





➤ The breeding program of Loucky Hagens – Groosman

“I breed for the next generation of breeders”

You don't have to be a big breeder to breed good horses. Loucky Hagens- Groosman is living proof of that with her breeding program. She bought a couple of young mares from Huub van Helvoirt's breeding program in the '90's and built a thriving program with them.

She recently got her second stallion approved with the KWPN: Mamorkus.

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Loucky Hagens- Groosman built her breeding program with the mares she bought from Huub van Helvoirt. Jazz-daughter Rita Morka comes from the Morka- line from Drenthe and is a real 'stallion mother': she produced three approved stallions so far.

Loucky Hagens – Groosman grows up in the most south- western part of The Netherlands. She does not come across any sport horses in her early years: the draft horses predominate in the heavy clay of the province of 'Zeeuws-Vlaanderen'. The breeding seed is planted by her grandfather, who was active in draft horse breeding and also owned approved stallions. When Loucky later on in her life, while living in the United States, is done riding with her sport horse, she gets into breeding. She decides to build her own

breeding business using only the best Dutch breeding stock.

At the coffee table

Together with Deborah Springborn, an American friend, Loucky connects with Huub and Tiny van Helvoirt. Her friend already had good experiences with the well-known breeder couple. She already found Colimbria (by Doruto) there, the full sister of Olympic horse Barbria, national champion Ezabria and stallion

"WE SPENT HOURS WITH HUUB AND TINY VAN HELVOIRT AT THE COFFEE TABLE."



The process around getting Mamorkus (by Ferdinand) approved, brought a close friendship between Loucky and the other three co- owners.

dam Gelbria. "We regularly attended Dutch events together. We regularly visited Van Helvoirt during our trips to the Netherlands. We sat there at the coffee table for hours. At the UTV we saw Idamorka become reserve champion at the time and I remember that Chief Inspector Gert van der Veen mentioned in his comment that Idamorka represented the type the KWPN had to go to."

20.000 dollar in an envelope

Loucky came up with the idea to ask Huub van Helvoirt, who was the breeder of Idamorka (by Zuidhoorn out of Damorka keur pref by Vindicator), if she could buy a filly out of her. "I had to wait a while for that," says Loucky with a smile.

"Idamorka gave birth to a colt first, then she had twins and then a foal was rejected.

Finally, in 1998, Rita Morka was born. I immediately asked if I could buy her, but Huub told me to wait until the filly was three months old and then contact him again. I thought it was too much of a risk to just wait in patience, so I really stayed on top of it. I called and faxed endlessly with Tiny. I kept all the handwritten letters. At one point, Tiny said I had a shot. Although I lived in the United States, I boarded the plane the next day. With an envelope containing \$20,000, because at Huub you had to arrive with cash. It was a lot of money for a foal, especially when you consider that I paid in dollars

and the exchange rate was favorable for Van Helvoirt. But I had to have Rita Morka and had actually already bought her sight unseen. Huub was such a horse expert, he had a great eye for a good horse. He always differentiated between his breeding products and pointed out which ones he thought were the best. Rita Morka came out as the best one of her year. I still think that the quality of my mares has been decisive for the success of my breeding."

Important teacher

"Huub has been an important teacher to me. I learned from him that I should first look at the movement. Even more important to him, was that a horse did not collapse during its performance. It sometimes happens that a horse starts with a lot

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of bluff, but that there is little left of it after about ten minutes. The horses from my breeding don't have that. I think the will to persevere is anchored in my lines. Many of my breeding products can run several tests without getting tired. I also pay close attention to this in my stallion choices; a stallion who gives up when he gets tired quickly drops a few places on my list."

Of high quality

Breeding starts with the best mares and the Jazz daughter proves to be of great quality in the United States. As a yearling, Rita Morka won many

APPROVED STALLIONS

- › Citango (by Contango out of Rita Morka elite pref prest D-OC by Jazz) KWPN & NRPS
- › Camorkus (by Contango out of Rita Morka elite pref prest D-OC by Jazz) NRPS
- › Mamorkus (by Ferdinand out of Rita Morka elite pref prest D-OC by Jazz) KWPN

inspection classes and qualifies twice for Devon. "In America, just like in the Netherlands, you have regional inspections that count as pre-selection for Devon. You have inspections in America in all shapes and sizes, for every age and every breed or type of horse. Devon is a comparable event to the National Mare Inspection, with the big difference that all kinds of breeds and studbooks participate. So there are Trakehners and drafts just as well. Rita Morka was the two-year-old overall champion in Devon and in the same year Huub van Helvoirt was honored as "breeders champion". That was a special phenomenon for a Dutch breeder, because big names like Iron Spring Farm also competed for that title."

