







GLOBAL CHAMPIONS  
ARABIANS TOUR

# VALKENSWAARD

20-21 July

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Simone Bergamaschi





On the 20th and 21st of July, the 5th stage of the prestigious Global Champions Arabians Tour (GCAT) was held in Valkenswaard, The Netherlands, known for its lush landscapes and vibrant cultural life, providing a stunning backdrop that complements the elegance of the Arabian horse.

The tour, which began in Doha, moved through Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Cannes, this time culminated at the stunning Jan Tops International Arena, the perfect venue to celebrate the majestic beauty and rich heritage of the Arabian horse.

The venue was remarkable, featuring spacious stables with outdoor windows, large indoor and outdoor warm-up rings, and a massive show arena with top-quality riding sand, ensuring optimal conditions for the horses. Surrounding the arena was a charming “village” with quaint shops, food trucks, and a lively music stage complete with a bar and seating area. The VIP area, adorned in orange – the national color of The Netherlands – offered incredible food, with additional food corners serving traditional Dutch snacks and sweets throughout the day. The event was impeccably organized.

“Rooted in our core values of integrity, passion, and excellence, the Global Champions Arabians Tour fosters international collaboration and cultural exchange, uniting people through their shared passion for Arabian horses.” With these words Faleh Al Nasr, chairman of the Global Champions Arabians Tour, wanted to recall the values behind this great traveling event, expressing also his deep gratitude to sponsors, participants and fans for their continued support and enthusiasm. With words of appreciation to breeders, owners, and handlers, he underlined the importance of individual commitment, reminding to all that each stage of the Tour offers the potential to reshape the leaderboard.

### Judges.

The event was judged by an esteemed panel from around the globe, including:

- Allan Preston and Scott Benjamin from Australia
- Elyas Ebrahim Faraj from Bahrain
- Julie Maden from Belgium
- Peter Birch from Denmark
- Ahmed Abdelrazek and Nashaat Hegazy from Egypt
- Eric Gear from France
- Mark Ismer and Burchard Schroder from Germany
- Mr. Maagoul from Morocco
- Mr. Al Husseini from Palestine
- Anna Stojanowska from Poland
- Caroline Reed from the UK
- Urs Aeschbacher from Switzerland
- Basil Jadaan from Syria
- Mr. Al Mazrouei from the UAE
- Steve Daddy and Gregory Gallun from the USA

### Disciplinary Committee

Patricia Emanuelsen - Denmark  
Christine Keyser - Norway  
Mateusz Leniewicz-Jaworski - Poland  
Yousef Abusamra - Qatar

### Ringmasters

Mohamed Mohsen - Egypt  
Laura Mascagna - Italy

### Commentators

Abdulrahman Al Ashqar - Qatar  
Manal Salmi - Qatar  
Thuraya Al Tikriti - Qatar

### Medical Control

Dr Vet Francesco Tosto - Italy

### Scorer

Fahad Abdullah - Qatar





### Yearling fillies:

The show began on Saturday afternoon with junior qualifying classes, awarding guaranteed prize money to the top five, who advanced to the final championships. The yearling fillies class showcased entrants from around the world. The big winner, with 92.21 points, was Sultana Al Thamer (Dominic M x Weaam Al Jassim), bred and owned by Al Thamer Stud from Qatar, earning a perfect 20 on type. She later won the Gold medal in the yearling filly championships.

Second place, with 91.36 points, went to the Swedish-bred Oona Umm (EKS Farajj x Zaina OS), bred and owned by Moell & Moell, who later placed 5th in the championships. Third, with 91.29 points, was Haifa Al Tinhah (Mutabahi Al Hawajer x Noorah Al Tinhah), bred by Abdullah Fahad Dakhel Alhaqbani Al Dosari and owned by Rashid Al-Muhannadifrom Qatar. Fourth place, scoring 91.14 points, went to El Lyrica KL (Lyric EA x Erskina), bred and owned by Klikowa Arabians from Poland. Adhwa Al Shaqab (HL El Ganador x JJ La Condesa), bred and owned by Al Shaqab Stud from Qatar, rounded out the top five with 91.07 points.

