

Giovanna Steylaers

Breeding is about inspiring emotion



Giovanna with **THEE MAGIC DREAM**
(*Thee Desperado x HMT Ahrousa da Alidaar*)



JAYANNA (*Lorenzo El Bri x Jamaalianne*)

by Fabio Brianzoni ■ photos by Alessio Azzali, Giovanna Steylaers archive

There is a clear and consistent vision behind the work of Giovanna Steylaers, an Arabian horse breeder and member of ANICA since 1997, and the driving force behind Sty Arabians. A passion that, however, has its roots much further back in time, when, as a young girl, she travelled across Europe to visit the most prestigious stud farms, alongside the pioneers of breeding in north-eastern Italy.

Even then, she would 'invest' her savings to attend the All Nations Cup or the World Championships in Paris. She recalls with remarkable clarity the distinctive traits, strengths and weaknesses of horses seen decades ago, whose grandchildren and great-grandchildren we admire today; when looking at a horse, Giovanna can accurately name most of its ancestors, recognising and recalling the characteristics that defined the appearance of its forebears.



STY ELIJAH
(AJ Nawash x Sty Esmeralda)



STY ESMERALDA (*Lawrence El Gazal x Evita El Javier*)
with her daughter Enjayira



CHIARA and MAYA ride sons of WH Justice and MCA Magnum Gold



Giovanna and Felicity



STYJAALISCO (*Picasso di Mar x Jamaalienne*)

Thus, from these daily observations, arises the awareness and conviction of the importance of genetic heritage in the choices that inspire, determine and characterise her breeding programme—a plan that has had a clear ‘vision’ from the very start of her journey, never influenced by fads or the times.

You can get a better sense of his vision by stepping into his study, where two large bookcases stand out: one – admittedly somewhat neglected – displays trophies and plaques that are dusty and weathered, bearing witness to a journey that began many decades ago (plaques dating from 1994 are prominently displayed) with a clear and defined goal: to breed Arabian horses for show; the other bookcase, however, much larger and tidier, houses hundreds of magazines from all over the world (among which *Tutto Arabi* and *Desert Heritage* are prominently displayed), with covers faded by the years, all meticulously organised and from which emerge many bookmarks that quickly lead to articles and photographs of thoroughbreds that have moved her and which – almost certainly – feature in the pedigrees of her horses. For the fundamental pillar of Sty Arabians is to strive to create something that touches the heart, stirs the soul, engages, and moves.

It is all too easy to draw up a list of bloodlines that have shaped the history and standards of the modern Arabian horse. From the charisma of Alidaar and Thee Desperado, the indelible mark of Ali Jamaal, the strength of El Shaklan, the poetry of Ch El Brillo, and many others such as VF Fame, Padron and Magnum Psyche, Barbary, Gazal al Shaqab: a genetic heritage that has characterised the horses bred by Giovanna since 1997.

One of the first, and certainly the most beloved, was Thee Magic Dream (Thee Desperado x HMT Ahrousa by Alidaar, 1997–2025). For Giovanna, Dream represented the fulfilment of a dream (it was no coincidence that he was named as such). She competed in shows, produced offspring and demonstrated just how versatile, enjoyable and high-performing these horses are under saddle – qualities that enhance the beauty of the Arabian breed and which Giovanna promotes through her riding school, where the horses she has bred take centre stage.



STY ESSTIMATE
(Don Giovanni J x Evita Al Javier)
 Gold Champion Venice Land Cup 2024
 and Carmagnola 2024



REPUBLIC OF ITALY 2025
08-09 NOV 2025

JUNIOR COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP

STY ELIJAH - Gold Champion Emirates Cup Verona 2025, Award Ceremony

Many years and, above all, many sacrifices later, Giovanna met Jamaalienne: it was love at first sight. Both parents are by Ali Jamaal (the dam is one of the foundation mares of Michael Byatt's stud), but there was no need to look at the pedigree to realise this; precisely for this reason, she became the cornerstone of Giovanna's breeding project: her genetic legacy is, in fact, found in most of the horses at Sty Arabians, recognisable by their slender build, long, slender necks, great athleticism and movement: among her descendants we note Jayanna (by Lorenzo el Bri), Sty Juliaan (by Mca Magnum Gold), StyJaalisco (by Picasso di Mar) and Sty Jaydeen (Renee el Lawrence x Jayanna), a seven-time Ali Jamaal.