Contango

It is the Contango blood that made Hagens' breeding program become big. "Contango stood at Iron Spring Farm, which was close to me by American standards. I thought Contango was an interesting stallion because of his versatility. He won the stallion competition in jumping and could move so well that he won another year in dressage. I asked Huub if I would use this stallion

on my mares. "Cover all the mares you have with Contango," was his advice. So I bred twelve times with Contango. This is how the Contango blood was brought back to the Netherlands. Contango was EVA positive and therefore his semen could not be shipped to the Netherlands. The four colts of Rita Morka came to the Netherlands as foals, for that they had to be EVA negative in order to be raised here."

The first foal from the combination of Contango and Rita Morka is the KWPN approved stallion Citango, he competed ZZ-Zwaar with Laurens van Lieren in the Netherlands and started in the Small Tour in Germany. Full brothers Wamorkus and Camorkus each competed Grand Prix. Famorka (by Romanov) has started the Small Tour. Just Romance (by For Romance) came to the second-round viewing and is competing Z1 dressage with Annelie Hoekstra. Lita Morka (by GLOCK's Toto Jr.) was bought as an embryo by Kirsten Teeuwen and became reserve champion at the Central Inspection.



SUCCESSFULL SPORTHORSES

Name	Breeding	Level	Rider
› Citango	Contango out of Rita Morka elite pref prest D-OC (Jazz)	Small Tour	Laura Ponnath (GER)
› Wamorkus	Contango out of Rita Morka elite pref prest D-OC (Jazz)	Grand Prix	Alizée Froment (FRA)
› Camorkus	Contango out of Rita Morka elite pref prest D-OC (Jazz)	Grand Prix	Kirsten Teeuwen
› Dowendy	Contango out of O. Wendy (Jazz)	Grand Prix	Yvonne Schnieder
› Hamilton	Apache out of Vowendy by Contango	Small Tour	Elisabeth Geluk
› Fifth Avenue BCN (Famorka)	Romanov out of Rita Morka elite pref prest D-OC (Jazz)	Small Tour	Isabelle Costantini (LUX)



Apache- son Hamilton was sold in the Excellent Dressage Sales and competes at Small Tour level now with Elisabeth Geluk.

Quartet of owners

"In 2016, I had already flushed two embryos from Rita Morka. Still I really wanted a foal from Ferdinand. Because of his movements and pedigree, I thought he would make a nice

combination with Rita Morka. I really wanted Vivaldi-blood, but then through a young stallion. It was late in the season and I was wondering what to do with the colt. I got talking to Carla Telussa, Ina Jakobsen and Annemieke Picavet. We already knew each other very well and we decided to move on with the four of us. We agreed to evaluate Mamorkus every month, during the period he was growing up. Our focus was not only on the young stallion; we often attached a pleasant afternoon in the city or on the beach to our evaluations. This made for a good friendship to develop between us. The four of us enjoyed every moment of the process. Whether I expected Mamorkus to be approved? Of course we hoped for that, but I also thought that we should remain realistic and not fantasize too much. But it became clear that Mamorkus had many qualities."

Mamorkus was recently approved with 81.5 points. The owner's quartet has sold the Ferdinand- son to Mary Keenan in the USA.

Romante

Rita Morka is not the only mare that Hagens bought from Huub van Helvoirt. Romante also comes to the United States as a foal. This Welt Hit II daughter stems from the keur preferent performance mare Warmante (by Amor), who we know as the grandmother of the foundation stallion Jazz. Romante received a nine for her trot at the inspection in America and produced fourteen offspring, including the Small Tour mare Armante (by Contango). Her last filly Parmante (by



Contango son Citango was approved by the KWPN and later competed in the Small Tour in Germany.

Taminiau) is still in Biervliet, where Loucky has stabled her mares at Stud & AI station Equus.

Tough Endy's

O. Wendy is another mare that Loucky bought from the Van Helvoirt family. This Jazz daughter (out of J. Wendy ster pref by Ulft) was paired with Contango blood in the United States, blood that turned out to be so valuable for Loucky's breeding program. As O. Wendy's name suggests, she is a descendant of the Endy line. Her first daughter Vowendy stayed with Loucky, her full sister Gathes Dowendy S runs Grand Prix with Yvonne Snieder. "The Endy's are tough horses," Loucky tells us. "They are simply never crippled, if something is wrong with an Endy, they just keep going. These are mentally strong horses. I have regularly combined O. Wendy and Vowendy with the same stallion. I wanted to see what the similarities and

differences were. It turned out that the Contango blood from Vowendy made sure that the sharp edges were somewhat removed. The rideability and the will to persevere always remained the same."

