

# Sanadik El Shaklan

## Progenitor of Classic Arabian Type

by Beth Ellen Hunziker

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*Family dynamics and ancestral connections are interesting subjects to read and write about. Everyone is interested in their family's background; from the royal family of England, to the immigrants of America, to the Bedouins of Arabia, our personal history is compelling. Studying and learning about our ancestors, the individuals whose lives are linked to ours, is an incredible journey. You never know whom you will meet among your early family members; it could be an entrepreneur, an educator, a healer or even a hero! Every direct ancestor was a progenitor who contributed some element of themselves to create the existing generation, as well as future generations.*

*Family connections take on an even greater significance among breeders of Arabians horses. Studying pedigrees is an interesting and exciting way to learn about our horses and it can be extremely helpful in making wise breeding decisions. Pedigree research reveals many things including which individuals, or line of individuals, are the most influential and which contribute valuable traits with the highest level of*

*consistency. Among the most highly acclaimed Arabian horse sires of the past decade is a stallion whose influence has reached international proportions. His offspring have proven that he is indeed one of the most important sires of the breed and a progenitor of classic Arabian type – it is Sanadik El Shaklan.*

*As an individual, Sanadik El Shaklan was a stallion of great beauty and quality. He inherited those traits from his lovely mother and his world famous father – a stallion so unique that a new term was coined to describe him. The “Golden Cross” conveys an image of richness and success, which perfectly characterizes the great stallion El Shaklan, bred by Om El Arab. The formula that created the “Golden Cross” is the blending of equal parts of Egyptian and Spanish bloodlines. Although there are other horses that have resulted from this same breeding practice, none have resulted in individuals of such superior quality and extreme type as El Shaklan and his son Sanadik El Shaklan.*

*“Golden Cross”, referred to both El Shaklan's physical looks*



Sanadik El Shaklan



Sanadik El Shaklan

1983 grey, stallion

- MORAFIC EAO\*29 Grey 1956
- SHAKER EL MASRI GASB\*107 Chestnut 1963
- ZEBEDA EAO\*121 Bay 1955
- EL SHAKLAN GASB\*1207 Grey 1975
- TABAL SSB\*2703 Grey 1952
- ESTOPA GASB\*168 Grey 1965
- UYAIMA SSB\*3070 Chestnut 1956
- NAZEER RAS\*247 Grey 1934
- HADBAN ENZAH I SBWM\*79 Grey 1952
- KAMLA RAS\*382 Grey 1942
- MOHENA GASB\*711 Grey 1972
- TUNANTE SSB\*3191 Grey 1958
- MORISCA V DAV\*97 Grey 1966
- FABIOLA SSB\*3463 Chestnut 1961
- NAZEER RAS\*247 Grey 1934
- MABROUKA EAO\*12 Chestnut 1951
- EL SAREEI RAS\*387 Bay 1942
- GALILA EAO\*84 Bay 1949
- CONGO SSB\*1839 Grey 1941
- HILANDERA SSB\*1939 Grey 1942
- BARQUILLO SSB\*1707 Grey 1938
- IMELINA SSB\*2141 Grey 1945
- MANSOUR RAS\*111 Grey 1921
- BINT SAMIHA RAS\*133 Bay 1925
- SHEIKH EL ARAB RAS\*228 Grey 1933
- SAMHA RAS\*199 Grey 1931
- SOLIMAN III SSB\*2701 Grey 1952
- NACAR SSB\*2547 Chestnut 1950
- JALIFA II SSB\*2918 Grey 1955
- FRAJANA II SSB\*3050 Bay 1956
- MANSOUR RAS\*111 Grey 1921
- BINT SAMIHA RAS\*133 Bay 1925
- SID ABOUHOM RAS\*285 Grey 1936
- MONIET EL NEFOUS RAS\*441 Chestnut 1946
- SHAHLOUL HAS\*193 Grey 1931
- ZAREEFA RAS\*149 Bay 1927
- SID ABOUHOM RAS\*285 Grey 1936
- ROUDA RAS\*415 Bay 1944
- ILUSTRE SSB\*559 Grey 1923
- TRIANA SSB\*1324 Grey 1932
- GANDHY SSB\*1166 Grey 1931
- ABISINIA SSB\*1562 Grey 1935
- ECO SSB\*403 Grey 1919
- RABINA SSB\*1125 Chestnut 1930
- GANDHY SSB\*1166 Grey 1931
- VERANA SSB\*1513 Grey 1934
- GAMIL MANIAL RAS\*95 Grey 1912
- NAFAA EL SAGHIRA RAS\*6 Grey 1910
- KAZMEEN RAS\*13 Bay 1916
- SAMIHA RAS\*33 Chestnut 1918
- MANSOUR RAS\*111 Grey 1921
- BINT SABAH RAS\*135 Bay 1925
- BAIYAD RAS\*94 Grey 1918
- BINT SAMIHA RAS\*133 Bay 1925
- KASHMIR II SSB\*2275 Grey 1947
- MECA SSB\*2158 Chestnut 1945
- HABIENTE SSB\*2060 Grey 1944
- VERAZ SSB\*1516 Chestnut 1934
- HURACAN SSB\*2417 Grey 1949
- DORA II SSB\*2376 Bay 1948
- HABIENTE SSB\*2060 Grey 1944
- ALHUCEMA II SSB\*2079 Bay 1944

