



Katara International Arabian Horse Festival

by Taliitha Bakker ■ photos by Alessio Azzali, Simone Bergamaschi

The first edition of the Katara International Arabian Horse Festival (KIAHF), held under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, concluded on a resplendent note yesterday. Some of the finest purebred Arabian show horses competed in the championships of the prestigious Title Show. Stallions, mares, colts, fillies, and yearling, finalists in their respective classes, graced the arena, impressing judges and spectators with their graceful trot and absolutely gorgeous looks. Noft Alnayfat, a senior mare, and Sundown K.A, a senior stallion, Arabians

owned by Sheikh Jassim bin Khalifa H A AL-Thani, proudly strutted off with the championship titles in their respective categories.

HE Prof. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al-Sulaiti, General Manager, Katara, and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Katara International Arabian Horse Festival, welcomed a number of Their Excellencies led by His Excellency Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali, Minister of Culture and Sports and heads of diplomatic missions to Qatar. They included HE the Minister

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Plenipotentiary Mr. Ali bin Saad Al-Naghmouh Al-Qahtani, Acting Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Excellency the Minister Plenipotentiary Mr. Nasser Saqr Al-Ghanim - Deputy Ambassador of the State of Kuwait.

HE Prof. Al-Sulaiti expressed great satisfaction that the Festival, which featured a total prizemoney of



QAR13,000,000, one of the highest for an event of this type, had concluded successfully. He also noted that the participation of 12 countries in the very first edition of the KIAHF was an outstanding achievement.

HE pointed out that the highest standards of integrity and fairness were upheld during the Title Show, as the entire proceedings were held in accordance with the standards and rules set by European Conference of Arab Horse Organizations (ECAHO). He also thanked all the sponsors, partners, officials, artists, and exhibitors at the Festival for their valuable contribution. The officials, judges, and members of the Disciplinary Committee were also honored by the General Manager. Art lovers were in for a special treat. AlBahie, the Qatar-based auction house, held an auction titled 'Al Aseel.' On the block were various pieces of equine-related artwork by international artists. The five-day Festival had featured several equine-related exhibitions and a postal exhibition.

Besides the impressive Title Show, spectators were treated to a taste of Qatari heritage. They were introduced to Hariri Al Shaqab, the poster-child for KIAHF





and a world-famous stallion that has won numerous international awards and championships. Audiences were also presented with a remarkable light and sound laser show accompanied by a parade of Arabians and their riders dressed in traditional costume. Spectacular fireworks display and illuminated drones featured horse and rider along Katara's waterfront, against the backdrop of traditional dhows. A brightly-lit message welcoming people back to the next edition of KIAHF next year, brought the Festival to a fitting finish.

The Festival was held by Cultural Village Foundation, Katara, in cooperation with the Qatar Equestrian Federation, Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club, and Qatar Foundation.

More than 300 purebred Arabians were registered for the Title Show, the highpoint of the Festival. Of these, more than 200 horses had met the stipulated requirements and will hence participate in the prestigious Show. These figures rose further, as registrations were made open for horses qualifying in the 23rd Qatar National Arabian Horse Show, that was held the week before from 22 – 26 January. The overwhelming participation



necessitates that the Title Show dates were amended to ensure optimum conditions of competition. The Show now was a 4-day event, instead of three as previously announced.

The Organizing Committee of KIAHF is also geared up to conduct an auction show on 29 January. The auction featured only those purebred Arabians that



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have already qualified for participation in the Title Show. It was conducted at Katara's beautiful esplanade.

His Excellency Prof. Khalid Bin Ibrahim Al-Sulaiti, General Manager, Katara and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Katara International Arabian Horse Festival, said: "We are pleased with the remarkable response we have received from horse owners and breeders. Registrations have been received from the Middle East and Europe, including Belgium, Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Qatar. "The Auction is being held as a pre-event to the festival and will offer horse owners an occasion to invest in fine purebred Arabians. It will also present them with the opportunity to be part of the Title Show if they have not registered already. Through the festival, we endeavor to boost the confidence and pride of owners and breeders by presenting them with opportunities to participate in prestigious Arabian horse shows and associated events."

Qatar has earned a place of global distinction in conducting such shows of repute. The nation has previously hosted 29 international shows and



championships for purebred Arabians. This was the first time the premier show was hosted at Cultural Village Foundation, Katara. The Title Show had some distinct features: it was the first event of its kind being held by the waterfront, and the total prize money of QAR 13,000,000 was one the highest awarded for such an event.

