." **Ray Hunt**

"You need to have a picture in your mind of what you want your horse to do."  
**Ray Hunt**

"The horse will teach you if you'll listen." **Ray Hunt**



Ray Hunt and Pat Parelli

"If you are going to teach a horse something and have a good relationship, you don't make him learn it - you let him learn it." **Ray Hunt**

"Ride your horse with your whole body, not just with your arms and legs." **Ray Hunt**

"You're not working on the horse, you're working on yourself." **Ray Hunt**

"You feel and listen to the horse. The experience of the results of his response helps you understand for the next time." **Tom Dorrance**

"In working with people and trying to help them with something, I find it isn't easy for me to get them to work in the area where it seems they need to work. They keep trying to work at the end result." **Tom Dorrance**



"The horse may not be doing the thing that is the right thing for what the rider is asking him, but as far as the horse is concerned, he is doing the right thing." **Tom Dorrance**

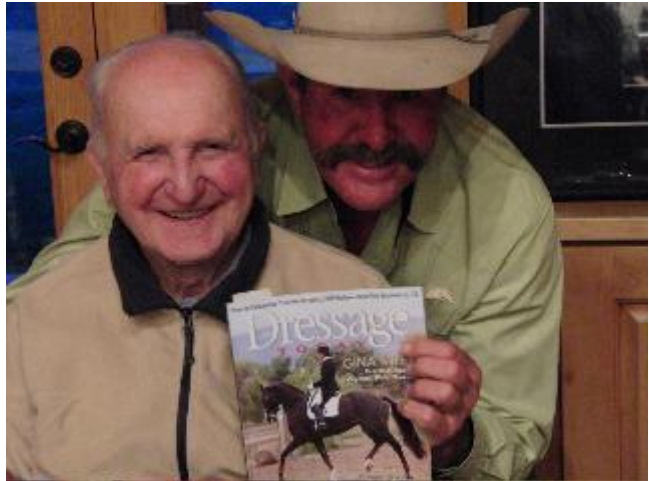
"You can't teach feel, you have to experience it" **Bill Dorrance**

"The goal of all dressage riding should be to bring the horse and rider together in harmony...a oneness of balance, purpose, and athletic expression." **Walter Zettl**

"Trust and respect are two-way streets. We want the horse to accept us as leaders of the herd, to guide them safely and to provide protection and comfort. In return, they will give us their respect, and willing submission to our ideas about what to do next, and when and where. But this respect can only be based on well deserved trust." **Walter Zettl**



Walter Zettl



Walter Zettl and Pat Parelli

"At each stage of work the horse must be taken to his limit, but never over the limit." **Walter Zettl**

"First of all, I believe that dressage should be the foundation for all horse sport disciplines. But, I also think the dressage community would benefit from the skill sets that natural horsemanship principles provide." **Walter Zettl**

"The biggest enemy to the partnership of dressage is impatience and the human nature to dominate other creatures." **Walter Zettl**



Walter Zettl and Ray Hunt 2006

"Riding: The dialogue between two bodies and two souls aimed at establishing perfect harmony between them."

**Waldemar Seunig**

"As a conclusion of these general observations about the course of dressage training I want to add the serious admonition; not to hurry any of the exercises and to let them all follow one another in such a way that the

preceding exercise always constitutes a secure basis for the next one. Violations of this rule will always exert payment later on; not only by a triple loss of time but very frequently by resistances which, for a long time if not forever, interfere with the relationship between horse and rider and often jeopardize the success of the entire enterprise." **Gustav Steinbrecht**

"As the blind person touches the object before him very softly and lightly with his fingertips in order not to interfere with the work of the sensitive nerve ends by too much pressure, so it is the rider's first obligation to keep soft and natural those parts of his body with which he feels his horse. If his seat meets this requirement, he will soon feel the movement of the horse's legs and will be able to distinguish each individual one; he will thus have the means at his disposal with which to control them as if they were his own."

**Gustav Steinbrecht**

"Ask not what your horse can do for you. Ask what you can do for your horse."

**Chris Irwin**

"Do not demand at the end of the lesson what the horse cannot do easily and happily yet! Always finish the lesson with something the horse is able to do easily and that he will thus perform happily, so that there is cause for praise and display of affection." **Peter Spohr**

"It is not the great trainer who can cause his horse to perform. The great trainer can cause a horse to want to perform." **Monty Roberts**

"It is a teacher's duty to create an environment in which the student can learn."