Estopa



*Sanadik became heir to his sire's legacy and progenitor of the "Golden Cross".*

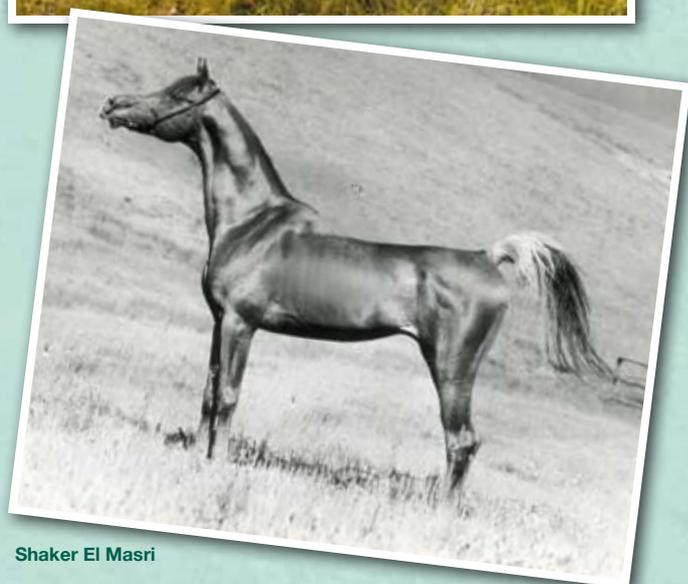
*El Shaklan established the "Gold Cross", but Sanadik El Shaklan's pedigree doubled that equation. The sire side of Sanadik's pedigree is half Egyptian through his grandsire, Shaker El Masri and half Spanish through his grand dam, Estopa. Sanadik's dam, Mohena also contributed a "Golden Cross" pedigree, and it perfectly matched that of Sanadik's sire. Mohena's sire was the illustrious straight Egyptian stallion Hadban Enzahi, also a son of Nazeer. Mohena's dam was the pure Spanish mare Morisca V, by Tunante and out of Fabiola, whose pedigree is primarily the breeding of the Yeguada Militar De Jerez and which traces back to the earliest Spanish imports from Poland such as Van-Dick SSB\*122, foaled 1898. These historic bloodlines have been propagated for over a century because of their proven ability to produce Arabian horses of the highest quality and most classic desert type.*