In addition to the Title Show of exquisite Arabians, the





photo by KIAHF



photo by KIAHF

five-day festival also included various educational and entertainment activities for equine enthusiasts and the public.

Judges for this event were Mr. Santoro, Dr. Aragno, Mr. Beste, Mr. Lieblang, Mr. Bialobok, Mrs. Norden, Mrs. Stojanoswka, Mr. Hamza, Mrs. Weidner, Mr. Reisel and Mr. Tarczynski.

The location of the Katara Festival is fabulous.

Surrounded by the sea and beautifully facilitated. The Cultural Village Foundation is an exceptional project of hope for human interaction through art and cultural exchange – a project made possible thanks to the inspired vision, faith, and wise leadership of HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir of the State of Qatar.

Keeping pace with the emerging global culture that



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emphasizes the importance of diversity in human development, Katara Cultural Village is the largest and the most multidimensional cultural project of Qatar. It is a place where people come together to experience the cultures of the world. With beautiful theatres, concert halls, exhibition galleries, and cutting-edge facilities, Katara aims to become a world leader for multi-cultural activities.

In line with the goals set forward by the Qatar National Vision 2030, Katara serves as a guardian to the heritage and traditions of Qatar and endeavors to spread awareness about the importance of every culture and civilization and as such, Katara hosts international, regional, and local festivals, workshops, performances, and exhibitions.

The Idea of Katara

Katara was born out of a long-held vision to position the State of Qatar as a cultural beacon, a lighthouse of art, radiating in the Middle East through theatre, literature, music, visual art, conventions, and exhibitions.

This village shall offer a glimpse of the future of a world where people of different cultural backgrounds overcome their national boundaries and embrace common causes to promote a united humanity. Katara is where the grace of the past meets the splendor of the future.

Filly classes

Graced by this fantastic scenery, the International Katara show had their kick off on Wednesday afternoon with the yearling fillies, divided in two classes. Beautiful



photo by KIAHF



photo by KIAHF



fillies from the highest standards were presented. Winner of the first class of yearling fillies with 91.25 points was the exotic filly Jalyla AT (Mahder al Jamal x Jayda Alrabi), bred and owned by Al Thumama Stud. This filly was already successful earlier during the National show in Qatar last week, where she took the silver medal in the foal class. Second in this class with 90.83 points was Namah al Shahania (Namous Al Shahania x Anwar al Shahania) – bred and owned by Al Shahania Stud. At the third place with 90.33 points we would find the pretty Maaly (SMA Magic One x MB Doha) – bred by Abdulla Hamad al Attiyah and owned by Ebrahim Yusuf Alromaihi.

The second group of yearling fillies was won with 91.33 points by the beautiful Rafeef al Shaqab (Al Rasheed al Rayyan x Shaikha al Shaqab), bred and owned by Al Shaqab stud. At the second place with 90.75 points was Tibrah al Nasser (Cavalli x Salsabil al Nasser) – bred and owned by Al Nasser stud. Both fillies were also shown at the national show the week before but than it was Tibrah who took the bronze medal, leaving Rafeef 4th in the class. This shows that these fillies are quite competitive to each other! Third in the class with the same total of 90.75 points but less on type, was Shadia al Nasser (Naseem al Rashediah x Bdour al Nasser), bred by Al Nasser Stud and owned by Al Jazeel Stud.

The show continued with the class fillies of two years old. A nice class filled with beautiful fillies with the first 8 competitors all scoring above the 90 points! Winner with 91.75 points was Celina AH Stud (FA El Rasheem x Magnolia NWA) – bred by Said Bsoul and owned by Al Hazm Stud. This typey filly scored multiple 20's on

head and neck. Second in this strong class with 91.42 points was Jazi Alashwa (Egaab al Rayyan x Mayar al Waab) – bred and owned by Mr. Ghanim Mohammed al Khayareen. At the third place with 91.33 points was Asia al Jassim (Kahil al Shaqab x Abha Zainab) – bred and owned by Al Jassim Stud.

