

# RFI Unique

by Giorgia Mauri

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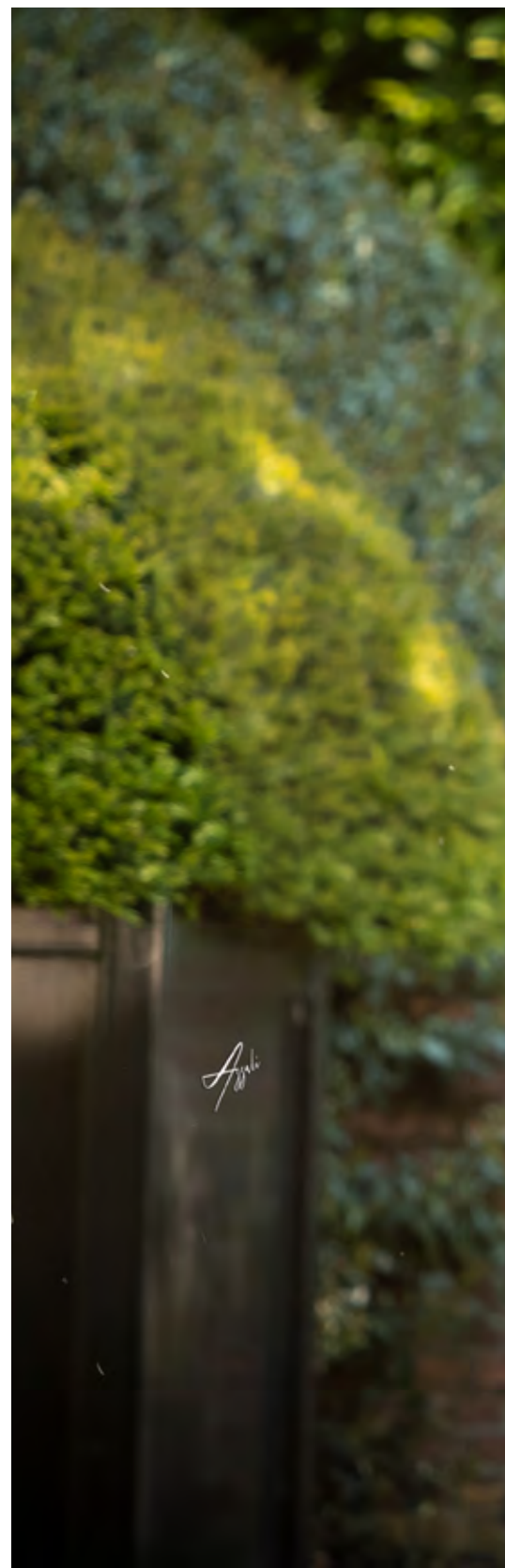
## Introduction

Anyone who attended the 2019 Brazilian National Arabian Horse Show witnessed one of the most memorable moments in the history of this prestigious international event. Rarely has the audience erupted into such enthusiastic applause as when RFI Unique unanimously claimed first place in his class at the Young Colt Championship. “It gave me chills, something truly unforgettable. It wasn’t just his beauty, but mainly his presence and charisma that moved everyone,” recalls Rodrigo Forte, the breeder of this remarkable horse, who is emerging as one of the most promising young sires in the world.

RFI Unique is a son of AF Maden (FA El Shawan x AF Odessa by Delmar) and RFI Ultraa AlMaktub (RFI Maktub x Seduction HBV by Power World JQ), with a pedigree that includes renowned names like Marwan Al Shaqab, FA El Shawan, Delmar, RFI Maktub, Power World JQ, and Ryad El Jamaal—all internationally acclaimed sires. Equally significant are the mares in his lineage, particularly his maternal line descending from the great Brazilian aristocrat Ultraa, daughter of Bey Shah and Khemille, by Kemosabi. Ultraa was known for

producing multiple show winners, notably Ryadika HBV (by Ryad El Jamaal), a National Champion Filly, who in turn produced RFI Unique’s maternal grandmother, Seduction HBV (by Power World JQ). Seduction HBV earned the title of Premium Cup (highest score) at just seven months old in the 2009 Breeders Cup.