Mohena



El Shaklan

*as well as his genetic strength. El Shaklan was so exquisite – so nearly perfect in his form – he defied description. Egyptian bloodlines are world famous for contributing extreme beauty, type, and refinement. El Shaklan received an abundance of those qualities, as well as his genetic strength, through his sire, the straight Egyptian stallion Shaker El Masri, and his grand sire Nazeer. Complimenting El Shaklan's Egyptian bloodlines were the Spanish lines contributed through his dam and maternal ancestors. El Shaklan's dam was the aristocrat mare Estopa, matriarch of a dynasty of champions and champion producers. Few mares throughout the history of the Arabian breed can compete with Estopa's influence, which has expanded to all parts of the world through both her male and female offspring, but primarily through her son El Shaklan and his progeny. Although El Shaklan produced close to 1000 offspring registered in the US, Sanadik El Shaklan was his most prolific and successful son. In time,*



Shaker El Masri

For over one hundred years, thousands of people; breeders, handlers, grooms, family, friends, and numerous unnamed people inspired by their love of Arabian horses worked to preserve these bloodline and produce the finest Arabian horses possible. One of the most successful breeding programs for the past 40 years has been Om El Arab International, the breeders of El Shaklan, Sanadik El Shaklan, and hundreds of other national and international champions, and champion producers. Established in the Black Forest area of Germany, Om El Arab has been the life work of Sigi Siller. A landmark year for the Om El Arab program came in 1983 when a new farm was purchased in Santa Ynez, California. That same year, their mare Mobena gave birth to an exquisite grey colt – Sanadik El Shaklan. Before his first birthday, Sanadik won a major horse show title when he was named World Champion Colt at the Salon du Cheval. In 1984, a number of the top Om El Arab horses were mo-

ved the new location in California, including Sanadik El Shaklan, his sire El Shaklan, his dam Estopa, and several others. It is extremely difficult for a son to follow in the footsteps of a father as highly esteemed as the great stallion El Shaklan and so Sanadik El Shaklan remained in the shadows while his father enjoyed the international spotlight. Still, Sanadik had his own following of breeders who appreciated the young colt's beauty and quality. Numerous offers were made to purchase the colt, but they were declined – Sigi believed Sanadik was crucial to the continued success of her breeding program. However, when Sheila Varian of Varian Arabians made an offer to buy fifty percent of Sanadik, Sigi agreed. It was a win-win situation for both breeders because Sanadik would remain in California, close to home, and would be easily available to both the Varian and Om El Arab mares. Then, in 1986, El Shaklan was sold under unfortunate cir-



El Euphoria VO



Om El Sanadiva

# Sanadik El Shaklan



El Dorada

cumstances, which left the Om El Arab breeding program at a loss of one of the breed's greatest sires. There was a monumental decision to be made, who would take El Shaklan's place as head sire? There were several direct sons of El Shaklan to choose from, but instinct and experience directed Sigi to choose Sanadik El Shaklan. Although he was only four years old at the time and virtually unknown, Sanadik was tall and exotic like his sire, but he was more finely made and very elegant; his quality, stature, movement and character were uniquely his own. In addition, Sanadik's pedigree – like his sire's – was an equal blend of Egyptian and Spanish bloodlines; it also represented the "Golden Cross", but taken to a whole new level. Year after year, with each foal crop, Sanadik El Shaklan built himself a reputation as a supreme sire of exquisite, elegant and quality offspring.

In 1988, Sanadik El Shaklan's very first foal was born for Om El Arab. It was a colt out of CH Azhnaba, a Naborr and Bask bred mare that they had leased. The colt, named Om El Azadik, was very exotic, well balanced, charismatic and tall. In 1989, Azadik was exported to Great Britain where he

was enormously successful as a show horse and a sire of numerous champions. Azadik was shown to titles that included World Reserve Champion Stallion, World Cup Champion Stallion, European Junior Champion Stallion, and Middle East International Junior Champion Stallion. In 1996, Azadik was exported to the UAE by H.H.SH. DR. Sultan Bin Mohammed AL Qassemi. Azadik's offspring have been successful show horses and gone on to establish breeding programs around the world.

