

On Italians training, hunting and trialing abroad

Italy won the European Cup for British Pointing Breeds (Grande Quete), the European Championship for English Setters and the European Championship for English Pointers (other results are still pending at the moment). Everybody is happy, but many rumours started and the social media went crazy. I read every sort of rumors, polemics, attacks and accuses, which I do not want to spread further, but two topics deserve a deeper analysis, especially the second one. People complain about dogs whose nationality changes to make them able to enter the competition. Right? Wrong? I think this is a grey area. Italy has a huge number of dogs whose natural qualities make them suitable to these high level competitions. There are dozens, or more likely hundreds, of Italian English Setters and English Pointers that, potentially, could do very well. No other country can claim the same but... Some dogs have been seen and campaigned more than others because there are big fishes and small fishes. If you are a sardine, forced to swim among tuna, you will soon realize you cannot afford the trendiest trainer, nor the amazingly expensive travels all over Europe to stay on the top the circuit. Your dog will not have the same opportunities of a "richer" dog, you are perfectly aware he is unlikely to be asked to represent Italy. Maybe it is a good dog but, to compete at certain levels, being good is only part of the package.

So, let's imagine you gave up any hope to compete in the European Cup but, let's say, Transilvania proposes you a place in its team, would you accept? And if you, Mr. Sardine, accept, are we entitled to persecute you? I don't think so and, let's be honest, what would any of us do, if offered such an opportunity? What would I do? I do not know, but I might say yes to a country I feel connected to (I am not very

patriotic, I know...), whereas I would probably decline the offer if it were coming from a country I don't know anything about, nor I speak the language. This said, I do not think I have any rights to be judgmental about other people choices.

The second, more important, topic I am going to discuss still relates to foreign countries, but in another way. When I published the article on [training problems in Italy](#) and on the [scarcity of game at Italian trials](#), someone suggested me writing something on Italians going abroad for hunting, training and trialing. Well, the truth is that, as far as small game, Italy is in a bad place. These animals are poorly, if ever, managed, and if you want to hunt or train your dog, going abroad can be a good choice. Can you train a dog in Italy? Of course you can, but it is going to be way harder, and your risk to pay in fines the same amount you will spend for a nice training holiday abroad. There is nothing wrong in going abroad to offer a dog more opportunity. If you have the time and you can afford it, why not? Serbia, nowadays is very popular, but before Serbia, Italian hunters and trainers had colonized other countries. I am not concerned about going abroad, I am perplexed about being dependent on "abroad".

Many important Italian field trias (with CAC valid for the Italian Championship) are now run in Serbia. If you ask why, you hear different answers and some, the most convincing ones, pertains grounds, game and laws/local realities. Let's start from grounds. Giacomo Lugari (an Italian famous hunter and video maker) , answering a post on Facebook remembered the European Cup run in 1999 in Tollara, Piedmont, Northern Italy. So the grounds... we have some suitable ones! I think so, but what about the game? The answer, this time , sadly is a no. I have never been to Serbia, but many, many Italians routinely go there and come back with happy tales about grey partridge. You cannot imagine how many partridges are there! You cannot believe! This is what they tell me and, yes I can believe them. I know what happens with grouse in the UK and I know

that good wildlife management can produce tremendous results. Proper wildlife management is demanding, time consuming, costly and forces farmers, hunters, wildlife experts, gamekeepers and politicians to work together. Something must be sacrificed and people must learn to negotiate good meeting points, this is difficult but not impossible.



Someone justify Italy stating that Serbian agricultural techniques are 50 years older than ours and that this is a good thing for greys. Probably but... If we truly are 50 years ahead, we should be able to use our more advanced knowledge to recreate an habitat that might suit greys. I refuse to believe this cannot be done: do you remember Renaissance? Italy gave birth to Leonardo da Vinci and other geniuses and now, their descendents, cannot successfully manage four birds?