But Giovanna's breeding programme is highly ambitious, and to complete it she has sought out further additions to reinforce Ali Jamaal's exotic look with sires capable of displaying great charisma and movement in the ring. And so, Evita El Javier soon arrived: daughter of Esfera and full sister to Esteem, she brought to Sty Arabians the qualities of Bey Shah and his famous son Fame V, combined with the influence of El Shaklan and Ludijn El Jamaal. It is probably thanks to her temperament and her exuberant physicality that watching her offspring move freely in the paddocks is a truly thrilling spectacle, for both the eyes and the ears!

Evita El Javier is the dam of multiple show winners and of the mares Sty Essfera (by Sty Jaydeen) and Sty Esmeralda, daughter of the powerful and charismatic Lawrence el Gazal, and they are the window to the future. From this line comes Sty Elijah (Aj Nawash), who in 2025, in the only two shows he entered (Carmagnola and the Emirates Cup in Verona), triumphed both in his category and in the final championship, and is now embarking on a stud career.

EVITA EL JAVIER (*Javier El Jamaal x Esfera*),
pictured in the paddock at 23 years of age



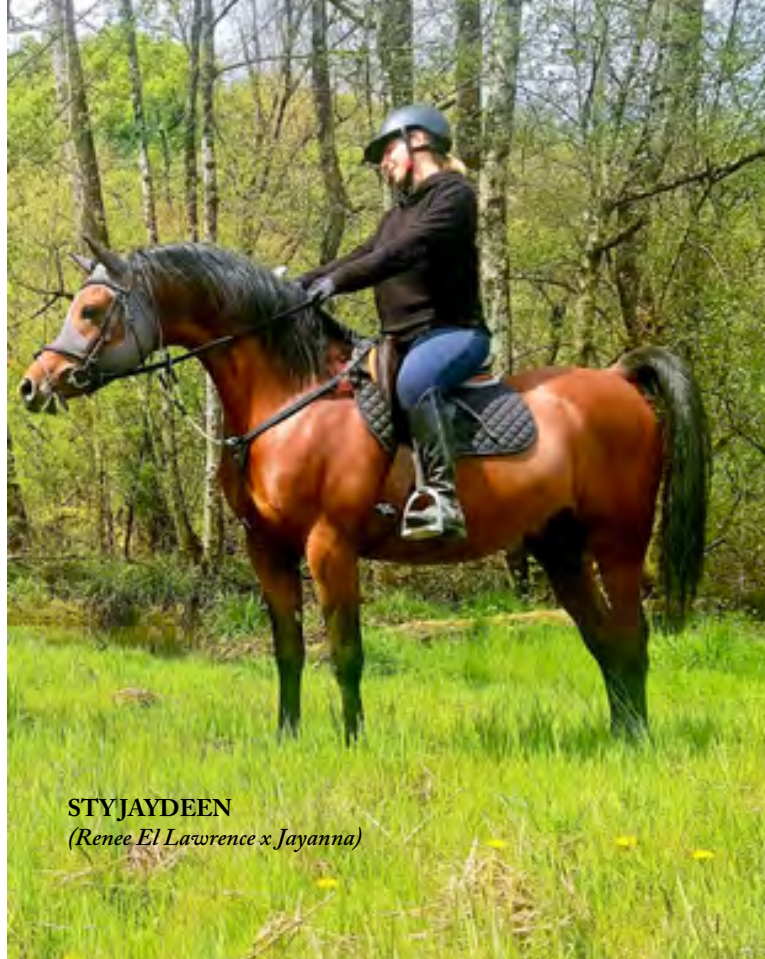
STYJUANITO (*Don Giovanni J x Jamaalienne*),
Stallion performer

Giovanna's stables

Sty Elijah is probably the horse that, more than any other, embodies Giovanna's breeding programme, in which temperament is of paramount importance and constitutes a key aspect of the breed's typical characteristics.

Giovanna is the driving force behind Sty Arabians in Polcenigo (Pordenone), a small operation with fifteen horses (mares, foals, stallions and geldings) where the horses' wellbeing and peace of mind are the sole priority: no stress or pressure, the patience to wait, and the ability to find a suitable home for each horse that matches its abilities and temperament. Vast meadows, comfortable stables, great attention to nutrition and constant human contact. Around her, Giovanna has gathered a circle of great enthusiasts of the breed who share her passion and appreciate the sporting and athletic qualities of these horses. All the horses are perfectly trained under saddle and offer moments of relaxation and satisfaction.

**All horses bred to sty Arabians
demonstrate a great aptitude for sport**



STYJAYDEEN
(Renee El Lawrence x Jayanna)



STYENJAYIRA (Sty Jaydeen x Sty Esmeralda).
She is the first filly in the second generation:
both parents were bred by Giovanna



STYELOVE
(Dominic M x Evita El Javier)

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