

The Santa Ynez Farm Tours

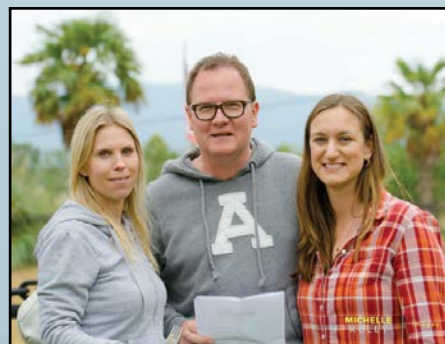
by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Michelle Kelly

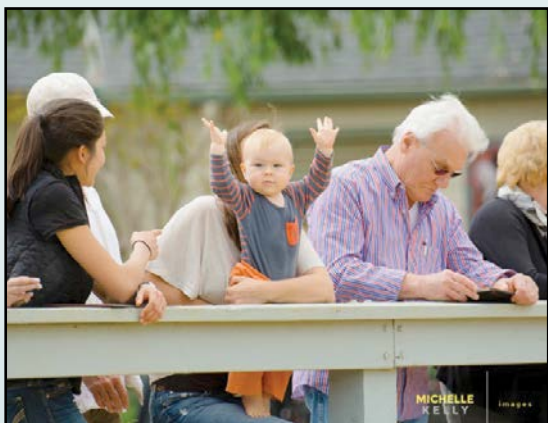
Every year after the Las Vegas World cup, the farms in the Santa Ynez valley, known as the Valley of the Arabian Horse, open their barns to the public.



On April 21st the tour started with the new accommodation of Al Jassimya Farm. On the ground of 100 Oaks, the team of Sheikh Jassim build a fantastic new property with large fields and spacious barns.

The presentation was focused on the foals born this year and the quality was overwhelming. Foals by WH Justice, Monther al Nasser, Aria Impressario, just to name a few.



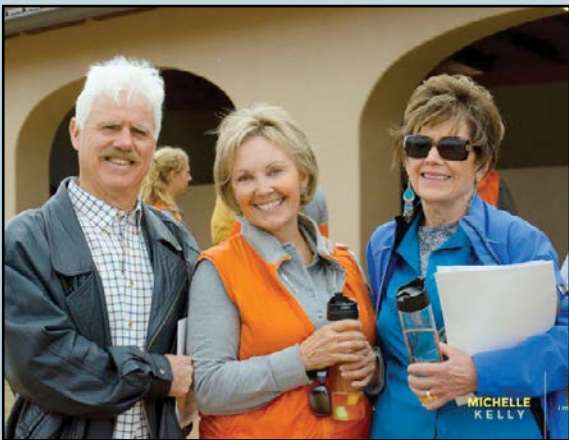


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This year they also stand the stallion Al Ayal AA, which will be an interesting addition to their breeding program, like the stallion SMA Magic One, who also bred several mares at Al Jassimya. There were many great foals though the few that really stood out for me personally was a gorgeous filly by WH Justice out of the Dakar el Jamaal daughter Palais de Dakar. And who wouldn't fall in love with the precious filly by WH Justice and out of the Bey Shah daughter Petronella SRA.





This filly trotted her socks off. Such a presence at already such a young age. Two other Justice filly that I will keep an eye on in the future were out of the Ever After daughter Angelicca DFA and out of the great Om el Soraya. Al Jassimya is starting its second generation of breeding now and it is looking good!



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In the evening a nice dinner was offered by Al Jassimya at the old Historical Museum of Santa Ynez. A nice venue with old carriages and clothing which gave me the feeling I was back in the 1800's.

The following day we went to the beautiful farm of Day Dream Arabians. A great place with a peaceful atmosphere and happy horses. All presented themselves very well and the horses were in great condition. Signifikaynce (Its Show Time x Aritokayte) really knows how to put on a show. Wow! He will rock the showscene if he would ever come to Europe!



In the afternoon it was time to go to the world famous Om el Arab. They started with the Golden Cross, which was crossing pure Egyptian (Shaker el Masri) with pure Spanish (Estopa), which gave them El Shaklan to name one of the big names born at Om el Arab over the years. Now they are mixing their bloodlines with more modern lines like WH Justice and several crosses to ZT Magnanimus, still linebreeding to El Shaklan.

Gallun Farms was next on the list. The training center of Greg and Nancy Gallun host some of the greatest stallions and mares. True Eye Candy. Also stabled at Gregs was the young Pianissima son Prometeusz, sired by the great FA el Shawan. A nice young stallion with a great presence.

Around noon it was time for a lunch and presentation at Silver Maple Farms; Henry and Christie Metz. Wonderful Straight Egyptian horses as the result of 25 years of breeding. In the evening it was time for a visit to HB Arabians – home to Brix LA and the last visit was Haras de Cardenas – home to the famous Ecaho.

It was a wonderful week at the Santa Ynez Valley. It is fantastic to see so many great breeders at just 10min drive from each other. We will come back next year to see their next step in breeding! □

