

# MAJESTUOSO

DUQUE X VERBENA



**By Rick and Janice Meyer / Photos by Larry Williams**

Rarely has a name described its subject so completely, but in the case of this beautiful, "majestic" Paso Fino stallion – the name was perfect!

Majestuoso was imported into the USA in 1980 by Ray and Winona Walton of Flint Oak Ranch located in Fall River, Kansas. Flint Oak Ranch became the largest Paso Fino farm in North America during the mid 1980's with approximately 250 head of Paso Finos. Every known bloodline in the US was represented in the brood mares at Flint Oak, and Majestuoso, a full Colombian stallion bred by the Jaime Mejia family, was purchased to cross with all of these existing bloodlines. Bred on a limited basis, he surpassed all our expectations. Majestuoso sired 191 foals – 113 fillies and 78 colts. Out of those 191, 98 went on to win in the show ring, competing successfully in every major division (Bellas Formas, Classic Fino, Performance and Pleasure) in the United States.

Once Majestuoso's offspring reached the show ring under saddle, he became a mainstay on the Top Ten Sire List from 1985 to 1996. Majestuoso was also the #1 Sire for two straight years! And much to our delight, his grandget are carrying on the "winning" tradition. Majestuoso has also had several daughters on the Top Ten Dam list over the years.

What makes this stallion so special? The genetics of a breeding stallion are their "calling card," and Majestuoso's prepotencies left an indelible mark on this breed. He was exaggerated in every way. He was tall, almost 15 hands, very refined, with a long graceful neck that was carried high and proud. One look at him and his eyes would captivate you – they were huge, shining, gentle orbs!

His gait was extraordinary – each hoof would hit the ground with the same pressure and power. People who would watch Majestuoso move freely in his turn-out area were always amazed at the fact that he gaited all the time – even in the mud, as one breeder exclaimed! Besides the natural gait, Majestuoso had tremendous brio (spirit) coupled with an easy disposition. He was an extraordinary athlete. Riding him can be best described as "sitting on a powerful locomotive engine with the control switch in your baby fingers!"

Owners of Majestuoso offspring consistently marvel at the size, quickness, natural gait, and easy dispositions of their beloved Paso Finos. Most of his easily recognized offspring carry the prefix Flint Oak or Royal Oak and the suffix el Juncal. Majestuoso offspring are graceful, athletic, naturally gaited, powerful, and very willing equine partners.

In 1988, Rick and Janice Meyer, along with their partner, Harold Arbeitman, purchased the entire herd of Paso Finos from Flint Oak Ranch. They moved the breeding, sales, and training operation, now called Royal Oak Ranch, to St. Louis, Missouri. Majestuoso flourished in his new environment and continued producing show quality foals until August of 1995, when he sadly suffered a stroke. After 25 years on this earth, Majestuoso now lies peacefully beneath the big, shady oak trees at Royal Oak Ranch – always appreciated and never to be forgotten!

At the 2001 Grand National Championship Paso Fino Show in Perry, Georgia, Majestuoso was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Nominations are made by the membership and voted on by the Board of Directors. At that time, he was one of only eight horses to achieve this great honor in the Paso Fino breed - a fitting tribute to his indelible mark on the American Paso Fino!

