

THE GREATEST
Arabian
HORSE SHOW
ON EARTH!



68TH ANNUAL
SCOTTSDALE ARABIAN HORSE SHOW
February 16-26, 2023
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA, USA



2023



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‘The Greatest Horse Show on Earth!’ – emblazoned in bold white capital letters on an attention-grabbing imperial red background – proclaims the banner adorning both sides of the walkway above the entrance to Westworld’s iconic Wendell Arena. This decisive identifying statement implies both authority and longevity, claims the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show can rightly make as one the world’s longest running and still the breed’s largest showcase of Arabian horses on the planet. It is this annual show, modestly initiated by the Arabian Horse Association of Arizona some sixty-eight years ago in 1955, that has transformed the desert outpost of Scottsdale into the undisputed Mecca of the Arabian breed worldwide, an epicentre of Arabian horse breeding, training, trading and exhibition still unrivalled on the global stage.





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Now encompassing eleven days of competition and nearly every imaginable discipline in which the Arabian horse competes, 'Scottsdale', as the show has become affectionately known the world over, remains, unquestionably, the largest gathering of Arabian horse owners, breeders, professionals, aficionados and enthusiasts from every inhabited continent on the annual calendar. There is often more business conducted, ideas exchanged and new projects initiated leading up to and during Scottsdale than at any other time during the year as a result of the optimism, expectation and opportunity inherent in this cornerstone Arabian horse event.

There is something for everyone at

Scottsdale, from the novice and newcomer to the seasoned professional with decades of accrued attendance and experience. This unique 'melting pot' experience, once central to the best of our Arabian horse activities, still thrives at Scottsdale, ensuring that devotees of all disciplines from all backgrounds and countries of origin have the opportunity to mix, meet and mingle for over one week and a half, providing ample opportunity for everyone to enjoy, appreciate and connect with the entire spectrum of the Arabian horse industry and community.

Despite a few challenges from Mother Nature – including gale force winds (that wreaked havoc on nearly everyone's set-



up), near freezing overnight temps and a few intermittent showers mid-week and on the final day of the show – Scottsdale avoided most of the massive winter storm that paralysed the majority of North America, including neighbouring Southern California, in the latter half of February. The sun was reliably bright and warm most days, with more show days dry and pleasant than not, resulting in only two days of rescheduled classes from Wendell to the close confines of South Hall (Wednesday and the final Sunday), and one marathon day of halter classes in Wendell on the second Thursday unlike any other in recent memory.

For those who spent any amount of time watching halter classes, a division in which

Scottsdale showcases more Arabian horses than any other event in the world, the name of one emerging sire of significance was heard repeatedly when announcing entries in the winner's circle more than any other throughout the entire week: DOMINIC M. Bred by Marino Arabians in Alabama, DOMINIC has been a global traveller of great renown, travelling first to Uruguay with Olivia Strauch, then to Al Hawajer Stud in the United Arab Emirates, on to Europe to both Osterhof Stud in Germany and Danubius Arabians in Romania, before finally returning 'home' to North America in the stewardship of Orrion Farms as chief sire, in residence at the newly unveiled Scottsdale 'showroom' as the valley's greatest single attraction.



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In an industry first, DOMINIC was the sire of every single yearling winner in the Scottsdale Classic division – both senior and junior fillies in addition to the senior and junior colts – as well as the second-place winner in both senior yearling fillies and colts. There was something extra about each of the DOMINIC progeny that achieved in Scottsdale – enchantingly elegant, and refined, with exceptionally well-designed heads and beautiful faces epitomised by broad foreheads, large dark eyes in luminous, perfectly placed sockets and small refined muzzles. The DOMINIC foals were all notably well balanced and harmoniously designed, with upright, exemplary forehands and an undeniable noble presence and aristocratic quality. Anticipation is incredibly high for this exceptional collection of youngsters as they mature. Watching each of these aspiring young show horses be honoured in succession, led by a reassuringly broad cross section of trainers representing breeders and owners from around the world, one could not help but feel that something transformative was transpiring, that perhaps a quiet revolution, more natural ‘evolution’ than radical departure from the norm, was underway in the breed. Time will tell if, like legends MAGNUM PSYCHE and MARWAN AL SHAQAB before him, DOMINIC M redefines the breed in his image, with Scottsdale 2023 forever remembered as the dawn of ‘DOMINATION’.

