



GLOBAL CHAMPIONS

ARABIANS TOUR



FINAL KSA RIYADH

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Simone Bergamaschi
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13-16 November



The 2024 Global Champions Arabians Tour, the most prestigious Arabian horse show series, concluded its season in Riyadh, marking a historic finale at KAFD X from November 13-16. This event capped a seven-stage series that showcased the grace, beauty, and heritage of the Arabian horse, drawing over 230 horses from the GCC and Europe. The total prize pool of the Riyadh stage reached €5,115,000, making it the most lucrative in the industry's history. And what a journey it has been. The incredible quality of horses on display brought together people from around the world, from diverse cultures, to celebrate the most prestigious breed of all, the Arabian Horse. The grand final in Riyadh was the perfect stage.

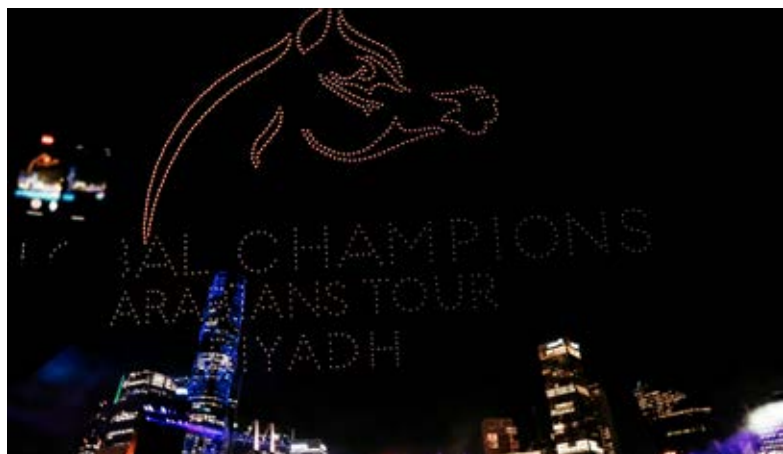
CEO of the Global Champions Arabians Tour, Bader Al Darwish, noted that the decision to choose Riyadh as the final stop of the GCAT series was no coincidence: "Saudi Arabia is a homeland for Arabian horses and a crossroads between Arab cultures. We were thrilled and pleased that during the past four days of Arabian horse competitions, we managed to delightfully host owners, breeders, judges, and guests from around the world," he stated on the GCAT website.

The atmosphere at the event was remarkable, filled with excitement and joy. Attendees enjoyed excellent food, entertainment, and, of course, the best horses in the world.

The finale featured an impressive panel of 20 international judges from diverse backgrounds, enhancing the event's high standards and ensuring fairness. The judges included Luiz Rocco from Brazil; Josy Everars and Julie Maden from Belgium; Peter Birch from Denmark; Ali Shaarawi and Tarek Hamza from Egypt; Marc Veray from France; Manfred Hein and Michaela Weidner from Germany; Abdelouahed Maagoul and Mohammed Oussidhoum from Morocco; Karin Zeevenhoven and Gideon Reisel from the Netherlands; Sufian Taha Al Hussein from Palestine; Jerzy Bialobok and Lucas Gozdziński from Poland; Caroline Reid from the United Kingdom; Leslie Connor and Greg Knowles from the United States; and Urs Aeschbacher from Switzerland. Their collective expertise ensured that each horse was evaluated with precision and respect for the Arabian horse's heritage. The judges upheld the reputation of this premier global event, further enhancing its credibility and prestige.

Yearling Fillies

Day one began with the qualifying classes for the show's youngest participants. The competition featured two full classes of yearling fillies, each with 19 participants. Only the top three from each class would advance to the final yearling fillies championships. It was a close finish, but with her dazzling beauty and strong movement, Sultana al Thamer (Dominic M x Weaam al Jassim),







