

She may be just 5'2" tall, but Kate Considine is easy to spot on the Southern California 'A' circuit by her ever-present wide-brimmed sun hat and spot-on style. The successful hunter/jumper trainer who runs operations from her Willow Brook Stables in Lake View Terrace is best known for her accomplishments in guiding young riders to national championships in the hunter and equitation rings.

Growing up, the Michigan native worked for Anne Kursinski and Mark Leone, before traveling to Europe, where she trained for two years. When she returned to the US, it was to California, where she landed at Jim Hagman's Elvenstar Farm before opening her own business. Since then, she has coached her students to great successes in the pony, children's and junior hunter divisions. Considine feels lucky to be a part of her students' success, and enjoys running her busy, friendly barn where clients are family, and family comes first.

## Kate Considine



### Horse & Style: Describe your riding style.

**Kate Considine:** I would say that I am a traditionalist. I love all the new fashions in riding, and when I'm not showing I like to incorporate some new styles. At the shows I am recognized by my big sun hat, button-down dress shirt, and Gucci belt. But, when it is ring time, I go with the classic khakis and white show shirt with a blue or grey coat, and sometimes I can work in a rich brown.

### H&S: What is your head-to-toe riding outfit?

**KC:** I wear a GPA Speed Air helmet, my Grand Prix show coat, either Essex or Fits show shirt, Tailored Sportsman breeches and Parlanti boots. And I always wear small diamond earrings of different types. I wear four on my left ear, and two on my right. I feel naked without them, and I change them around when I want my luck to change.

Also, I was always buying colorful show socks that only last a few washings, but now horse shows are giving them out as prizes for winning a class. So, I have lots of socks now, and every time I get dressed in the morning, I have a little reminder of a good class!

### H&S: What are your favorite equestrian brands?

**KC:** It's a short list, but a good one! I love Parlanti boots, Tailored Sportsman for breeches, Fits, Grand Prix, Cheval, Essex, Asmar and of course Alessandro Albanese.

### H&S: How would you describe your non-horse show style?

**KC:** I want to be comfortable and beautiful. I guess you would call it bohemian. I love flowing sundresses, or flowing pretty tops matched with skinny jeans or shorts, and a cute pair of heels. I'm only 5'2", so when I can I love to wear heels. It's my chance to be tall!

### H&S: Of your biggest accomplishments as a rider, coach and judge, of which are you most proud and why?

**KC:** As a trainer and a rider, I'm most proud of what Hannah Goodson Cutt accomplished with our small junior hunter Caretano. He gave us more than any horse. Winning all of the indoor shows in 2009, and grabbing Best Junior Rider, along the way. Then returning to take the Championship at Devon that next year put the final jewel in the crown. All this from a horse I found out of the jumper ring, and along with Hannah, turned him into the best horse in the country!!! As a rider to bring such a horse into the limelight of our sport, not to discredit all the ribbons I won on him, but the true victory was creating one of the most amazing horses of sport.

As a coach I am proud every weekend. My clients give me 110 percent. And when I get to help them achieve their goals, it's the best feeling.

### H&S: If you weren't a rider, what would be your dream profession?

**KC:** I'm not so sure... all I ever wanted to be was a trainer. Maybe an interior decorator, I enjoy flipping houses, and redefining space with the right paint, furniture and accent pieces. My family and friends always ask me to help them with their houses.

### H&S: Who has been the most influential in your riding career?

**KC:** When I was young, in Michigan where I grew up, a man named Bill Lacy was coaching me, and I trained with Cindy Orr. Bill took the time to really explain the movement and brain of a horse to me. He was an amazing coach and a truly gifted horseman. He was the one that really lit the flame in me to do something in our sport. Even at my young age, he gave me the confidence to go after my dreams.

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