

A Certain Vino

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Over the years, there have been horses that have been standouts in the show arena. They collect Congress bronze trophies and World Championship titles and excel in event after event with rider after rider.

But few horses epitomize the National Snaffle Bit Association's model performance horse quite like A Certain Vino.

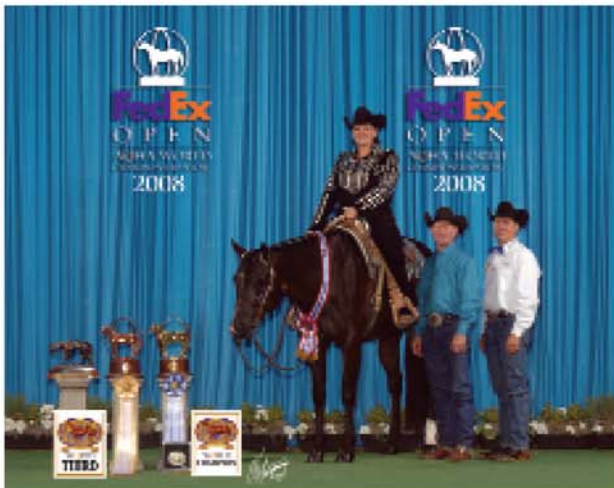
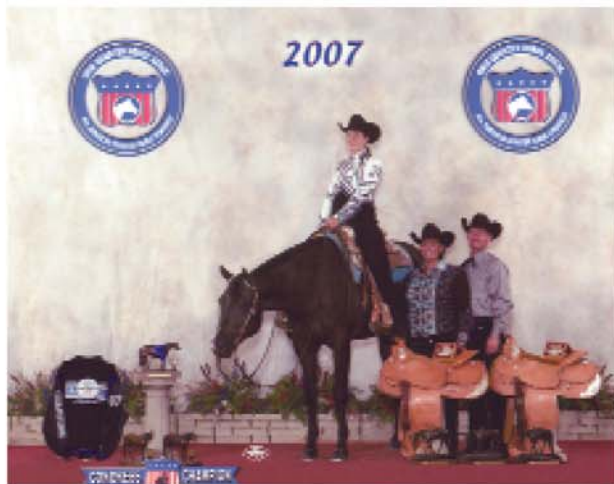
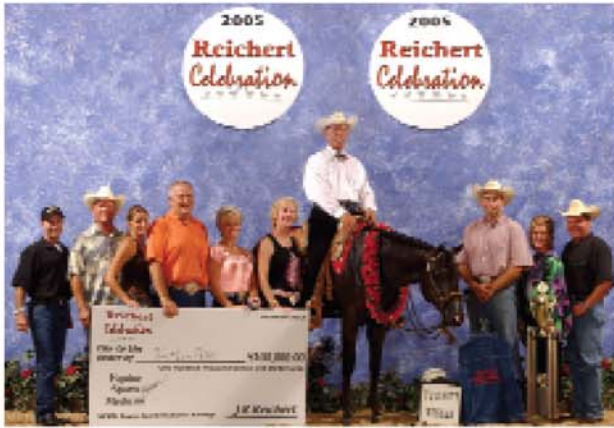
Bred and raised by Tim & Lou Petty of Ocala, Florida, it's almost as if the 2003 gelding by Certain Potential and out of Dotevita by Zippo Jack Bar was carefully crafted to be a show horse. A Certain Vino was destined for greatness and that was evident from the start. In 2004 at the Tom Powers Triple Challenge Futurity the sleek, black colt loped circles around his competition, winning the Open Western Longe Line. By the end of the year, A Certain Vino had captured the NSBA High-Point Non-Pro Longe Line title and a Reserve in the Open.

