

ENDURANCE

Horse Event Sicily



Tutto Arabi at the 5th Endurance step in Partinico PA. From left: Giampaolo Rosi Anica member, Eng. Pierluigi Grassi, Fabio Brianzoni and Mr. Salvatore Bagliesi

by Fabio Brianzoni ■ photos by Tutto Arabi

On May 8th and 9th, Sicily hosted two events for Arab horses affiliated with ANICA, just a few kilometers apart. In Buseto Palizzolo, in the province of Trapani, the International Morphology Show of class C and in Partinico, in the province of Palermo, the qualifying stage of the Horse Event Sicily. The latter with a prize money of about 10,500.00 euros provided by MiPAAF and 1,800.00 euros (ANICA) to be divided between the top 3 classified in the 3 categories. The qualified horses will compete in Punta Ala in the final, where the prize money will amount to 24,000.00 euros. Even though Tutto Arabi is not a magazine specialized in mounted

races, we, the editorial staff, did not miss the opportunity to be present with our magazine at the event. We also took the opportunity to have a chat about the two worlds, Morphology and Mounted, with Engineer Pier Luigi Grassi, an important MiPAAF inspector. One world is undoubtedly an adjuvant to the other, as not all Arabian horses have the same characteristics to perform certain disciplines. The show horse must be beautiful, charismatic, must have a standard that judges appreciate. The dressage horse must have the graceful movement of a dancer. Then the endurance horse, the athlete par excellence, the one that doesn't get tired, doesn't get



scared even on a rough course that the horse often never knows. He is the horse that over the centuries has led men through the paths of the world.

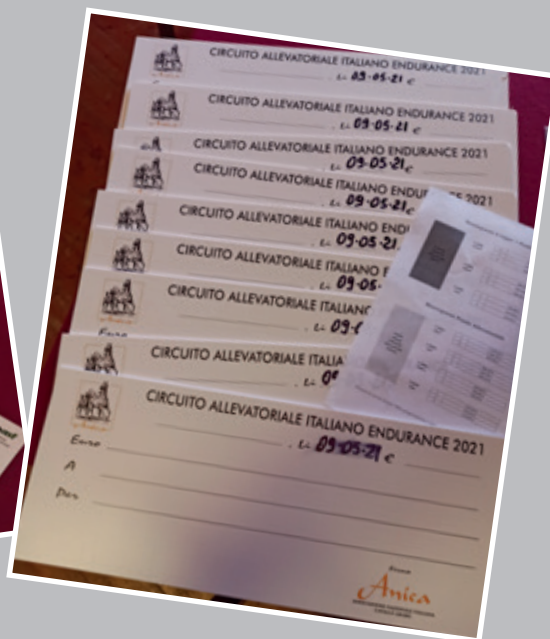
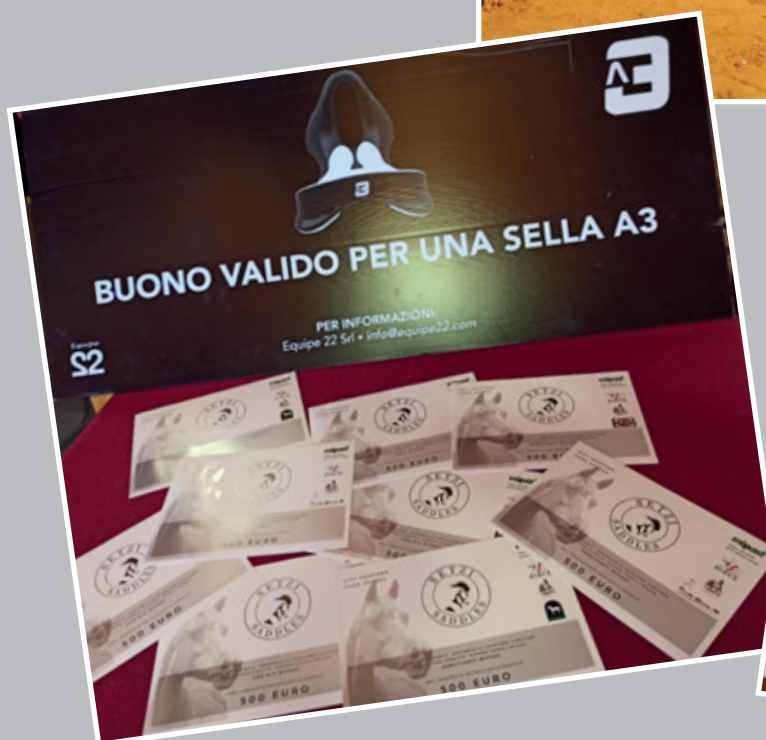
The race was held in several categories: Debutants over a minimum of 20 to a maximum of 30 Km.