Yearling Colts

The show continued with two strong classes of yearling colts. The top-scoring horses displayed exceptional quality. The clear winner of the class, with an impressive score of 92.64 points, was the undefeated Afreen Al Shaqab (D Meyzan x Siwar Al Shaqab), bred and owned by Al Shaqab Stud. This colt embodies Arabian beauty with his type, head and neck, solid body, and exceptional movement. In the final championships, he was awarded the Gold medal, capping off a phenomenal season for this young superstar. Second in the class, scoring 91.14 points, was Mubeen Athbah (Fahd Al Tinhat x Leen Athbah), bred by Athbah Stud and owned by HRHP Abdulaziz Bin Ahmad Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Despite an excellent performance, Mubeen could not secure a medal in the final championships. The third-placed colt, Meshal The Line (Ghaith Al Zobair x D Gezaila), bred and owned by Abdullah Almeshal, scored a total of 91.07 points but also did not advance to medal placement.

So where did the other medals go? They were claimed by the colts in the next class. All horses in the top five of this class scored over 91 points, but it was the outstanding D Borkan (FA El Rasheem x D Ajayeb), bred and owned by Dubai Arabian Horse Stud, who dominated with a remarkable score of 93.29 points. With perfect 20s in type, head, and neck, alongside strong marks for body and movement, this colt was unbeatable in the class. However, in the final championships, he competed against Afreen and had to settle for the Silver medal. Second in this highly competitive class was the outstanding mover, Shahab Al Shaqab (EKS Farajj x Samar Al Shahab), bred by Al Shahab Stud and owned by Fadhel Abbas Aljamri, with 91.86 points. In the final championships, Shahab yielded the medal to the third-placed horse in the class, Sinan Al Bahya (AJ Redan x AJ Saray), bred by Ajman Stud and owned by Abdullah

Alotaibi. With 91.21 points, Sinan secured his place in the final and claimed the Bronze medal.

Junior Fillies

After this exciting class of yearling colts, it was time for more excitement as two strong classes of two-year-old fillies were up next! The top three scoring horses stood out in this class. However, it was the magnificent Shahbrys HVP (Royal Asad x Rebecca HVP) who took the lead with 92.86 points. This Brazilian-bred filly, bred by Vila Dos Pinheiros, had already enjoyed a fantastic season for her owner, Turki Alothman. In this final edition of the GCAT, Shahbrys demonstrated that she belongs among the best fillies in the world. Unfortunately, she had no chance in the final championships, underlining the exceptional quality of the competition. The same held true for the second-placed filly, Almaha RC (Fadi Al Shaqab x Mahera RC), bred and owned by the Royal Cavalry of Oman, who scored a total of 91.43 points, and for the third-placed filly, Bianca (EKS Farajj x Ramla Al Zobair), bred by Omar Khalid Alhowaidi and owned by Abdullah Alotaibi, scoring 91.29 points.

The second class of two-year-old fillies was also of exceptional quality. With an astonishing score of 93.50 points, the reigning world champion filly Shahalel Al Shaqab (Namous Al Shahania x Siwar Al Shaqab), bred and owned by Al Shaqab Stud, took the lead with ease. This filly is the epitome of perfection, earning full 20s for type and for head and neck, along with strong scores for body and movement. Later, in the final championships, Shahalel was rewarded for her efforts by claiming the Gold medal, marking a perfect end to a fabulous season. Second in this strong class, with 91.50 points, was Sabah ERD (Dinar Al Erdh x Nora El Erdh), bred by Abdullah Aljebreen and owned by Mohammed Aljebreen. Placing third, with 91.29 points, was the stunning Lady R RAR (AJ Radman



x Falcons Love Note BHF), bred by Regan Rohl and owned by Abdulrahman AlQahtani.

The three-year-old fillies were shown the following day in another large, high-quality class. The winner of the class, with an impressive total score of 92.93 points, was D Najlah (D Seraj x Elle Flamenca), bred and owned by Dubai Arabian Horse Stud. This filly received perfect 20s for type, head, and neck, and later secured the Silver medal in the final junior filly championships. Placing second, with 92.21 points was D Sanayen (Wortex Kalliste x D Seeneyyah), bred by Dubai Arabian Horse Stud and owned by Akmal Stud. This filly showcased exceptional movement, earning multiple 20s in this category, and went on to claim the Bronze medal in the championships. Third in this class, with 91.64 points, was the beautiful TM Bella (TM Itaipu x TM Fahdeelah), bred by Jose Orlando & Teixeira Junior from Brazil and owned by Al Jumail Stud. Although she received some votes for Bronze in the final championships, it was not enough to secure a medal this time.

