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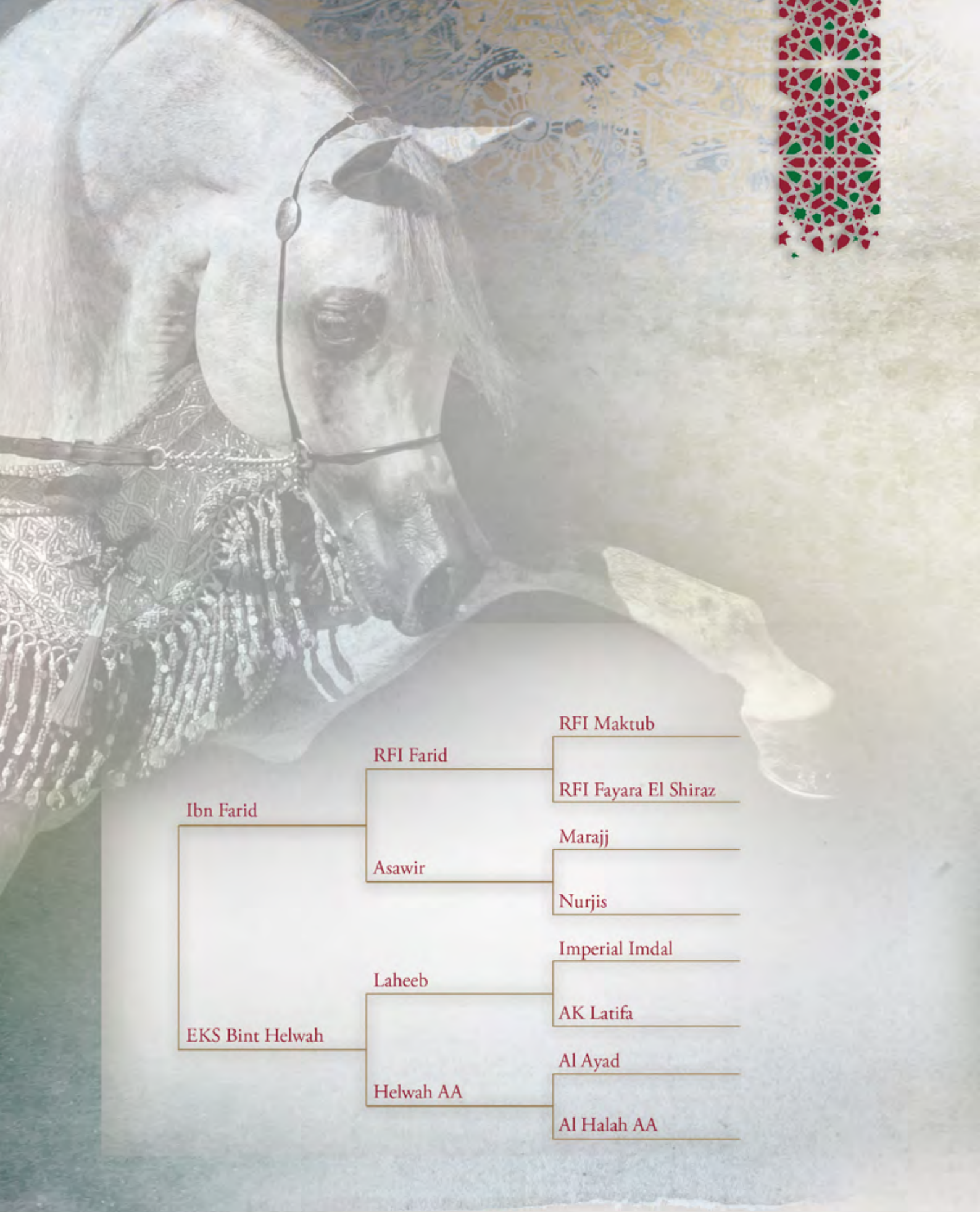
Ibn Farid
RFI Farid
RFI Maktub
RFI Fayara El Shiraz
Asawir
Marajj
Nurjis
EKS Bint Helwah
Laheeb
Imperial Imdal
AK Latifa
Helwah AA
Al Ayad
Al Halah AA

by Kamila Kozłowska

For centuries, forces of nature have had the power to evoke fear and fascination at the same time. Despite the fact that natural powers like tornadoes, volcanoes and hurricanes often bring death and destruction, there is something captivating and awe-inspiring in the way that nature rules the world.