The second group of yearling fillies saw D Nafayes (D

Seraj x D Danat), bred and owned by Dubai Arabian Horse Stud, lead with 92.07 points, later winning the Silver medal in the championships. Second place, with 91.64 points, was Teha Al Shaqab (Marwan Al Shaqab x Marbella PCF), bred and owned by Al Shaqab Stud from Qatar, who went on to secure the Bronze medal. Third place, with 91.45 points, went to the balanced HA Barbarella (AJ Nawash x Bianca AL), bred and owned by Hanaya Arabian Stud from Switzerland, later placing 4th in the championships. Mutabahyat Al Rashed (Mutabahi Al Hawajer x Malika KS), bred by Al Rasheed Stud and owned by Bassem Dabbah Arabians from Israel, scored 91.29 points, placing fourth. Rewayah Al Jawad (EKS Farajj x Al Jaleelah), bred by Falah Alajmi and owned by Al Jawad Stud from Kuwait, scored 90.71 points to close the top five.

### Yearling colts:

The show continued with two nice groups of fantastic yearling colts. The first group was dominated by Afreen Al Shaqab (D Meyzan x Siwar Al Shaqab), bred and owned by Al Shaqab Stud from Qatar, scoring 92.29 points and later winning the Gold medal. Second place, with 91.79 points, went to Ashgar Akmal (Royal Asad x Akira AS), bred and owned by HRHP of Akmal Stud, Saudi Arabia. Third place, with 90.86 points, was claimed by SH Farajj Akil KA (EKS Farajj x Silhouette AS), bred and owned by Sea Horse and Knocke Arabians from Belgium. HA El Carino (HL El Ganador x Nihal), bred and owned by Hanaya Arabians from Switzerland, placed fourth with 89.93 points. DM Aziz (RFI Unique x Future), bred by Mr. Al Shammari and owned by Aldeem Arabians from Kuwait, rounded out the top five with 89.79 points.

The second group saw D Borkan (FA El Rasheem x D Ajayeb), bred and owned by Dubai Arabian Stud, impress with near-perfect scores for head and neck, winning with 92.14 points. In the final championships, he had to settle for silver with only a one-point difference. Second





in the class with 91.86 points was the fantastic Azzaam Al Amal (El Galal Baahir x Arabesca Scarlet Moon), bred by Al Amal Arabians and owned by the Azaam Al Amal Partnership from South Africa. Later in the championships, this special colt won the bronze medal. Third in this strong class with 91.79 points was the showy Aesar Al Wajba (AJ Radman x LR Artagracia), bred by Sheikh Hamad AlThani and owned by Al Wajba Stud from Qatar. Later in the championships, this colt made it to the 4th position. Fourth in this class B of the yearling colts with 91 points was Mushwash Al Shaqab (Haash OSB x Shaikha Al Shaqab), bred and owned by Al Shaqab Stud from Qatar. Closing the top five and also earning the 5th position in the final championships was Ashraf RC (EKS Alihandro x Alexander RC), bred and owned by the Royal Cavalry of Oman.

### Junior fillies

Next to go were the junior fillies, competing in two sections. The big winner of the first class was the ultra-typy Shahbrys HVP (Royal Asad x Rebecca HVP), bred in Brazil by Vila dos Pinheiros and owned by Turki Alothman, Ajmal Stud from Saudi Arabia. With multiple 20s on type, head, and neck, this filly scored a grand total of 92.50 points. In the final championships, she conquered the Silver medal. Second in this strong class with 91.86 points was another filly that has performed well in past GCAT editions: TM Bella (TM Itaipu x TM Fahdeelah), bred in Brazil by Jose Orlando and Teixeira Junior and owned by Al Jumail Stud from Qatar. In the final junior filly championships, she took the Bronze medal. Third in this class with 91.07 points was the lovely Almaha RC (Fadi Al Shaqab x Mahera RC), bred and owned by the Royal Cavalry of Oman. In the final championships, this filly took the 5th position. Scoring 90.86 points and claiming the 4th position in this class was Farida Mudhar (Farid Al Hawajer x ALR Aseela), bred and owned by Mudhar Stud from Qatar. Closing the top five in this class was the pretty Gloryana (Pandorez O x Psafeena), bred by Christine Blyth and owned by Rob Heijmans from The Netherlands.

