



# CEDES BAKKER

## JUDGE PROFILE INTERVIEW

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Nicoletta Abelli, G. Waiditschka, Gideon Reisel, Anette Mattson

**S**ince some time Cedes has been one of the most popular amongst young, new coming sympathetic faces in the international jury panel, travelling to judge different level shows across Europe and the Middle East. Growing up with horses and riding them in jumping and dressage competitions, Cedes is a true horseman and a great addition to the ECAHO judging list.

**TuttoArabi:** You started your career with horse riding, also with purebred horses. Do you believe that the modern show horses are still capable of performing in sports?

Yes of course as long as the constitution of the horse is good and also his mind should be ok to cooperate and to work for the rider. However we are losing the good bone structure of the legs and that's explainable, because the horses are getting more and more refined and some people even say that there



*are stallions that are getting more and more feminine.*

**TA:** Nowadays the competition in showing has grown rapidly and smaller breeders find it difficult to compete against the big middle eastern countries. What is your opinion regarding this development?

*That's indeed a big threat to the smaller breeders and we need them very much because even the Middle eastern*

*breeders bought their best horses from the small breeders!*

*That's why I am very enthusiastic about the breeders cup around the world, in Europe, Chantilly and Warsaw. There the small breeders have the chance to also get some prize money and besides that it is an very good initiative to stimulate the smaller breeders to come to the show as well.*

**TA:** You have been involved in Arabian Horses since you





Judges. Wels International

*were young and have experienced the change in the Arabian Show horse. Do you like this development or are there still some features of the old fashion Arabian that you would like to see back in the modern horse?*

*Evolution is unstoppable but we have to be careful to preserve the special features which makes a horse an Arabian. I think that in the future we are getting more and more in different directions to get the Arabian horse better and better in there specialism for example: racing, endurance, riding and showing, BUT to improve one special thing will always cost quality of another feature!*

**TA:** *What is your opinion of the “ideal Arabian”?*

*For me the ideal Arabian horse would have a good type (not only a good head), good bodied, good legged and a willingness character so that people can have fun with their horse!*

**TA:** *And what are the particular horses that impressed you the most?*

*El Dorada, because she is a very lovely horse that has a good body, legs, movement and type and also produced very nice offspring.*

*In general the polish state studs have some wonderful mares out of their hundreds of years breeding program.*

*Padron with his whole dynasty of offspring: Padrons Psyche, Enzo, Eden, Ali Jamaal because of what he did for the breed*





Amalfi, full brothers of US National Champion Enzo pictured with Cedex mother and handler Tom Oben as Dutch National Champion



*Menes also because of his direct offspring and their offspring: Good breeding mares, Balaton, Kubinec.*

*TA: Despite your career as a judge is not yet so long you used to travel a lot for various show events. What was your best show experience by now?*

*I have more favourite shows:*

*Aachen, because of the quality and number of horses Chantilly, because of the thoughts behind this show and the fantastic show place.*

*European championships last year in Lier, nice place and good atmosphere but I like in general also smaller shows and I always try to judge and help them too.*

*TA: What shows are still on your list to judge?*

*There are still wishes but its up to the organizers to decide to invite me or not and I will not name the shows that are on my list, because it looks like I am desperate to be there, haha ☐*