Cen/A min. 40 max 60 Km and finally the most challenging stage CEN/B from 80 min to 99 Km maximum.

The spirit that you breathe is the same as that of the morphology shows because those who have the passion or as they often say “the disease” for purebred Arabian horses have in the blood the competitiveness and the desire to raise the Champion. We also interviewed the organizer of this event Mr. Salvatore Bagliesi and we did it in the club house of the “Country House Western A.s.d.” from where the stages started.







The two worlds of the purebred Arabian horse and the two Sicilian events

The world of morphology and the world of endurance really seem to be two worlds that travel on parallel lines, two worlds that can never meet. Different workouts, different nutrition, different demands from the trainer. Surely they are different worlds, but what matters and what interests fans, breeders and all those who live this passion is that what unites the two disciplines and the people who are part of it is the Arabian Thoroughbred, the true protagonist of both worlds, the horse par excellence, the horse that comes from our farms, thanks to breeders who with many sacrifices share the same passion and aim to create a good horse or even a champion! I am convinced that the adult horses present at the morphology show in Buseto Palizzolo, well trained, could easily compete in the endurance race with those present in Partinico.

interview with SALVATORE BAGLIESI



by Fabio Brianzoni ■ photos by Tutto Arabi

Tutto Arabi: Tell us about Endurance in Sicily.

Salvatore Bagliesi: In recent years we have certainly seen a greater attention to the care of the horse, especially I feel I can say that breeders have understood what is the important task entrusted to them. From birth, the foal is cared for in such a way as to be ready for the task to which it will be entrusted. In the case of Endurance, progress is visible, and I think you will have realized this during the event last May 8/9. Endurance, as a discipline, is gaining more and more importance in our region, considering that it can bring a state of well-being for the animal in an almost brotherly relationship with rider and breeder. From these premises, it seems right to think that everything done can be qualitatively improved.

TA: What is the path you have designed?

SB: In the study of the route faced by the participants in the “Horse Event Sicily”, the first concern was to ensure, if I may use this term, the comfort of the horse. Precisely for this reason, most of the route has involved a flat area, with some sandy stretches. The choice, as I said, was not random, and took into account the particular morphology of our territory. As a result of all this, I would like to underline that only one of the 30 participants had any problems with their pace. This seems to me to be a fact of absolute

importance, confirmed by the fact that almost all the horses finished the trial in perfect physical condition.

TA: What does the endurance world look like? Do the riders help each other or is it pure competition?

SB: This is a complex question that deserves an in-depth answer. As in all sporting disciplines, it is clear that not all participants are based on De Coubertin's principle “The important thing is to participate”, however, Endurance has a unique quality, I believe, that is, it supports a relationship that goes beyond the simple competitive aspect, it allows a familiarization between all components (riders, breeders, organizers). It is necessary to focus on a greater cohesion, in order to be able to structure an extremely valid calendar, which allows all or almost all fans and interested Sicilians to be present. Under this aspect the situation is slowly but steadily improving. The route still has some small unforeseen, but I am sure that with the work and the collaboration of all, the Sicilian Endurance universe will enjoy a great future.

Finally I would like to take advantage of the space granted to thank the Mipaaf, the Anica and the Aiace for the necessary support received. If the event has obtained a good success, it is owed also to them.