The show continued with another strong class of junior fillies. Scoring a massive 93.21 points with straight 20s on type and multiple 20s on head and neck was the fantastic D Najlah (D Seraj x Elle Flamenca), bred and owned by Dubai Arabian Horse Stud. In the final junior filly championships, she was awarded the Gold medal almost unanimously - a great success for her breeder and owner from the UAE. Second in this class, with a grand total of 92.36 points, was Reef AQ (Ghaith Al Zobair x Shikha Al Jbreen), bred by Abdulaziz Allowaihiq and owned by Hanaya Stud from Switzerland. In the final junior filly championships, she took the 4th position. Third in this class, with 91.43 points, was Sabha Mudhar (Rhan Al Shahania x Siena El Barzan), bred in the



United States by Scott Walker and owned by Mudhar Stud from Qatar. In the 4th position, scoring 91.21 points, was Samara KA (FA El Rasheem x Safiya KA), bred and owned by Knocke Arabians from Belgium. Closing the top five of this class, with 90.50 points, was Grazia El Tini (Figaro x Nathalie El Tini), bred by Stefan Gallmetzer and owned by Claudia Brugman from Belgium.

### Junior colts

The show continued with the junior colts - a large group of beautiful young breeding stallions at the start of their careers. With three colts getting the exact same score, it was exciting to see who would make it to the top five and win their ticket to the championships. The class was won without a doubt by the super-typy D Shakhar (D Shakhat x D Shamkhah), bred and owned by Dubai Arabian Horse Stud. With multiple 20s on type, he took a total score of 92.21 points and later earned the Silver medal in the championships. Second in this class, with 91.43 points, was Sahab Al Sheikh (D Mezyan x Salwa Al Bidayer), bred by Al Sheikh Stud and owned by Jennifer Von Dahn from Belgium. In the final championships, he took 4th place. Third in this class, with 91.29 points, was HA Extrah (Excalibur EA x Rahada Al Hawajer), bred by Ganaderia de Las Planas and owned by Hanaya Arabians from Switzerland. Three colts scored the exact same score of 90.79 points, with SQ Helal (FA El Rasheem x SQ Miss Enzo), bred and owned by Al Saqran Stud from Kuwait, taking the 4th position due to higher points on type. Judges chose Omeir Al Sraiya (Amir al Reeh x Shalfa Al Sraiya), bred and owned by Al Sraiya Stud from Qatar, to place 5th, leaving 6th place to Jazz KA (RFI Unique x Jade KA), bred and owned by Knocke Arabians from Belgium.

The weather took a dramatic turn following the first junior classes. Heavy rain and thunderstorms forced the show to pause for an hour, giving attendees a chance to relax and enjoy the delectable treats served in the VIP tent. Once the weather cleared, the competition resumed









with the second class of junior colts. With the favored Bandar Al Jassimya unable to compete due to lameness, the field was wide open. However, RD Rajan (Polidoro FC x RD Quianna), bred by the Popplewell Family and owned by Hanaya Arabians from Switzerland, dominated the class with a score of 93 points. He nearly received perfect 20s for type, head, and neck, and later secured the Gold medal almost unanimously in the championships. Second in the class, with 91.71 points, was the overall very correct Fajer AA (Shanghai EA x Fadwa AA), bred by Eliyahu Khagoon and owned by Ariela Arabians from Israel. He later took the Bronze medal in the championships. Third in the class, with 91.21 points, was the pretty Phoenix Al Jalya (Pandorez O x Alexa Magnifique), bred by Amy Southworth and owned by Al Alia Stud from the UAE. Closing the top five in 4th position, with 90.50 points, was Kareem Al Bahya (Shanghai EA x Aja Caprice), bred by Ajman Stud and owned by Rayan Al Sayqal from Saudi Arabia. Senior mares

Then it was time for the senior mares, always a favorite class for many. Champion mares from all over the globe gathered at Valkenswaard to compete against the best in the world. With a clear win at 93.64 points, the unbeatable AJ Kayya (AJ Kafu x AJA Caprice), bred and owned by Ajman Stud from the UAE, took the Gold medal almost unanimously in the final senior mare championships. Two mares scored the exact same 92.29 points for the 2nd and 3rd positions. The typy Alexandra RC (FA El Rasheem x Amabelle), bred and owned by the Royal Cavalry of Oman, took 2nd place due to a higher score in type, leaving 3rd place to the beautiful Ghaaram AF (Mouheb x Razal Al Zaman), bred and owned by Afifi Arabians from Israel. Ghaaram took revenge in the championships, placing 4th and pushing Alexandra to 5th. In 4th position, with 91.71 points, was the Janow Podlaski-bred Babetta (Emerald J x Belinda), owned by Flaxman Arabians. There was intense competition for the fifth position, with two mares scoring 91.29 points.

