

Gerd Küst – NZWA Classifier for 2018

Gerd Küst has made several trips over the last decade from his native Germany to New Zealand for various Classification Tours. Gerd has impressed all who meet him with his tremendous knowledge of equestrian sport and warmblood breeding.

We asked Gerd for a brief Bio on his successes recently, and we were overwhelmed with what we learnt about this internationally respected breeder, owner and judge.

Gerd, the third generation of horse breeders in his family, was already breeding in the late 1970s whilst studying to become a lawyer at the University in Münster. At that early stage of his nearest 50-year breeding career, he already bred the Hanoverian stallion Fidelio (by Furioso II) in 1978, which in turn sired the famous stallion "Florestan". Gerd's grandfather delivered more than 60 licensed stallions for Hannover and was President of a regional department of the Hannoverian Breeding Association. Although from solid Hannoverian roots, in 1987 Gerd founded his own Holsteiner breeding line, "Stamm 8888", now with 4 generations of "Elite-Mare" Status and one of the most successful Sporthorse Breeding lines in Germany over the last years. Gerd has to date produced 21 licensed stallions, and 12 of these have been from "Holsteiner Stamm 8888". In 2016 he has been the breeder of the winning Champion Stallion in Oldenburg "Zinedream" by Zinedine x Contender, a brother to the CHIO Aachen Final Winner and licensed Stallion "Quiwi Dream" by Quidam de Revel.



***"Zinedream", Champion Stallion OS International Licensing 2016 and his Breeder Gerd Küst
(Zinedine x Contender x Landadel)***

This small but high performing breeding line, in addition to producing 12 licensed stallions in the last 20 years, has produced Olympic Horses in Show Jumping and Eventing, CHIO Aachen winner, and Young Horse World Championships Finalists and Medallist in Showjumping and

Dressage. Most years there is more than one horse qualified for the German Bundeschampionat from this line. Horses bred by Gerd are successfully competing in Europe, USA, and Australia, winning Dressage and up to Grand Prix and World Cup Qualifiers in Showjumping.

In July 2016 Gerd's young stallion 'Sir Olli OLD' (Sir Donnerhall x Florestan) starred when representing Germany, after 2015 again for a second time, at the FEI World Championships for Young Dressage Horses in Ermelo/NL, scoring an amazing 86,8% for 3rd in the first round, and 87,6% for 3rd in the final.



Bronze Medal World Championship for Young Dressage Horses 2016
"Sir Olli OLD", licensed Stallion Oldenburg, Breeder Gerd Kuest
(Sir Donnerhall x Florestan I x Landadel)

"Greek Air" born 2011 ,Half-brother to "Sir Olli OLD" and three times qualified for the German Bundeschampionat, now ready for PSG.



National Champion Young Horses, Bad Segeberg and 3times Bundeschampionat qualified
"Greek Air", licensed Stallion, Breeder Gerd Kuest, Rider Vivien Kuest
(Gribaldi x Florestan I x Landadel)

Gerd's extensive career in the horse world has included the coaching of riders. He trained and coached his daughter Vivien to win a European Championship in Eventing and has trained the German Student Riders Team to many medals at the Student World Championships.

Gerd has also spent many years from 1976 as a Judge and Classifier. He judges Eventing, Showjumping, Dressage and Young Horse classes, including many times at the German National Championships and the German Bundeschampionat. He is an International 3/4* Eventing Judge and has judged many international Championships and the World Cup. He is an official German breeding judge too and has judged mare and foal shows extensively in Germany and Denmark, including qualifying foal shows for the German Foal Championship.

He spent 13 years in an official capacity for the Schleswig-Holstein State government breeding department, assessing the young Holsteiner mares at the annual Young Mare Test (under saddle and Freejumping). Gerd assessed more than 5000 mares during this time. He also served 12 years still as a member of the Stallion-Licensing Team (classifier) for German Sporthorses (ZfDP) and served on the Licensing Team for the Holsteiner Breeding Association.

Gerd has himself ridden successfully up to advanced levels in Eventing, Showjumping and Dressage, including winning medals at Student Rider Championships and competing at the German Bundeschampionat. Gerd rode in 14 auctions of the Oldenburger Verband in Vechta, as well as auctions for the Westfalian Breeding Association in Münster. All in all 'Herr Küst' has a depth of experience with breeding, riding, coaching, and training, and a level of expertise rarely seen.

NB: The NZ Warmblood Assn would like to recognize that most of the information in this Bio was sourced via Gerd Küst from an article written by the ACE Group.