

French victory

Championnat de Midi-Pyrenes in Albi

by Urszula Leczycka ■ photos by Thala



The Judges. From the left: Urszula Leczycka (Poland) - Guy de Fontaines (France) - Mohammed Oussidhoum (Marocco)

March brings us some of the very first European shows of the season. One of the events opening the season in France was *Championnat de Midi-Pyrenes* – C-international show located nearby the romantic old town of Albi. Held in comfortable exhibition center between Albi and Toulouse the event gathered crowds of local visitors who enjoyed the sunny weekend attending not only the Arabian horse festival but also the various all-day indoor equine activities and lots of boot shops. The evening spectacle closing each day of the event was so popular that the big group of attendants was starting to queue just after the afternoon classes of Arabian horse show. The number of French breeders visiting Albi this year was even bigger due to the general meeting of French Arabian Horse Breeders Association organized at the same weekend at the exposition center.

The professional team of organizers led by Dominic du Trieu de Terdonck took care about the nice and friendly atmosphere of the whole event with the great support of the sponsors – Royal Arabian Horse Breeders Association of Morocco, Spodex, Lutetia Arabians, Haras de Chataigniere and M. Jean-Jacques Savenier. Well known authority of Arabian horse community and Spodex representative – Mr William Richardot was also acting as a dressage class judge who – together with Guy la Fontaine elected the young rider Marion Melle Baby riding Polish-bred PIWOSZ (Arbil – Piwnica) as the best couple of riding competition.



GOLD MEDAL FILLIES **Joumalia De Nautiac**



GOLD MEDAL MARES **Cyrea EA**

Halter classes judged by Urszula Leczycka (Poland) Guy la Fontaine (France) and Mohammed Oussidhoum (Marocco) gathered over 50 participants. In both junior and senior classes the progeny of some of international leading sires competed against the popular French stallions and the final results could have been

much unexpected sometimes... Yearling female class was taken by the pretty tiny grey filly JOURNALIA de NAUTLAC sired by Maraji out of WH Justice daughter - Jalicia de Nautiac bred and owned by Rachel Bourrassé winning her class in front of HARMATTAN VIDJAYA –another successful cross of Hamy de



GOLD MEDAL COLTS **Vassilius Des Aubus**



GOLD MEDAL STALLIONS **Yalta Des Aubus**

Gargassan, this time with QR Marc, resulting in a filly who gained one of very few maximum scores for head and neck given during this event. The winner of this group - JOUMALIA de NAUTLAC was also appreciated by the judges as the unanimous Junior Gold Champion Filly later on.

The yearling colts class was led by the progeny of very popular sire across France - Shamilah Vassili. His yearling son - VASSILIUS DES AUBUES (out of Shamilah Wassima by Padrons Image) representing M. P. Letiche & Melle S. Hermel won the class in front of the owner of impressive neck and topline - ZLOTY GAZAL (Gazal

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SILVER MEDAL FILLIES **Sliema De Nautiac**



SILVER MEDAL MARES **& MOST BEAUTIFUL HEAD** **Unic All JP**

Al Shaqab - Zlota Wie a by Ganges) bred and owned by Lutetia Arabians, while another get of Shamilah Vasili - the filly VASSILLA DES AUBUES (the 2010 full sister of VASSILIUS) won unanimously the class of foals being the only one, but very exotic competitor for herself. The success of Haras de la Chataignière as a breeder was even big-

ger when VASSILIUS DES AUBUES took the trophy of Gold Champion Colt at the end of the event.

Two years old fillies class brought another competition for Shamilah Vassili progeny - FIDJI DES AUBUES (owned by Jérôme Carayon) against Edin-sired JOSEPH'S



SILVER MEDAL COLTS

Rector's Ramino



SILVER MEDAL STALLIONS

Ares Des Aubus

FADILAH who took the class easily as well as the Bronze Medal Champion Filly for her owner – Lutetia Arabians. Haras de la Chataignière, breeder of “des Aubues” nicknamed horses was also close to win the class of two years old colts with Mystic Image son – MYTIC DES AUBUES however the competitor entering arena after him appeared

to be invincible. The grey Marwan al Shaqab son – NAPOLEON EA (out of Nedraska Kossack) impressed the judges and spectators with his correct conformation and impressive front collecting the high score of 122 points for his owner Abdelmajid Aboukhadidja. One point less and the total score of 121 points was enough for the chestnut WH Justice