ASE Kamiliya Hlayyil (Kahil Al Shaqab x ASE Bisiriya Hlayyil), bred and owned by Arabian Stud Europe from the Netherlands, earned the highest movement score of the entire show with 7x20 on movement. Thorya Al Hawajer (Shanghai EA x Besson Dreams), bred by Dr. Ghanem Al Hajri and owned by Al Thamer Stud from Qatar, excelled in type, head, and neck with multiple 20s. Ultimately, Thorya's superior type score secured her a spot in the championships, pushing Kamiliya to sixth place.

The second group of senior mares also showcased remarkable quality. Leading with a score of 93 points was the stunning Basandra Settimocielo (Ajman Moniscione x MA Scarlet), bred by Maria Ferraroni and owned by Ajman Stud from the UAE. With multiple 20s in various sections, this mare demonstrated exceptional quality and secured the Silver medal in the senior mare championship. Second in this class, with 92.57 points, was Aijana (Ajman Moniscione x Mikaella Pin), bred in Brazil by Heinz Stöckle and owned by Al Shaqab Stud from Qatar. She took the Bronze medal in the championships. Third in this class, with 92.43 points, was AJ Aryana (AJ Portofino x MC Alexsis), bred by Ajman Stud and owned by Hanaya Arabians from Switzerland. Fourth in this fantastic class, with 92.36 points, was the stunning Alsa (Kahil al Shaqab x Alameda), bred by Janow Podlaski and also owned by Hanaya Arabians from Switzerland. Closing the top five, with 92.14 points, was Teejan al Muawd (Alexxander x ADH Just Divine), bred by Al Muawd Stud and owned by Al Bakhet Stud from Saudi Arabia.

#### Senior stallions

After the mares, it was time for the senior stallions to take the stage, offering a magnificent spectacle. The competition for the title of the most beautiful stallion was intense, with two leading contenders scoring very closely. Ultimately, the snow-white Saif Albidayer (Excalibur EA x Nesje El Markhisa), bred and owned

by Albidayer Stud from the UAE, scored 92.93 points, winning the class. He later earned the Silver medal in the championship. Second place, with 92.64 points, went to the pretty bay Rhan Al Shahania (Marwan Al Shaqab x Jwaaher Al Shahania), bred and owned by Al Shahania Stud from Qatar. He took the Bronze medal in the championships. Third place, with 91.79 points, went to the nicely moving Pinito (EKS Alihandro x Piniata), bred by Janow Podlaski and owned by Flaxman Arabians from Belgium. Fourth place, with 91.71 points, went to Bahi Al Jaham (Badiea Al Nasser x Brea EA), bred by Yusuf Al Romaihi and owned by Al Jaham Stud from Qatar. Closing the top five was the pretty Berwaz Al Bustan (FA El Rasheem x BS Noor), bred by the Al Bustan Stables and owned by Noemie Zeller from Switzerland.

The last class of the day featured the senior stallions, class B. Dominating with a remarkable score of 93.50 points was the magnificent ES Harir (AJ Diner x RF Magnums Magic), bred by Sheikh Abdulla bin Majid Alqassemi and owned by Al Saqran Stud from Kuwait. This impressive stallion nearly achieved perfect 20s in type, head, and neck, and won the Gold medal almost unanimously in the championships. The runner-up, with 92.64 points, was the elegant and fluid-moving HL El Ganador (HP Shakir TE x Lonco Babby Maria), bred by the Duch Matthei Family and owned by Hanaya Arabian Stud from Switzerland, who finished fourth in the championship. Third place in this class, with 92.43 points, went to Equiborn KA (QR Marc x Espadrilla), bred by Knocke Arabians and owned by Budhens Stud from Belgium. AJ Kafu, the sire of the senior mares' Gold medal winner AJ Kayya, secured fourth place with 92.21 points and finished fifth in the championship, pushing Equiborn out of the final top five. In this class, Ascot DD (Glorius Apal x Lady Nina DD), bred by D Dejonckheere and owned by Ismer Stud from Germany, edged into fifth place, scoring 89.93 points and overtaking Calateon (Vitorio TO x Calatea), bred by Marek Kondrasiuk and owned by C&S Arabians from the Netherlands, who scored the same number of points but scored less on type.

