



Adonis Rex was born on the 20th April 1985 at the Stud of Vicente Pereto Cardona, just outside the little village of Orba, near Alicante, Spain. In October 1987 he was purchased by Wanda Lee-Jones of Brithdir, Welshpool, Wales and made the journey from Spain to Wales with his stable companion Ghandi.

On first seeing Adonis you could not help but be affected by his beauty. He was a very tall handsome two year old in very good proportions. His breeding was Pure Cartujano and you could see this in his looks and in his manner. The very famous Bilbaino III of the Roberto Osborne y Vasquez brand was his Grandsire on his Dam's side, with Bilbaino III's sire, probably the most famous PRE ever, Novato, also being his Grandfather on his Sire's side. Today Bilbaino III is one of

the most famous and well sought after bloodlines of many of the top studs. You will find so many Champions with Bilbaino III in their pedigree. To name just a few of Bilbaino's famous sons: Bizarro V, Carinoso III, Gorrón II, Hacendoso IV, Talisman II and Tatuaje and his famous daughter Hosca who is on so many of our Pedigrees. Looking at the old photo's of Bilbaino III you can see a remarkable likeness to Adonis.

The temperament of Adonis was amazing and he would be too clever really and seemed to know what you were going to ask of him before you actually did. He knew how to get attention with putting his head on one side and rolling his tongue with just a little part of it sticking out of the side of his mouth. He had a very laid back and kind nature and his owner Wanda Lee-Jones would drive him or ride him and he took it all in his stride.

In his early years Wanda was one of the founding riders of El Caballo De Espana and Adonis seemed very at ease with being in the limelight and going all over the place to take part in the shows. Even doing displays at our National Show. One year the famous P.R.E. historian Juan Llamas chose Adonis to ride around the Arena at our Breed Show.

Adonis was taken all over the place to local Parades or to County Shows to promote the breed in those days. He attended and took part in Weddings, carrying the bride and groom, and was a very popular character around the Welshpool area. Adonis was used for the early Musto clothing adverts, appearing with Wanda and her lovely border collies. He was featured in Elwyn Hartley Edwards, best selling book 'THE ULTIMATE HORSE' and 'The Eyewitness Guide 'HORSES'

he was also featured in the French P.R.E. Book 'LE CHEVAL DE PURE RACE ESPAGNOLE' by Olivia Lenoir.

With his stable companion Ghandi, Adonis did so much to promote the PRE in the early years of the Association and they both had quite a following of fans.

After passing his grading he went on to sire 24 Purebreds. 18 in the UK, 1 born in Canada and 5 in France when his owner Wanda moved her Stud to the South of France in 1997. Wanda bred MACHOTE 2 born in 1993, a beautiful tall colt full of presence, then MAPUCHE a chestnut colt who was later gelded.

In France Adonis lived quite quietly hacking out and did a few displays around France. His foals born in France were the very beautiful WACHITA, a striking bay filly who became Wandas pride and joy, I-SAMBRA, a beautiful grey filly who returned to the UK and is owned by Tina Caruana in Kent. COMETE 1 went on to be Champion Doma Vaquera Horse in France 2005 for 7 yrs and over, and KACHINA who also came back to the UK. There is a lovely photograph of this mare on the BAPSH Website Gallery.

In Britain his progeny are starting to make names for themselves, the lovely mare owned and bred by Tina Barnett-Tucker, BRIOSA XXIX is a broodmare producing prize winning stock.

Our own products by Adonis have been ELEGANCIA II, a broodmare who has produced two beautiful sons herself. One being ZAFIRO LXXII owned by Trina Goddard who has won numerous prizes at shows and is now living in France, The other, ELEGANTE XLVI, who is now a graded stallion himself and produced his first colt foal 'AMADO here in Wales in 2006.

PASODOBLE II, who is one of the Display horses used by Peter Maddison-Greenwell and Danielle Lawniczac and one of the horses featured in Peters new book.

DUQUESA XLVII is owned by Kate and Michael Bower is jumping and hunting and hopefully going to be a broodmare in the near future.

Adonis returned to the UK in 1998 to go on loan to Mandy Wheatcroft for a few years. While there he produced 6 lovely Purebreds, MILL ECLIPSE, MILL ESPEJISMA 1, MILL MOSQUETERO, MILL ADIVINO, MILL LAGRIMA and MILL AGUILA as well as numerous partbreds.

It was in 2002 that my own dream came true when Wanda offered to let me have Adonis back here in Wales for his remaining years. As I had up to then only really catered for the mares I needed to get everything right for Adonis's arrival. To give me the time to do this our dear friend Jane McCutcheon of THE SPANISH STUD in Berkshire agreed to look after Adonis until we were ready. This worked wonderfully with Jane producing four top quality foals by him arriving in Spring 2003-They are now strapping 4yr olds BILBAINO XXXIV, BRILLANTE XXXI, BRILLIANTINA IV, and the beautiful Chestnut COPENHAGEN.

Adonis came home to Wales in spring 2003 and it really was one of the happiest days of my life. He settled in beautifully. Everyone who came here fell head over heels in love with him. He had this wonderful kind of magic about him as he drew you to him. We are so blessed that he covered our two mares that year Solea XVIII and our older foundation mare Aguadora III.



The summer of 2003 was I think the happiest time of my life with our puppies running around in the garden and Adonis in the paddock just near the house watching everything we did. After covering Solea in hand we turned them out together as they were so evidently in love. It really was so lovely to see the black mare and white stallion as nature intended running free with each other.

Tragically on the 11th February 2004 Adonis passed away and for me a light went out that day that can never be turned on again. He apparently had a pedunculated Lipoma (A fatty growth which are apparently common in horses over 15yrs old)) which had completely strangulated his small intestine.

The vet rang me to say he had come through the operation and I was just getting ready to go and see him when the telephone rang again to say he had suffered a heart attack and died. I can't put into words the terrible feelings that brought, feelings of was it something I did, should I have even let him have the surgery at his age, but when I looked at his beautiful face the answer was so easy and I had to try everything I could to save this magnificent horse. My vet who knew and loved Adonis from when he first came to Wandas years before, wrote to me afterwards and told me it was something that had been lying dormant for years. You could not of predicted or prevented what happened, so it seemed he was meant to come to me for those last months of his life and I would not of changed it for anything in this world.

That year his last two foals were born. ALICANTINA X a grey filly who is so like her father to look at and has his funny quirky ways and our lovely NOVIA (sweetheart) a tall bay filly who seems to have all her fathers little habits like pulling her hay over to the water bucket to dunk it just as he always did, and twisting her head around trying to draw you to her, to give her the attention. He has given us his beautiful legacy and he surely must go down as one of the most important stallions to this date for the promotion of the Purebred Spanish Horse in the UK.

He will never be forgotten and in years to come his children and grandchildren will keep his name alive forever.

Jenny Bernard

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*They say Memories are golden, well
maybe that is true.*

*I never wanted memories, I only
wanted you.*

*A million times I needed you, a million
times I cried.*

*If love alone could have saved you, you
never would of died.*

*In life I loved you dearly, In death I
love you still*

In my heart you hold a place no one could ever fill.

If tears could build a stairway and heartache make a lane,

I'd walk the path to heaven and bring you back again.