Occasionally, an individual with a strong personality or character can also be compared to a force of nature. Like the massive energy of a hurricane heading in a certain direction with no regards for what stands in its way, such individuals are unstoppable and unforgettable. Once in a while, a remarkable representative of the Arabian breed is brought to the world that resembles an unstoppable force. This is the story of such an individual, the electrifying EKS Farajj (Ibn Farid – EKS Bint Helwah / Laheeb) – a force of nature in its own right.

Results

Silver Champion Senior Stallion
World Arabian Horse Championship - Doha 2023

Silver Champion Senior Stallion
All Nations Cup - Aachen 2023

Silver Champion Senior Stallion
Mediterranean and Arab Countries AHC - Menton 2023

Gold Champion Junior Colt
World Arabian Horse Championship - Paris 2019

Gold Champion Junior Colt
All Nations Cup - Aachen 2019

Silver Champion Junior Colt
Dubai International AHC - Dubai 2019

The story has begun on a cold and stormy night of 15th June 2017, when a grey colt was welcomed into the world at Elkasun Arabians of South Africa. The stud comprises of around ten to fifteen high-quality mares and except for well-known sires, Willie Brown, the owner and founder of Elkasun Arabians, occasionally gives a chance to unknown and unproven stallions. When Willie paid a visit to Giacomo Capacci Training Centre in Italy, he fell in love with a stunning Straight Egyptian mare Helwah AA (Al Ayad – Al Halah AA / Laheeb) who soon after gave birth to a beautiful grey filly by Laheeb (Imperial Imdal – AK Latifa / Ibn Moniet El Nefous), later named EKS Bint Helwah in honour of her delightful dam. Shortly after, both the dam and her daughter were travelling to their new home in South Africa. In 2015, Willie purchased a three-year-old bay RFI Farid son named Ibn Farid (out of Asawir / Marajj). It took great courage to breed all of his mares to the unknown and unprven stallion, including EKS Bint Helwah. When the first foal by Ibn Farid was welcomed to the world, he was named EKS Farajj which among many translations from Arabic means 'fortune'. From the very start, Willie knew how fortunate he was yet little did he expect how successful this new-born dark-grey colt foal would soon become.

EKS Farajj, purchased by the well-known Al Khashab Stud of Kuwait, debuted in the show ring at Sharjah International Arabian Horse Show in 2019 in the hands of Glenn Schoukens with whom he had an amazing connection from the very start. As a dark-grey two-year-old colt, he made a great impression on the judges, winning his class among sixteen high-quality colts with a high score of 92.50 points. At that point, he did not fully come out of his shell yet, however a perfect stand-up exposed his beautiful head and neck, for which he received two 20's. On the day of the finals, Farajj clearly stood out from eight excellent contenders of the junior colts' competition so much so that three judges voted for him to become gold medallist. Finally, Farajj took the second place on the podium and the Silver Champion title, a great success nonetheless for a debuting young colt. Just two weeks later, Farajj appeared in another Middle Eastern arena at Dubai International Arabian Horse Show, where he placed second in his class after a tie with Admiraal (Emerald J – Haniyyah / Psytadel), who received a slightly higher score for type. The impressive score of 93.00 points was the highest among junior colts, as the winner of three-year-olds' class AJ Kafu (Shanghai EA – AJ Kahayla / QR Marc) received the same final mark. The three junior colts with the score of 93.00 points had an even chance of winning in the championships and after a fair fight in the finals, the medals were divided among the highest scorers. Getting more and more used to the show arena, Farajj received two votes for gold and repeated his success from Sharjah, becoming Silver Champion Junior Colt, giving the highest place on the podium to the older and more developed AJ Kafu yet outdistancing his main rival in the class, Admiraal, who eventually became bronze medallist. After these two major accomplishments in the Middle East, there came a time for the young colt to enter some of the most serious contests in Europe. The first tough test for the young colt was the Mediterranean and Arab Countries Arabian Horse Championship in Menton, France, where Farajj came face to face with very strong competitors. In the heat of the French Riviera, he finished the only class of two-year-old colts in the second position with 91.75 points and a 20 for movement. The junior male championship was dominated by the three-year-old colts and Farajj had to settle for the bronze medal, still an impressive accomplishment at such a prestigious show.