The second group of fillies aged two years old was up next. The beautiful Falak al Shaqab (Enotri EEA x JJ Farabella), bred and owned by Al Shaqab stud won her class with a total of 91.50 points. Followed with 90.75 points by Ghaliyah al Kheesa (SMA Magic One x Shania NWA) – bred by Al Kheesa Stud and owned by Ghanim Mubarak Nasser Zamel al Kuwari. At the third place with 90.42 points we would find the flashy filly Rose KASE (Zeus EA x Remarkable Melody) – bred by David Borowiec and owned by Al Reeh Stud.

Colt classes

After the girls it was time for the boys! Two classes of yearling colts were up. In the first class it was the outstanding performance of Areeb al Nasser (Naseem al Rashediah x Loulou al Nasser) from breeder and owned Al Nasser Stud, who took the lead, scoring a total of 91.25 points. 2nd in this class was the typey Ghaith al Shaqab (Marwan al Shaqab x Wijdan al Shaqab) – bred and owned by Al Shaqab Stud. The week prior to the festival these colts were named respectively Gold and Silver medal champion. Now at the International show they had to settle for Silver and Bronze, which, seen the strong competition, was a great achievement. The Gold champion however, this time came from the second group of yearling colts. It was the ultra pretty



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AG Nobel Rafee (FA El Rasheem x AG Sahara Gazal) – bred by Nobel Arabians and owned by Kaheel Stud, who took also the class lead with 91 points. This special colt scored four times twenty on head and neck! Second in this class was Zubayr al Shaqab (Marwan al Shaqab x Torfa al Shaqab) – bred and owned by Al Shaqab Stud.

The show continued with the colts of two years old, divided in class A and class B. A strong win was for the flashy and very pretty Muranas Nader (Emerald J x Muranas Nabila), bred by Murana Stud and owned by Jadem Arabians from Belgium. With a massive score of 92.58 he was a strong participant for the championships, where he got the Gold medal almost anonymously! Second in this class with 91.75 points was Wadee al Jassimiya (Wadee al Shaqab x Just Love Aljassmiya) – bred and owned by AL Jassmiya Farm.



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Later in the championships Wadee took the Bronze medal.

The second group of two years old colts was another high quality group, lead with 92.08 points by the beautiful Hader al Shaqab (Enotri EEA x Hayam al Shaqab) – bred and owned by Al Shaqab Stud. Later in the championships, Hader took the Silver medal. Second in this group with 91.42 points was Saa'id al Shaqab (SMA Magic One x Fouz al Shaqab) – bred and owned by Al Shaqab Stud.

Junior fillies

The next day the show started with a fantastic group of three years old fillies, divided in class A and class B. The first group was won by the big moving Emarella (Sahm

el Arab x Emandorella) – bred by Michalow Stud and owned by Al Jassmiya Farm. This filly was truly breathtaking and scored a total of 92.45 points. Later in the championships, she had a tough battle with all the other beautiful ladies and unfortunately was passed over for a medal because of her lower overall score in the class, which was heart to imagine seen the high total which only underlines the quality of horses shown at this festival. Second in this class of three years old fillies with 92.17 points was Sultanah al Shahania (Sultan al Zobara x Majolicaa), bred by Al Shahania Stud and owned by HE Sheikha Reem Mohammed al Thani.

The second group of three years old fillies was a tough battle between two amazing fillies. While the





stunning, ultra typey Al Wazna al Shaqab (SMA Magic one x Bushrah al Shaqab) – bred and owned by Al Shaqab stud, won her class with 92.67 points, it was the second placed Maria Magdalena NWA (FA El Rasheem x Magdalina NWA) – from breeder NWA Arabians and owner Al Thumama Stud who in the final championships took the Gold medal. With her extreme face, Maria Magdalena scored full 20's on head and neck, making a total of 92.17 points. Al Wazna had to settle for 'just' bronze, while the silver went to the 2nd place Sultanah al Shahania from the 1st group of three years old fillies.

