

ABHA HAMIR (1973 -1998)

AND HER EXCELLENT LEGACY

text by: Marieta Salas

photos by: Sparagowski, Bill Macri, Gigi Grasso, Patti, Patti Knoll, Erwin Escher

ABHA HAMIR
(Bambu x Garbi)

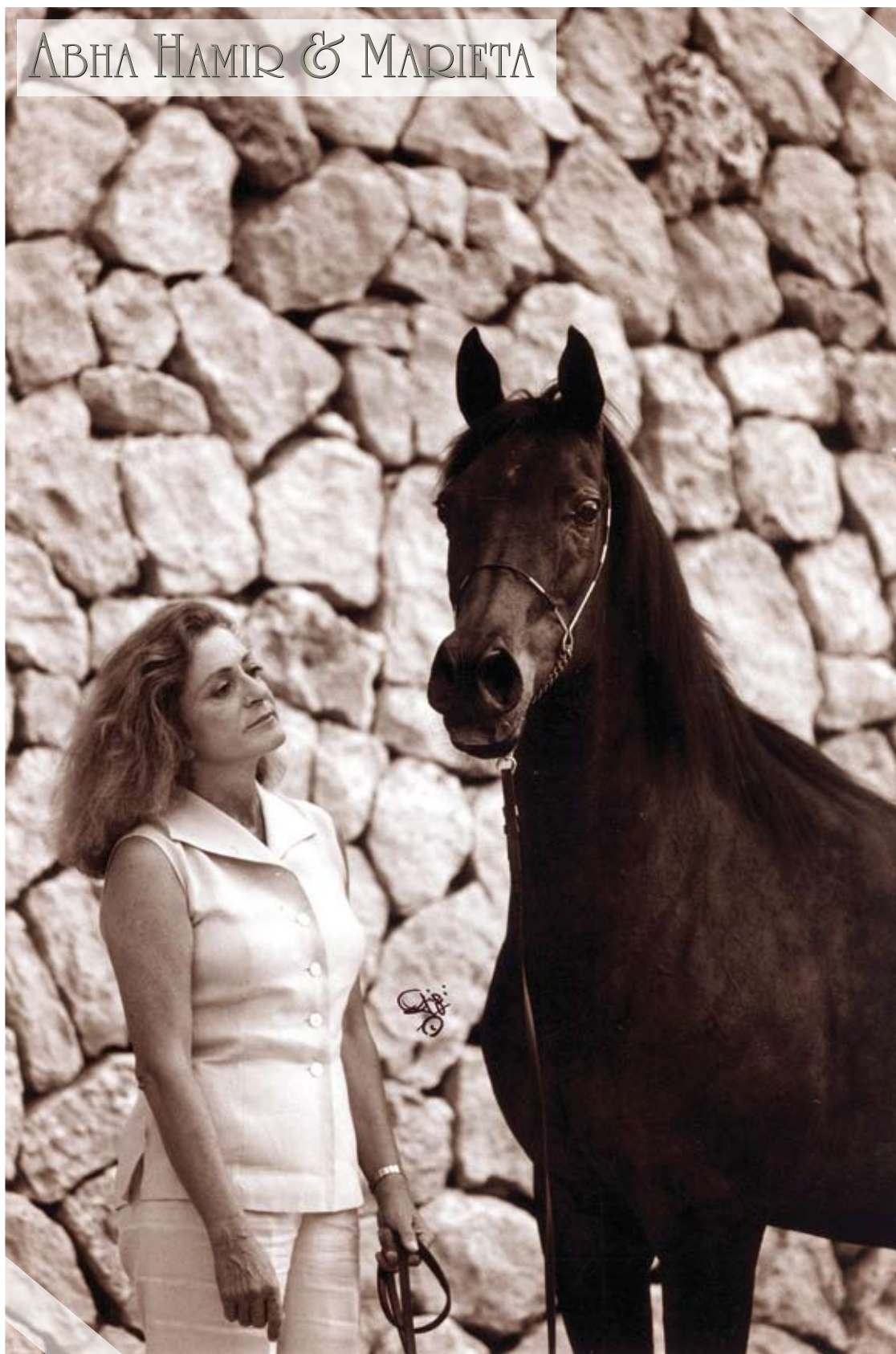


In early may of 1973, Perico the stud manager of Ses Rotes, at the time my father's farm in Majorca, and I, were preparing our beds on some straw bails, in the mare barn as we were waiting for **ABHA GARBI** (Orive x Cequi) to foal. She was one of the very good mares, my father Pedro Salas had purchased from Maria Paz Murga de Heredia, when she had to disperse her Arabians horses. We were half asleep and the mare suddenly foaled. When the foal stood up, we saw two huge black eyes, a very dark coat and long legs. The filly, **ABHA HAMIR** (Bambu x Garbi) was extremely lively, running up and down the big foaling barn, the traits on her face were very refined, rather unusual for a