Dubai

EKS FARAJJ

Aachen

Paris

From then on,it was obvious that EKS Farajj is the force to be reckoned with. It became even more apparent at All Nations Cup in Aachen, considered one of the most difficult shows not only in Europe but in the world. After an easy victory in the two-year-old colts' division with 92.55 points, including two 20's for type and two more for head, Farajj reached the top of the podium and became All Nations Cup Gold Champion Junior Colt, outdistancing HL El Ganador (HP Shakir-Te – Lonco Baby Maria / HP Emir), the 2019 Menton Gold Champion Junior Colt and his main rival, as well as D Ibn Rasheem (FA El Rasheem – Angeliccah / Marwan Al Shaqab), another international multi-champion. It was yet another prestigious title to be added to Farajj's fast-growing collection of trophies. After this spectacular success in Aachen, the beautifully developing colt that was feeling more and more at ease in the show ring did not rest on the laurels, having one more major test ahead of him, the 2019 World Arabian Horse Championships in Paris. The enthusiasm and apprehension among his team reached their peak and the pressure on his upcoming performance in the Parisian ring was on. After a perfect presentation in the class with his good friend Glenn Schoukens on the lead, Farajj was awarded with the well-deserved first place and a total score of 92.57 points, including seven 20's: four for type, two for head and neck and one for movement. It was clear as day that he was one of the strongest contenders for the coveted title of World Gold Champion Junior Colt and he did not disappoint either his team or his most avid admirers. In the finals, Farajj stormed into the ring like a tornado, leaving no doubts as to who should reach for gold. Actually, the podium in Paris mirrored the one in Aachen where EKS Farajj took the gold, while HL EL Ganador and D Ibn Rasheem had to settle for the silver and bronze medals respectively. Without a doubt, 2019 was the year of EKS Farajj.

EKS
FARAJJ

After such a successful year, Farajj had nothing more to prove as a junior colt and thus he did not make an appearance in any shown arena as a three-year-old. Instead, he started fulfilling his duties in the breeding barn at the Schoukens Training Center, one of the best training facilities in the world, and had not returned to the show ring for another three and a half years. For this reason, his comeback as a six-year-old stallion was eagerly anticipated by anyone curious about his further development.

The year 2022 is marked with golden letters for EKS Farajj. Indeed, thanks to the vision of excellence of His Majesty the King of Morocco this one-of-a-kind stallion has been purchased by one of the most prestigious studs in the history of the Arabian horse world: the one and only Haras Royal de Bouznika. With no surprise, Farajj has found the best place from where to shine again in the world show arenas. And so it is, Farajj was one of the participants of the prestigious Mediterranean and Arab Countries Arabian Horse Championship in Menton in June 2023, representing Haras Royal the Bouznika and the Kingdom of Morocco. It was worth waiting so long to witness Farajj's transformation into a superb senior stallion full of show attitude and charisma. Abundant in type and literally flying in the air, he did not fail to amaze the audience in Menton performing at his best again in the hands of Glenn. Faced with fierce competition, he left other highly-decorated show champions far behind and won his class with an impressive score of 93.83 points with a full set of 20's for type, additional five for head and neck and another four for his ground-covering trot. The Senior Stallion Championship was like the clash of Titans! It was evident that the two winners of senior stallions' classes, EKS Farajj and D Seraj (FA El Rasheem – Lady Veronika / Versace), were aiming for gold. As a matter of fact, all the judges' votes for gold and silver were equally divided between the young debuting Farajj and the older yet very accomplished D Seraj. The tie between the two was resolved by taking the class score into consideration. The difference of just 0.17 points in favour of D Seraj tipped the scale of victory to his side. Nevertheless, EKS Farajj was very close in reaching for gold while he also outdistanced another highly-appreciated show horse, the 2021 World Bronze Champion Senior Stallion, Harbi Al Adwan (Asfoor Al Waab – Wadha Al Adwan / Fayad Alfayyad), who eventually took the third place on the podium. As the 2023 All Nations Cup contender, Farajj repeated his phenomenal performance from Menton and again took the class podium with the incredible score of 93.08 points, including twelve 20's (three for type, four for head and five for movement). Just a few hours later, he was proudly wearing the well-deserved silver medal on his chest, adding another historical win to his rapidly growing collection of trophies, much to the unconcealed delight of his new owner,