RFI Unique’s pedigree represents a remarkable combination of top-quality paternal and maternal lines, as well as exemplary Brazilian breeding programs, with significant contributions from RFI Arabians and Haras Boa Vista, owned by Luciano Cury, on the maternal side, and Fazenda Fortaleza, owned by Aloysio de Andrade Faria, on the paternal side. Additionally, AF Maden’s maternal line, from which Unique descends, is the most distinguished line of AF breeding, originating from the foundation mare Apricot Lady, daughter of Cognac. Leopoldo Coutinho, a breeding consultant at RFI Arabians for 28 years and a deep expert in this pedigree, emphasizes, “It’s impressive how Unique embodies so many qualities of his pedigree, especially considering it’s a relatively open one. Unique reflects some of the best traits of these great icons, both male and female.”





RFI Unique (AF Maden x RFI Ultraa AlMaktub)



According to Rodrigo and Leopoldo, RFI Unique was born with a natural beauty that immediately caught the attention of everyone at the farm, standing out as well for his charisma and movement. Being very tall from a young age, Unique was kept in the pasture until he was one year old, carefully protected. For his first two shows, necessary to qualify for the 2019 Brazilian Nationals, he was prepared with a routine alternating between pasture and stall, ensuring he could move freely and maintain his ideal physical development. Always presented by Dejour Souza, Unique won

the Gold Champion Junior Colt titles at both qualifying shows, impressing everyone in attendance. He then proceeded to the Nationals, where he would be introduced to the world. Given the significance of this show, with its vast international audience and live streaming to thousands of viewers, Unique stood out brilliantly. He captivated the crowd, winning his category and the Young Colt Championship unanimously, securing his place in the history of Brazilian Nationals as one of the most stunning and memorable performances.

Attracting much attention, Rodrigo was approached by many breeders and agents interested in acquiring RFI Unique. Shortly after the National, 50% of Unique was sold to the Jordanian couple Dania and Mohammad Hijazi, owners of Al Kaisar Stud in Uruguay, introduced to Rodrigo by Dejour and Olivia Strauch. Rodrigo adds that after the Brazilian Championship and considering the immense potential RFI Unique represented, the goal was to find a good partner to invest in and build an international reputation together. Thus, in 2019, “The Unique Partnership”



RFI Unique - Gold Champion Young Colts at Brazilian Arabian Horse Nationals 2019

was born, a collaboration between RFI Arabians and Al Kaiser Stud, which remains united today behind the success of this young stallion.

Established in Belgium since 2020, Unique began his journey at Schoukens Training Center, where he was prepared for his first show, winning the Bronze Junior Colt Championship at the prestigious Dubai show in 2021. The original plan was to take him to the World Championship in Paris in 2020, but unfortunately, this wasn't possible due to the pandemic, which led to the



RFI Unique - Bronze Champion Junior Colts at Dubai International AHC 2021





AF Maden (FA El Shawan x AF Odessa)

event's cancellation. Later, Unique was moved to Jadem Arabians, owned by Christine Jamar, where he remains. At just six years old, Unique is now focused on breeding and is already proving himself as an exceptional sire, as evidenced by the success of his offspring at major shows worldwide. Leading breeding programs across several countries have begun using this stallion's services, including Ajmal Stud, Ajman Stud, Al Shaqab Stud, Al Shiraa, Hanaya Stud, Haras Serondella, Jadem Arabians, Rae Dawn Arabians, Sheikh Hamad Al Thani, and many other prominent names.

First and foremost, it's essential to understand how RFI Unique is contributing to the breeding programs of his owners.



RFI Ultraa AlMaktub (RFI Maktub x Seduction HBV)







## Al Kaisar Stud - Uruguay

*“Go with the one you can’t forget”. Wise words from Mohammad Hijazi, that represent exactly what he felt the moment he met the young Unique. “It was not in our plans to buy a horse that day and least of all a stallion, but when something like this creature crosses your path, one can’t help but wonder if this was not in fact, meant to be”.*

Before going to Europe, RFI Unique stood at Al Kaisar for a breeding season, where he bred Al Kaisar’s first mares and those of local clients, while also freezing semen for future use. “Having such a horse like Unique at the farm was more than a dream come true. Collaborating in this partnership with RFI Arabians has been a true gift, as they are highly experienced breeders and very generous in sharing their knowledge with Al

Kaisar Stud, which is still in the early stages of its program. We had just entered the Unique Partnership when COVID struck the world, and many plans for this young stallion had to be put on hold. But great horses and good friends always prevail,” says Maria Vigorito, Manager of Al Kaisar Stud.