Over the course of two action-packed days, spectators witnessed the incredible beauty of the Arabian horse and the cultural splendor of Dutch heritage.

The closing ceremony of the show was spectacular. Orange, the national color of the Netherlands, was prominently featured in the confetti, orange smoke, and the performers' outfits and throughout the setting in which the performers moved, animating an exciting and engaging show that was unique and fascinating. Dancers, cyclists, and cheerleaders delivered a fantastic show to fittingly close an event that will remain etched in the memory of all who attended.

From the beginning, in all its stages the Global

Champions Arabians Tour has been impeccably organized, and with a total prize fund of 17 million euros, it offers tremendous opportunities for participants. Now, after its recent debut in Cannes and Valkenswaard, it is making a significant contribution to the European show calendar.

Not only by organizing three very important stops in the European geography and by including two locations which are entirely new for Arabian horse beauty shows, but also by inserting itself in supporting existing events that are smaller in size but have great importance in the European scene in terms of involving breeders who do not participate in large events but who likewise contribute significantly to enriching the international gene pool and deserve to have strong support from important and influential organizations such as GCAT. Thanks to the great work being done by the GCAT's Organizing Committee, successfully led by Faleh Mohammed Al Nasr who is its Chairman, aided by the organizational expertise of His staff and collaborators, this event is changing the international beauty show landscape, bringing in new players and making the whole industry more influential, giving it the prominence it deserves on par with equestrian disciplines that are already followed worldwide and exponentially and crosswise attract and enthuse millions of people, creating opportunities and passing on culture and heritage.

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Faleh Mohammed Al Nasr  
Chairman

Jan Tops  
Vice Chairman

Kholoud Mohammed Al-Hail  
Fred van Lierop  
Board Members

Bader Mohammed Al-Darwish  
Chief Executive Officer and Event Director

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Nasser Al Thani  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

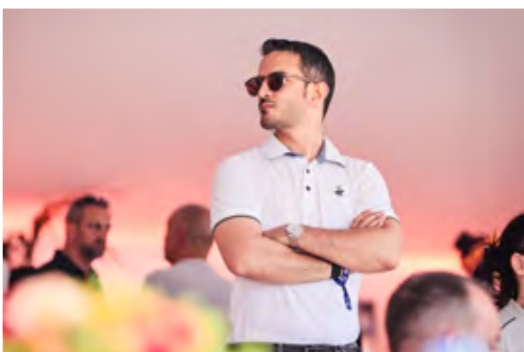
Ali Yousuf Al-Rumaihi  
Deputy Event Director

