

# Selamta

THE IN-FLIGHT MAGAZINE OF ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES

ሰላምታ

## Harar's Mystical Allure

Inside Ethiopia's ancient  
walled city.

# Contributors



**CELESTE HOANG** is a writer living in Los Angeles, USA. She is also the managing editor of Good Neighbors USA, an international humanitarian nonprofit supporting children's education in more than 30 countries around the world. Read her profile of 11-year-old Zuriel Oduwole on p. 58.

*Most memorable accommodations while traveling: "Sharing a cabin with my family in the woods of Yosemite."*



**AMANDA LEIGH LICHTENSTEIN** is a poet and writer from Chicago, USA. She currently works on arts and cultural development in East Africa, promoting creative expression and dialogue. See her story on Harar's literary allure on p. 44.

*Most memorable accommodations while traveling: "Sleeping in an ornately carved wooden Zanzibari canopy bed with inlaid gilded mirrors and peacock-painted glass."*



**MICHELE KOH MOROLLO** is a Singaporean living in Hong Kong. She was editor for *WHERE Singapore* magazine and has been freelancing for print and online publications across Asia, the U.K. and North America for the last 17 years. Read her story about Singapore's research-and-lifestyle hub, one-north, on p. 26.

*Most memorable accommodations while traveling: "On the top deck of a wooden phinisi, sailing from Sulawesi to Bali in rough seas; looking up at the stars and getting sprayed by ocean sprays."*



**TOM SYKES'** journalism has appeared in the *London Times*, *London Telegraph*, *New African*, *Philippines Free Press* and many other publications around the globe. Having lived and worked in India, the Philippines and Malaysia, he is currently based in the south of England and is a lecturer in creative writing at the University of Portsmouth. See "Côte d'Ivoire's Colonial Capital," on p. 62.

*Most memorable accommodations while traveling: "The critter-festooned beach on Tioman Island, which I was forced to sleep on after losing the keys to my hostel room."*



**ELIZABETH ZACH** is a writer based in Berlin, Germany. Her writing on travel, arts and culture appears in *The New York Times*, *The San Jose Mercury News* and London's *The Independent*. See "Defending the Age of Empire," on p. 66.

*Most memorable accommodations while traveling: The Hotel des Indes in The Hague. "Dutch Resistance fighters, incredibly, hid several Jewish families in the attic while Nazi officers used the building as headquarters; Eisenhower later rented the entire second floor for military meetings, but — best of all — Mata Hari's house is down the street, and she used to dance in the hotel's grand ballroom."*

# Selamta

THE IN-FLIGHT MAGAZINE OF ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES

VOLUME 31 | NUMBER 4

*Selamta* — meaning "Greetings" in Amharic — is published bimonthly on behalf of Ethiopian Airlines by JourneyGroup+C62, LLC.

## JOURNEYGROUP+C62, LLC

418 Fourth Street, NE Charlottesville, VA 22902 U.S.A. +001 434 961 2500 (phone) +001 434 961 2507 (fax)	TK Building Office #102 Bole Road Addis Ababa, Ethiopia +251 116 180365 (phone)
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## EXECUTIVE GROUP

<b>MANAGING DIRECTOR</b>	Philip De Jong
<b>EXECUTIVE EDITOR</b>	Amanuel Mengistu
<b>CREATIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Greg Breeding

## EDITORIAL

<b>EDITOR-IN-CHIEF</b>	Diane J. McDougall
<b>MANAGING EDITOR</b>	Jodi Macfarlan
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR</b>	Phil De Jong Jr.
<b>SR. WRITER/PHOTOG.</b>	Ron Londen
<b>WRITER/RESEARCHER</b>	Caroline Eberly, Lisa Ryan
<b>RESEARCHER</b>	Kalkidan Mulugeta
<b>EDITORIAL ASSISTANT</b>	Tsega Negussie

## DESIGN

<b>DESIGN DIRECTOR</b>	Mike Ryan
<b>DESIGNER</b>	Ashley Walton
<b>PRODUCTION DESIGNER</b>	Lindsay Gilmore
<b>DIGITAL DIRECTOR</b>	Zack Bryant

## PRODUCTION

<b>PRODUCTION DIRECTOR</b>	Russ Edwards
<b>LEAD DEVELOPER</b>	Josh Bryant
<b>PRODUCTION/SALES</b>	Sara Sem
<b>PRINTING</b>	Emirates Printing Press, Dubai

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Rahel Assefa	Amanuel Mengistu
Zemene Nega	Diane J. McDougall
Henok Teferra	Tsedenia Tadesse
Mengistu Adelahe	Seble Demeke
Philip De Jong	

## ADVERTISING

### JOURNEYGROUP+C62, LLC

<b>INTERNATIONAL SALES</b>	<b>NORTH AMERICA SALES</b>
Azariah Mengistu	Sam Voelkel
TK Building	418 Fourth Street, NE
Office #102	Charlottesville, VA 22902
Bole Road	U.S.A.
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	+001 434 961 2500 (phone)
+251 116 180365 (phone)	+001 434 961 2507 (fax)
+251 116 180367 (fax)	samv@journeygroup.com
azariah@C62media.com	

As the continent's premier carrier and a member of the prestigious Star Alliance, Ethiopian Airlines brings Africa to the world and the world to Africa. *Selamta* does the same, celebrating the adventure of travel, the vitality of Africa's role in global business affairs, and the richness of culture across all of Ethiopian Airlines' many, varied destinations. This complimentary copy is yours to keep.