And what about the money? In Serbia up to 500 dogs run in a day. Each entry costs 30 euros, multiply them for 500 and subtract something for "expenses". Accessing training grounds costs about 100 euros a day (regardless of the number of dogs you have with you), so remember about these money as well. I am a terrible accountant, but I came to the conclusion that Serbian grey partridge are producing quite an income. The Serbians have been smart in recognizing this and I think that grey partridge are improving the lives of those living there. There are the training grounds money, the field trials entries, people staying in hotels, people dining in restaurants... The Serbians are doing the right thing, and the Italians? What shall we do, besides thanking them for the

opportunities they provide us? I think that maybe we shall get inspired and consider the grey partridge an excellent business partner: some more determined people would resuscitate dinosaurs for similar amounts of money!

The laws, adds someone else, we have more bureaucracy and more rules than Serbia. We have animal right activist and an outdated law on wildlife management and hunting. This law must be changed , says someone else, but in Italy is hard to be proactive, each time you try, obstacles get thrown in the way. This is true, but is this enough to give up the hope in a better countryside, for better fieldsports? I truly don't know.

English Setters European Championship 2016 (Gibier Tiré)

This year the Pointer & Setter Club Schweiz was in charge to organize this important event. Due to the complex Swiss shooting (and dog training) laws, the trial was set up in Northern Italy, only two hours away from the Swiss borders. More specifically, we were hosted by Dr. Machiavelli private shooting estate in Cantalupo Ligure (AL), a place which is both easy to reach and suitable for this kind of trial. Simone Meili, of the Setter & Pointer Club Schweiz, proved to be the human incarnation of the famous Swiss efficiency and precision. The trial brochure was very accurate and she set up a very convenient meeting place: it was extremely easy to find the venue, it had an ample parking lot, a small bar and a toilet, wi-fi connection and light sockets for computers! As

you can imagine, everything else during the trial ran smoothly.



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onship on the 2nd day (Oct 10), as the previous part of the event had been covered by my colleague Erica Recchia. The atmosphere was very international: there were several teams coming from different parts of Europe. Judges as well had different nationalities and backgrounds. I was told to follow Stake 2, judged by D.Sormaz (Serbia – President), F. Gerzinic (Croatia – right side) and D.Gouzounas (Greece- left side), there were 12 braces in this stake. The stake was going to be run on Chiminiera and we had Roberto Locatelli as beat steward (and gun!) and Dejan Gavrilovic as a second gun. We had rain almost until the first brace was to be casted off, it was an unusually chilly morning for October, with a moderate/fresh breeze which kept changing its direction, making partridges swift to fly and scents tricky to be grasped by the dogs. The grounds were really nice and heterogeneous: dogs could run wide but had to make an intelligent use of the ground. Cantalupo estate is scattered on the hills and its crops and

vegetation can dramatically change from place to place During a run, a dog might face grass, briars, small woods, bushes, tall and wiry grass, rocks: dogs had to be smart and adapt themselves, exactly as it would happen during a real rough shooting day. Almost all the dogs had a chance to meet or scent game: there were pheasants and grey partridges coveys. We also bumped into a hare and in a couple of roe deers followed by the respective English Setters. I spotted six wild boars in a distance, while judge Gerzinic said he saw some wolves the night before: I was not surprised as Cantalupo means "singing wolf".

Slideshow below

The first brace was composed by Ciak del Zagnis handled by Nicolic (Serbia) and by Pianigiani's Ford handled by Stefano Pianigiani (Italy). During his run Ciak pointed, produced and retrieved a pheasant, his action lead him to obtain a 1st Exc CAC/CACIT and to become Vice European Champion 2016. In the second brace, with Ami Cicco du Turbillon Blanc handled by Simone Meilli (Switzerland) and Dac de Playabarry handled by J.L.Diaz we witnessed Dac earning an Exc. To see another action worth grading, we had to wait until brace 5 when Bruss, handled by Patrizzi (Italy), had a nice point and obtained a 2nd Exc. Other dogs graded were Pirlo od Gastona, handled by Zekanovic (Croatia), and Marzale's Hogan, handled by Elvis Trajkov (Macedonia). During the 12th and last brace, Rex del Faenor handled by Sanz (Spain) had a good run and performed two excellent actions, one of which included a very long roading to produce the pheasant, he was graded 3rd Exc.

