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Morven Park to Host Top Drivers for 6th Annual Carriage Pleasure Show

LEESBURG, VA – Exquisite horse-drawn carriages return to the stately grounds of Morven Park the weekend of June 16-17 for the Park’s 6th Annual Carriage Pleasure Show, Combined Test & Cross-Country Pleasure Drive. This unique and family-friendly event is free of charge for spectators and provides an opportunity to step back in time and witness a truly elegant competition.

“Carriages bring an undeniable spirit and grace to the equestrian community, as it recaptures the essence of days gone by,” said Laura Doyle, the Park’s Equestrian Events Manager. “This living showcase of Americana blends the pageantry and beauty of exquisitely turned-out carriages with the excitement of demanding competition.”

Morven Park is pleased to announce that Antique Vehicle Divisions and a Picnic Class have been added to the 2018 schedule. Drivers are eager to compete for the first time in Morven Park’s beautiful new outdoor equestrian arenas. Phase I of a multi-year revitalization of Morven Park’s Equestrian Center was recently completed, providing three new arenas with superb footing as well as exceptional spectator vantage points.

“The Carriage Pleasure Show & Combined Test is a highlight of our annual show calendar, and we’re so pleased to welcome carriage drivers and spectators for this special weekend,” said Sheryl Williams, Morven Park’s Executive Director. “The Pleasure Drive on Sunday morning is a wonderful opportunity to introduce a broader public audience to the majesty of horse and carriage as they stop in the shade of ancient oak trees in Morven Park’s historic gardens.”

Spectators are also encouraged to visit Morven Park’s Winmill Carriage Museum, which is open noon to 5 p.m., Thursdays through Mondays for the remainder of the summer. Thanks to the recent elegant and romantic wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, there has been a resurgence of interest in carriages. The Winmill Carriage Museum currently houses a Landalet carriage, which is a coupe version of the Ascot Landau carriage seen around the world as it transported the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in the Carriage Procession following their ceremony at Windsor Castle. Admission to the Winmill Carriage Museum is included during tour hours for Davis Mansion ticket holders. For additional tour details, visit MorvenPark.org/Tours.

More information about the 2018 Carriage Pleasure Show, as well as other Morven Park events and offerings, is available at www.MorvenPark.org.

About Morven Park

Morven Park is a 1,000-acre nonprofit park in Leesburg, Virginia. Known as the “Central Park” of Loudoun County, Morven Park welcomes visitors who come to enjoy exquisite scenery, formal boxwood gardens, the Morven Park International Equestrian Center, the Athletic Field Complex, the iconic Greek Revival mansion, museums, and hiking trails. For more information, or to support the Park, visit www.MorvenPark.org.

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