

VISTA VINTAGE AWARD

A New Award CDA Award Program to Honor Vintage Horses

CDA Year-end Awards recognize members and their horses for excellence and achievement during the show season and are always a special honor. Beginning in 2008, a pioneering new initiative, the **VISTA VINTAGE AWARD**, will take our program one step further and single out the best performances by our special senior horses. These are the equine partners who demonstrate that age is no barrier to competing and earning scores to make any rider proud. One need only look at American rider Courtney King and her 18 year old horse Idocus, who routinely dazzle us with international Grand Prix successes. Of course, many of us competing at the lower levels also ride and show our older horses with pride, and the time has come to acknowledge their achievements.

CDA member and USDF/Dressage Foundation Century Team honoree Ted Plaut has generously created this award with a \$5,000 contribution. The award honors his trusted and much-loved 21 year old Trakenher/Morgan gelding, Vista Geewhiz, who shows us all that dressage is a lifetime sport. Vista was bred by Ted's daughter, Dr. Karen Plaut, and Ted has been riding him for over 11 years. Ted and Vista frequently are seen at CDA's schooling and recognized shows, where they compete against much younger riders and horses, and usually end up with ribbons.

The difference between the Century Team program and this new CDA award is that the Century program requires that the horse's and rider's ages, when combined, must equal or exceed 100 years. The **Vista Vintage Award** is directed exclusively to the older horse, which can be ridden by a rider of any age.

Ted's rationale for creating the award is to remind us that horses today can live happy, productive and athletic lives well into their older years (as can people). Careful training, thoughtful management, and advances in veterinary care extend many horses' competitive careers.

The **VISTA VINTAGE AWARD** program will be accompanied by lectures and other events throughout the year focusing on the special needs and training of older horses. It consists of a \$200 cash prize and elegant special trophy. CDA Awards volunteers will administer the program.

How the **Vista Vintage Award Program** Works:

- Open to all CDA members, but both the rider of the horse and the owner of the horse must be CDA members
- Two awards will be presented. Each will be accompanied by a plaque and a \$200.00 cash prize.

The first award will be for our own **CDA Schooling Shows and/or other Schooling Shows listed in the CDA Omnibus, or the website, or the CDA newsletter, The Centerline**. The horse/rider combination must participate in a minimum of 2 Schooling Shows, 1 of which must be a CDA-sponsored Schooling Show. The Second award is for any Region 8 Recognized show.

- Minimum age for horse is 18. **No** minimum age for rider
- Scores must be submitted in accordance with all other CDA year-end award requirements