

Family fun at the Nissan Easter festival



By [Julia van Schalkwyk](#)

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For anyone with a penchant for ponies, the Nissan Easter festival would be clearly marked on their social calendar. What you may not know is that it's also a family-friendly weekend for those staying in Joburg over Easter.

Where else would you find showjumping and dressage, an Easter egg hunt, a dog agility show, a fancy dress competition, a horse carriage race and a Lipizzaner show? Not to mention Nissan's impressive vehicles on display to delight the dads. Delicious food markets were available with various treats and a kids' zone filled with mechanical rides, jumping castles and craft activities.



Winner Nicola Sime Riley

Being an avid equestrian enthusiast, I attended the main class on Monday. This was the culmination of a week's worth of dressage and showjumping with riders accumulating points to fight for their place on the podium. The class started off with a tearful goodbye lap from Nissan Nabab as Lorette Knowles Taylor puts him into retirement. They broke the six-bar record in 2015 at 2.05m, which was closely contested but unbeaten this year by Grant Langley and Berlioz De Hauts Droits at a monstrous 2.02m.

It was a tough course designed by Kate Launder this year. There were a few thrills and spills with a particularly creative dismount by Graham Winn.



Image sourced from [Tamara and Blake Images](#)

Time revealed the titans who fought it out to the finish. The final results were:

- First place: Nicola Sime Riley
- Second place: Shannon Smith
- Third place: Lauren Smorenburg
- Fourth place: Lorette Knowles-Taylor
- Fifth place: Chris van der Merwe



Image sourced from [Tamara and Blake Images](#)

Well done and fantastic riding to the winners. All the hard work paid off! Make sure you don't miss out on next year's big event. Bring the family and make a day (or two) of it.

ABOUT JULIA VAN SCHALKWYK

Julia is a designer and part-time contributor to BizLounge. Give me music, give me design, give me a gin and tonic!

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