Among Sanadik El Shaklan's next foal crop was one of his most successful sons; Kameron Bey, out of Katrina Bey V, foaled in 1989. Highlights from Kameron Bey's extensive show career include 1992 US National Champion Futurity Gelding, 1993 Canadian National Champion and US National Reserve Champion Gelding, 1994 US National Champion Gelding and Reserve National Champion Bonanza Horse, and 1995 US National Youth Reserve Champion JOTH.

Even from the beginning, Sanadik El Shaklan's influence was established through his daughters as well as his sons. In

1990 one of Sanadik's most successful daughters was born; *Om El Sanadiva*, out of *De La Reina*, by *Kaiyoum* and out of *Reina Del Bey*, a mare with numerous lines to the *Varian Arabians* breeding program. *Om El Sanadiva* was purchased as a yearling by *Ralf Heckenbucker* and exported to Germany. Although *Sanadiva* charmed her new owners the moment she arrived in Europe, it would have been impossible for the *Heckenbucker* family to foresee the fantastic future that lay ahead of this exotic little filly and how she would impact their lives as well as the international Arabian horse community. *Sanadiva* began her show career with the title of 1991 International Reserve Junior Champion Filly. The following year she won that title again, and she was also named Euro-Masters Junior Champion Filly, All Nations Cup Junior Champion Filly, and World Junior Champion Filly at the prestigious *Salon du Cheval*. The following year *Om El Sanadiva's* trainer, *Franke Spoenle* took her to the Tersk bred stallion *Kubinec*. The resulting foal, *Sanadiva's* first, was a bay colt, *FS Bengali*. This colt went on to be named *Scottsdale* and US National Champion Stallion, as well as a sire of national, international and world champion offspring. *Om El Sanadiva* produced additional champion offspring including European Champion Filly, *Bay Diva*; German National Champion Filly, *Sweet*

*Sanadiva*; National Reserve Champion Stallion and three times European Champion, *Shakaar Ibn Sanadiva*, as well as others. *Sanadiva* established her own dynasty, and as one of Germany's most successful producers of champions, she was awarded the title *Elite Mare of Germany*.

More champions by *Sanadik* followed including *Ffatal Attraction*, out of *Falling in Love*. *Ffatal Attraction* was exported to England in 1992 and later he was named 2004 British National Champion Stallion; he went on to sire national and international champion offspring. *DA Sandala*, out of *The Grand Passion*, foaled in 1994, was exported to England in 2003 and was named 2004 Egyptian Event U.K. International Champion Mare. *Om El Shadina*, by *Sanadik El Shaklan* and out of *Om El Shaina*, foaled in 1996, was 2004 US National Top Ten Mare and Elran Cup Reserve Champion Mare. *Om El Shadina* is the dam of *Om El Shadream*, by *Dreamcatcher SMF*, US National Champion Mare, *AOTH*, as well as *Om El Shah Dream*, a full brother to *Shadream* and a champion as well. The success continued with *Om El Tanam*, out of *Aabacus Shacara*, foaled in 1996, he was exported to Sweden in 1997 and was later named 2004 Swedish National Champion Stallion.

For years *Sanadik El Shaklan* alternated homes between *Om El Arab* and *Varian Arabians*. Then, in 1997, *Om El*