Junior Colts

The show continued with two large classes of junior colts, beginning with the two-year-olds. This was an exceptionally thrilling class, with the top four colts achieving closely matched scores. Standing out with outstanding movement and refined type, the charismatic D Shahkar (D Shahkat x D Shamkhah), bred and owned by Dubai Arabian Horse Stud, led the way with an impressive score of 92.43 points. This colt had already enjoyed a successful season at GCAT but had to settle for Silver in the final championship. The second-placed colt in the class, the striking LR Anselmo (RFI Unique x LL Amudena), bred by Las Rosas Estancia and owned by Al Wajba Stud, scored 92.29 points but triumphed in the championships, winning the Gold medal by a narrow margin.

For third place, it was a tight contest between two exceptional colts, both scoring 91.43 points. Ultimately, Sahn Sarm (EKS Farajj x Bandahleeza ZB), bred by Sarm Stud and owned by Sultan Alharthi, secured the final ticket to the championships with his powerful movement, while Akmal Atbah (Wajeeth Athbah x Mawee Athbah), bred by Athbah Stud and owned by HRHP Abdulaziz Bin Ahmad Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, made an early exit.

The class of three-year-old colts also saw fierce competition, leading to surprising outcomes in the championships. Winning the class with a total score of 91.93 points was the exceptional mover Mumayaz al Layal (D Mahboob x AJ Randa), bred by Al Layal Stud and owned by Mohsen Husain. This colt earned near-perfect scores in movement and high marks for type, easily securing his place in the championships but unfortunately missing out on a medal. The second place in the class went to the typey D Tabarak (FA El Rasheem x D Yamamah), bred by Dubai Arabian Horse Stud and owned by Abdulaziz bin Sami AlAli, who scored 91.29 points. The third-place finisher, with 91.21 points, was the charismatic Adhm Sarm (Royal Asad x Bandahleeza ZB), bred by Sarm Stud and owned by Sultan Alharthi. Later, in the championships, this young colt made a strong comeback and claimed the Bronze medal.

Senior Mares

The show continued with the crème de la crème: the senior mare classes. The first class of 4-6-year-old senior mares showcased the highest caliber of competition! The undefeated AJ Kayya (AJ Kafu x AJA Caprice), bred and owned by Ajman Stud, dazzled both the crowd and judges with perfect scores of 20 in type, head, and neck, as well as strong marks in movement. With a total score of 93.43 points, it was evident she was here to reign,



securing the Gold medal in the final championships. Nourah Jumran (ES Harir x Najran al Muawd), bred and owned by Faisal Alotaibi, claimed second place with 91.57 points. Sajla al Fairozah (Designed x Everlasting Romance), bred by Yahya Alamin Youself Alsheekmoubarak and owned by Ibrahim Nabeel Alsheekmoubarak, took third with 91.50 points.

The second class for mares aged 4-6 years presented an exciting competition. The clear winner, with an impressive score of 92.43 points, was the dynamic filly SMG Ivana (Elle Narcisse x SMG Idaliha). Bred in Sweden by Smedgardens Arabstuteri and owned by Khalid Alotaibi, SMG Ivana captivated the judges with her outstanding movement.

A close contest ensued for the second position between two exceptional senior mares, both scoring 91.50 points. Ultimately, it was Amina Gharnatah's (Singaar Gharnatah x Jawharat Gharnatah) superior score in type that secured her the second place. She was bred by Khelaifekh Nasser Abd Allah Al-Hajri and is owned by Naif Hammad Hillel Alotaibi. This left the third position to the elegant Alexandra RC (FA El Rasheem x Amabelle), bred and owned by the Royal Cavalry of Oman.