**Monty Roberts**

"If all learning is zero through ten, then the most important part of learning is zero through one." **Monty Roberts**



"There are many types of bits, for many different disciplines, but the severity of ALL bits, lies in the hand of who's holding them." **Monty Roberts**

"Classical Dressage is correct for the horse, correct for you, and correct for that moment in time. The horse hasn't changed in thousands of years, neither have human beings. We are all ruled by the same physical laws of nature, which is why there is no middle way. Only correct, and incorrect." **Sylvia Loch**

"The horse must be allowed to be a horse and to develop its character. Correct dressage and correct handling develop the horse's character. They become perkier, and more confident in themselves. They stop shying because they feel confident in their world. And their bodies become more beautiful through correct dressage, and they live longer and healthier lives. We take away the horse's freedom, but we give something back. We develop the horse's mind." **Melissa Simms**

"...If I have always worked honestly, my horse will carry me to the end of the world." **E.F. Seidler**

"As always, everything is connected, every single exercise or movement influences all the others, which is the reason why we can improve certain movements by not riding them at all, but by practicing exercises that improve the necessary ingredients of the movement in question." **Thomas Ritter**

"Acceptance of the bit happens in the haunches, not in the mouth." **Thomas Ritter**

"Poll flexion is not Pull Flexion." **Thomas Ritter**



"If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got. If you are not happy with what you are getting, you have to change what you are doing." **Kyra Kyrklund**

"As a result of the appropriate gymnastics and training of the horse, the appearance and the movements of the horse will be more beautiful." **Alois Podhajsky**

"Xenophon was the first one to claim that horses can become only more beautiful with correct training, never uglier. I would like to add to this that if the horse becomes uglier in the course of his work, it is the unmistakable proof for a wrong dressage training." **Alois Podhajsky**



"But there is one principle that should never be abandoned, namely, that the rider must learn to control himself before he can control his horse. This is the basic, most important principle to be preserved in equitation."

**Alois Podhajsky of the Spanish Riding School.**

"To practice equestrian art is to establish a conversation on a higher level with the horse: a dialogue of courtesy and finesse." **Nuno Oliveira**

"Training a horse is above all feeling and trying, according to what you feel, to help the horse and not to force him." **Nuno Oliveira**

"One has to have an immobile hand with mobile fingers." **Nuno Oliveira**

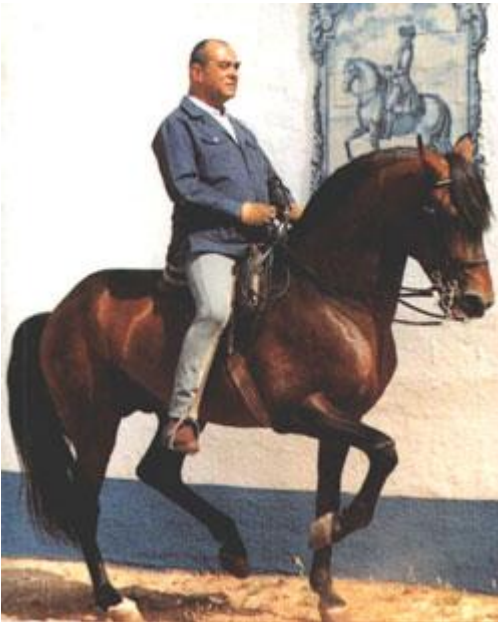
"The hands have to be like concrete when the horse resists and like butter when he yields. " **Nuno Oliveira**

"It is always better to risk losing the contact a little, than not to yield at all." **Nuno Oliveira**

"Mistakes of the legs show up in the mouth." **Nuno Oliveira**

"Use hands and legs sparingly, and maintain balance through the seat." **Nuno Oliveira**

"Breathe deeply and calmly in the canter. Expand your rib cage." **Nuno Oliveira**



"Make it a habit to praise when the horse yields." **Nuno Oliveira**

"The secret in riding is to do few things right. The more one does, the less one succeeds. The less one does, the more one succeeds." **Nuno Oliveira**

"Every time the rider forgets to regulate the cadence, the horse begins to take control." **Nuno Oliveira**

"The horse will become supple when it is cadenced, stiff when it rushes." **Nuno Oliveira**

"It is a mistake to keep the horse on the bit for too long. He must be relaxed at the walk on the long rein regularly and afterwards he must be carefully put back together again." **Nuno Oliveira**

"Only the rider who is free from any contraction will have a horse equally free from contraction. A team such as this is the ideal." **Nuno Oliveira**

"Pat Parelli Proudly Presents his Provocative Programs and the Proclamation that Prior and Proper Preparation Prevents P-Poor Performance, Particularly if Polite and Passive Persistence is Practiced in the Proper Position. This Perspective is Patience from Process to Product, Principle to Purpose. The Promise that Pat Plans to Prove is that Practice does not make Perfect, only Perfect Practice makes Perfect and, it is Peculiar how Prey animals Perceive People as Predators." **Pat Parelli**

"Foundation before specialization." **Pat Parelli**

"Put the relationship with your horse first." **Pat Parelli**



"The more you use your reins, the less they use their brains." **Pat Parelli**

"A horse doesn't care how much you know, until he knows how much you care." **Pat Parelli**



"Use your head, not your spurs." **Pat Parelli**

"Brutality begins where skill ends." **Egon von Neindorff**

"If you want to know how a horse should be ridden, see how he moves by himself when free. How he walks trots and canters... Have a close look and see the beauty, the rhythm and harmony of his movements. Then sit down, close your eyes and try to burn this picture of effortless grace, beauty and harmony deep into your mind, your heart. Never forget it. Because it is the way you should ride your horse."