Also, according to Mohammad, Al Kaisar gave Unique a very delicate task. His mission with the farm’s mares was to deliver type, attitude, and that special show quality he possesses, and he delivered more than ever expected. “He can produce beauty like no other, and in addition, his offspring have incredible personalities, making them very endearing and fun to be around. Their fondness for people and their love for long naps quickly make them popular around the barn.”

“At Al Kaisar, the foals share large

pastures where you can see them all together, and even from a distance, you can easily distinguish Unique’s offspring from those of other stallions. The way they walk already has a certain flair, as if they are walking on air. We are very excited to see how his fillies will perform as dams. We are eagerly awaiting their first foal crop and can’t wait for these babies to be on the ground, especially now that Unique’s oldest daughters are reaching adulthood.”, completes Maria.

It’s truly inspiring to listen to Mohammad, who adds: “Unique not only fulfilled his mission for us as breeders but also as co-owners. Witnessing the global success of his offspring is incredibly rewarding. What’s even more satisfying is seeing how those who trusted him with their mares once often return to breed the same mare again the following year. For



us, this is pure joy because it shows that Unique did well enough for breeders to be willing to wait another eleven months for a second foal.”

Al Kaiser has produced several outstanding horses by Unique in Uruguay, including some noteworthy champions. Among them, ALK Damara (x Pstarlita by Padron Psyche) earned the titles of Uruguayan National Silver Champion Yearling Filly and Gold Champion in Punta del Este. ALK Amin (x ALK Nour by AJ Radman) also stood out, winning two Uruguayan National Championships: Gold Yearling Colt and Silver Junior Colt Champion. Additionally, ALK Beauty Flame (x EF Faba by Ffamess) took home the Silver Yearling Filly National Champion title, further underscoring the exceptional quality of Al Kaiser’s breeding program.

As Maria Vigorito reflects, “It’s common for stallions to have their moment of popularity, only to be forgotten as trends change. However, we’re confident that Unique, with the extreme qualities he possesses, will be a stallion that endures over time. Like a true artist, he will continue to bring beauty to the world, one foal at a time.”

Al Kaiser continues to shine on the global stage with the emergence of a new star, ALK Shama, bred by them and born in Belgium at Jadem Arabians. Born in June 2024 and sired by RFI Unique out of DA Marylin Monroe (by Magic Magnifique), ALK Shama stands out for her extreme beauty and exceptional quality, garnering significant attention. This promising filly is expected to make her debut soon, further reinforcing Al Kaiser’s reputation for producing world-class horses.



ALK Damara (x Pstarlita by Padron Psyche)



ALK Shama (x DA Marylin Monroe by Magic Magnifique)





RFI Maktub (Altam x Yshmayl x RFI Cyntilation)

### **RFI Arabians - Brazil**

RFI Unique is another outstanding example of the capability of this Brazilian breeding program to produce exceptional sires. RFI Maktub, the central stallion of the RFI breeding program, has established himself as a global reference by producing sons, grandsons, and now

great-grandsons who have claimed titles at the most prestigious shows worldwide, influencing breeding programs across various countries and regions. It is worth highlighting that RFI Maktub's first son was none other than the renowned RFI Farid (x RFI Fayara El Shiraz by Shiraz El Jamaal), a sire who needs no introduction. RFI Unique is yet

another exceptional representative of this magnificent male lineage that RFI Maktub left behind, one of the most influential in global breeding today.

RFI Unique, along with Quasim CHR, RFI Maktub's most prominent son in Brazil, have been the RFI's most used sires in recent years, consistently



RFI Elena (x RFI Elisha by Quasim CRH)



RFI Nadim (x Nahla El Madan by El Tino)





RFI Sharam (x RFI Sawari by Excalibur EA)

delivering impressive results. Both stallions possess a remarkable ability to pass on great beauty and quality to their offspring. RFI Unique, in particular, stands out for producing highly refined, tall, elegant horses with unmatched charisma and movement. This allows the farm to continue producing high-quality, differentiated horses, maintaining the standard for which RFI Arabians is widely recognized. This consistency is also observed in his progeny across various breeding programs worldwide.