The 2023 show season, abundant in many memorable moments and some exhilarating head-to-head encounters in the show arena, culminated in December with a bang: World Arabian Horse Championships in Doha, Qatar. For the first time in its forty-year-long hist ry, this most significant show of the year was held outside of Europe and the organizers bent over backwards to bring this prestigious event to the next level. In the magical surroundings of Old Doha Port, it was only right that the magnificent Kingdom of Morocco was represe ted by the royalty of the breed to which EKS Farajj, with all his astonishing accomplishments, all his splendour and dignity, undoubtedly belongs. As befits the Arabian horse aristocracy, Farajj stormed into the sandy arena and swept the astounded audience off their feet. It seemed that the judges shared the spectators' sentiments as nearly all nine of them awarded his performance with the highest marks for type as well as head and neck. In total, the six-year-old stallion received sixteen 20's and a remarkable score of 93.14 points, which meant an easy win in the first senior stallions' section plus a special Best Head trophy. The subsequent division of senior stallions determined who would be fighting against Farajj in the show finale. His main rival was none other than one of the most highly decorated stallions of our time, Excalibur EA (Shanghai EA – Essence of Marwan EA / Marwan Al Shaqab), who only a year before reached for the title of World Silver Champion Senior Stallion, beaten only by his own brilliant son, Alexxanderr (out of AR Most Irresistible / ML Mostly Padron). Excalibur seriously outdistanced his opponents in the class yet the difference in total marks between the two class winners was merely 0.15 points. As with most open contests, nothing was set in stone but one thing was obvious: the competition in the championships was going to be extremely intense, especially that apart from Farajj and Excalibur, the finale was full of other famous names like Sultan Alenaya (Emerald J – Ammona / Ekstern), AJA Justafire (WH Justice – AJA First Love / FS Bengali) or Farajj's former stable companion, EKS Mansour (EKS Alihandro – EKS Phateena / WN Star of Antigua). The ultimate battle of senior stallions was not in the least bit disappointing and the fourteen members of jury were fairly consistent with the choice of the three medallists, which closely resembled the class scoring. Two times older and therefore more mature than his main rival, Excalibur took the top of the podium but EKS Farajj was hot on his heels… or hooves as some horsemen would say. The six-year-old stallion stole the show and became World Silver Champion, adding another su stantial chapter to his already glorious history. However, the silver medal was not his only achievement at the 2023 World Championships. A few moments before EKS Farajj collected his well-deserved trophy, two of his sons, the grey Sari Ajmal (out of Bint Bessolea / Marwan Al Shaqab) and the bay Sahm Sarm (out of Bandahleeza ZB / Emerald J), became World Gold and Bronze Champion Yearling Colts respectively. Actually, the battle between Sahm Sarm and LR Anselmo (RFI Unique – LL Almudena / Bey Shahdow TGS), the ultimate silver medallist, kept everybody in suspense till the very end as both colts had the same total scores in their respective classes and only on point difference in the championships determined their final placement on the podium. What is more, another yearling colt by Farajj, Nesj El Jameel (out of Nesj El Yuliah / Ajman Moniscione), who a month later won the Gold Champion Junior Colt title at the 5th SouqWaqif International Arabian Horse Show, f nished the World Championships finale just off the podium with two votes for gold from the judges and an additional Best Head award in his class.