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BRONZE MEDAL FILLIES Joseph's Fadilah



BRONZE MEDAL MARES IM Byzance Cathare

daughter - *SLEMA DE NAUTIAC*, bred by Rachel Bourrassé to win the class of 3 years old fillies in front of another Haras de la Chataignière bred horse - *SHANATYK DES AUBUES* (by Mystic Immage). *SLEMA DE NAUTIAC* was not only the class winner but also almost unanimous Silver Champion Filly of the show. The Silver and Bronze

medalists amongst the colts were elected from the group of three years old males. The second in this group - very "Padrons-like" of pretty dark eyes and dishy face *RECTOR'S RAMINO* (by El Amin) bred and owned by M.Rector from Belgium, being in very good disposition in the championship took the Silver Medal while the class winner - the



BRONZE MEDAL COLTS

Eden De Nautiac



BRONZE MEDAL STALLIONS

AS Kayro

huge and well developed EDEN DE NAUTIAC (by WH Justice) bred by Rachel Bourrassé and owned by Ranch Ines was awarded with the Bronze Medal this time.

The senior female and male competition was attended by some very good quality horses, giving the brainstorming

task for the judges to decide on the trophies. The Gold Champion Mare was elected from the winners of the mares 4-6 years old group. CYREA EA – the daughter of Khidar and Monogramm sired Cygarniczka bred and owned by Equus Arabians, showing a lot of quality and correctness of conformation was unquestionable winner of her class in

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Tony Moreno - The Best Handler



Joumalia De Nautiac - Best in Show and Best Female



Vassilia Des Aubes - Champion Foal

front of another Mystic Image get bred by Haras de la Chataignière and owned by Ranch Ines – MENESTYCA DES AUBUES out of Menes daughter – Shamilah Menessa. The Silver and Bronze Senior Female Champions were represented by the eldest mares group. The winner of the class was extremely typey, snowy grey mare brought successfully by Lutetia Arabians – UNIC ALL JP (Laddin BA – Sherazade JP by Naadir), the owner of extremely exotic face with huge dark eyes. Besides the trophy of Silver Medal Champion she also received the trophy for Best Head of the Show that she undoubtedly deserved. In her group of the mares 7 years and older she has beaten the show veteran owned by Mrs. Bonnet & M. Gouzy – IM BYZANCE CATHARE (Padrons Image – Shamilah Baghers by Nadir I) who took the second place and Bronze Medal in the finals.

The category of senior males was again the final triumph of Padrons Psyche and Kubinec grandson – Mystic Image progeny bred by Haras de la Chataignière who seemed to be the grand winner of the whole event! The two leaders of stallions 4-6 years old shared the first two places in their class and the Gold and Silver Medals – YALTA DES AUBUES (Mystic Image – Tamara des Aubues by Shamilah Noudjahid) – the grey, typey and good moving winner of the class awarded as the Gold Champion and the chestnut masculine ARES DES AUBUES (Mystic Image – Shamilah Meninah) currently owned by Ranch Ines. The third one to complete the championship with Bronze Medal trophy was the attendant of the eldest males class – AS KAYRO (Psytadel – Saskia by Plakat) owned by AS Kayro Syndicate, coming from the second place in his class placed after the winner – the black and very elegant however somewhat feminine guest from Italy – MONOGRAMM JM (Style SRA – Hall Victory by Dark Victory) representing Angelo Scipioni.

This marvelous two sunny days meeting of Arabian horse lovers in South-Western France was ended by the nice special Moroccan designed trophies presentation for the Best Female and Best in Show for the yearling class winner and Gold Champion Filly – JOURNALIA de NAUTLIAC, the Best Male of the Show for the Gold Champion Senior Stallion – YALTA DES AUBUES, Best Head for the exotic UNIC ALL JP and Best Handler statue for Tony Moreno. The special non-competing guest star of the event was internationally awarded Gold Champion of Elram Cup and Silver European Champion SHANGHAI EA (WH Justice – Salymah EA by Khidar) who comes to the stage as the new-coming and fashionable sire in 2010 brought and presented in Albi by Equus Arabians. His presentation in between the classes was a very elegant addition to this nice and exciting time spent in Albi this spring. □