While every care is taken to ensure accuracy, the publisher and Ethiopian Airlines assume no liability for error or omissions in this publication. All advertisements are taken in good faith, and the opinions and views contained herein are not necessarily those of the publisher. All copyrights and trademarks are recognized. No part of this publication or any part of the contents thereof may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form without written permission by the publisher. An exemption is hereby granted for extracts used for the purpose of fair review. © 2014.



# Defending the Age of Empire

Vienna's Spanish Riding School carries longstanding traditions onward. | BY ELIZABETH ZACH



Riders and stallions at Vienna's Spanish Riding School have preserved the High School of Classical Horsemanship for more than 450 years.

One by one, the pure white stallions enter the chandeliered baroque hall, seemingly unaware of the audience, lights and polka music. Evenly spaced, four walk regally to one side of the grand arena and four to the other. Upon passing the enormous painting of Emperor Charles VI, their riders solemnly remove their caps and bring them to their chests, in reverence of the man who commissioned this elegant space.

Then, it's a single-file line through the traditional wooden pillars, a pirouette here, a canter there, the spring and kick of the capriole, the gravity-defying courbette, and the strenuous balancing act of the levade. All the while, the deft, unflappable riders offer encouraging pats and strokes.

Although the gallant horses are most definitely working for their keep, it appears they can't get enough of the spotlight and the sheer *fun*. It's as if they know they're lucky enough to have been called to this oldest, most prestigious of equestrian academies —

and they want you to know it.

Here in the heart of Vienna, the Spanish Riding School has proven its staying power since battle on horseback was still in fashion. Throughout the 450 years since its founding, the ambience and tradition have undergone little change: The same uniforms, music and horsemanship are on display for performances throughout the year, and the school is still considered a significant part of Austrian cultural heritage.

Indeed, in a city that today boasts boutique designer hotels, eclectic restaurants and trendy cafes, the Spanish Riding School — part of the Vienna Imperial Palace — insists on being a



*Cadets at the school (below) spend up to six years learning not only classical horsemanship but also how to properly care for their equestrian charges.*

traditional emblem of the Austrian capital. Determined to keep it classic and regal, the school reflects the noble Age of Empire but with one admirable exception: A visit these days is no longer reserved for the elite and, moreover, can include a behind-the-scenes peek at how these majestic creatures are groomed for the limelight.

While leading a tour through the school's adjacent stables, guide Christina Arthold explains the careful selection that takes place deep in the hills of southeastern Austria. Since 1920, she says, breeders at the Piber stud farm there have observed which among the Lipizzaner horses — admired for their intelligence, adaptability and willingness to work — would be best-suited for classical dressage.

In addition, the school selects only stallions. According to Arthold, they are unbowed by the rigor of intense training and the pressure to perform.

"They are natural show-offs," she says.

Likewise, the Lippizzaners' human partners embark on a road that requires patience, dedication and skill. Before they are allowed to perform, cadets spend up to six years learning not only classical horsemanship but also how to care for their equestrian charges.

Andreas Hausberger, one of the school's two chief riders, began riding at age 7 with the dream of performing here. "Of course you have the Spanish Riding School in mind," he says.

Applicants face fierce competition, says Hausberger, who began his training at the school in 1984, at age 19. Out of hundreds of would-be pupils, only one or two new riders are admitted each

year; the school accepts applicants solely from the European Union; and women weren't granted entry until 2008. Today, one female assistant rider and four women pupils train alongside the men.

Every stallion at the school stays with his rider till the horse retires; horses are broken in at age 4 and eligible for retirement at 25. "We are still the only place where the High School of Classical Horsemanship has been preserved," Hausberger says. "We see the horses as partners."

Athenian historian and soldier Xenophon first described this ancient art around 350 B.C. His treatise *On Horsemanship* dispenses thorough advice for selecting, breaking in, caring for, grooming, mounting, training and riding horses.

More than a millennium later, when the Moors invaded Spain, they crossbred

their native Berber horses with Spanish stock. In the 16th century, when the Habsburgs ruled both Spain and Austria, the new breed was introduced to the latter; a stud farm was established at Lipizza, in modern-day Slovenia, and the horses were given their moniker. While their trademark is their gleaming white coats, one dark horse is always included in Spanish Riding School performances "as a good-luck charm," Hausberger says.

So prized are these snow-white horses who perform the world over that, at the end of World War II, U.S. General George Patton cooperated with German *Wehrmacht* officers stationed in Czechoslovakia to protect some 250 Lipizzaners. Fearing that the famished Red Army soldiers would capture the horses for meat, the Germans asked Patton for help escorting the animals safely to Vienna.

Patton, brusque and no-nonsense by most measures, later reminisced about the Lipizzaners in his diary, noting how "... it is probably wrong to permit any highly developed art, no matter how fatuous, to perish from the earth." He then added, "To me, the high-schooling of horses is certainly more interesting than either painting or music."

Watching the lithe, rhythmic Lipizzaners train and perform, visitors are left with the same gratitude for the Spanish Riding School. Having withstood the whims of monarchy and republic, the school, its horses and its riders proudly carry on age-old traditions in a world that seems to change as quickly as a horse's gallop. **8**