The following day featured two additional mare classes, showcasing another group of exceptional contenders. Xxpectations (Excalibur EA x MC Psynammon) emerged victorious with 92.29 points. Bred by Cecil and Frances Butler and Jeff and Sybil Collins, and owned by Khalid Bin Zaid Bin Aliq Alroweidan, this mare impressed across all categories. In the final championships, she went on to claim the Bronze medal. Second place in this class went to Seher AlJamal (Psyche Keret x Gaja Valentina) with a score of 91.64 points. She was bred by Ahmed Ali Altayyari Bani Ebrahim and is owned by Ahmed Alshemeili. Bourhani Sharifa (Ajman Moniscione x Psynesica), bred by Bourhani

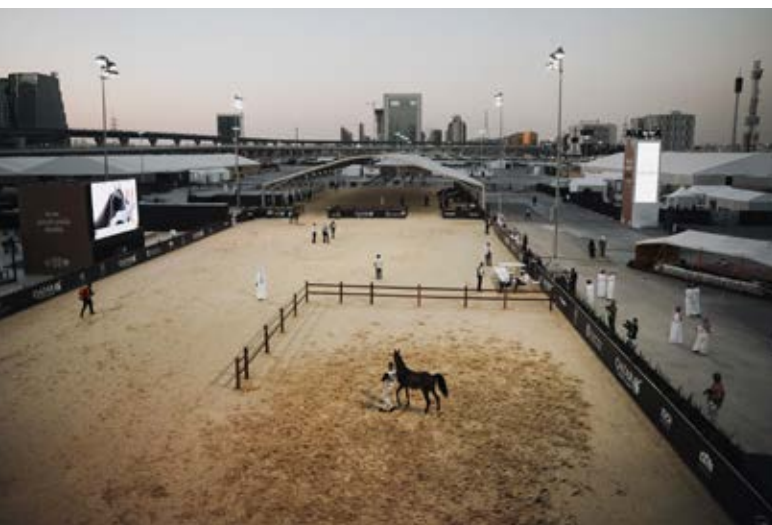
Arabians and owned by Turki Alothman, secured third place with 91.43 points.

The final senior mare class of the day was led by the magnificent Basandra Settimocielo (Ajman Moniscione x MA Scarlet). Bred by Annaratone Ferraroni Maria, Allev. Settimocielo and owned by Ajman Stud, this mare has enjoyed a successful show season and achieved a remarkable score of 93.57 points. She earned perfect 20s for type, head, and neck, and nearly flawless marks for movement, making her the highest-scoring female of the competition. Despite a strong bid for the championship crown, Basandra Settimocielo ultimately took home the Silver medal.

Jude AlJassimiya (WH Justice x Toscana PGA), bred by Al Jassimiya Farm and owned by Asalat Najd for Arabian Horses, placed second in this class with a score of 91.14 points. In the final senior mare championships, she tied for the Bronze but was relegated to fourth place due to a lower class score. Third place in this class was awarded to Isabella (Nibrass x Enya), bred by Madros Stables and owned by Khalid Alsayed, with a score of 91 points.

Senior Stallions

The senior stallion classes saw an impressive turnout, with as many as 19 stallions participating in the first class. It was a spectacular sight to witness these majestic stallions parading together in the ring, showcasing some of the best in the world. The winner of this first class, with 92.07 points, was WI Kanz (Shael Dream Desert x WP Fame and Fortune), bred by Hussain Mohammad Hassan Alasmari and owned by Mazen Alfaidi. This powerful-moving stallion put on a remarkable performance but did not secure a medal in the final senior stallion championships. Placing second with 91.21 points was AMS Shaheen (Forelocks Shaheen x Forelocks Jawaher), bred by Al Mudhahka Stud and



owned by Abdullah Almudhahka, who also received excellent scores in movement. Two stallions tied for third place with 91.14 points. Ultimately, Sinan RAR (SMA Magic One x Jamaica NA), bred by Robert and Dixie North and owned by Abdullah Alotaibi, prevailed on type, earning his spot in the final championships.

