

# NOELLE FLOYD *style*

MODE

LIFE

VOYAGE

SPORT

L'ESSENTIEL



# A Year Ago Today, Charlotte Dujardin Made Olympic History With Her “Greatest Friend”

BUZZ | By Nina Fedrizzi | Aug 15, 2017

Today on her Facebook page, four-time Olympic medalist Charlotte Dujardin flashed back to one year ago and her greatest accomplishment to date: winning a second individual gold medal at the Rio Olympic Games with her “greatest friend”, Valegro.

It was just another accolade for a partnership whose resume includes individual Olympic freestyle, World freestyle and Grand Prix Special, World Cup individual dressage, European freestyle, and Grand Prix Special titles. But it was a full four years after they burst onto the international stage—and into the world’s hearts—at London 2012 that Charlotte cemented her place as Great Britain’s most successful Olympic equestrian athlete:

**Charlotte Dujardin** ✓  
Martedì scorso

A year ago today, this horse gave me more than I could have ever have asked for and we achieved something beyond all I could have hoped for. He is the greatest friend I have ever had and I will love him for a lifetime x

LATEST ISSUE



PREVIOUS

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Theirs was a fairytale story from start to finish: a talented, hard working amateur who was given a chance on a promising but so far untested gelding. The bond was magic for all who witnessed it, though it's perhaps Valegro's co-owner and Charlotte's mentor, Carl Hester, who summed it up best:

“I said to [Charlotte], ‘Look, you can ride Valegro—and there were a few others—up to Prix St George, and when you get there, I’ll take him over. Of course, what happened in those three years, like all girls do, she fell stupidly in love with him and then it was impossible to get her off.

“When it came time for me to take over two things had happened: I had Uthopia, which was my other Olympic horse, and second, they were in love and I couldn’t really separate them.”

In Rio, Charlotte and Valegro succeeded where so many other greats have failed; repeating a smashing success with the full weight of expectation on their shoulders. In music, it's a phenomenon known as the 'sophomore slump'; but for Great Britain's most promising 2016 hopefuls, there would be no such disappointment.

One year ago, Charlotte Dujardin and Valegro proved once and for all what all of us around the world had been hoping—that finally, our generation had its own Harry and Snowman, or Seabiscuit and Red Pollard.

That the fairy tale was true after all.

Read our full Winter 2017 [feature on Valegro here](#), or watch our behind-the-scenes video below.