newly born foal. At the time of **ABHA HAMIR**'s birth, my father and I had been breeding Arabians for a few years, but I had never seen a foal of such quality and charisma.

In 1974 she was shown by Perico at the Spanish Nationals. Pezi Gazder, very knowledgeable of the Arabian breed, not only on pedigrees but also on Arabian type, was the judge. He chose **ABHA HAMIR** as the female Champion of the show, what is called nowadays Best in Show. I was in California on my honeymoon and my father called me to give me the wonderful news, it was our first big achievement as Arabian breeders;

ABHA HAMIR & MARIETA



ABHA HAMIR

(Bambu x Garbi)



With the arrival to the US of the very nice young stallion An Malik (Galero x Ispahan) imported from Spain by Jay and Dorothy Stream, the interest for the Spanish Arabian grew all over the United States. Very frequently the Streams came to Spain to purchase some more mares, they visited Ses Rotes together with Bobby Hart saw **ABHA HAMIR** and Bobby decided she should go to the US, as he would make her National Champion there. A bit surprised but very happy with the nice comments, we agreed. The mare left for California it was the summer of 1977. Before her departure **ABHA HAMIR** had produced a very pretty filly, immediately sold to Venezuela, who unfortunately died upon arrival.

The same year **ABHA HAMIR** left Majorca, my husband purchased a ranch in California, La Lomita, where we decided to build a house and develop a breeding program. It was easy to visit with **ABHA HAMIR** as she was stabled very near our farm, follow her training and progress in beauty. She was a different type of Arabian than most Spanish Arabians of that time, maybe she was less pretty in

the face, but possessed huge black eyes, was extremely long legged, well built, refined, very elegant and charismatic. She possessed so much distinction that people who saw her never have forgotten her and still talks about her presence nowadays.

On February 1978 she started her show career winning 9 straight Mare Championships. We went to see her win at the prestigious Santa Barbara Show, by the end of the year, she was already a star in the show ring all over the United States. Later on we donated bronze of **ABHA HAMIR** by Roy Harris to the Santa Barbara show organization, as a Memorial Trophy for the Champion Mare, which is presented still today.

Bobby Hart decided the Mare had been exposed enough for the year and she took some holidays off the show ring, until February 1979 where she had to be ready for the very important shows starting with Scottsdale.

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ABHA HAMIR
(Bambu x Garbi)



ABHA HAMIR & ABHA DJEZIREH



*On a radiant mid February day in 1979 I attended the Scottsdale show together with my father, for the first time in my life; We were absolutely astounded to see more than a hundred horses participating in almost each class; In **ABHA HAMIR**'s section 3 cuts had to be made, before arriving to the finals. The seats to watch this prestigious show were packed with people; I can't describe our emotions when her name was announced, with her title of Champion Mare of the show, unanimously; It was absolutely GREAT;*

*After this fantastic win, we decided together with Bobby Hart, she would only participate in two more shows that year; the Canadian Nationals and US Nationals. Unfortunately we were not able to go to Canada, but we received a very nice phone call, telling us she had been named Canadian National Champion Mare. A month later, the US Nationals were held in Albuquerque, my father and I took Perico with us and off we went. It was the first time in his life, Perico had left Majorca. **ABHA HAMIR** made the first cut between 90 mares. The day of the Championships we*

*were so excited we could not bear it, we drove to Santa Fe, had a nice lunch and visited the pretty town, in order to calm down our souls. That evening, arriving into the large Main Show Hall, we were very impressed by the huge audience who filled the place up to the top; Waiting until the Champion and Reserve were announced, seemed very very long, though I had the feeling the mare would win and I told my father about it, which only made him more anxious; Finally we heard the name of the Reserve US National Champion followed by **ABHA HAMIR**'s name, proclaimed 1979 US. National Champion Mare; It is difficult to describe our happiness, not only for her important win but because Perico the man who was with me in the barn, when she was born could also enjoy that great moment.*

***ABHA HAMIR** returned to La Lomita and in 1981 foaled a bay filly **ABHA DJEZIREH**, by An Malik. She was very happy to be a mother; her disposition had not changed after all the show training, and I always was very grateful to Bobby Hart for it. At the farm she behaved like a Queen, she*

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ABHA HAMIR





ABHA HARIM IN SCOTSDALE

would not mix with the rest of the broodmare band, while grazing in the pasture. I could say there was some arrogance about her; I had to go to pet her, she would not come to me.