The second group of stallions featured twelve competitors, with one clear standout. The striking Alexxanderr (Excalibur EA x AR Most Irrisistible), bred by France Butler and Brandi Carson and owned by Khalid Alsayed, achieved an impressive 93.93 points—the highest score of the entire show! This stallion delivered an outstanding performance, receiving perfect 20s for type, head, and neck. Alexxanderr went on to claim the Gold medal in the final championships. Second place in this class, with 92.07 points, was awarded to the elegant Amaar (RFI Farid x Adiya), bred by Al Juman Stud and owned by Sheikh Hamad Falah JJ Al Thani. Amaar later secured the Bronze medal in the final championships. Third place went to Wortex Kalliste (Shanghai EA x Mirwanah Kalliste), bred by Kalliste Arabians and owned by Ahmed Al Thumairi, who, like the number four in the class, also scored 91.21 points but excelled in type.

The final stallion class featured another outstanding winner. The highly successful ES Harir (AJ Dinar x TF Magnums Magic), bred by Sheikh Abdulla Bin Majid Al Qassimi and owned by Al Saqran Arabians, dominated the class with an impressive 93.50 points. Harir also earned perfect 20s for type, head, and neck. In the final championships, he competed fiercely against Alexxanderr but ultimately took the Silver medal.

The second and third places in this class both scored 91.79 points. The snow-white Equiborn KA (QR Marc x Espadrilla), bred by Knocke Arabians and owned by Budhens Stud from Belgium, secured the second position due to his superior type. Third place

was awarded to HF Santiago de Magnifique (Magic Magnifique x Gazals Serina), bred by Wilde Winclair and owned by Omar AlJasir.

After this last class, there was a fantastic closing ceremony. Breathtaking displays, including a drone and firework show, celebrated the champions in a sold-out stadium. Ajman Stud's AJ Kayya was crowned 'Best Female' and 'Horse of the Tour,' securing her position as a standout performer with flawless displays throughout the season. She earned €1,000,000 in prize money and an additional €350,000 from championship prizes at each stage.

The 'Best Male of the Year' title, along with a €500,000 prize, went to Dubai Stud's, D Borkan, a distinguished yearling bay colt. Borkan accumulated 122 points over the season, securing one gold and six silver titles.

The 'Best Handler of 2024' was awarded to Paolo Capecci, who led with 387 points, handling horses to 11 gold, 19 silver, and three bronze titles. Capecci received a €50,000 prize, an intricately bejewelled whip, and a luxury trip to the Maldives, courtesy of GCAT Global Partner Waldorf Astoria Ithaafushi.

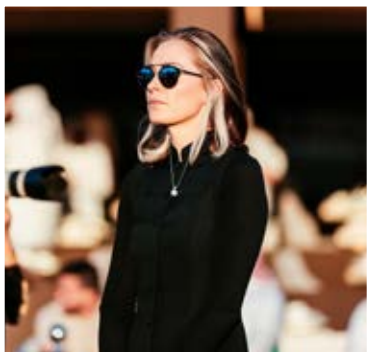
The Dubai Arabian Horse Stud won the 'Best Breeding Farm' of 2024 for producing the highest-scoring horses throughout the season. Executive Manager Abdelaziz Al Marzooqi and General Manager Eng. Mohammed Al Tawhidi accepted an ornate embroidered frame symbolizing this achievement.

Special awards also featured prominently: Saudi photographer Yazeed Alskakier was named 'Photographer of the Year' for his compelling image of AJ Kayya, while Gulf Horse CEO Abdullah Al Shammari received the 'Commitment to the Tour Award' for his steadfast dedication despite personal challenges. The 'Lifetime Achievement Award' honored H.E. Sheikh Nawaf bin Nasser Al Thani of Qatar's Al Nasser Stud for his exceptional contributions to the Arabian horse industry.

Additionally, Rafael Curti was recognized with the 'Action of the Year' award for his display of sportsmanship during the opening stage in Doha.

H.H. Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud and GCAT CEO Bader Al Darwish highlighted the event's success and Riyadh's role as a premier equestrian destination. With sincere gratitude extended to Saudi leadership and the Equestrian Federation, the 2024 Tour ended on a high note, setting the stage for the 2025 season, which will begin in Ajman and continue across the Middle East and Europe. We cannot wait for the new season to start!