At the end of this run, we were joined by the competitors and the judges of Stake 1: Sergio Bianconi (Italy – President), W.Jost (Austria) and N.Kassianidis (Cipro) to decide through a "barrage" which dog, after two trials in two days, was going to obtain the title of European Champion 2016. The judges selected for this task were D.Gouzounas (Greece – President), F. Gerzinic (Croatia) and N.Kassianidis (Cipro) who, after a

quick run, announced Atos, handled by Mirko Caramanti (Italy), to be the winner.

[Click here to see the event photogallery as a slideshow](#)

[Click here to see the event photogallery as an album](#)

Results are as follows:

European Champion 2016 GT – Athos handled by Mirko Caramanti (Italy)

Vice European Champion 2016 GT – Ciak del Zagnis owned and handled by Nikolic (Serbia)

European Champion 2016 GT Females – Lavezzi del Zagnis owned by Scandella and handled by Giuseppe Pezzotta (Switzerland)

Setter und Pointer Club Schweiz Championnat d Europe GT Cantalupo 2016			
10. octobre 2016	Batterie: 1		
Terrain: Vigo Ponso	Guide: Fabio		
Juges: S. Bianconi (P) W. Jost N. Kassianidis			
Couple	Nom du chien	Sex Conducteur	Resultat
1	Erode della Bassa Reggina	m V. Antimo	2. MB
	Daar del Zagnis	m F. Rosselli	
2	Balboa Zagni del Duda	m G. Pezzotta	
	Morinensis Casper	m M. Mori	
3	Cheyenne	m G. Ferrari	1. MB
	Dendaberri Neron	m F. Gomez	
4	Amor od Pastorcic	m L. Pastorcic	
	Dalerik Aramis	m D. Cominotti	
5	Max del Zagnis	m F. Rosselli	
	Casper de Ademar	m F. Gomez	
6	Lavezzi del Zagnis	f G. Pezzotta	
	Hard Ambrofelis	m M. Iazzetta	
7	One Dream Kosmas Casper	m K. Panagiottis	
	Malcottinensis Rock	m D. Cominotti	
8	Percha de Bosende	f F. Gomez	
	Bajron moreno del Zagnis	m G. Pezzotta	
9	Ciro Sirtouf	m K. Panagiottis	
	Atos	m M. Caramanti	
10	Lem (detto Rochy)	m A. Mariani	
	Adrenalina del Zagnis	f G. Pezzotta	
11	Atom del Sassovivo	m L. Pastorcic	
	Carpin de Ademar	m F. Gomez	
12	Alex	m K. Panagiottis	
	Dalerik Big	m D. Cominotti	

Setter und Pointer Club Schweiz Championnat d Europe GT Cantalupo 2016			
10. octobre 2016	Batterie: 2		
Terrain: Chiminiera	Guide: Locatelli		
Juges: D. Sormaz (P) F. Gerzanic D. Gouzounas			
Couple	Nom du chien	Sex Conducteur	Resultat
1	Ciak del Zagnis	m Z. Nikolic	1. Ecc CAC/CACIT
	Pianigiani's Ford	m St. Pianigiani	
2	Ami Cicco du Tourbillon blanc	m S. Meili	Ecc
	Dac de Playbarri	m J.L. Diaz	
3	Marzale's History D'O	m E. Trajkov	
	Akron del Tremelano	m Z. Nikolic	
4	Cyrano du Tourbillon blanc	m S. Meili	
	Rajna od Karaotoka	f J. Zekanovic	
5	Ali del Tamerlano	m Z. Nikolic	
	Bruss	m P. Patrizzi	2. Ecc
6	Diazarranza Hugo	m J.L. Diaz	
	Diana	f E. Trajkov	
7	Brandan del Zagnis	m Z. Nikolic	
	Pianigiani's Lori	f St. Pianigiani	
8	Pirio od Gastona	m J. Zekanovic	MB
	Marzale's Hogan	m E. Trajkov	MB
9	Braco du Tourbillon blanc	m F. Feurté	
	Apasch del Zagnis	f Z. Nikolic	
10	Fren	m E. Trajkov	
	Piqe od Gastona	m J. Zekanovic	
11	Torres del Zagnis	m Z. Nikolic	
	Pianigiani's Jilgen	m St. Pianigiani	
12	Arno	m J. Zekanovic	
	Rex del Faenor	m J. L. Sanz	3. Ecc

