



PIERGIORGIO BUCCI TRIUMPHS IN A HISTORIC ROLEX GRAN PREMIO ROMA

Rolex Series, Rome, May 31, 2026

Under brilliant Roman sunshine and in front of a packed crowd gathered in the magnificent setting of the Villa Borghese, the Rolex Gran Premio Roma delivered a thrilling conclusion to the 100th edition of the CSIO Roma Piazza di Siena on Sunday afternoon.

The highlight of the week on the Rolex Series calendar brought together 45 qualified riders for the prestigious two-round competition, designed by renowned Italian course designer Uliano Vezzani. Featuring 13 obstacles and 16 jumping efforts in the opening round, the technical and demanding 1.60m course immediately proved a true test of skill, precision and partnership.

Ireland's Denis Lynch and Vistogrand were the first to tackle the track. A rail at the oxer

following the double combination resulted in four penalties, immediately demonstrating the challenge awaiting the field.

Among the early contenders was defending champion Yuri Mansur, winner of the 2025 Rolex Gran Premio Roma. Riding QH Alfons Santo Antonio, the Brazilian incurred faults at the Rolex Series wall and another fence, joining a growing list of riders unable to master the demanding first-round course.

The Rolex Series wall quickly emerged as one of the most influential obstacles of the afternoon, catching out numerous combinations and contributing to a challenging opening round where clear rounds proved extremely difficult to achieve.

As the competition progressed, riders realised that speed would become increasingly important in the battle to secure one of the coveted places in the second round.

The crowd finally witnessed the first faultless performance from Germany's Richard Vogel, one of the pre-event favourites and Rolex Testimonee. Riding Cloudio, Vogel delivered a masterclass in precision and control to become the first rider to complete the course without penalties.

More clear rounds followed. Khaled Almoby and Diana du Plevau Z produced another excellent performance for Saudi Arabia, while Marilyn Little and La Contessa added their names to the growing list of qualified riders.

The home crowd erupted when Italy's Piergiorgio Bucci, riding Pallieter vd N.Ranch, produced a flawless round in front of an enthusiastic audience. Germany's Jörne Sprehe with Toys and Sophie Hinnens aboard Iron Dames Combella also secured their places in the second round.

Last to enter the arena, Spain's Armando Trapote and Tornado VS delighted spectators with another clear round, ensuring an amazing conclusion to the opening phase of the competition.

At the end of the first round, only seven riders remained on a score of zero. They were joined in the second round by six combinations carrying four penalties, including the fastest four-fault rider, Italy's Giulia Martinengo Marquet and Delta Del'Isle. Fellow Italians Riccardo Pisani and Chacco's Lawito PS, Olympic medallist Laura Kraut aboard

Baloutinue, Sweden's Wilma McMahon with Cicci BJN and Mexico's Andres Azcarraga riding Contendros 2 also progressed.

The second round, featuring eight obstacles and a time allowed of just 50 seconds, promised another intense battle. Riding first, Andres Azcarraga unfortunately retired before completing the course, while Wilma McMahon produced a clear round to remain on a total of four penalties.

Among the clear-round qualifiers, Jörne Sprehe was the first to return. Setting an ambitious pace, the German rider looked set for a leading performance before a rail at the final fence added four penalties.

Then came the moment the Italian crowd had been waiting for. Piergiorgio Bucci delivered a magnificent second clear round aboard Pallieter vd N.Ranch, becoming the first rider to achieve a double clear. The atmosphere around the arena was electric as the home favourite moved into the lead and applied immense pressure on the remaining contenders.

One by one, the challengers attempted to surpass Bucci's benchmark. It all came down to the final rider, Germany's Sophie Hinners with Iron Dames Combella. A clear round would have secured victory, but a costly fault at the final fence handed the win to the Italian rider.

The Villa Borghese erupted in celebration as Piergiorgio Bucci claimed a memorable victory on home soil, adding his name to the prestigious Rolex Gran Premio Roma honour roll during the centenary edition of the CSIO Roma Piazza di Siena.