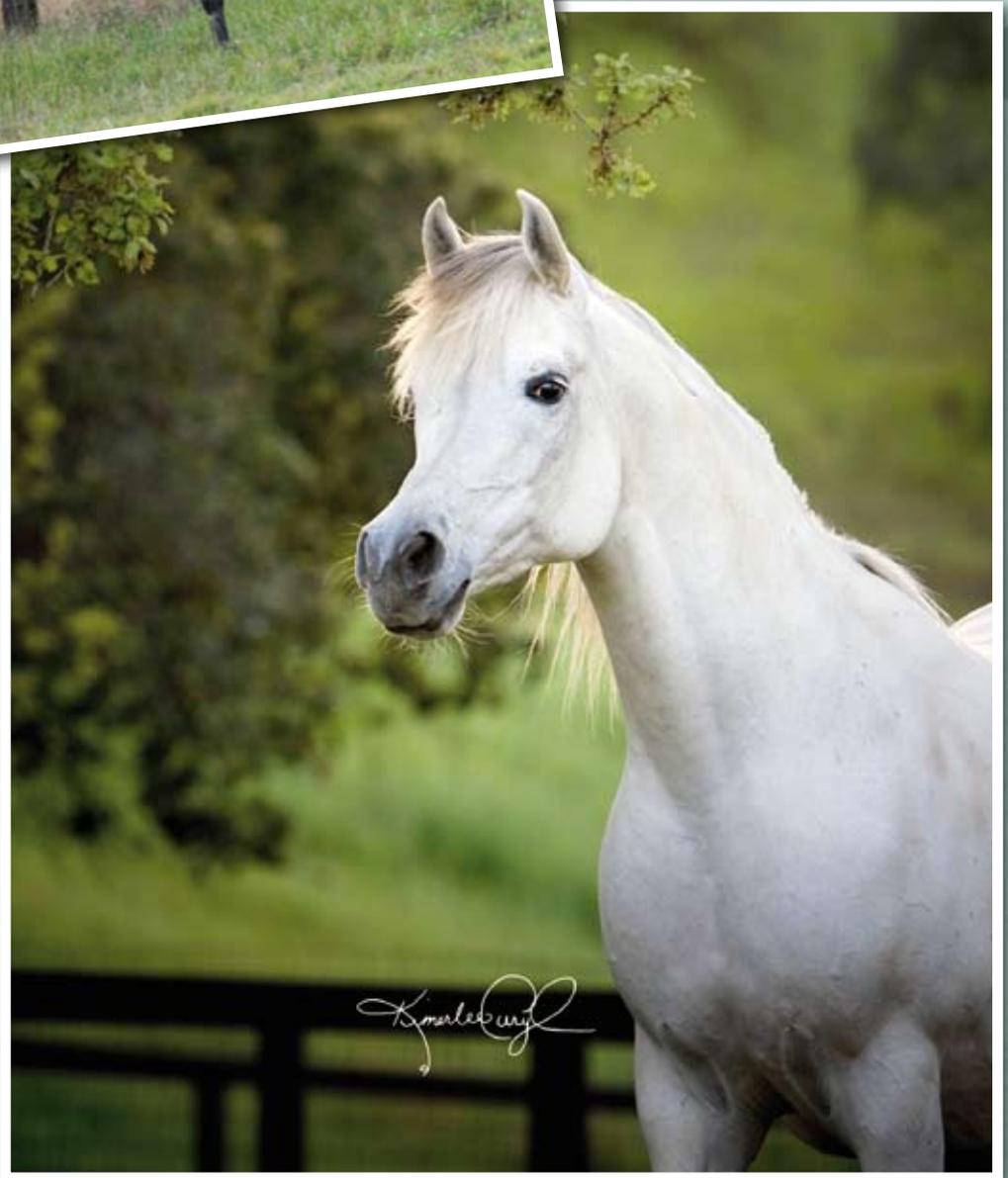
## Sanadik El Shaklan



Andaluzja



Om El Jinaah



Om El Jimala.