In another first for both DOMINIC M the sire and the industry revolutionising Scottsdale Signature Stallion (SSS) programme, the same filly won both the SSS Yearling Fillies ATH and the SSS Auction Fillies AOTH, on each occasion with unanimous consent of the entire judging panel which equated to six first place distinctions, making SERAPHIC K the most decisive winner in the long history of the Scottsdale Show. Not only did this gorgeous filly receive the biggest payout of the event, she was led to both her victories by her owner AND her breeder – the holy trinity of SSS success: Katie Hendrickson. Even more astoundingly and assuredly most rewardingly, Katie also bred SERAPHIC’s dam, VIXXEN K (by Exxalt), and was on the lead just three years ago as ‘HBO’ (handler-breeder-

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owner) when VIXXEN took home the biggest paycheck as – you guessed it - SSS Champion Yearling Filly. These improbable accomplishments, achieved just three years apart, makes SERAPHIC the very first produce for VIXXEN, and the third female successive generation bred by Katie since 2015, when she purchased foundation mare STEEL MAGNOLIA TT. Katie's triumphant trips to the winner's circle were the unequivocal Cinderella success story of the entire show, and the ultimate 'feel good' moment for everyone, as we all celebrated the inspiring vision, tenacity and accomplishments of this quintessential small breeder.

While the quality of breeding horses was incredibly high across the board this year

in Scottsdale, the excellence on display in both the filly and mare competition was amongst the very best yet showcased in the last quarter century. As expected, DOMINIC was in the pedigree of both the Champion and Reserve Champion Junior Fillies – LADY NICA SRA (EKS Alihandro x Lady Dominica JSZ by Dominic M) and FELIX AJMAL MALAK (Dominic M x Felix Ajmal Mora by RFI Farid) – respectively. The Senior Mare Championship contained a veritable feast of fabulous females, with magnificent mares in both the front and back rows down the line. When the more seasoned EXXALTRESS, who has never looked better or more composed in her charmed life and winner of the most competitive halter class of the show – Senior Mares Six & Seven Years of Age, was sashed



Reserve Champion, expectations were abuzz as to exactly whom the judges had chosen as Champion. When the number 296 was read aloud, both sides of South Hall erupted in jubilation, with breeders Psynergy Enterprises – Mike Weinstein, Jean Edwards and Arturo Uribe – closest to the announcer, and Team Rae-Dawn – Murray and Shirley Popplewell and supporters – just opposite, ecstatic over the unexpected victory for ALESIA ENB (Atticus ENB x Aliyah Vision PCF by PCF Vision). This bold moving, superbly constructed showstopper was at her absolute best in both her show ring appearances, earning a first for both her breeders and owners as Scottsdale Champion Senior Mare, and emblazoning her name firmly in the history books as one

of the youngest mares ever to have earned this illustrious honour.

The competition for colts and stallions in the classic division was smaller than in year's past, but the quality was high in both divisions, with worthy winners forward in both lines in the respective championships. Amongst the Junior Colts, the judges chose the more seasoned senior two year old – the dynamic and masterfully presented BERGEN AN (Beijing BHF x Maria PCF by DA Valentino) – above both the exceptional yearling colts by DOMINIC M – DOMINICUS RAR (out of Miracle RA by Hariry Al Shaqab) and STALLONE PCF (out of CW La Stella by Na'Mous Al Shahania), choosing the elder colt, STALLONE, as Reserve Champion. In the final Scottsdale Classic

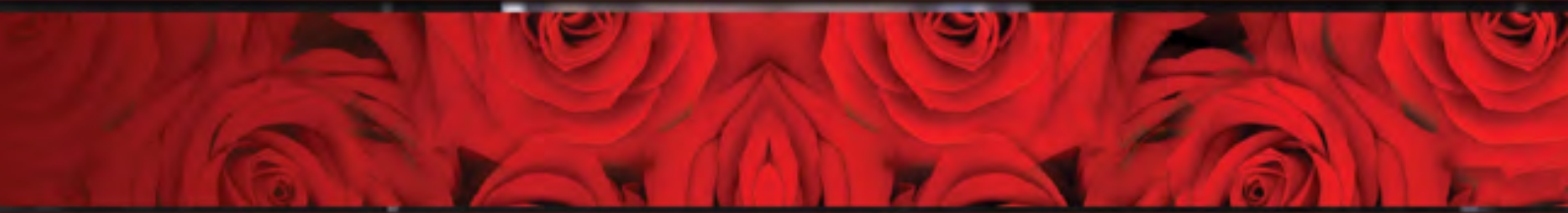


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division, the front of Senior Stallions was solid bay – showcasing the effervescent young ARIA LA CROIXX (Delacroix x La Belle Shawan HVP by FA El Shawan) and two impressive sons of supersire FA EL RASHEEM – ARIA RAKEEM (out of MD Hibbat Allah) and TAJ RAHEEM (out of RA Marwans Elygance by Marwan Al Shaqab). In the best condition of his aspiring young life, ARIA RAKEEM was chosen in a unanimous decision as Senior Champion Stallion, with the even younger ARIA LA CROIXX selected as a decisive Reserve Champion in a noteworthy clean sweep for Aria-bred stallions.