Rolex Gran Premio Roma, Final Podium

- 1- Piergiorgio Bucci (ITA) & Pallieter vd N.Ranch
- 2- Jörne Sprehe (GER) & Toys
- 3- Richard Vogel (GER) & Cloudio

Piergiorgio Bucci

On winning the Rolex Gran Premio Roma during the 100th edition of the CSIO Roma Piazza di Siena.

"It was a fantastic day today and a fantastic result. The atmosphere was incredible and I am very satisfied. To achieve a result like this here, at home, means so much to me.

This is the place where I came as a child. The first time I saw show jumping was here because my uncle brought me to Piazza di Siena. This is the show that made me fall in love with the sport. At the beginning, everything seemed so big and so difficult. Slowly, year after year, I got closer. One time, two times, four times I was very close to winning, but today everything came together. My horse did an amazing job for me. Before the second round, I told myself that we had to give everything, and that's what happened. I really love this place and I am very thankful."

On winning the Rolex Gran Premio Roma

"I have always wanted this. It was a goal. These Rolex Grand Prix and the Rolex Series events are among the best competitions in the world. It is difficult to describe what this victory means. All of this reminds you how important these competitions are. For me, it is a great achievement and something I have dreamed about for a very long time."

Jörne Sprehe

On finishing second in the Rolex Gran Premio Roma

"I am especially happy to be standing here with this amazing trophy in front of this incredible crowd. My horse jumped amazingly all week. He was already very good on Friday, but today he was even better. I am really, really proud of what he did today."

On her horse, Toys : "Toys is wonderful to ride. Everybody can see it when he enters the ring. He is always on fire. When he starts jumping, everything looks easy. He is a real fighter and every time I ride him I learn something new. I don't think he has finished improving yet, and that is something very exciting for the future. I am very, very happy with him."

Richard Vogel

On his week in Rome

"We always love coming here. It is a fantastic show, in a very historic place with so much history. Every year, the atmosphere is incredible. This week has had a lot of ups and downs. We were very competitive in the Nations Cup, but I was disappointed with my jump-off. It is never a nice feeling when you think you may have let your team down, especially when you finish second and come so close to victory.

To finish the week on the podium today means a lot. It is a very nice way to end the show and we hope to come back next year and do it all again. Cloudio jumped fantastic today. He has a lot of quality and he showed once again what an outstanding horse he is. I'm very proud of him.

These Rolex Grand Prix are among the most prestigious competitions in our sport. They are the classes every rider dreams of winning and the ones that can define a career. »

In front of a passionate home crowd and under the Roman sun, the 100th edition of the CSIO Roma Piazza di Siena concluded with a fairytale victory for Italy in one of the most prestigious competitions in international show jumping.

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ROLEX SERIES EVENTS 2026

- Winter Equestrian Festival - Rolex Finale Week | March 24-29, 2026
- CSIO Roma Piazza di Siena | May 27-31, 2026
- Jumping International de La Baule - Officiel de France | June 11-14, 2026
- Falsterbo Horse Show | July 8-12, 2026
- Jumping International de Dinard | July 30-August 2, 2026
- RDS Dublin Horse Show | August 5-9, 2026
- Brussels Stephex Masters | August 26-30, 2026

ABOUT THE ROLEX SERIES

The Rolex Series brings together seven of the world's most iconic showjumping events, each of them supported by Rolex. The pinnacle of each of these events is the Rolex Grand Prix, where the best horses and riders in the world compete for seven of the most coveted Grand Prix-titles in the sport of showjumping.

United through the Rolex Series, which was launched in 2024, these seven unique events all have their own distinctive qualities but also share certain common denominators. Firstly, each of the events that are part of the Rolex Series honours the heritage and traditions that so uniquely characterize the sport of showjumping. Furthermore, the venues that make up the series many of them with a rich equestrian history offer facilities and infrastructure which are globally renowned. The seven venues are also all especially valued for their highly enthusiastic and knowledgeable spectators who create an unparalleled atmosphere known to make horses and riders perform at their absolute best.