*Arab purchased 100 percent ownership of Sanadik and he came home to stay in Santa Ynez. Sanadik was a crowd favorite everywhere he was shown, he charmed people with his devastating good looks and sweet disposition. He was named Supreme Champion at the Egyptian Event, he was Top Ten Stallion at the large Scottsdale Show twice, and he was Regional Top Five on numerous occasions. With every public appearance, Sanadik's popularity grew. Once Sanadik was permanently settled into his home in Santa Ynez, his breeding career flourished and the path to his destiny was made clear.*

*That same year, 1997, the Polish State Studs of Michalow and Janow Podlaski chose to include Sanadik El Shaklan in their world famous breeding programs utilizing frozen semen. The most successful result came from Sanadik and the Eukaliptus daughter Emigrantka, a European Champion and Polish National Champion Mare. The resulting foal, born in 1998, was a spectacular grey filly; El Dorada – one of*

*the most successful show horses produced in the history of the Polish State Studs. The list of El Dorada's titles and accomplishments could fill a book. They include the coveted titles of Polish National Junior Champion Mare, European Junior Champion Mare, All Nations Cup Senior Champion Mare, European Champion Mare, World Senior Reserve Champion Mare, Polish National Champion Mare, and U.S. National Champion Senior Mare. Not only has El Dorada been an extremely successful show mare, she is continuing her family tradition as a producer of exceptional offspring including, El Fornio VO by the Polish stallion Grafik, bred by the Michalow Stud. In 2004, Manny Vierra of Valley Oak Arabians in Brentwood, California had the honor of leasing El Dorada. He bred her to several stallions with tremendous success – each of the offspring were fantastic; Elle Dorada, by the Padrone Psyche son and multiple national champion stallion Enzo, she was sold to world famous breeder Lenita Perroy for her farm Haras Meia Lua in Brazil; El Pala-*

#### Om El Extrem



# S

## Sanadik El Shaklan

*cio VO, by the straight Egyptian stallion Al Lahab, was sold to Al Khalediah Stables and exported to Saudi Arabia; and El Euphoria VO by the Polish stallion Ecabo was purchased by HRH Prince Khaled Bin Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz and also exported to Saudi Arabia.*

*Continuing the strong family tradition of champions producing champions was Sanadik's daughter Om El Jimala, out of Om El Jazira, also foaled in 1997. This lovely mare earned the titles of 2003 and 2004 U.S. National Reserve Champion Senior Mare. Jimala is also the dam of Om El Jinaab, by Al Lahab. Om El Jinaab is the dam of Om El Sanadeed, foaled 2010, by Om El Shabmaan. Sanadeed was the 2011 Scottsdale Signature Stallion Auction Champion Colt, Scottsdale International Champion Colt, and Arabian Breeder's World Cup Champion Yearling Futurity Colt.*

*The year 1997 seemed an especially successful year for Sanadik. Many of his foals born that year spread his fame to Europe and beyond. The stallion Sandhiran, out of the El Hilal daughter China Moon, foaled in 1997, was purchased by Malcolm Hickford of Aja Arabians in 1998 and exported to the UK. Sandhiran was later named the 1999 Baden-Baden Show Junior Champion Colt and World Top Ten Stallion as well. Aja Arabians has strong ties to Sanadik as they leased his grandson FS Bengali for their breeding program and they also have other members of the Sanadik family. Om El*



**Om El Exquisit**

*Shabeen, out of Om El Shaina, also foaled in 1997, was exported to the UK in 2003, and in 2004 he was named U.K. Gold Arabian Horse Show Champion Stallion. In Addition, Ziroco, out of Ziti, was foaled in 1997, and was named the 2004 Finnish National Champion Stallion. The following year Sanadik produced an exceptional son; Om El Extreem, out of Om El Bint Shaina, was foaled in 1998. Extreem was exported to Europe in 2001 and he soon had admirers around the world. From Belgium to England, the UAE and Spain, Extreem is considered one of the most*

# Sanadik El Shaklan



Om El Shahmaan





Eagleridge Passionata

exotic stallions and like his sire, he has a reputation for producing offspring of extreme quality and type. Some of Extrem's wins include 2008 Arabica Show Champion Stallion, National Champion Stallion of Spain, Elran Cup Junior Champion Stallion, and World Champion Most Classic Head at the Salon du Cheval. Extrem has sired champion offspring throughout Europe and the Middle East.

