

VVM Mark My Words Inducted Into Morgan Medallion Hall Of Fame

Editor's Note: The following speech was read by announcer Mark Farrar Thursday, July 30, 2015 at the Morgan Medallion Region 7 Championship Horse Show.

It is with great pride we present this year's Morgan Medallion Hall Of Fame Inductee ... VVM Mark My Words. "Marco" is a 15-year-old bay gelding sired by Simply Maserati and out of the great producing mare VVM Lalique. Foaled at Vegas Valley Farms in Las Vegas, NV, this horse has only had two owners his entire life. The Galatz family bred and raised him and then his second family was the Tatar family.

He was purchased for their daughter Lila to begin what promised to be a fabulous horse journey with her trusty companion Marco. What started out as "cuter" and "cutest" (you decide which was which) when Lila was 11 and Marco was seven grew into a remarkable and successful combination.

As the years passed, Lila and Marco grew into a beautiful, strong, competitive junior exhibitor team in the classic pleasure division; from walk and trot locally to world champion titles at the Grand National.

"He taught me how to ride, how to compete and how to be a good sport," said Lila. "He's my best friend most days but as my trainer says, 'He can be a little brat'. That's where the sportsmanship and sense of humor had to develop. I loved him unconditionally even if he decided mid-class we would do things his way. My trainer wasn't always so understanding with his quirks. But she loves him too. Just to know him is to love him and 90 percent of the time he is a perfect gentleman. That other 10 percent is what has always kept him interesting. Never mean, ever, but just rather willful. Or as Anne [Judd] says 'stubborn as a mule'."

We, the Tatar family and our trainer Anne Judd are overwhelmed with the selection of VVM Mark My Words to the Morgan Medallion's Hall Of Fame. The list of past inductees is amazing and we are so honored to be included with this wonderful little horse.

Although the beautiful picture of Lila in her pastel pink coat and her little Classic Morgan has graced the west coast ring for quite a few years, and they were always respected and received with great enthusiasm by the horse show community, we had to give deep thought why this committee selected our horse. After researching the criteria for this award we were suddenly aware of why Marco had been selected.

Mark My Words is the type of horse every owner should be lucky enough to start their horse journey with. Marco has patiently brought the Tatar family into the Morgan show world "with style and grace".

From starting in almost an "up and down" pony role Marco and Lila soon became familiar show ring winners on the west coast. In 2013, Marco and Lila realized their dream with a reserve world championship win in the classic division at Oklahoma. They showed one more season with wins regionally and then Marco said it was time to retire and have some different fun. He has been retired from show ring duty since last October but was really honored to be selected as a hall of famer.

There is one other talent most of you are not aware of that Mark My Words has. He has done much more than most of you know. Lila, Marco and Anne decided it was time for the Morgan Community to see Marco's other talent. They hope you realize after seeing and hearing about his presentation tonight he is truly the "real deal". The versatile Morgan at its best.

In October 2013 on a Tuesday, VVM Mark My Words returned to Scripps Miramar Ranch in Miramar, Calif. where the Lawson Creek Farm operation was currently located. The horses and help were tired after a long two weeks competing at the Grand National World Championship Horse Show in Oklahoma. Marco had one of his highest honors this particular year and the Lila/Marco team were still on a high from their win. It was at that time that farm owner Michele Macfarlane approached Lila and Anne with an amazing proposition. She asked if this team would take part the following Saturday in a major event she was hosting at the farm. She was hosting a Breyerfest Reception for approximately 500 visitors on a tour called the "Passages To The Pacific".



Lila Tatar presented VVM Mark My Words in his war horse of the Nez Perce Indians tack for his retirement ceremony at the Morgan Medallion Regional Horse Show.

In a fabulous parade on her farm for the large crowd of horsey spectators, Marco and Lila appeared one week after they trotted a victory pass at Oklahoma. He was the darling of the crowd, receiving much attention and graciously receiving many pats.

Proudly sporting his other look, VVM Mark My Words is prepared as a war horse for the famous Nez Perce Indians, ridden by his Native American princess. His authentic trappings and Lila's outfit are hand beaded and include eagle feathers and rabbit furs. The horse paintings are all meaningful; each with a different meaning to be directed to his enemies.

It is an honor for Marco to not only be registered as an American Morgan Horse but also in the Modern Indian Horse Registry for his efforts in his presentation at Scripps Miramar Ranch.

He and Lila want to thank and recognize Marco's breeder and former owner Elaine Galatz and former trainer Harold Angell at ringside as well as his current mom Lillian Tatar, as the pair take one final spin down a very familiar path, victory lane at the Morgan Medallion Regional Show.