As significant as the show career might seem, nothing demonstrates the quality of a stallion more than his ability to leave the mark on his progeny and on the breed in general. The fact that EKS Farajj has already sired not one but two World Champions would suffice to show his great genetic prepotency but these are not his only accomplishments in the breeding barn. Despite being such a young stallion, Farajj has already proved to be a superb sire of outstanding offspring. His first foal crops comprise of some highly-accomplished show progeny with many significant successes at the most prestigious shows. The aforementioned 2023 World medallists, Sari Ajmal and Sahm Sarm, open a long list of awards obtained by Farajj's offspring. Before these two classy colts became World Champions, they had shared the podium of the 2023 Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Arabian Horse Festival (PSAIAHF), a significant ECAHO title event, at the beginning of their show career. In the Yearling Colts' Championship, Sari boldly reached for the gold and Sahm came right after him as a newly-crowned silver medallist. On top of that, Farajj's foals completely dominated the 2023 PSAIAHF yearling fillies' finals. The Gold Champion title went to SF Nora (out of SF Ghazalah / Besson Carol), silver medal was awarded to Loulwah Raghwan (out of Daina Almuawd / Psytadel), while Katara BK (out of Shalfa Almuawd / Sabea Almuawd) became Bronze Champion - the achievement that she repeated a year after at the same show as a junior filly. In the end, five out of six medals for yearlings were awarded to Farajj's offspring! Undoubtedly, this is a result that not many sires can boast about, let alone before they turn six. As if it was not enough, Bint Rshediah Alkhashab (out of Rshediah Alkhashab / EKS Alihandro), the two-year-old daughter of Farajj, took the third place on the podium and the bronze medal in the Junior Fillies' Championship. This beautiful bay filly also gained recognition in Europe where she became 2022 Bronze Champion Yearling Filly in Menton and 2023 Gold Champion Junior Filly in Milan.

Interestingly enough, the podium of the Yearling Fillies' Championship at 6th International Arabian Horse Show held in Riyadh in December 2023 mirrored the one from the January AHF. Nothing changed in the course of eleven months which meant that SF Nora, Loulwah Raghwan and Katara BK collected their medals in the exact same order. As previously mentioned, Katara BK won the Bronze Champion Junior Filly title at the 2024 PSAIAHF, however she was not the only successful get of Farajj at this event. This significant Saudi Arabian title show introduced another two yearling champions by Farajj, Gold Champion Yearling Filly RQ Lamees (out of S Kahila / Kahil Al Shaqab) and Bronze Champion Yearling Colt Shakhat Alawal (out of Bella Libertad MC / Freedom PA).

FARAJJ

Katara International Arabian Horse Festival (KIAHF) is another important title show where Farajj's progeny consistently make their mark. In 2022, his son Amos SH (out of Thalita KA / QR Marc) became Silver Champion Junior Colt, while in 2023 the above-mentioned SF Nora won the bronze medal in the Yearling Fillies' Championship. Furthermore, Farajj's offspring marked their presence at other important Middle Eastern shows: the 2023 Kuwait International Arabian Horse Show and most recently the 2024 Sharjah International Arabian Horse Festival. At these two important ECAHO A shows, three yearling fillies by Farajj finished the competition on the podium. In Kuwait, EL La Linda STC (out of Ella Rae / Monther Al Nasser) and H Malak (out of Sheikha Al Duwailah / Taj Alfayyad) became Gold and Bronze Champion respectively, while MHS Sora (out of Noof / Fuerte) won the silver medal at the latest show in Sharjah. This elegant grey filly debuted at the beginning of 2024 at 3rd Doha International Arabian Horse Show where she won the Gold Champion Yearling Filly trophy.

EKS Farajj has also sired some national champions, including 2022 Israeli National Silver Champion Yearling Filly Moderna S Glam (out of Ilke S Glam / Al Ayal AA), 2023 Bahrain National Gold Champion Yearling Colt Shahab Al Shahab (out of Samar Al Shahab / AJ Kafu) and 2023 Saudi National Bronze Champion Junior Colt Anwar Alsayed (out of Antigua HVP / Marwan Al Shaqab). This three-year-old grey colt is already a superstar in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where, apart from the National Bronze Champion title, he won two gold, one silver and one bronze medal at other local shows.