Although TAJ RAHEEM was unrewarded amongst the senior stallions, he stood head and shoulders above his competition as a sire, responsible for siring not just one, but two extremely appealing Gold Champions in the International ring during the first weekend of premier halter exhibition at Scottsdale: Yearling Colt Gold Champion STA HIGH VOLTAJ (out of Rose CME by Lark RCA) and the universally admired TASHEEM PMA (out of Chiara Luna by KM Bugatti). Manuel Durini, the brilliant Ecuadorean breeder whose MD HIBBAT ALLAH (DA Valentino x Anastasiaa) was the dam of the newly crowned ARIA RAKEEM, was also the mastermind behind the International Silver Champion Yearling Colt MD SALIM (Rhan Al Shahania x MD Alihandra by EKS Alihandro), who likewise traced directly to Durini's foundation aristocrat dam ANASTASIAA (ATA Bey Star x Showgirl SP by Shaklans Padron NA). Both Silver & Bronze Champions amongst the International Junior Colts were South American in origin, Brazilian-bred and Royal Arabians owned HAZ AL BRSEB (Royal Asad x Elegance AL by Halyr Meia Lua) and KIDARK HBV (Pharoah HBV x Seduction HBV by Power World JQ). Another of the promising sons of DOMINIC M, OFW LEGEND, was awarded Bronze International Champion amongst the yearling colts, adding further prestige to the production record of his prolific dam LULU MARAJJ (Marajj x Silhouette FF by Shael Dream Desert).

The Royal Arabians roster of senior stallions reigned supreme amongst the International Yearling and Junior Filly entrants, responsible for both



Laurette
photography



Silver Champions – the yearling ROYAL MIA (AJ Radman x Royal Hadara by RFI Farid) and the two year old CARTOUCHE SVB (Royal Asad x Caressable NA by Ever Afer NA) – as well as the undeniably beautiful Gold Champion Yearling Filly DIAMOND SKY (AJ Radman x OFW Jewel of Marwan by Marwan Al Shaqab). DOMINIC M scored yet another winner when reigning Brazilian National Champion KHALEESI EL LAMI RB was awarded the International Bronze Champion Junior Filly title, while ALIYAH VISION PCF (Vision PCF x Maria PCF by DA Valentino) enhanced her growing list of champion produce with Bronze Champion Yearling Filly with SHANELLE PCF (by Sultan GK) for owner-breeder Sam Peacemaker. Al Jood was the proud owner and breeder of International Gold Champion AJS SIGIS BELLE, sired by the Chilean-bred HP ALI, whose unmistakable namesake pays homage to the late Sigi Siller, legendary breeder the filly's dam OM EL BADRA (Om El Shahmaan x Om El Benedine by Sanadik El Shaklan).



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The senior division in the Scottsdale International Championships was also fiercely contested, resulting in a pair of Gold Champions for Team Royal, whose horses were presented with consummate professionalism and in superlative condition. The undeniable crowd favourite was the Polish-bred FUERTE (Shanghai EA x Frymuszka by Ekstern), who channelled the indomitable show attitude of his late World Champion maternal grandsire to capture the well-deserved title of International Gold Champion Senior Stallion. Amongst the mares, the glittering Brazilian-bred SAPPHIRE RB (Emerald J x Symphony RB by Sirajj UB) triumphed as Gold Champion, besting one of the deepest line-ups of mares ever to grace the international arena at Scottsdale,

with the luminous MARBELLA PCF (Exxalt x Verietta PCF by PCF Vision) sashed just behind as Silver Champion, and broody powerhouse GENEVA CS (SF Veraz x Gevalia CA by MS Mostly Padron) awarded Bronze. Another undeniably commanding Aria-bred stallion, ARIA VALIANT, was honoured as Silver Champion amongst the senior males, with VESPACIAN (Shanghai EA x Vesperra), a three-quarter brother to the illustrious Scottsdale Classic Reserve Champion Senior Mare EXXALTRESS and former Scottsdale Classic Champion Senior Stallion EXXALT, honoured as Bronze Champion.

If one was paying close enough attention, there was another theme of excellence, in addition to the rapidly expanding influence



of DOMINIC M, woven into the tapestry of success of the very best horses of all ages at Scottsdale, one that has resonated across many years and generations and in the programmes of a multitude of gifted and courageous breeders. The profoundly positive connective tissue that bound all of these horses together – EXXALTRESS, SERAPHIC K, MARBELLA PCF, GENEVA CS and CHLOE EL VERAZ T to name just a few – was SF VERAZ (Gazal Shaqab x Veronica GA by Versace), a now seventeen year old stallion that has been an understated sire of significance on five continents. The appearance of SF VERAZ through multiple sources in so many pedigrees of horses of growing significance has earned him highest honours as one of the most important

broodmare sires in breed worldwide, a gratifying reward for his breeders and succession of owners who have put their faith in this perennial patriarch.

