

Top hunter/jumper trainer brings a bit of the East Coast to West Coast jewel.

Professional rider and hunter/jumper trainer Mickie Sage is living the dream working in a country club setting at the beautiful LuckyJack Farm in Rancho Santa Fe. Last year she found out through some friends that the private facility needed a trainer. Mickie, a certified USHJA trainer, had been running her Mickie Sage Inc. Show Stables in Colorado since 1998. She and her husband, a golf professional for Golf Tec, were ready to say goodbye to cold weather and snowy winters.



Mickie was destined to be a horse trainer. Her parents met at the Devon Horse Show in 1968 and she grew up on her grandparent's Thoroughbred farm in New Hope, PA in horse show and foxhunting country. By the time she was 9, she was a seasoned show rider. As a junior rider she would easily show eight-plus horses and ponies a day as a much sought after catch rider on the East Coast circuits.

Exposure to so many top trainers at an early age really gave Mickie the skills and knowledge to have success in the hunters, jumpers, equitation and derby rings. She has shown horses and coached students at some of the most prestigious horse shows and winter circuits all across the country including: FEI World Cup qualifiers, the Winter Equestrian Festival, HITS Thermal, HITS Arizona, HITS Ocala, qualifying horses and riders for Devon, the Pennsylvania National, the

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Written by CRM

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Washington International, USEF Pony Finals, USEF Medal Finals, USET Finals and the ASPCA Maclay Finals.

As well as qualifying these horses and riders and competing at these shows, she has ridden and trained many World Champion Hunter Riders, National, Zone and State Champions in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, California and Colorado.

Mickie's favorite part of her job is teaching and witnessing the progress of her clients when they do well, lessoning at home or competing in the show ring. As well as teaching riders how to develop a feel for their horses in order to be successful in the show ring or in a lesson, caring for the horses is her passion. Mickie treats each horse with care and precision. Nothing gets overlooked. She's enjoying working with the farm owner who feels the same way she does. The care and soundness of the animal come first above all things.



Last fall Mickie and LuckyJack Farm's owner Patricia Brutton went to the Netherlands for the Dutch Sport Horse auction in search of show horses for Patty to show in the amateur divisions. Instead of coming home with made show horses, they ended up coming home with three young quality investment horses. Mickie has worked with Emil Spadone and Paul Hendrix for years as her contacts for finding exceptional horses. The new youngsters are off to a good start. During week one at Thermal, Kasall was second in the West Coast Pre-Green Stake and Esperance was fourth in the YJC 7 yr old qualifier jumper class.

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Mickie, the clients and the show team will be headed back to Thermal for weeks 5, 6 and 8. They will be bringing LuckyJack Farms young horses as well as the seasoned show horses. Mickie is very much enjoying riding and training the young horses, and looking forward to bringing the young prospects along with a solid show experience.

Mickie Sage Inc. has an ambitious show season ahead. After Thermal, she and her team will be showing at Blenheim, Del Mar and Showpark. In July they will head to the Adult Amateur championships in Oregon, then they head off to Kentucky for the USHJA Pre-Green Incentive Championships, then to Saugerties for the \$500,000 Hunter Prix.

Helping Mickie at her new California post is her friend from Pennsylvania, Melissa Morrill. Melissa is the assistant trainer for Mickie Sage Inc., at Lucky Jack Farm. Together Mickie and Melissa bring a bit of East Coast to the West Coast, and together their experience, riding styles and professionalism bring a fresh element of care and training along with them.

Mickie is accepting horses and riders at LuckyJack Farm. The facility is situated on 15 beautiful acres with large jumping arena with excellent footing, gorgeous barn, designed by the famed equine architect John Blackburn, 12 grass turnouts, grass jumping area, Eurociser, luxurious clubhouse and more.

To learn more about Mickie and her extensive resume, visit her website www.MickieSageInc.com, and more about the facility, visit www.LuckyJackFarm.com. Or call Mickie at 720-470-0180.