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Camorkus, the full brother of Citango, ran Grand Prix with Kirsten Teeuwen, full brother Warmorkus did that with the French Alizée Froment.

In combination with Apache, Vowendy brings the Light Tour horse Hamilton, who was sold to Elisabeth Geluk in 2016 through the Excellent Dressage Sales. Loucky still has For Romance daughter Mowendy and her daughter P. Mowendy (by Erdinger) from this dam line.

The best mares

The third mare that Hagens bought from the Breeder of the Year 2005 is Nanette. This Contango daughter (from Anette keur pref by Amor) produced a Métall descendant in the United States that competed at ZZ- Zwaar level. This mare's offspring also produced Leopard's Gucci-Sinclair (by Silvano) who recently became champion in the Small Tour for Luxembourg with Fie Christine Skarsoe.

In 2007, Loucky was forced to return to her home country after her husband passed away. Four broodmares traveled to The Netherlands, Nanette stayed behind in the United States. "Scot Tolman wanted her so badly that I was happy to give this mare to him. I thought it was important that my best mares were kept for breeding. Not only for my own breeding, but I would have thought it a shame if those mare lines had been lost."

MORKA- LINE

Dutch breeding has grown because the breeders and stallion owners have always dared to look beyond national borders. The best material was imported, including quality mares. Just after the Second World War, several young mares were brought to our country, mainly from Oldenburg and Holstein, which later turned out to be of great importance for Dutch breeding. One of those mares is Karla (by Rheinstolz) who is the foundation of the Carla, the Morka and the Amora line. With its many branches, we find Karla in the pedigree of many sport horses, stallions and broodmares. The Morkas found their fame through the Beugel and Zwaving families from Nieuw Weerdinge in Drenthe. The story begins in 1956 when Klaas Beugel bought the yearling mare Amorka for a sum of money plus a number of chickens. Almost 65 years later, the Morka line is a widespread line with successful sport horses in all disciplines.

Movement comes first

"In my choice for a stallion I look closely at the stallion's dam line: they must all be good horses. If there is one stallion or mare on the paper that doesn't have my preference, the stallion drops on my list. I always analyze the dam line very thoroughly and then go back to the middle of the last century. A lot has been written about inspections and breeding and I take that information into my decision. I prefer to see the stallions myself, preferably in the performance test. The influence of the rider is the least there. Movement comes first, I learned that from Van Helvoirt, but I also pay close attention to the character. I don't want to use a stallion that only stands on his hind legs. Neither do I like a stallion who starts his presentation very strongly and slowly falls back. The quality of movement must be constant.

The next generation

With predominantly older mares in the stable, the question is what predecessors does this breeder from Zeeland have? "I still have Namorka out of Rita Morka, a young Vitalis daughter who has great movement. She is currently with the De Laat family and will be prepared for the mare inspection in the spring. Namorka will probably be flushed next spring.

Mowendy and her daughter P. Mowendy will also stay. What about my own succession? I breed for the next generation of breeders. I hope that my horses end up with people who can and want to continue breeding with them. At the moment I enjoy every step that my breeding products take. Whether that is the performance test, the Pavo Cup or the international Grand Prix; I hope my horses will excel in their category." •

**"I THINK THAT THE WILL TO SUCCEED IS
ANCHORED IN MY LINES."**

BROODMARES					
Name	Breeding	Predicates	Breeder	Foal 2019	Foal 2020
▶ Rita Morka	Jazz out of Idamorka keur pref prest by Zuidhorn	Elite pref prest D-OC	Huub van Helvoirt	-	-
▶ Romante	Welt Hit II out of Warmante keur pref prest by Amor	Elite D-OC	Huub van Helvoirt	Taminiau	Mamorkus (ET)
▶ Vowendy	Contango out of O. Wendy elite prest D-OC by Jazz	Elite sport-dres D-OC	Loucky Hagens	Jameson RS2	Jameson RS2
▶ O. Wendy *	Jazz uit J.Wendy ster pref by Uift	Elite prest D-OC	Huub van Helvoirt	-	-
* Passed away in August 2020					

The older mares portrayed, from left to right: Welt Hit II daughter Romante, stallion mother Rita Morka (by Jazz) and Vowendy (by Contango).

