



*The scores and remarks are given for a snapshot 'at this moment' in the lifetime of these horses. We encourage owners and breeders to attend keurings whenever possible for further evaluation of their horses, their breeding goals and breeding directions.*



*Mt. Rainier*



*Contessa*

## 2010 KEURING REPORTS

### Donida Farm – Auburn, WA

Hosts: Gwen Blake.

Jury: Toine Hoefs-Netherlands, Dr. Deborah P. Harrison-California, Faith Fessenden-Nevada.

*Time Zone: Pacific*

The time zone change provided a decent arrival (late afternoon) for the jury in Seattle. Local weather was crystal clear! Heading southward about 20 minutes we booked into a new (for us) hotel. This year the KWPN-NA office picked a midpoint between SeaTac airport and our keuring location in Auburn which proved to be perfect since it allowed extra time both coming and going. The Pacific Northwest is well known for outstanding seafood so we three voted to take advantage of this feature. Concierge-like, the hotel receptionist made a recommendation for us complete with reservation and specifically a 'view-table'.

How does hours-fresh seafood, with a sunset view of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountain range sound? If you're ever there: [http://www.saltys.com/seattle\\_south/](http://www.saltys.com/seattle_south/).

Somewhat bizarre was the name of the small town where it is located: Redondo Beach! Yes, that's right. Redondo Beach, WASHINGTON, not to be confused with the famous Redondo Beach, CALIFORNIA.

One last rave...was the Apex, Yakima Valley Chardonnay, 06. Amazing!

Enough of the Food & Wine review....although we did wax nostalgic about it for days.

The next morning dawned cool and clear as we drove southeast to Auburn and our keuring. Rounding a bend, "Wham", right in the eye was 'the Mountain'...It was "out", in all its glory. Rainier, that is, which – since it is rarely seen unless crystal clear, we felt was a good omen for the day to come. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount\\_Rainier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rainier).

Gwen Blake and her efficient staff had everything ready for us to begin upon our arrival. In prior keurings we've always seen very high quality in the Oregon-Washington area so we looked forward to seeing 'how the kids are doing'.

Well...Murphy's law took hold in the first class of the Dressage IBOP when 2009's Champion of the Top Fives for Dressage Mares, **Beyonce** (Contango x Precious Day ster by Gribaldi x Rossini) took exception to everything. Gwen wisely scratched her from the remainder of the test and class. Oh, well...'best laid plans...' etc. We'll have to wait another year to see this lovely mare go.

### Linear Scoring - Dressage Mares

The full sister of Beyonce didn't let Gwen down Also a 2009 Champion, of the 2-Year-Old Dressage horses, **Contessa** (Contango x Precious Day ster by Gribaldi x Rossini) with her clean correct legs and nice movement took the Best Adult Horse ribbon and earned her star.



*Fair Rosa*

*Reports from the Road generally feature first premium horses. For more complete results please link to [2010 Entries and Results](#), in the upper right corner of the home page.*

By the time the foal class started, an assortment of horses had to be scored very low, or dismissed due to irregularity, unevenness, unlevelness in movement, and in one case an abnormal hock. The jury was mumbling in disappointment, not to mention the owners.

But, the mountain had been out. We thought it had been a sign.

### **Foals/Weanlings - Dressage**

When **Fair Rosa** (Ampere out of Zen Rosa Elite by Farrington x Jazz) and her handsome dam stepped into the ring – we knew the moment the mountain had promised was ‘NOW’! Beautiful presence and posture, well built, standing solidly on all four legs, with strong croup and haunches – Fair Rosa showed all her parts were components of a whole that worked. She lifted fluidly with power, showed suspension and technique in trot with a good canter as well. Breeder/owners Dan and Gina Ruediger of Sonnenberg Farm LLC knew they had a nice filly, but were blown away when by the end of the tour, Fair Rosa - with an 82 for conformation and an 84 for movement – earned the ‘Champion Foal’ in the Top Fives.

What a way to conclude a keuring! Champagne was brought out for all to share with a relaxed circle of friends – old and new.

Once again...the clock ticked, and it was time to load the car and head to the airport for our next stop. Before descending the last hill, we turned to wave a farewell, thank you and au revoir to Mount Rainier.

*Sincerely,*  
**The KWPN-NA Jury**

*(Note: Many of these lovely horses are for sale. See page 4 in the [2010 Entries and Results](#) )*