Results Day 2

Setter und Pointer Club Schweiz
Championnat d Europe GT Cantalupo 2016

9, octobre 2016

Batterie: 1

Terrain Chiminiera

Guide: Locatelli

Juges: D. Sormaz (P)
F. Gerzic
D. Gouzounas

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Couple No	Nom du chien	Sex	Conducteur	Resultat
1	Atom del Sassovivo Ciro Sirtouf	m	L. Pastorci K. Panagiottis	
2	Carpin de Ademar Lem (detto Rochy)	m	F. Gomez A. Mariani	Ecc
3	Alex Adrenalina del Zagnis	m	K. Panagiottis G. Pezzotta	
4	Hard Ambrofellis Dalerik Big	m	M. Iazzetta D. Cominotti	Ecc
5	Atos Bajron moreno del Zagnis	m	M. Caramanti G. Pezzotta	1. Ecc CAC/CACIT Ecc
6	One Dream Kosmas Casper Morinensis Casper	m	K. Panagiottis M. Mori	
7	Max del Zagnis Percha de Bosende	m	F. Rosselli F. Gomez	
8	Malcottinensis Rock Lavezzi del Zagnis	m	D. Cominotti G. Pezzotta	2. Ecc RCAC/RCACIT
9	Amor od Pastorci Casper de Ademar	m	L. Pastorci F. Gomez	Ecc
10	Dalerik Aramis Balboa Zagni del Duda	m	D. Cominotti G. Pezzotta	3. Ecc
11	Erode della Bassa Reggina Cheyenne	m	V. Antimo G. Ferrari	
12	Dendaberi Neron Daar del Zagnis	m	F. Gomez F. Rosselli	

Setter und Pointer Club Schweiz
Championnat d Europe GT Cantalupo 2016

9, octobre 2016

Batterie: 2

Terrain Vigo Ponzo

Guide: Fabio

Juges: S. Bianconi (P)
W. Jost
N. Kassianidis

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Couple	No Chien	Nom du chien	Sex	Conducteur
1	Arno Masche del Zagnis	m	J. Zekanovic Z. Nikolic	
2	Rex del Faenor Fren	m	J. L. Sanz E. Trajkov	
3	Pianigiani's Jilgen Apasch del Zagnis	m	St. Pianigiani Z. Nikolic	
4	Pique od Gastona Braco du Tourbillon blanc	m	J. Zekanovic F. Feurté	
5	Marzale's Hogan Brandan del Zagnis	m	E. Trajkov Z. Nikolic	
6	Pirlo od Gastona Pianigiani's Lori	m	J. Zekanovic St. Pianigiani	
7	Diazarranza Hugo Ali del Tamerlano	m	J.L. Diaz Z. Nikolic	
8	Diana Cyranu du Tourbillon blanc	f	E. Trajkov S. Meili	2. MB
9	Rajna od Karaotoka Ciak del Zagnis	f	J. Zekanovic Z. Nikolic	
10	Marzale's History D'O Ami Cicco du Tourbillon blanc	m	E. Trajkov S. Meili	1. Ecc
11	Bruss Akron del Tremelano	m	P. Patrizzi Z. Nikolic	
12	Pianigiani's Ford Dac de Playabarri	m	St. Pianigiani J.L. Diaz	

Results Day 1