**Franz Mairinger, former Chief Rider of the Spanish Riding School.**

"As general Buerkner said when he came to England, 'I can't help – Your position is not right.' And if your position is not right, if you can't sit there, if you can't apply the aids properly, then, no matter how much I tell you, or anybody else tells you, it's just useless." **Franz Mairinger**

"Calm, forward, straight" **Alexis L´Hotte**

"Whenever a horse has learned a new movement or a new aid in its basic form, the rider should give him a break and deliberately ride something else for a few days or weeks. When he returns to the movement, he will notice how much more easily the training will proceed." **Reiner Klimke**

"Contrary to popular belief, horses do not get bored with basic work. If the rider demands exact responses, paying close attention to detail and quality, neither horse nor rider will have time to get bored, rather, a true sense of accomplishment will be gained." **Erik F. Herbermann**

"Any artificial placement of the horse's head must be strictly avoided." **Erik F. Herbermann**

"When training the horse - do little and frequently." **Erik F. Herbermann**

"The trust between human and horse is based on the same behavioral rules that regulate social life within the herd: Those who have obtained a higher rank in the herd assume at the same time the responsibility for the weaker members." **Kurt Albrecht**

"Reins and legs can never compensate for an incorrect placement of the rider's weight!" **Kurt Albrecht**

"There are only two emotions that belong in the saddle; one is a sense of humor, and the other in patience." **John Lyons**

"Every time you ride, you are either training, or untraining your horse."  
**Gordan Wright**

"Son, with anything there is to do with horses, there are about a hundred different ways to get it done. Maybe 70 or 75 of those ways will work....but maybe only 10, or 15, of those ways are a good deal for the horse. My point is...not everything that's effective is a good deal for the horse. Not everything suits every horse. There is more than one right way. There are some things that you won't understand or agree with. That doesn't make them bad. There are some things you may think are the best way right now. Later, you'll come to see that maybe they weren't nearly as good as you thought. Keep learning, keep trying. It will come. **Ronnie Willis**

"Hand without legs, Legs without hand." **François Baucher**



"The rider should reduce his actions to the minimum and give the horse freedom in his movements." **Etienne Beudant**

"Brutality begins where knowledge ends. Ignorance and compulsion appear simultaneously." **Charles de Kunffy**

"The goal is not to raise the neck, it is to lower the hips ." **Albert Decarpentry**

"The opinion of those who give no importance to theory in the art of horsemanship will by no means prevent me from maintaining it to be one of the things most necessary for the attainment of perfection. Without theory, practical application always remains uncertain." **François Robichon de La Guérinière**

"The shoulder-in prepares a horse to be put on its haunches, because with each step taken in this posture it carries the inside hind leg forwards under the belly and brings it over to the outside hind leg, which it can do only by lowering the haunch: it is thus always on one haunch in one direction, and on the other haunch in the other direction, and learns in consequence to bend its hocks under itself; this is what is called being on the haunches." **François Robichon de La Guérinière**



François Robichon de La Guérinière

"Collection is not compression: it is the balance where everything is easy for the horse to do." **Dominique Barbier**

"Riding this way is like playing a finely tuned instrument, at times delicate, at other times powerful... The true artist can play with equal dexterity a soft ballad or a crashing march." **Sally Swift**

"Increased body awareness gives you a greater awareness of your inner self as well as your surroundings. Changing your habits will cultivate an ability to make clearer choices: A balanced body permits a balanced state of mind." **Sally Swift**



"Remember, the conversation between you and your horse must never be dull or inert. It should be, "Ask, receive, give. Ask, receive, give." Ask with your body and legs; receive through your body into your hands; give primarily with the hands, but also with your body and legs, so that you can ask all over again, receive again and give again. The give is your thanks. If you don't give, you must ask harder the next time, and even harder after that, until you end up with a dead or resistant horse." **Sally Swift**

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"You know it's impossible to achieve great riding success with a horse that's stiff, crooked, weak, and unbalanced, but have you ever stopped to think that a horse has just as difficult a time achieving great success with a rider who's stiff, crooked, weak, and unbalanced?" **Daniel Stewart**

“Take a breather: Your normal respiration rate is about 12 breaths every minute. This means you´re going to breathe about 17.000 times today. If you ride or exercise for an hour or more, you might breathe as much as 20.000 to 25.000 times! Obviously, if you´re going to do something this many times, you might as well make sure you´re doing it right.” **Daniel Stewart**