To illustrate RFI Unique's youth as a sire, his oldest son born at RFI Arabians is RFI Sharam, foaled in March 2021.

RFI Sharam is the son and grandson of the Brazilian National Gold Champion Mares RFI Sawari (by Excalibur EA) and RFI Sophie AlMaktub (by RFI Maktub), respectively. Recently, RFI Sharam has claimed titles at some of Brazil's most important shows, including a Top Ten in the Young Stallion Championship at the 2024 Brazilian Nationals, where he placed fourth at just three years old in a highly competitive category.

RFI Unique's oldest daughters are now turning three, with many already reserved for the farm's broodmare program. It is noteworthy that RFI Arabians has

long employed a standard of working with groups of daughters from their top sires. This practice began with Neschnij and Shiraz El Jamaal, continued with RFI Maktub and Quasim CRH, and now extends to Unique's daughters. Currently, ten of Unique's daughters are reserved for the breeding program, with three already scheduled to be bred in the current breeding season. Among them, RFI Elena (x RFI Elisha by Quasim CRH), a multiple champion in the show ring and a key member of RFI's winning teams at the Breeders Cup in 2022 and 2023, stands out.

Among the males, RFI Arabians



RFI Pavarotti (x Preferida Rach)

claimed two significant titles at the 2024 Brazilian Nationals. The beautiful RFI Nadim (x Nahla El Madan by El Tino) was crowned Silver Champion Junior Colt, while RFI Pavarotti, the son of Preferida Rach—who also claimed Gold Champion Mare in the same competition—was regarded by many as the best horse of the entire show. RFI Pavarotti's charisma and dominating presence reminded many of his sire, RFI Unique, triumphing in 2019 in the same arena. Even before entering the ring, Pavarotti caught the eye of Rodolfo Guzzo, leading Royal Arabians to acquire him. Now in the United States, Pavarotti is poised to build a

brilliant career in the show ring and has great potential as a sire, following in the footsteps of his illustrious father, Unique.

As Guzzo shared in his testimony: "I have admired Rodrigo Forte's breeding program and family for many years, and I believe they are undoubtedly among the world's greatest breeders. When I first saw Pavarotti online, I was impressed and immediately contacted Dejour to inquire if the horse was for sale. While the sale wasn't originally planned, the horse stayed in my mind. When I saw him in person this year at the Brazilian Nationals, he exceeded all my expectations. Along with Greg

Knowles, we realized that Pavarotti was the horse we had been searching for, with great potential for Royal Arabians and breeders in the U.S. His balance, refinement, and size are remarkable. Even though we hadn't seen him trot at the time, we trusted Dejour, Sandro Pinha, and Cesar Schmidt, who vouched for his excellence. When we finally saw him in the ring, it was an emotional moment. Pavarotti exceeded all expectations with his dynamic and elegant trot. We are incredibly excited about his future in U.S. competitions and as a leading sire. I'm deeply grateful to Rodrigo for this incredible opportunity. Everyone who sees Pavarotti falls in love with him."



## RFI Unique Around the World

In addition to the excellent and award-winning horses bred by Al Kaisar Stud and RFI Arabians, RFI Unique has been producing exceptional horses for various breeders around the world.

In the American stage, RFI Unique has already produced a U.S. National Champion. Queen Unique HEO (LR Atala BY Dominic M), bred by Haras El Olimpo from Uruguay and owned by Duke and Renae Mendel, was crowned the 2023 U.S. National Champion Two-Year-Old Filly. Among the standout

American males is RD Bacaro (x RD Marciea Bey), bred and owned by Rae Dawn Arabians, who won the Bronze Champion Yearling Colt titles at the prestigious Arabian Breeders World Cup and at the Emirates Arabian Global Cup.

A distinguished offspring of RFI Unique also born in Uruguay is LR Anselmo (x LL Almudena by Bey Shahdow TGS). Uruguay and Brazil served as the birthplaces for RFI Unique's first descendants due to the location of his owners. Bred by Haras Las Rosas and now owned by Al Wajba Stud in Qatar,

LR Anselmo achieved notable success, being crowned Silver Champion Colt at Menton 2023 and World Silver Champion Colt in the same year. This marked RFI Unique as the sire of his first World Champion offspring.