Gil Chavez a performance trainer from the nearby Santa Inez Valley became a frequent visitor to La Lomita and, convinced us **ABHA HAMIR** should be shown under saddle in English Pleasure, so at the end of 1981 off she went to his barn and in 1982 she was qualified to go to the Nationals again. But Gil was not fully satisfied with her performance under saddle, so he decided the mare would love to be driven. **ABHA HAMIR** had never been driven, he trained her to the buggy and 3 weeks later she won the Driving Pleasure class at the Santa Barbara show.

That year 1982 the US Nationals took place in Louisville, Kentucky. I remember it was very cold. In the Driving Pleasure class there were 100 horses entered, so they had to make two cuts before the 30 finalist could be eligible for Top Ten, Champion and Reserve. At our arrival she was already

qualified for the Championships. Finally and with only five months of training with the buggy, she made it again and was named US National Champion Pleasure Driving. Because of all this wins, she received the Legion of Merit.

Back at La Lomita **ABHA HAMIR** enjoyed being a broodmare, though she perfectly distinguished a show halter from a barn halter. When we put a show halter on her, she knew she was going to be shown to visitors, her looks completely changed. She became more elegant, her large nostrils opened, her eyes became brighter; she really loved to put on a show in front of the visitors, trotting head and tail up, like she was a superior creature. And certainly she was;

Bred to Malikitoa a full brother to An Malik, she produced a colt, **ABHA GAMIR** who was soon sold and remained in the US. A year later in 1985 **ABHA HARIM** a colt by Abha Nejeb was born. **ABHA HARIM** was Top Ten in the yearling class at Scottsdale, although he was one of the youngest of the 110 colts participating in the class.

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ABHA HAMIR
(Abha Neheb x Abha Hamir)



ABHA HARIM
(Abha Nejeb x Abha Hamir)



ABHA HAMIR

*In the meantime I had a son Igor, whom I could not take with me to the US, as he had started school in Majorca, the market for Arabian horses was not at its best, so in 1988 we decided to sell most of our Arabians in the US and continue our breeding in Majorca Spain. **ABHA HAMIR** and her progeny **ABHA DJEZIREH** and **ABHA HARIM** arrived at my new farm Ses Planes, adjacent to Ses Rotes. Just to finalize the story of **ABHA HAMIR** in the States, before her departure to Spain, we were offered a very important amount*

of money for her purchase, by a Brazilian famous breeder of the time, but we refused to part with her.

*After a few days of rest upon her arrival to Ses Planes, I took **ABHA HAMIR** to the mare pasture; I was worried the mares would try to pester her, as sometimes they do, when a newcomer invades their territory. In fact they all came running but stopped about ten meters from her. She looked at them above their heads, with pride, I let her loose and the*

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AL HARIMBA

mares ran away she was never annoyed by them. ABHA HAMIR died at 27, she had never been sick or even lame, and looked wonderful. She passed away at night, I said good by to her and knew she would not be alive next morning. She died like she was, a QUEEN;

ABHA HARIM (Abha Nejeb x Abha Hamir) a chestnut colt stayed just a short time at Ses Planes. Ferdinand Huemer from La Movida Arabians, Austria, leased him and in 1989 and 1990 used him at stud and made him available to outside breeders. While in Austria he obtained the Gold Medal for Best Breeding Stallion, for two consecutive years and

produced among others, the 1994 Reserve World Champion filly Al Harimba.

ABHA HARIM was Champion in Fraunfeld. He returned to Ses Planes but I could not use him much in my breeding program due to his consanguinity with most of my mares. He was later sold to some young breeders in Catalonia and passed away.

*In the next issue of Tutto Arabi, I will write about **ABHA HAMIR**'s return to Spain and also her progeny.*