Sanadik sired another stellar foal crop in 1999. His daughter Eagleridge Passionata, out of River Oak Dimity, was 2008 Qatar International Show Reserve Champion Mare, Elran Cup Champion Mare, 2010 Arabian Breeders World Cup Supreme Champion Senior Mare, and US National Champion Mare. That same year Sanadik sired an amazing colt, Om El Shahmaan, out of Om El Shaina, by Carmargue and out of Estopa. With his undeniable quality and extreme type, Om El Shahmaan was destined to follow in his sire's footsteps as a champion, a sire of champions, and the head sire for the Om El Arab program.

Om El Shahmaan established himself as a favorite with judges and spectators who appreciated his towering stature, macho presence, classic type, and sweet, amiable disposition. Shahmaan was 2004 U.S. National Champion stallion AAOTH, 2003 U.S. National Reserve Champion AA-

OTH, and U.S. National Top Ten Junior Stallion, where he placed third in the class. Shahmaan also was Pacific Slopes Reserve Champion Futurity Hunter in 2004, which is a highly competitive riding class, and most recently, he was Arabian Breeders World Cup Champion Stallion AOTH in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Om El Shahmaan has followed in his father's footsteps as a sire of outstanding offspring with international appeal. Shahmaan's son, Om El Beshaan, out of Om El Benedict, was foaled in 2004. In 2008 Om El Beshaan was the Arabian Breeders World Cup Champion Stallion Four Years Old and Older ATH and in 2011 he was purchased by Osman Linjawi of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and exported to the Middle East. The Om El Shahmaan daughter Om El Bernadette, out of Om El Benedict, foaled in 2005, was purchased by Al Khalediah Stables of Saudi Arabia. Om El Bernadette was the 2007 Arabian Breeders World Cup Junior Champion Filly before being exported to the Middle East where she was named the 2008 Sharjah Junior Champion Mare.

Another successful grandson of Sanadik El Shaklan that was sired by Om El Shahmaan is Om El Bellissimo, out of Om El Benedict also by Sanadik El Shaklan, foaled in 2007. Om El Bellissimo is a full brother to the multi-champion fil-

Om El Beshaan



Sanadik El Shaklan  
with Sigi Siller



Sanadik El Shaklan



Om El Sanadeed



Om El Bellissimo

ly Om El Bernadette. These are unique individuals because both their sire and dam are by Sanadik El Shaklan. These were unorthodox pairings, but the risks were rewarded with phenomenal results. Om El Arab was honored when the Polish State Stud of Janow Podlaski asked to lease Om El Bellissimo for the 2010 and 2011 breeding seasons. It was an amazing opportunity, and a big responsibility, for a young stallion such as Om El Bellissimo to be included in the historic breeding programs of Poland. However, with a family history of success and a line of ancestors so accomplished in breeding programs around the world, chances are very good that Bellissimo will continue that same tradition and create new generations of champions.

The mark of a truly great sire is the quality of his descendants. Sanadik El Shaklan has left his mark on the Arabian horse breed by siring hundreds of national and international

champions around the world. Unfortunately, space here does not allow each and every one to be named. The breeders of England, Spain, Germany, France, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Australia, Chile, the Czech Republic, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the U.S., and Canada all are benefitting from the generosity of Sanadik El Shaklan, whose greatest gifts are the children he has given us to enjoy and cherish for generations to come.

In closing, this piece is dedicated to the great stallion Sanadik El Shaklan who died at his home, surrounded by family and friends, in the early morning hours of August 24, 2008. Sanadik was a stallion of great charisma, nobility, and kindness. His family confided that he left this world with his signature style of grace and dignity, but Sanadik's spirit remains immortalized in each new generation of beautiful Arabian horses whose lives are linked to his. □