

# Simone Detemple

by Stacey Stearns



## Dreamfield Farm

Simone Detemple has a vision for her training program — a recognized dressage facility, competing at the top levels. Her talent, enthusiasm, and a diligent work ethic have built a foundation for her vision and created outstanding opportunities for her horses and riders.

### The Early Years

Simone grew up in a horse family in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Her mother, Nydia Detemple, is a well-known dressage rider in Brazil and runs her own training facility. Simone's father, Michael Detemple, is an FEI show-jumping judge.

Simone learned to ride when she was four years old and soon decided to pursue horseback riding as a competitive sport. With her father, she trained and competed successfully as a show jumper for two years. Then she began taking dressage lessons with her mother, and now, 20 years later, her passion for dressage is as strong as ever.

### A Special Horse

Simone found her "once-in-a-lifetime" horse when she was just 11 years old. D'Artagnan, an Argentinean Trakhener, was 17 when Simone began riding him, and he taught her many of dressage's finer points while helping advance her career.

Together, Simone and D'Artagnan won seven consecutive Brazilian National Championships at FEI levels. D'Artagnan was 28 years old when he won his last championship, which is in itself quite an achievement. Simone credits the love and care she and her trainer — her mother — gave D'Artagnan to keep him strong; smart nutrition choices and an individualized conditioning program as a lesson horse kept him fit and healthy. One week before a show, Simone would ride D'Artagnan to tune him up. When Simone finished showing D'Artagnan, several of her students competed with him and won many medals.

His official retirement came when he was 32, but dressage was still in his heart. When the truck arrived at the farm to take horses to a show, D'Artagnan would

be out in his paddock doing half passes and flying changes.

Simone sums up D'Artagnan's influence on her: "He taught me that all



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horses have a story to tell, and if you listen to them, they'll give you their all. He was my teacher. He taught me not only through the levels but also how important it is to give all horses, of all breeds, all backgrounds and all ages, the chance to shine. That had an enormous impact on who I am as a trainer."

Her extensive and highly successful competitive background includes numerous horses she trained herself and too many championships to list. Over the years she represented Brazil in international competitions held in that country and in Argentina and Uruguay. In 1996 she began training horses and teaching students at every level. She judged local shows through fourth level in 2002 and 2003; one of her students won Brazilian Junior Reserve Champion in 2003.

The international competitions triggered her desire to see "what was out there," she says. "I moved to the United

States in 2003 with the desire to expand my career and learn new things."

### Here and Now

Simone became a Massachusetts licensed instructor when she moved to the United States. Since her arrival, Simone has steadily built her training clientele. She found the perfect location at Dreamfield Farm, in North Marshfield, owned by her business partner, Deborah Hennessey. "The vision of Dreamfield," says Deborah, "is to create a place where people can enjoy their horses and learning."

Simone manages Dreamfield Farm and is one of three resident trainers (Paula Jewell is also a dressage trainer and Stephanie Landrigan trains hunter/jumpers). Simone's mission as a trainer is to offer quality services that involve the practical and theoretical learning of classical riding. As in her relationship with D'Artagnan, Simone is passionate about ensuring that horses under her supervision receive the best care.

She uses primarily the German system, which she studied extensively in Brazil. She firmly believes that every horse will thrive in an individual training program, and develops hers based on a horse's needs and characteristics. Her programs include theory and practice for her riders as well.

Exemplifying the results of Simone's training system is Deborah's gelding, Flairely Apparent (aka Tazz). Tazz, a registered Morgan gelding, was trained originally as a saddle-seat horse. "I bought Tazz five years ago," says Deborah, "and he was too much horse for me. I was on the brink of selling him and was introduced to Simone. After talking with her, I agreed to keep him with her for thirty days." After three years of training, Simone and Tazz competed successfully at first level, including a first-level freestyle. In his debut test at second level, Tazz took second place with a score of 60 percent.

Simone focuses on improving a rider's confidence, balance, and position through ground exercises and longeing,

and her students say they can feel the difference as they become a more solid team with their horse. Erin Nagle says she enjoys riding with Simone: "She shows you exactly what you need to do and how to do it. I see immediate results. She has shown me how even the most subtle changes can make you and the horse more comfortable and in sync."

Simone brings in clinicians to work with both her riders and herself. In October the farm hosted the Riding from Within clinic with James Shaw, and Simone is developing a clinic series with James and other clinicians.

Another of Simone's passions is working with young people. She realizes how much riding and competing molded her character, and values the international events in which she participated. "It makes me happy to see them growing and becoming responsible individuals," she says. "Their experiences around horses are carried on for their whole lives."

Collaborating with her mother's Brazilian facility, Camboata, Dreamfield Farm this year initiated its International Exchange Program. In July, two Brazilian riders traveled to Dreamfield and competed at the Lendon Gray Youth Dressage Festival in Saugerties, New York, as part of the Dreamfield team. It was the first time Simone took a team to the festival, and the experience was successful on every level. One of the Brazilian riders spoke some English and the other spoke only Portuguese, but the girls soon overcame the language barrier and became a cohesive unit.

At the event, Simone says, "I was approached by parents and relatives raving about the opportunity and experience their kids were having."

Simone's student Erin had wanted to be part of the team for the festival and needed a horse to ride. When Deborah offered her Tazz, Erin jumped at the opportunity. Under Simone's direction, Erin worked hard to achieve her goals. At her very first dressage show, in May, she rode Tazz in Training Level Test 4 and placed second, with a score of 60 percent, and qualified for the Lendon Gray Youth Festival. Simone kept working with Erin and Tazz and at the festival they were reserve champion overall on Training Level Test 4, and Erin won her Equitation test on Tazz.

Erin will be spending two weeks training and competing in Brazil this February.

Many Brazilian riders are interested in this program, and Brazil is developing


an event similar to the Lendon Gray Youth Festival, during which riders will qualify for the exchange program. In the future, two American riders and a coach will travel to Brazil for this youth dressage festival, and riders from Uruguay are also interested in participating.

Simone became involved with the Children of the Americas Dressage Invitational (CADI) this year, serving as the international liaison. Brazil is planning to send a team to CADI in 2011 and Simone has several students she hopes will qualify as well.

### The Future

The year 2011 will be a busy one for Simone and Dreamfield Farm. The indoor arena has recently been renovated, complete with Geo-Textile footing, and a new training barn is being added. Pikolina, Simone's Holsteiner mare, is being imported from Brazil in January and Simone is eager to get her into the show ring to compete at Prix St-Georges. Arriving with Pikolina will be a Lusitano gelding, Belchior, who is currently schooling first level with Simone's mother. Simone is excited to begin the journey with Belchior: "He's very talented. I want to train him to Grand Prix."

Over the last ten years, Simone has trained and shown many Friesians, Andalusians, and Lusitanos and particularly loves the Iberian breeds. She has individualized their training with great results and hopes Belchior is the first of many Iberian horses at Dreamfield. One of Simone's goals, she says, is to "continue my business, specializing in a breed I love."

With the assistance of Deborah and the rest of the team at Dreamfield, Simone's vision of a fine dressage facility with horses competing at the top levels is becoming reality. Says Deborah: "The whole thing has taken off, and now we're at Dreamfield, fulfilling our dreams." 



Stacey Stearns is a life-long equine enthusiast from Connecticut who enjoys competitive trail riding with her gelding and learning the ins and outs of dressage with her mare. When not in the horse barn, she enjoys reading and writing about horses.