

Centaur Training ~ Featured Trainer

Southern California Equestrian Directory – February 1st 2010

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Centaur Training is now operating in North San Diego County at Avante Hill Farm, a beautiful, private facility in Valley Center. Avante Hill Farm training barn is located just a few minutes from the 15 Freeway off Gopher Canyon/Old Castle Road. The training barn is therefore easily accessible for clients in Escondido, San Marcos, Vista, Valley Center, Bonsall, Fallbrook, and Temecula. Owner and Trainer Kristie Bigham is accepting horses in training and offers riding instruction in Dressage on select schoolmasters. Kristie is also available for mobile training in North County, including Oceanside. At your facility, ranch or at Avante Hill Farm, Centaur Training welcomes the opportunity to work with all levels of riders and a variety of breeds of horses.

Kristie has an extensive background of over 19 years in the equine industry, covering a wide range of disciplines and breeds. She specializes in Dressage, with an emphasis on Warmbloods, although her training expertise also includes Thoroughbreds, Arabians, Morgans, Gaited horses, ponies and the light breeds such as Quarter Horses, Paints and Appaloosas. Kristie has many accomplishments under saddle: she trained the American Trakehner Association's Horse of The Year in Training Level and First Level for two consecutive years; she has shown and been ranked at the Nationals in Kentucky as well as showing in over 15 states across the country; she is a USDF "L" Certification Session Auditor; and Kristie is proficient with riding and competing through Third Level Dressage.



Within Centaur Training, Kristie utilizes her overall knowledge and expertise toward the goal of bringing out the best in both "under saddle" and "owner relationship" between her clients and their horses. Impeccable customer service is the standard, and the health and happiness of the equines in her charge are top priority. Kristie finds much satisfaction when the owner takes an active role in working with young horses. "It is one thing for the Trainer to be able to handle the horse, then it is quite

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another to instill the confidence into the horse's owner so that they can be successful in handling their own horse," states Kristie. From the entire process of breeding and foaling out, to the ground work and starting young horses under saddle, Kristie has a proven method gained through her management at some of Ohio's top farms. In 1995, Kristie was hired as the exclusive Head Trainer for the prestigious Lake Farm Park, where she remained through 2007, providing training and educational programs for the park staff and volunteers.

One of the key differences clients can expect from Centaur Training is Kristie's true passion

for horses and for riding. Being able to share her knowledge of riding with her students is a true joy for Kristie, and she finds that awakening this passion in her students brings greater meaning into her life as well. Her training and teaching style is thorough, while providing quiet yet firm encouragement; and she is genuinely interested in the clients' improvement. Kristie recently started a unique riding program for adults called the "Empty Nest" riding group. This weekly lesson program was designed for both adults returning to riding after their own kids grew and flew the coop, and for adults who rode as children and now want to get back into the saddle. This program is also a great match for adults who have always wanted to try riding – there's no time like the present!

Centaur Training's programs include training and lessons on either client-owned horses or instruction and leases for those who may not own a horse.

Centaur Training's Kristie Bigham invites you to visit her training facility at Avante Hill Farm to discuss how she can assist you and your horse to reach the level of success you are seeking. She looks forward to utilizing her expertise, integrity and love of horses in helping you with whatever your goals may be.

Centaur Training can be reached by phone at 760-231-5767; email at centaur_training@yahoo.com.