Senior mares

The junior fillies was a nice warm-up for the next classes to come. The one of the mares aged 4-6 years old, divided in class A and B. Ten beautiful mares competed and eight of ten scored above the 90 points. With 92.25 points, the pretty Najla Umm Aludham (Wadee al Shaqab x DA Magic Moment) of breeder and owner Nasser Mohammed al Hajri took the lead, leaving the 2nd place with 91.83 points for the very typy EM Queen Desert (Fadi al Shaqab x Wajd al Shaqab) – bred by Mr Abudllah al Hajri and owned by Al Hamad Stud. The second group of 4-6 years old mares, took the level even higher. In this class all of the participants scored over 90 points. Clear lead in this class with the massive total of 93.08 points was Hamamat al Shahania (Kahil al Shaqab x Majolicaa) – bred and owned by Al Shahania Stud. This mare scored multiple 20's on type, head and neck as well as on movement. Second in this class with 92.33 points was the timeless beauty Loulou al Nasser (RFI Farid x Rihab al Nasser) – bred and owned by Al



Nasser Stud. This special mare is always a delight to see. The strong line up of mares continued with the senior mares aged 7-10 years old, again divided in two groups. Winner of the first group with 92.75 points was Galerida (Shanghai EA x Galilea) – bred by Michalow and owned by Al Thumama Stud. Second with 92.42 points was the moving machine Fattam al Nasser (RFI Farid x Sarah al Nasser) – bred by Al Nasser stud and owned by Al Asayel Stud. This beautiful mare scored well deserved straight 20's on movement.

The second group of mares aged 7-10 years old showed a massive win for the incredible beautiful Noft al Nayfat (Ajman Moniscione x Eagleridge Passionata) – bred by the McGown, Davis and Gallun partnership and owned



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by Al Jassimya Stud. This mare was, like her mother before her, a real eye candy. Scoring 20's all over the board for both type and head and neck and no less than four twenties in movement! Bringing her total score to an incredible 94.17 points! Later in the senior mare championships, Noft took the Gold medal unanimously!

Second in this class with 92.67 points was another timeless beauty, Baviera HVP (Marwan al Shaqab x HB Bessolea) – bred by Nelson Moreira and owned by Sheikh Alqaqa Hamad al Thani. Later in the championships, Baviera took the Bronze medal.

The last but definitely not the least class of senior mares, was the one containing the mares of 11 years or older. Winner with 93.17 points was Rihab al Nasser (Maran al Shaqab x Remal al Nasser). Bred and owned by Al Nasser stud, Rihab is also the mother to the earlier mentioned Loulou al Nasser. Also Rihab scored full twenties across the board for type, head and neck. In the final championships, she took the silver medal. Second in this last class of mares with 92.83 points was the beautiful Piacenza (QR Marc x Primawera) – bred by Michalow and owned by Al Shahania Stud.

Junior colts

The show continued with the junior colts aged three years old. Winner of this class with 91.33 points was Momayz al Jassimya (Equator PASB x RP Miss Surprise) – bred and owned by Al Jassimya Farm.

Second in this class with 91 points was Radhee al Shaqab (WH Justice x OFW Emmalee) – bred and owned by Al Shaqab Stud.

Senior stallions

Next to go were the stallions. Two classes of senior stallions aged 4-6 years old were presented. Winner with 92.08 points was the big moving Kashef al Shaqab (Marwan al Shaqab x Psyrella) – bred and owned by Al Shaqab stud. Second with 91.92 points was Amir al Reeh (Fadi al Shaqab x Zahira al Zobair) – bred and owned by Al Reeh Stud.

The second group of 4-6 years old stallions had a very close top three. Winner with 91.75 points was the ttypy Jaal Aljassimya (WH Justice x Annaiss) – bred and owned by Al Jassimya Farm. Second in this class with 91.67 points was Badiea al Nasser (RFI Farid x Aliah al Nasser) – bred by Al Nasser stud and owned by Al Jumail Stud.

Two more stallion classes were still to go as the excitement rose to a higher level. Stunning stallions aged 7-10 years old entered the arena. All in the best years of their lives and it showed! From the 13 stallions presented, 10 of which scored 90 points or higher. Clear win with a massive 94 points was for Sundown KA (QR Marc x L Serenella) – bred by Knocke Arabians and owned by Al Jassimya Stud. This stallion scored straight 20's on type and danced through the arena as if owned the place, which, to all



of us, he did! Claiming not only this class win but also the Unanimous Gold medal in the final senior stallion championships! Second in this class with 92.17 point was the beautiful Falah al Shaqab (Fadi al Shaqab x Joseph Just Emotion) – bred and owned by Al Shaqab stud. Unfortunately in the championships, he was passed over by the 3rd placed EKS Mansour (EKS Alihandro x EKS Phateena) - bred by Elkasun Arabians and owned by Al Shahania Stud. EKS Mansour scored a beautiful total of 91.92 points and took the silver medal in the final championships.