Also in the European show arenas Farajj has stood out as a sire. The most impressive wins on the Old Continent include two medals at the 2023 All Nations Cup in Aachen. In the yearling colts' contest, the Silver and Bronze Champion titles were divided between the aforesaid World Championships finalists, Nesj El Jameel and Sahm Sarm. Moreover, the bay colt foal Saif Al Awamrh (out of Sima AH) became Unanimous Gold Champion at the 2023 edition of Arabian Futurity Europe, also held in Aachen. Another significant title show, European Championships in Verona, witnessed one of the first wins of Farajj's progeny. The bay filly Feuer Tatjana (out of JCJ Feuer Lady / Feuer Jade) from his very first foal crop became 2021 European Bronze Champion as an eight-month-old filly foal. Feuer Tatjana did not rest on her laurels and in 2022 she won two Unanimous Gold Champion titles at Elementa Arabian Master and Milan International Cup.

At the 2022 edition of European Championships in Lier, Sire KA (out of Safiya KA / QR Marc) became Silver Champion Yearling Colt, whereas his younger stable companion Thia KA (out of Thalina KA / QR Marc) won the title of European Bronze Champion Yearling Filly in Bedizzole in 2023. Sire KA was also presented at the 2022 Erlan Cup in Belgium together with another filly by Farajj bred by Knocke Arabians of Belgium, Jolanta KA (out of Jasmine KA / QR Marc). Both of them finished the competition on the podium becoming Bronze Champion Yearling Colt and Bronze Champion Yearling Filly respectively.

As Farajj's foals display the most desirable qualities from a very early age, Feuer Tatjana was not the only foal champion at European shows. The 2021 grey colt Majd Alkhashab (out of Jude MS / Abha Ubangui) was named Erlan Cup Gold Champion Foal, while the 2022 grey filly BG Nabilla (out of Najma / Ajman Moniscione) reached for the gold medal at the first edition of United Crown Cup in Lier. In 2023, Sweet Caress, a bay filly by Farajj and out of Adshaya El Aziz (by Kanz Albidayer), became Gold Champion Filly Foal at Milan International Cup.

Other prominent European trophies won by Farajj's progeny include the silver medal for the bay filly Neom Bin J (out of Ilena / Vitorio TO) at the 2023 Prague Intercup. Neom was also 2023 Silver Champion Yearling Filly at Arabian Horse Weekend in Schaijk and 2023 Gold Champion Yearling Filly in Bruges. The 2023 Arabian Dream International Show in Verona featured the aforementioned Saif Al Awamrh as Unanimous Gold Champion Futurity Colt as well as the grey Lord El Khatib (out of Al Junah / AJ Mardan) who won the silver medal in the Yearling Colts' Championship.

EKS Farajj has sired some national champions also across Europe, including the grey Roe Raheeb (out of ZT Ludjbrosiaa / Ludjin EL Jamaal), 2023 British National Gold Champion Junior Colt as well as 2023 Bronze Champion Junior Colt in Bruges. When all these titles are taken into consideration, it is obvious that foals sired by Farajj exhibit his best features like extraordinary type, commanding charisma, exotic head and correct conformation. The facilities of Farajj as a sire seem to have no boundaries as he crosses well with a wide variety of mares and bloodlines. Surely, being only seven-years-old, EKS Farajj has not said his last word as a sire and his future offspring is awaited with great apprehension by many Arabian horse breeders.

Approaching the show arena like a hurricane or a tornado, showing off like an exploding volcano, energetic, charismatic and full of confidence, EKS Farajj resembles a natural phenomenon that evokes fear in his competitors and fascination among his admirers. No matter whether you fall in love with him at first sight or you simply feel overwhelmed by his presence, this superb young stallion is a force never to be ignored. Bewitchingly beautiful and profoundly powerful in the show arena, EKS Farajj comes like a tidal wave to crush his competition and, at the same time, to captivate the audience with his unforgettable performance. In the breeding barn, he has fuelled the engine of growth and progress with his producing powers from the very first moment that he became a breeding stallion. Two times winner of the coveted World Champion title as both junior and senior stallion and the sire of two World Champions as well as one of the most profound progenitors of the Mirage DB sire line in the world, Farajj has nothing left to prove. No doubt that his future is bright and he will continue to amaze us all. Unstoppable, unpredictable and captivating – EKS Farajj – the fascinating force of nature.

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