FINAL KSA *RIYADH YEARLING FILLIES*



Gold Medal **SULTANA AL THAMER**

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

Silver Medal **MARWAA ALAOON**

HILAL ALKHALEDIAH X MARSOULAT ALKHALEDIAH
B: MHUMMED ALTMIA - O: ABDULLAH ALOTAIBI



Bronze Medal **SANDI RS**

GHAITH AL ZOB AIR X ZG. IKLIL
B/O: FAHAD BIN QURYAN BIN FAHAD AL-KHANFARI AL-QAHTANI



FINAL KSA ***RIYADH YEARLING COLTS***



Gold Medal AFREEN AL SHAQAB

D MEZYAN X SIWAR AL SHAQAB BY SMA MAGIC ONE
B/O: AL SHAQAB

Silver Medal D BORKAN

FA EL RASHEEM X D AJAYEB BY RFI FARID
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



Bronze Medal SINAN AL BAHYA

AJ REDAN X AJ SARAY BY MARWAN AL SHAQAB
B: AJMAN STUD - HH SHEIKH AMMAR BIN HUMAID AL NUAIMI - O: ABDULLAH ALOTAIBI



FINAL^{KSA} *RIYADH JUNIOR FILLIES*



Gold Medal **SHAHALEL AL SHAQAB**

NA-MOUS AL SHAHANIA X SIWAR AL SHAQAB BY SMA MAGIC ONE
B/O: AL SHAQAB

Silver Medal D NAJLAH

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



Bronze Medal D SANAYEN

WORTEX KALLISTE X D SEENEYYAH BY FA EL RASHEEM
B: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD - O: AKMAL STUD



FINAL KSA *RIYADH JUNIOR COLTS*



Gold Medal LR ANSELMO

RFI UNIQUE X LL ALMUDENA BY BEY SHAHDOW TGS
B: LAS ROSAS ESTANCIA - O: AL WAJBA STUD

Silver Medal D SHAKHAR

D SHAKHAT X D SHAMKHAH BY FA EL RASHEEM
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



Bronze Medal ADHM SARM

ROYAL ASAD X BANDAHLEEZA ZB BY EMERALD J
B/O: SULTAN HAMED MASTOR ALHARTHI / SARM STUD

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FINAL^{KSA} ***RIYADH SENIOR MARES***



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Gold Medal AJ KAYYA

AJ KAFU X AJA CAPRICE BY EKS ALIHANDRO
B/O: AJMAN STUD

Silver Medal **BASANDRASETTIMOCIELO**

AJMAN MONISCIONE X MA SCARLET BY HADIDI
B: ALLEV. SETTIMOCIELO - O: AJMAN STUD



Bronze Medal **XXPECTATIONS**

EXCALIBUR EA X MC PSYNAMMON BY PSYMADE
B: CECIL OR FRANCES BUTLER & JEFF OR SYBIL COLLINS
O: KHALID BIN ZAID BIN ALIQ ALROWEIDAN



FINAL^{KSA} RIYADH SENIOR STALLIONS



Gold Medal ALEXXANDERR

EXCALIBUR EA X AR MOST IRRESISTIBLE BY ML MOSTLY PADRON
B: FRANCES BUTLER AND BRANDI CARSON - O: KHALID ALSAYED

Silver Medal E.S. HARIR

AJ DINAR X TF MAGNUMS MAGIC BY MAGNUM PSYCHE
B: SHEIKH ABDULLA BIN MAJID AL QASSIMI - O: AL SAQRAN ARABIAN HORSE STUD



Bronze Medal AMAAR

RFI FARID X ADIYA BY WH JUSTICE
B: AL JUMAN STUD - O: SHEIKH HAMAD FALAH JJ AL-THANI

FINAL ^{KSA} RIYADH SPECIAL AWARDS

Best Breeder		DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD <i>United Arab Emirates</i>
Best Handler		Paolo Capecci
Best Female		AJ KAYYA <i>Ajman Stud - HH Sheikh Ammar Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi</i>
Best Male		D BORKAN <i>DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD</i>
Horse of the Tour		AJ KAYYA
Best Saudi Handler		Azzam Ibrahim Al Qasem



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ARABIANS TOUR

