

Meet the Mangalarga Marchador

The Mangalarga Marchador originated in Brazil in the early 19th Century, but its roots lie in the turbulence of the Napoleonic Wars.

In 1807 Napoleon invaded the Iberian Peninsula and installed his brother as King of Spain. His forces also invaded Portugal (a long time ally of Great Britain), forcing the King, D. Joao VI, and the Royal Family to flee to Brazil, then a Portuguese colony. When they left Portugal, they took with them the best horses from the Royal Alter stud, which had an international reputation as a breeder of fine horses of Andalusian blood.

*In 1812 Prince Pedro I presented a young stallion named **Sublime** to his friend, Gabriel Francisco Junqueira, Baron of Aldenas and owner of the Hacienda Campo Alegre near Belo Horizonte, in Minas Gerais, Brazil. **Sublime** was bred to native mares of Spanish Jennet and Barb blood, many of which were fast amblers. The offspring of these breedings were called "**Sublime Horses**". Later, the Hacienda Mangalarga acquired stock from Campo Alegre and interest in the horse grew among local ranchers. They quickly saw the advantages of the smooth, cadenced, and rhythmic gait, the "**Marcha**", and the horses were soon known as "**Mangalarga Marchadors**".*

*A detailed breed standard sets the rules for the **Mangalarga Marchador**. The modern **Mangalarga Marchador** horse is considered a medium built horse that stands strong and well muscled, between 14.2 and 16.2 hands and weighs between 850 and 1,100 pounds. Its coat is fine and silky with a full mane and tail. The dominant color is gray ranging from almost black to pure white. Other common colors, such as bay, chestnut, and less common, palomino, buckskin and spotted, can be easily found along with an exotic burgundy that is peculiar to the breed. The breed is well known for its keen intelligence, docile nature, tremendous stamina, and impressive presence, but most of all for their incredibly smooth and fluid ride even at high speeds.*

To date there are less than 200 Marchador horses registered in the U.S. The U.S. Mangalarga Marchador Horse Association, USMMA, is recognized by the ABCCMM as the registry in the United States. The web site can be reached at www.usmarchador.com.

We feel that the Marchador horse has a bright future in North America, based upon its sound mind, excellent conformation, and versatility. If you are just beginning to ride, their easy-going nature and smoother gaits inspire confidence and make you look good. If you are an experienced rider, their endurance, soundness and enthusiasm to learn, means virtually any riding discipline can be pursued.

Regardless of your desires, the Marchadors beauty and people-loving personality will win your heart. Contact us for an experience of a lifetime. Who could ask for more?