The success of the SF VERAZ descendants adds further credibility to the profound legacy of his iconic Aristocrat Dam VERONICA GA, unquestionably one of the most precious and prodigious daughters of breed pillar VERSACE (Fame VF x Precious As Gold by El Shaklan). In addition to SF VERAZ, VERONICA is also the dam of his three-quarter brother PCF VISION (by Marwan Al Shaqab), the invaluable Peacemaker Farms foundation stallion whose daughters have become indispensable matrons for so many ambitious breeding programmes all around the globe. In 2023



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alone, PCF VISION was an essential component in the pedigrees of title winners ALESIA ENB, MARBELLA PCF and SHANELLE PCF, all of which continues to make VERONICA GA one of the most enduringly influential matrons in the breed.

The PCF breeder designation of Sam Peacemaker, long a universally respected mark of distinction, was a consistent link of quality in the pedigrees of a multitude of the Scottsdale 2023 achievers, especially apparent in the descendants of MARIA PCF (DA Valentino x MCA Afire Beylee by Afire Bey V). Like VERONICA GA, MARIA PCF was the common thread of excellence in a vast array of winners, including, most astoundingly, four high-profile champions: Scottsdale Classic Champion Senior Mare ALESIA ENB; Scottsdale Classic Junior Champion BERGEN AN; Scottsdale Champion Senior Mare AAOTH NATALIA PCF (by Invictus PCF); and Scottsdale Signature Champion Yearling Colt ATH RD RHAVIER (Rhan Al Shahania x Giana Leah PCF by Polidoro FC). In addition to this triumphant quartet of champions, twelve other tail-female descendants of MARIA PCF also finished with Top Ten honours across the entire spectrum of halter competition, a breath-taking achievement for a mare just 15 years of age.



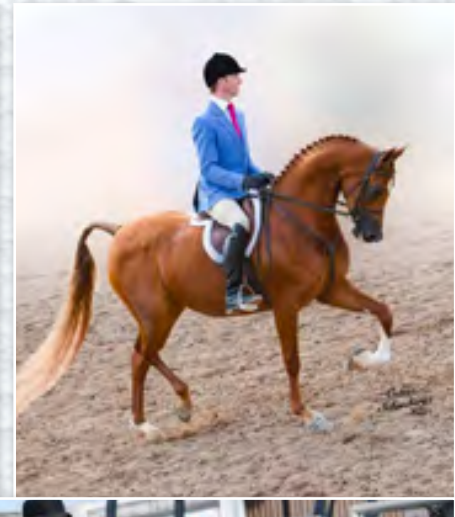


It has been immensely refreshing to witness a reinvigorated passion for breeding at Scottsdale, with breeders from both North and South America at the vanguard of both inspiration and energy. Without question, the depth of quality in the young horse classes is on the rise, with discerningly bred competitors hailing from a broader range of bloodlines now finding success and appreciation more consistently and convincingly. Camaraderie and collaboration amongst breeding programmes is also evidently on the ascent, all of which has made for a more celebratory atmosphere in the winner's circle as well as during the farm visit excursions, an indispensable highlight of the Scottsdale experience. Emboldened by all of these positive changes, the future for the Arabian breeding horse feels not only safe and secure, but assuredly heading towards greater promise and possibility in the greatly anticipated generations that lie just ahead.

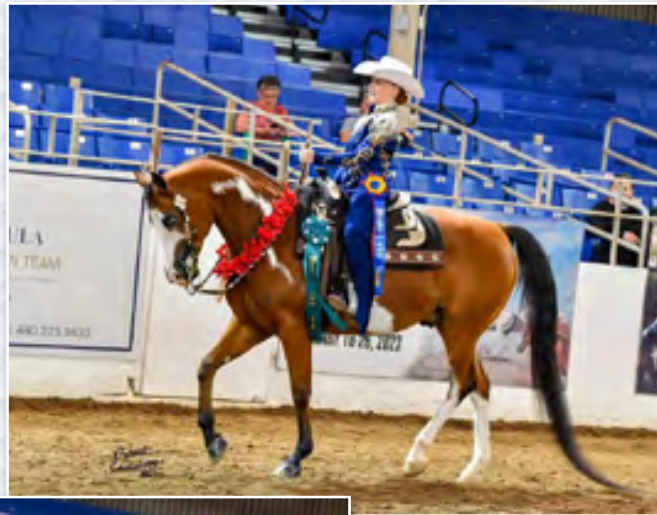


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SAVE THE
Date
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See you next year!