He thrilled the crowd at the Reichert Celebration the following year, when as a maiden 2-year-old contender, he collected a check for \$100,000 by winning the Equine Sports Medicine Challenge. In October he won his first Congress Championship in the 2-year-old Non-Pro Western Pleasure, with Lou Petty aboard. Then, he finished out the year with an AQHA Reserve World Championship in the 2-Year-Old Western Pleasure.

EACH YEAR, SINCE 1998, THE NATIONAL SNAFFLE BIT ASSOCIATION HAS SELECTED ONE HORSE TO HONOR AS ITS HORSE OF THE YEAR. THIS YEAR'S SELECTION IS A CERTAIN VINO.

PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE: 1998, LOTTO FLASH; 1999, DONT GAMBLE; 2000, ZIPPOS COWGIRL; 2001, RADICAL RUMORS; 2002, SKY BLUE SUMMER; 2003, VESTED FAITH; 2004, POTENTIAL DIVA; 2005 HOT LOPIN LOUISE; 2006, MAJESTIC SCOTCH; 2007, VITAL SIGNS ARE GOOD

BY COURTNEY L. BORTON • PHOTO BY KC MONTGOMERY



When Lee Reeve and his daughter, Darcy, congratulated the Pettys on their Reserve World Championship at the AQHA World Show that year they asked if Vino might be for sale. The Pettys said they had just decided to sell him and the Reeves acted quickly.

A Certain Vino was placed with Ty and Karen Hornick of Ohio to show in open events and prepare for Darcy for youth and non-pro classes. The success started quickly when just a year later Karen Hornick and A Certain Vino won the Limited Division of the Open 3-Year-Old Western Pleasure at the Congress. In fact, A Certain Vino has won a Congress Championship every year since. In 2006 Darcy had her turn in the 15-18 Youth Western Pleasure and in the Open Division of the Non-Pro Western Pleasure Maturity when she and Vino collected bronze trophies of their own. Karen Hornick and A Certain Vino won the Open Division of the Western Pleasure Maturity at the Congress that year as well and then capped off the year with an AQHA World Champion title in Junior Western Pleasure.

He spent the next part of his life learning Western Riding from Charlie Cole at Highpoint Performance Horses.

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But as much as A Certain Vino had accomplished up until then, it seemed winning was ALL he could do in 2008.

He won open and youth classes at such competitive shows across the country as the Florida Gulf Coast Circuit and the Redbud Spectacular.

He won open futurity classes with Karen and non-pro classes with Darcy at the Tom Powers Futurity and at the Southern Belle Invitation.

In August Darcy and A Certain Vino won the Western Pleasure at the AQHYA World Championship Show.

Later that month, after winning open and non-pro classes at the Reichert Celebration, A Certain Vino won NSBA World Championship titles in Maturity Open Western Pleasure, Junior Western Pleasure, Youth Western Pleasure and Non-Pro Western Pleasure Maturity. He also earned a Reserve World Championship title in Western Riding.

At the 2008 Congress Darcy and Vino won the 15-18 Youth Western Pleasure and the Limited Division of the Non-Pro Western Pleasure Maturity. Karen and Vino won the Junior Western Pleasure and finished as Reserve Champions in the Open Division of the Western Pleasure Maturity.

A most spectacular year was capped off with a Championship title in Junior Western Pleasure at the AQHA World Show in November.

"Vino is such a fun horse to show. He always gives his best and is willing to do what ever it is you ask of him. When showing Vino you can ask anything from him, and he will do so willingly and perfect!" said Darcy Reeve.

As for the future, Darcy says she will continue showing Vino in Western Pleasure and Western Riding events this year. Karen Hornick will show Vino in the Western Pleasure at the AQHA World Show in November and Charlie Cole will show him in Western Riding.

A Certain Vino will undoubtedly go down in the history books as one of the greatest western pleasure horses of all time so it was no surprise to his owner that he was named this year's Horse of the Year.

"When I found out about Vino winning the horse of the year I was really happy. I knew he had a great year and this was just something to add to the list of his accomplishments for the year," said Darcy Reeve.

