

Scottsdale

by Brandon Wiggins - Arabhorse.com

■ photos by Scott Bailey, Darryl Larson, Randy Clark, Brandon Wiggins, Curtis Lamalfa

After a rare desert rainstorm earlier in the month, February brought with it the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show. Eleven days of equestrian competition, commercial exhibitors, educational demonstrations, food, friends, sunshine and the most beautiful Arabian horses can only mean the largest Arabian horse show on the globe.

As early morning eases into day, the barns and stalls come alive with a buzz of activity, drawing a forecast of the day's competition and excitement. With six arenas and a class for every taste, the Scottsdale show offers attendees exposure to the many unique facets of Arabian competition. With so many horses and so many classes, it would be easy to assume that the competitive element of the show is inherently diluted. However the effect is keenly counterintuitive. For the most popular classes that require elimination rounds there is a gradual build-up of anticipation through the week, ending with a crescendo of drama in the finals. The likely highlight during this year's show was the Purebred/Halter Stallion Championship, which brought the biggest crowds to the outdoor Wendell Area late Sunday morning.

The purebred halter classes at the Scottsdale show are always special and this year was no exception. As first stop on the International show calendar, Scottsdale is always the first chance to see the foals from the previous year's breeding successes. DA Valentino was a big contributor to the quality of the foals this year. He is proving to be a very special sire

with many of his foals doing superb in the preliminaries. One of his beautiful fillies, D Noor, by Valentino and owned by Dubai Stud was 2nd in her class of very competitive fillies.

Valori TRF however was a real stand out early in the week, easily winning her class and the Jr. Championship with Andy Sellman, also sired by DA Valentino. The Reserve Champion filly was ABHA Qalamas for owners Ray and Nora Tatum. The yearling colt wearing



roses this year was Baahir El Marwan, a full brother to International sensation Baanderos who is owned by RH Prince Khaled Bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz. Baahir El Marwan was shown by Michael Byatt for owners Mystica Arabians of Australia. The Reserve Champion colt was the impressive El Chall WR who sold earlier in the week for a record price and thus created quite a stir leading up to the show. He was handled to this win by Keith Krichke for new owners Bob and Dixie North. Both colts were very special and we will be seeing much more of them this year.

The champion Mare was the stunning Dulcinea BHF by Denali BHF and bred by Battle Hill Farm Arabians, for owners Carlos and Christiane Roizner of Uruguay. Champion Stallion and Supreme Champion of the show was the incomparable Magnum Psyche for owner Haras Mayed of Argentina. Aria Impresario,

the unanimous yearling champion a couple of years ago in Scottsdale returned to the show ring with Michael Byatt and was Reserve Champion Senior Stallion for owners Aria Arabians.

The international presence at this year's show was quite impressive, with winners from Australia, Uruguay, Argentina, Europe and the Middle East. Another International win was the unanimous yearling colt D Marc in the Scottsdale Signature class for Dubai Stud, winning over \$29,000.

Following the experience of the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show, it is evident that much of the intrigue of the event is derived from the dedication of its participants. On the surface, it would be easy to liken the Arabian horse lifestyle to many other recreational pursuits, and the Scottsdale show to any other gathering of like-minded enthusiasts. It doesn't take long however, to realize that what differentiates the Arabian horse lifestyle from other seemingly similar pastimes, is the devotion required to be involved as anything other than a casual spectator. This dedication is witnessed in the faces of trainers, owners, grooms, event organizers, and industry promoters. Involvement in the Arabian horse show circuit requires a great commitment. No place for fleeting interest, the endeavor of greatness





and the test of competition are evident in the devotion and spirit of the people who consign so much of their lives to breeding and showing these grand animals. With its thousands of horses, hundreds of classes, and days of intense competition, the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show offered an immersive look into the tradition and culture that has captivated so many. □



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VALORI TRF

Champion Filly

(DA Valentino x Satin Chall LL)
Handler: Andrew Sellman
Owner: Claire & Margaret Larson



ABHA QALAMS

Res. Champion Filly

(Alfabia Damascus x ABHA Mudira)

Handler: Michael Byatt

Owner: Nora & Ray Tatum



BAAHIR EL MARWAN

Champion Colt

(Marwan Al Shaqab x HB Bessolea)
Handler: Michael Byatt
Owner: Mystica Arabians



EL CHALL WR

Res. Champion Colt

(Magnum Chall HVP x Major Love Affair)

Handler: Keith Krichke

Owner: Robert & Dixie North Family Trust



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DULCINEA BHF

Champion Mare

(Denali BHF x Felisha BHF)

Handler: Keith Krichke

Owner: Carlos & Christiane Roizner



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SCHEHERAZADE PE

Res. Champion Mare

(Armani FC x Autumn Tapestry)

Handler: Andrew Sellman

Owner: Weber Corporation



MAGNUM PSYCHE

Champion Stallion & Supreme Champion

(Padrons Psyche x A Fancy Miracle)

Handler: David Boggs

Owner: Mayed SA



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ARIA IMPRESARIO

Res. Champion Stallion

(Marwan Al Shaqab x GC Echlectica)

Handler: Michael Byatt

Owner: Sloan Family Impresario Holding



D Marc - Scottsdale Signature winner



Urszula Leczycka - Arabhorsepromotion.com & David Cains - Stonewall Farm



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