Felix Vogg, 34 SUI

It will be a first Defender Burghley for German-based Swiss rider Felix Vogg (34) and his mare Cartania.

Felix and Cartania already have five-star form, finishing 15th and 11th at Badminton in 2023 and 2024 respectively. She has also finished in the top 15 at both the 2021 European Eventing Championships and the 2022 World Eventing Championships.

Felix grew up alongside horses on his family's farm on Lake Constance with his brothers Christian and Ben. He competed at Pony, Junior and Young Rider European Eventing Championships.

In 2012 he won the FEI World Cup title and in 2013 was selected for his first senior European Championships and received the Goldenes Reitabzeichen [Golden Riding Badge awarded for sporting success] in recognition of his achievements. Having trained with some of the best as part of the German Olympiad Committee for cavalry in Warendorf (2009-2010) then with Michael Jung (2010-2013) and Dirk Schrade (2014-2016), Felix became a regular member of the Swiss eventing team.

He also contested the 2017 and 2019 European Championships, the World Equestrian Games in Normandy in 2014 and Tryon in 2018 and the 2016 Olympics.

Felix trains full-time in Germany with eventing Olympian Bettina Hoy. He also showjumps internationally.

His younger brother Ben also events. He competed at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, the 2014 World Games and 2015 and 2017 European Championships. Their grandfather Roland Perret competed in eventing at the 1956 Olympics.

Felix won Luhmühlen CCI5* in 2022 on Colero, becoming the first Swiss rider to win at the level since Hans Schwarzenbach won Badminton in 1951. He was also recently eighth at the Olympics on Dao De l'Océan.

Cartania (Cartani-Z-Schatzi (Clinton)), owned by Phoenix Eventing S.à.r.l. & rider, is a German-bred Holsteiner-registered 13-year-old mare, who was bred by Koch Guenter. She was acquired for Felix to ride in 2018 from top Australian eventer Kevin McNab and was previously competed to two-star level by Kevin's wife Emma McNab. Cartania has five-star form, finishing 15th and 11th at Badminton in 2023 and 2024 respectively. She has also finished in the top 15 at both the 2021 European Eventing Championships and the 2022 World Eventing Championships.