Adding to this success, RD Yasmine (by Mostly Fame HDT out of Legacy of Fame), another impressive horse produced in Uruguay, was bred and is owned by Reda Al Seoudi from Jordan. RD Yasmine was crowned Uruguayan National Silver Champion Yearling Filly, further highlighting the global impact of RFI Unique's progeny.

Bred by Klikowa Arabians in Poland, another top-performer son of RFI Unique is the multi-award-winning Poker Face KL (x Plivia by Kahil Al Shaqab). This remarkable colt claimed several titles in 2023, including Gold Champion Yearling Colt at the European Championship, Gold Champion Yearling Colt at the Polish National Arabian Horse Show, and Bronze Champion Yearling Colt at Menton.

Among the females, other notables include VV Abilah (x Karenina El Madan by El Tino), Karma Al Shiraa (x Eralda by Emerald J), and Sahara NWA (x Alexandria NWA by FA El Rasheem). VV Abilah, bred and owned by Vinicius Viana, was crowned the 2024 Brazilian National Silver Champion Junior Filly, while Karma Al Shiraa, also multi-awarded in the show ring and bred by Al Shiraa Arabians, was the 2023 All Nations Cup Yearling Fillies Class Winner, Gold Champion Yearling Filly at the 2023 International Show in Vichy, and Silver Champion Yearling Filly at



Poker Face KL (x Plivia by Kahil Al Shaqab)



LR Anselmo (x LL Almudena by Bey Shahdow TGS)



Queen Unique HEO (x LR Atala by Dominic M)





Sheba Al Shaqab (x Empuza by Kahil Al Shaqab)



Karma Al Shiraa (x Eralda by Emerald J)



Sahara NWA (x Alexandria NWA by FA El Rasheem)

the 2023 International Show in Bruges. Sahara NWA was bred and is owned by Ole and Morten Larsen, renowned breeders from Denmark.

Other incredible young horses are being prepared for the show ring and are sure to stand out, such as the stunning Sheba Al Shaqab (x Empuza by Kahil Al Shaqab), bred by Al Shaqab Stud, a filly known for her great femininity and beauty.

Christine Jamar-Demeerssamn, who has been responsible for RFI Unique's accommodation and commercial management for over the past three years, speaks to us about this remarkable young sire:

*"The exotic RFI Unique has now been at my stud farm for almost 3 years. We are more than delighted to have him in our stallion barn. When you visit our stallions, you simply cannot miss RFI Unique. His impressive eyes immediately captivate you. His head and neck are exactly what everyone dreams of—JUST PERFECT! His attitude says, 'Here I Am,' and it's impossible to overlook. RFI Unique is also a pleasure to work with; he is a true gentleman and highly intelligent. It's exceptional to see such consistent quality in his offspring, who keep winning shows worldwide, and this is only the beginning of his career as a sire. He has proven to be a great match with Marwan bloodlines, as well as WH Justice and Shanghai daughters. RFI Unique is THE STALLION we were all looking for!"*

In conclusion, RFI Unique has undoubtedly proven himself to be a global force in Arabian horse breeding. From his early days as a champion at the Brazilian Nationals to his remarkable influence across international breeding programs, Unique's legacy is already taking shape. His progeny, excelling in both beauty and performance, are making their mark in prestigious shows around the world, with significant accomplishments in Brazil, Uruguay, the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. The strategic partnership established by RFI Arabians and Al Kaiser Stud, well-supported by Christine Jamar, has allowed this exceptional stallion to further extend his impact, producing world-class horses that are





VV Abilah (x Karenina El Madan by El Tino)



RD Bacaro (x RD Marciea Bay)

set to influence future generations. With an impressive pedigree and a growing roster of champions, RFI Unique is not just a standout sire but a beacon of excellence in the global Arabian horse community. His journey is far from over, and the future looks bright for this exceptional stallion and his ever-expanding lineage. ■



Owner: RFI Unique Partnership  
(Al Kaisar Stud & RFI Arabians)

Breeder: RFI Arabians  
Standing at Jadem Arabians