



ROLEX GRAND PRIX VILLE DE LA BAULE: A SECOND ROLEX SERIES GRAND PRIX VICTORY OF THE SEASON FOR PIERGIORGIO BUCCI

Rolex Series, La Baule, June 14, 2026

The highlight of the Jumping International de La Baule – Officiel de France took centre stage on Sunday afternoon as a packed Stade François André gathered to witness the prestigious Rolex Grand Prix Ville de La Baule.

Just two weeks after claiming victory in the Rolex Gran Premio Roma, Italy's Piergiorgio Bucci once again delivered on one of show jumping's biggest stages. Riding Hantano,

Bucci triumphed in La Baule and became the first rider to win two Rolex Grand Prix events during the 2026 Rolex Series season.

A total of 45 horse-and-rider combinations came forward to tackle Grégory Bodo's demanding 1.60m course. Featuring 14 obstacles, 17 jumping efforts and a time allowed of 82 seconds, the track quickly proved a true test of precision, scope and consistency.

World No. 3 Scott Brash and Hello Folie were first to enter the arena and immediately demonstrated the technical challenge awaiting the field. Throughout the first round, faults accumulated as riders struggled to master one of the most demanding tracks of the week.

Among the early challengers, France's Cédric Hurel and Fantasio Floreval Z, along with Kevin Staut and Féline de Hus HDC, were unable to find the key to the course. One of the biggest challenges came in the latter stages of the track, where the triple combination and following vertical caught out numerous competitors.

The first rider to crack the code was Switzerland's Martin Fuchs aboard Conner Jei. Delivering a beautifully balanced performance, the Swiss rider became the first athlete to qualify for the jump-off.

The home crowd soon had reason to celebrate as Julien Epailard and Fringant de Vesquerie produced an amazing clear round to secure France a place in the deciding round.

Belgium's Pieter Devos and Casual DV Z, Gilles Thomas and Ermitage Kalone, Ireland's Bertram Allen and Qonquest de Rigo, and Cian O'Connor aboard Chatolinue PS all added their names to the jump-off line-up.

The final rider to enter the arena would provide the perfect ending to the first round. Fresh from his Rolex Series success in Rome, Piergiorgio Bucci and Hantano delivered a flawless performance to secure the seventh and final place in the jump-off.

Only seven combinations managed to leave all the fences intact, while Sweden's Petronella Andersson and Odina van Klapscheut finished eighth as the fastest four-fault combination.

A WORLD-CLASS JUMP-OFF

Martin Fuchs was first to return and immediately set the benchmark. Riding Conner Jei, the Swiss star produced another faultless round in 41.03 seconds, applying significant pressure to the remaining contenders.

Julien Epaillard responded with a bold and ambitious approach. Stopping the clock more than two seconds faster than Fuchs, the Frenchman looked set to take the lead before a rail at the second element of the double combination left him with four faults.

Pieter Devos, Gilles Thomas, Bertram Allen and Cian O'Connor all attempted to challenge the Swiss rider's time but faults prevented them from taking over the lead.

Everything would therefore come down to the final rider.

Knowing exactly what was required, Piergiorgio Bucci entered the arena with remarkable composure. Combining speed, precision and efficiency, the Italian rider delivered a magnificent clear round in 40.61 seconds to secure victory.

As the crowd erupted, Bucci added the Rolex Grand Prix Ville de La Baule to his growing Rolex Series record and strengthened his position as one of the standout riders of the 2026 season.

RIDERS REACT

Despite narrowly missing out on victory, France's Julien Epaillard was pleased with both his horse and his week in La Baule.

"First of all, thank you to the organisers. It has been a fantastic week in La Baule and everything was perfectly organised. I came here with this class as my main objective, so overall I am very happy. My horse performed brilliantly throughout the week. I took a lot of risks in the jump-off and made one mistake, but he was perfect. It gives us a lot of confidence for the future."

Runner-up Martin Fuchs admitted there was initial disappointment but was quick to praise both the winner and the event itself.

"In the first few minutes you are disappointed, of course, but afterwards you realise how much there is to be happy about. La Baule is one of my favourite Rolex Series events. Piergiorgio was simply better than all of us today. He produced an incredible jump-off, played his cards perfectly and fully deserved the victory."

For Piergiorgio Bucci, the victory capped what he described as two unforgettable weeks.

“These have been two magical weeks. I am fortunate to have fantastic horses. I won in Rome two weeks ago with a horse that has already achieved so much, and today Hantano was incredible. Starting last in the jump-off was definitely an advantage because I could see what everyone else had done, especially Martin’s round. That helped me a lot.”

The Italian also paid tribute to the organisers and the La Baule crowd.

“Thank you to everyone involved. The course was magnificent and everything is perfect for us as riders, owners and grooms. The crowd here is incredible. Their support gives us even more motivation to give our very best.”

Asked about his winning strategy, Bucci smiled:

“I came into the jump-off determined to win. The left turn suited my horse perfectly and I decided to go for it.”

While his remarkable Rolex Series run will pause for the next leg, Bucci left the door open for future success.

“I won’t be going to Falsterbo, so I’ll leave that opportunity to the others. But as they say, never say never...”

Rolex Grand Prix Ville de La Baule – Top 3

1. Piergiorgio Bucci (ITA) & Hantano – 0/0 – 40.61s
2. Martin Fuchs (SUI) & Conner Jei – 0/0 – 41.03s
3. Julien Epailard (FRA) & Fringant de Vesquerie – 0/4 – 38.78s

In front of a passionate crowd and after a jump-off featuring some of the sport’s biggest names, Piergiorgio Bucci etched his name into the history of the Rolex Grand Prix Ville de La Baule. Following his triumph in Rome, the Italian rider has now claimed two Rolex Series Grand Prix victories in 2026, further cementing his place among the leading contenders on this season.

[Results](#)



ALL EYES NOW TURN TO FALSTERBO HORSE SHOW

As the curtain falls on the Rolex Grand Prix Ville de La Baule, attention will quickly turn to the next chapter of the Rolex Series: the Falsterbo Horse Show, taking place from 8–12 July 2026 in Sweden.

The highlight of the week will once again be the prestigious Rolex Grand Prix presented by Agria, where many of the sport's leading riders and horses will return to battle for victory on Falsterbo's iconic grass arena.

With the FEI World Championships in Aachen drawing ever closer, the Rolex Series journey continues on Sweden's southern coast, where another exceptional week of sport awaits.

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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.