The final class of the day was another exciting one. Former world champion Fadi al Shaqab (Besson Carol x Abha Myra) showed his exotic type, earning almost full twenties on type, head and neck, scoring a total of 91.75 points. It was great to see this beautiful stallion in the ring again, who is doing also very well as a sire. In the final championships, Fadi, who is bred by Michael Byatt and owned by Al Shaqab Stud, took the bronze medal. 2nd in this class was Al Milan (Al Lahab x Milena) – bred by Sax Arabians and owned by Nasser Mohammed al Hajri). □



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Yearling

FILLIES



GOLD MEDAL **JALYLA AT**

MAHDER AL JAMAL X JAYDA ALRABI

B: AL THUMAMA STUD

O: AL DANA AL MESLEMANI - AL THUMAMA STUD



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GOLD MEDAL **AG NOBEL RAFEE**

FA EL RASHEEM X AG SAHHARA GAZAL
B: AG NOBEL ARABIANS - O: KAHEEL STUD

Yearling
COLTS



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Junior
FILLIES

GOLD MEDAL **MARIA MAGDALENA NWA**

FA EL RASHEEM X MAGDALINA NWA
B: NWA ARABIANS
O: AL DANA AL MESLEMANI - AL THUMAMA STUD



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GOLD MEDAL **NOFT ALNAYFAT**

AJMAN MONISCIONE X EAGLERIDGE PASSIONATA
B: CINDY MCGOWN OR MARK DAVIS AND
GREG OR NANCY GALLUN
O: SHIEKH JASSIM KHALIFA H A AL-THANI

Senior

MARES



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Senior
STALLIONS



GOLD MEDAL *SUNDOWN K.A.*

QR MARC X L SERENELLA

B: PAUL GHEYSEN

O: SHIEKH JASSIM KHALIFA H A AL-THANI





SILVER MEDAL **NAMAH AL SHAHANIA**

NA MOUS AL SHAHANIA X ANWAR AL SHAHANIA
B/O: AL SHAHANIA STUD

Yearling

FILLIES



BRONZE MEDAL **RAFEEF AL SHAQAB**

AL RASHEED AL RAYYAN X SHAIKHA AL SHAQAB - B/O: AL SHAQAB



SILVER MEDAL AREEB AL NASSER

NASEEM AL RASHEDIAH X LOULOU AL NASSER
B/O: AL NASSER STUD

Yearling
COLTS



BRONZE MEDAL GHAITH AL SHAQAB

MARWAN AL SHAQAB X WIJDAN AL SHAQAB - B/O: AL SHAQAB



Junior
FILLIES

SILVER MEDAL
SULTANAH AL SHAHANIA

SULTAN AL ZOBARA X MAJOLICAA
B: AL SHAHANIA STUD - O: H.E SHEIKHA REEM MOHAMMED A AL-THANI



BRONZE MEDAL AL WAZNA AL SHAQAB

SMA MAGIC ONE X BUSHRAH AL SHAQAB - B/O: AL SHAQAB



SILVER MEDAL HADER AL SHAQAB

ENOTRI EEA X HAYAM AL SHAQAB
B/O: AL SHAQAB

Junior

COLTS



BRONZE MEDAL WADEE ALJASSIMYA

WADEE AL SHAQAB X JUST LOVE ALJASSIMYA
B: AL JASSIMYA FARM - O: SHIEKH JASSIM KHALIFA H A AL-THANI



SILVER MEDAL RIHAB AL NASSER

MARWAN AL SHAQAB X REMAL AL NASSER
B/O: AL NASSER STUD

Senior
MARES



BRONZE MEDAL BAVIERA HVP

MARWAN AL SHAQAB X HB BESSOLEA
B: NELSON DE OLIVEIRA PRATA PINTO MOREIRA - O: SHEIKH ALQQA HAMAD KH H AL THANI



SILVER MEDAL EKS MANSOUR

EKS ALIHANDRO X EKS PHATEENA
B: EL KASUN ARABIAN HORSES - O: AL SHAHANIA STUD

Senior
STALLIONS



BRONZE MEDAL FADI AL SHAQAB

BESSON CAROL X ABHA MYRA
B: HAROLD OR DOLLY ORR AND MICHAEL BYATT - O: AL SHAQAB

People





