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## Emile Faurie

- Date of birth:** 15 October 1963.
- Lives:** Milton under Wychwood, Oxfordshire.
- Major achievements:** Emile and Virtu won individual bronze and team silver at the 1993 European Championships and they were the British Champions in 1993 and 1994. A decade later, Emile won another team medal, this time bronze, at the 2003 European Championships at Hickstead, riding Rascher Hopes.
- Emile has represented Britain at two Olympic Games, three World Equestrian Games and three European Championships.
- In 2010, Emile acquired the ride on the talented Elmegardens Marquis. This new partnership has shown great form - in a few short months they have secured multiple premier league grand prix wins and top ten placings at Lingen and Fritzen CDIs. With Elmegardens Marquis, Emile was selected as one of two non-travelling reserves for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2010. At Cappeln CDI4\* Emile and Elmegardens Marquis secured fourth place in the grand prix and grand prix special with scores of 71.27% and 71.12%.
- In 2011 Emile and Elmegardens Marquis triumphed again at the Fritzens CDI4\* in Austria. The partnership clinched second in the grand prix special, scoring 73.479 %, and fifth in the grand prix for special.
- Current competition horses:**
- Elmegardens Marquis, a 16.3hh Danish-bred gelding by Michellino out of Elmegardens Sisi, born 1999 and owned by Joanne Vaughan.
- First competitive experience:** “An equitation class in South Africa when I was 16 or 17.”
- Trainer:** None.
- Most admired riders:** “The late Herbert Rehbein and Klaus Balkenhol.”
- Qualities looked for in a dressage horse:** “Athleticism and a good temperament.”
- Favourite dressage venues:** Aachen, Germany.
- What other career would you have chosen:** “An actor. I did some modelling when I was younger which led me to doing commercials and a film. In 2000, I took up acting lessons again seriously and in September 2005, I did a five-week run in London in a French play called *Huis Clos*. I rode during the daytime and, at 4pm, I would race up to London. There are so many parallels with dressage, such as discipline, performing and control.”
- Favourite meal:** Chicken supreme.

**Favourite drink:** Cristal champagne.

Emile's first time on a horse was when he was 16.

"I had pestered my parents so much, they gave me a riding lesson for my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday," he says. "My mother said that ever since I could talk, I always talked about horses. Riding horses is the only thing I have ever wanted to do with my life."

Emile moved to England in 1980 and spent three years at the Talland School of Equitation with Molly Sivewright. He started out as a working pupil and worked his way up to riding her advanced horses.

In 1984, Emile went to work at the most prestigious and successful young horse sales in the world, Performance Sales International (PSI), in Germany, where he helped back and prepare youngsters for auction: "It was phenomenal. I was riding lots of different horses, had great training and enormous exposure to learn to recognise good young horses," he says.

This was followed by a spell in Greece, where Emile concentrated on modelling and only rode and taught a little. In 1988, he returned to Britain to set up his own dressage yard.

"I did some eventing, but only because I was brave and it was the only way I could get to ride horses to make a living," he says.

Later, Emile had a lucky break as he was given the ride on Virtu, who was available as his former rider Carl Hester had gone to work for Dr Wilfried Bechtolsheimer.