Jorge Cunha  
Chief Brand & Marketing Officer











# VALKENSWAARD YEARLING FILLIES



*Gold Medal*

**SULTANA AL THAMER**

DOMINIC M X WEAAM AL JASSIM BY EMERALD J  
B/O: AL THAMER STUD



## *Silver Medal* D NAFAYES

D SERAJ X D DANAT

B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



## *Bronze Medal* TEHA AL SHAQAB

MARWAN AL SHAQAB (QA) X MARBELLA PCF

B/O: AL SHAQAB



# VALKENSWAARD YEARLING COLTS



*Gold Medal*  
**AFREEN AL SHAQAB**

D MEZYAN X SIWAR AL SHAQAB  
B/O: AL SHAQAB



## *Silver Medal D BORKAN*

FA EL RASHEEM X D AJAYEB

B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



## *Bronze Medal AZAAM AL AMAL*

EL GALAL BAAHIR X ARABESCA SCARLET MOON

B: AL AMAL ARABIANS - BILAL BASSIOUNI - O: AZAAM AL AMAL PARTNERSHIP



# VALKENSWAARD JUNIOR FILLIES



*Gold Medal*  
**D NAJLAH**

D SERAJ X ELLE FLAMENCA  
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



## *Silver Medal* SHAHBRY'S HVP

ROYAL ASAD X REBECCA HVP

B: AGROPECUARIA VILA DOS PINHEIROS - O: TURKI ALOTHMAN



## *Bronze Medal* TM BELLA

TM ITAIPU X TM FAHDEELAH

B: JOSE ORLANDO & TEIXEIRA JUNIOR - O: ALJUMAIL STUD



# VALKENSWAARD JUNIOR COLTS



*Gold Medal*  
**RD RAJAN**

POLIDORO FC X RD QUIANNA  
B: MURRAY OR SHIRLEY POPPLEWELL  
O: HANAYA ARABIAN STUD



## *Silver Medal* D SHAKHAR

D SHAKHAT X D SHAMKHAH  
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



## *Bronze Medal* FAJER AA

SHANGHAI EA (ES) X FADWA AA  
B/O: ARIELA ARABIANS



# VALKENSWAARD SENIOR MARES



*Gold Medal*

**AJ KAYYA**

AJ KAFU X AJA CAPRICE

B/O: AJMAN STUD



## *Silver Medal* BASANDRASETTIMOCIELO

AJMAN MONISCIONE X MA SCARLET

B: ALLEV. SETTIMOCIELO - O: AJMAN STUD



## *Bronze Medal* AIJANA

AJMAN MONISCIONE X MIKAELLA PIN

B: STOCKLE/GESTUT OSTERHOF - O: AL SHAQAB



# VALKENSWAARD SENIOR STALLIONS



*Gold Medal*  
**E.S. HARIR**

AJ DINAR (AE) X TF MAGNUMS MAGIC  
B: SHEIKH ABDULLA BIN MAJID ALQASSEMI  
O: AL SAQRAN STUD



## *Silver Medal* SAIF ALBIDAYER

EXCALIBUR EA X NESJ EL MARKHISA

B/O: SHEIKH MOHAMMED SAOUD SULTAN S AL QASSIMI



## *Bronze Medal* RHAN AL SHAHANIA

MARWAN AL SHAQAB (QA) X JWAAHER AL SHAHANIA

B: AL SHAHANIA STUD - O: H.E SHEIKHA REEM M K AL THANI













## **Interview with Jorge Cunha** *Chief Brand Officer -Head of Marketing*

by Talitha Bakker

**The GCAT has been a tremendous success.**

**Valkenswaard marked the 5<sup>th</sup> stage of the tour, and the Arabian horse community is excited to have such a prestigious show on the calendar.**

**TB: Looking back at the first five editions, has the GCAT met the expectations of the organizers?**

**JC:** I think it's fair to say that the Global Champions Arabians Tour has not only met but exceeded the expectations of the entire organising committee. Each stage of the GCAT is a learning curve, and we're constantly looking at new and innovative ways to improve the experience and bring the Arabian horse show to new audiences.

**TB: Will the tour continue next year?**

**JC:** GCAT is a long-term project and we plan to grow continually. We are working away behind the scenes on the plans for 2025 and you can expect some exciting announcements very soon.

**TB: The prize money for the GCAT is impressive. Can participants expect the same prize money next year?**

**JC:** We plan to be consistent as we believe this is the key to success.

**TB: Do you think including**

**special prizes dedicated to breeders from the host country of the show stage could be an added value and could encourage the participation of small domestic breeders as well?**

**JC:** First and foremost, GCAT is a tour for the Arabian horse community, so we're always interested in hearing about ways to enhance the experience and add value for our participants. We've discussed a number of ideas for 2025 so watch this space.

**TB: Are there plans to add more locations to the tour? In addition to the 4 shows sponsored this year where free entrance participation in the Global Tour was planned as a gift (like for 2024 they gave tickets in the Eurozone show, Bruges, Venice, Tarnow, and Ströhen), do you plan to add more in 2025?**

**JC:** We plan to grow the GCAT, and as we've already announced, London will be a welcome new addition to 2025. We're looking to add new major cities and the best locations. When it comes to the show partnerships, these

underpin the Tour's commitment to supporting European breeders, growing the community and cementing the future of the Arabian horse.

**TB: We've seen some strong competitors in the GCAT this year. Will there be any rules for GCAT Gold champions that will prevent them from returning next year?**

**JC:** We're a Championship series, and the horses are welcome to defend their title!

**TB: I understand that the GCAT is part of the Global Tour organized for warmbloods. Will both tours come together as one event where showjumpers and Arabian horse enthusiasts can meet and connect?**

**JC:** In many of the host cities, the Tours are running back to back, allowing enthusiasts from both sides to explore the other. In fact, we saw many of the Arabian horse owners and handlers thoroughly enjoying the showjumping in Cannes, and vice versa.