



RDS
Exquisite
A piece of art

by Kamila Kozłowska
photos by Al Orasia archive

According to the Cambridge Dictionary of the English language, the adjective 'exquisite' stands for very beautiful and delicate. I must admit that whenever I have the opportunity to admire the three-year old RDS Exquisite in person, I am under the impression that her breeders, Amira and Eiad Safady, could not have chosen a better name for this breathtakingly beautiful bay filly. They admit that *"when the filly foal was born in 2019, we were overwhelmed by her beauty and we did our best to find a suitable name for her to reflect how remarkable she is. She was everything we could wish for and more."* She is the third generation of Royal Dutch Arabian Stud breeding program, a blend of fascinating

and precious bloodlines. Her extraordinary type and remarkable refinement did not go unnoticed in the small world of Arabian horses and she quickly caught the attention of Sheikha Muna AL RASHED, a horse breeder, owner and enthusiast known for her great taste in the Arabian breed. After being introduced to SH Muna and her children, Mohamad and Haifa, who share the passion for Arabian horses, the Safady family had no doubts that Al Orasia Stud would be the best forever home they could ever find for their special filly: *"RDS Exquisite made her debut in the show ring proudly representing the Kingdom of Bahrain. It was an indescribable feeling for us as her breeders to share such an*





extraordinary filly with the world. "Without doubt, RDS Exquisite is the true reflection of Sheikha's breeding philosophy, where type and beauty are an absolute must for any horse that joins the relatively new but already widely renowned breeding programme of Al Orasia Stud. Located in Al Jasra, a charming coastal village situated on the western coast of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the stud became widely recognised among all Arabian horse aficionados due to its impressive collection of horses carefully chosen by SH Muna herself. Her incredible intuition regarding Arabian horses must have derived from her noble heritage. Her

ancestors trace back to the esteemed Anaza Tribe who have bred and cherished Arabian horses for centuries. Needless to say, the owner of Al Orasia has Arabian horses in her blood and she cannot stress enough how important Arabian type and refinement are to her: *"type in Arabians means to me that a horse has all the traits and qualities which distinguish it from other breeds; beauty, movement, charisma and correctness. One cannot exist without the other."* So far, she has consistently followed her breeding vision, which led to some spectacular successes of the Bahraini stud in the show arenas around the world.



Sheikha's strategy to lease horses before buying them has paid off well, allowing her to observe the horse's performance and development before including it into her breeding programme. The story of how she acquired RDS Exquisite was no different, even though, in her own words *"this filly was a love at first sight. She is so distinguished, so different to anything I have ever seen that we could not resist having her"*. But no matter how special she was, Sheikha decided to follow her strategy and lease the filly before making decision to buy her. Her story with this exceptional filly started on one very early morning, when SH Muna and her son Mohamad

took a train from London to Holland to see her in person. Despite the early start, that was a journey she has never regretted. They both fell in love with the fantastic filly and made the decision to speak with her breeders. By no means it is a coincidence that the word 'royal' is part of their name as Royal Dutch Arabian Stud is an extremely successful breeding programme of which SH Muna speaks very highly: *"Most of their mares are like precious pearls, well hidden from the eyes of the world. Apart from admiring their horses, I was also impressed with their professionalism and how well educated and knowledgeable they are. Also, the love and*



appreciation they have for their horses is something very appealing to me. I am nothing less than proud to include a part of RDS into the Al Orasia breeding programme.”

The choice of RDS Exquisite was by no means a coincidence, as in Sheikha’s own words: *“she has a very interesting pedigree. Both her sire and dam are pretty*

special to me”. This young filly has a pedigree which is a dream come true for many breeders as she is linebred to a champion producer, the wonderful WH Justice. Her spectacular sire, the international sensation and triple crown winner Excalibur EA needs no introduction. Considered as an heir to Shanghai EA as well as one



of the best grandsons of WH Justice, he follows in his sire's and grandsire's footsteps. Not only did Excalibur take the top of the podium in many prestigious shows but he has also sired excellent progeny worldwide. One of the hidden jewels of Royal Dutch Arabian Stud, the amazing Ajman Moniscione daughter and granddaughter of WH Justice, Angelica KS, seemed like a perfect match for this sensational stallion. Apart from the above-mentioned Ajman Moniscione, widely known as the sire of unbelievably beautiful mares, Angelica has another significant stallion close in her pedigree. Her dam's sire is the Straight Egyptian Al Hadiyah AA, whom Sheikha Muna also values highly when it comes to Arabian horse breeding.

With such a concentration of precious genes, RDS Exquisite was bound to succeed in the show ring. She started her show career on a high note, when as a yearling she bewitched the judges of the 2020 Arabian Horse Weekend, easily winning the first class of the show, the gold medal and International Best in Show title. In the championships, the jury were almost unanimous in their decision, with only one judge pointing to another filly. After this spectacular success in her motherland, the year after Exquisite faced some fierce competition during the 2021 Menton Show in France. Again, she won her class and a day later she became Silver Champion Junior Filly, with two out of six judges choosing her as the gold medallist. This wonderful win inevitably put her on the path to Paris, where during the prestigious World Championships she became Bronze Champion Junior Filly. Exquisite

finished the class on the first place with a very high total score of 93.00 points, including 4x20 for type and 5x20 for head and neck. She certainly could have been luckier in the final competition, especially with three out of eight judges expecting her to take the top of the podium. Even though in the championships she had the same score as the silver medallist, her score in the class was slightly lower, which determined the final placement on the podium. Her breeders are very proud of her debut: *"in our hearts, we wish that one day she makes her come back so that everyone in the world can witness her beauty again. A filly of such high quality and so beautiful as RDS Exquisite embodies everything we could wish for as Arabian horse breeders."* However, Sheikha Muna had mixed feelings about her performance at the World Championships: *"Knowing how unpredictable the Paris show can be, I was relieved that my filly won the bronze champion title and disappointed at the same time that it was not gold or silver, especially after she did so well in the class. On one hand, a medal in Paris is something that many breeders dream of, on the other hand, I am confident in her quality and I think she should have won either gold or silver champion title."*

In the eyes of her owner, RDS Exquisite is an absolute beauty and it is difficult not to agree. Each time this phenomenal filly is presented to the world, she brings the image of the most distinguished dams of the Arabian breed. Beyond the shadow of a doubt, like many of these magnificent mares, she will grow to resemble the work of art. Behold the remarkable RDS Exquisite - a masterpiece in the making! □



