

WH Justice

Arabian Stallion Supreme

by Kamila Kozłowska

photos: Irina Filsinger, Elisa Grassi,
Gigi Grasso, Glenn Jacobs, Suzanne Sturgill,
Stuart Vesty, April Visel

In the long history of the Arabian horse, there were many stallions around the world that have become living legends. Some of them shone as unforgettable show champions, others exhibited their quality as prolific producers, systematically stamping their get with their most desirable traits. However, there are some incredible individuals who have gone above and beyond the standard definition of greatness. Without doubt, WH Justice belongs to these few supreme stallions who have managed to reshape the modern Arabian show horse as we know it and will continue to do so with his outstanding offspring spread all over the world. This is the story of the Stallion Supreme who has won the heart of many but has spent most of his life in the hands of his most loving keepers, the Kerjean family. Thierry and Catherine Kerjean, together with their son Thomas, have been passionate about horses since their early days but it was Thierry who instilled in Catherine the love and passion for the Arabian horse. A few years after, a very special Arabian colt crossed their path and changed their lives forever.

Born in 1999, at the end of the previous millennium, as if almost being the omen of the new era, this gorgeous grey stallion has since then made himself known to all

Arabian horse aficionados. Marked with a prominent 'bloody shoulder' praised for ages by the Arabian horsemen throughout the Middle East, WH Justice has been very special since the day he was born. Bred in the US by Wendell Hansen, he entered the lives of his human family being just few months old, when the Kerjeans were in search of a colt for the newly established breeding programme of Equid System Ltd. Although they had no preference for any specific bloodline, they knew exactly what they were looking for; a refined and charismatic grey colt who would make a good breeding stallion in the future. When they received a video of a few months old WH Justice, they felt he was exactly what they were looking for. Yet according to Catherine, little did they expect how much impact this colt would have on the breed: *"When the choice of a stallion for Equid System Ltd.'s breeding programme was made for WH Justice, he was only a few months old. Although his charisma was already striking and his origins promising, it would have been difficult to imagine such an influence in the Arabian horse world."*

The purchase was made before Thierry and Catherine had a chance to see the young stallion in person as they did not want to risk losing him to someone else in



Equid System Ltd.



WH Justice (Magnum Psyche x Vona Sher-Renea), photo by Elisa Grassi



WH Justice, photo by Stuart Vesty

WH Justice

1999 grey, stallion

		PADRON ch 1977	PATRON ch 3/23 (7-1-6-1) 1966	ASWAN PODRUGA
	PADRON PSYCHE ch 15hh 1988		ODESSA ch 1973	BRIGHT WINGS SERINDA
		KILIKA b 15.2 1982	TAMERLAN b 2/21 (4-5-4-1-7) 1967	ARAX TRAPECIA
MAGNUM PSYCHE ch 1995			KILIFA ch 1972	KILIMANDSCHARO KAPELKA
		SASAKI gr 1981	NAGASAKI b 1969	SACUDIR NEVISCA
	A FANCY MIRACLE ch 1991		SAFIA gr 1970	GALERO GUIRAF
		MEDINA AZAHARA ch 1979	GARBO gr 1965	ORIVE BALDOSA
			GRAZALEMA ch 1973	JAGUAY DALIA IV
		EL SHAKLAN gr 15.3 1975	SHAKER EL MASRI ch 15hh 1963	MORAFIC ZEBEDA
	EL SHER-MANN gr 1.55m 1985		ESTOPA gr 15.1 1965	TABAL UYAIMA
		GAZIRA gr 1977	GAZI ch 1949	ABU FARWA GHAZNA
VONA SHER-RENEA gr 1989			SUR-RAD RAZIYA gr 1971	EL HILAL SURITA-RAD-DOLLY
		JASSEN gr 1972	MOHSSEN gr 14.2hh 1.48cm 1966	ANSATA IBN HALIMA BINT MONA
	RENEA ch 1981		JAMAL COLLEEN b 1965	SUR-LEE SASSI
		SHAMILLAZZAN ch 1968	SHAHMILLA gr 1959	SHAHZADA LASKA
			AZZAN-AZREK ch 1959	AZREK-SKOWRONEK FAIKAH

the upcoming Scottsdale show, where he made his first steps as a show horse. After finishing the competition with a Top Ten title, WH Justice went on a journey to meet his new human family. The hardship of quarantine and travel must have had a big impact on the young colt, as Thierry could barely match what he saw on the video with what he laid his eyes on at the Amsterdam airport. Nevertheless, the refinement and

charisma were still noticeable, Justice just needed a bit of time to get his sparkle back. After giving him time to recover and get back to his usual self, Thierry took Justice to Menton for his first appearance on the European showground. From then on, the charismatic classy colt attracted attention whenever he appeared. Yet from the very beginning, the Kerjeans were determined to let Justice mature among the people



Magnum Psyche, photo by April Visel



Magnum Psyche, photo by Stuart Vesty

whom he knew well and loved dearly. That is the reason why as a young colt, he was only shown by the person whom he trusted the most. It was with Thierry that he became World Top Ten Junior Colt two years in a row as well as Italian National Reserve Champion Colt. This is how Catherine remembers these early days: *“We were fortunate enough to be able to look after him personally during his younger years, and there was never a dull moment. At this time, his days started early, and he used to remind us of that at dawn by waking up the whole stable. Playing with him in the paddock was a ritual not to be missed. You could not open the deck of the truck without thinking you were bringing him somewhere, or you would make him angry. As soon as a bridle or saddle was waved, he came to the stall door neighing*

and eager to be ridden. He loved to be taken care of and to learn new things.”

The most spectacular show success Justice achieved as a senior stallion with Frank Spoenle on the lead. The Gold Champion Senior Stallion title at the prestigious All Nations Cup in Aachen in 2011 was the most amazing achievement in his show career and a memorable moment for those who were lucky enough to witness this historical win. Despite his undeniable beauty and commanding charisma, WH Justice did not often end up on the podium due to the fact that he usually lost some marks for his body and top line. However, his potential as a breeding stallion was obvious from the first foal crops that he sired. Equid System Ltd. were very careful



Vona Sher-Renea

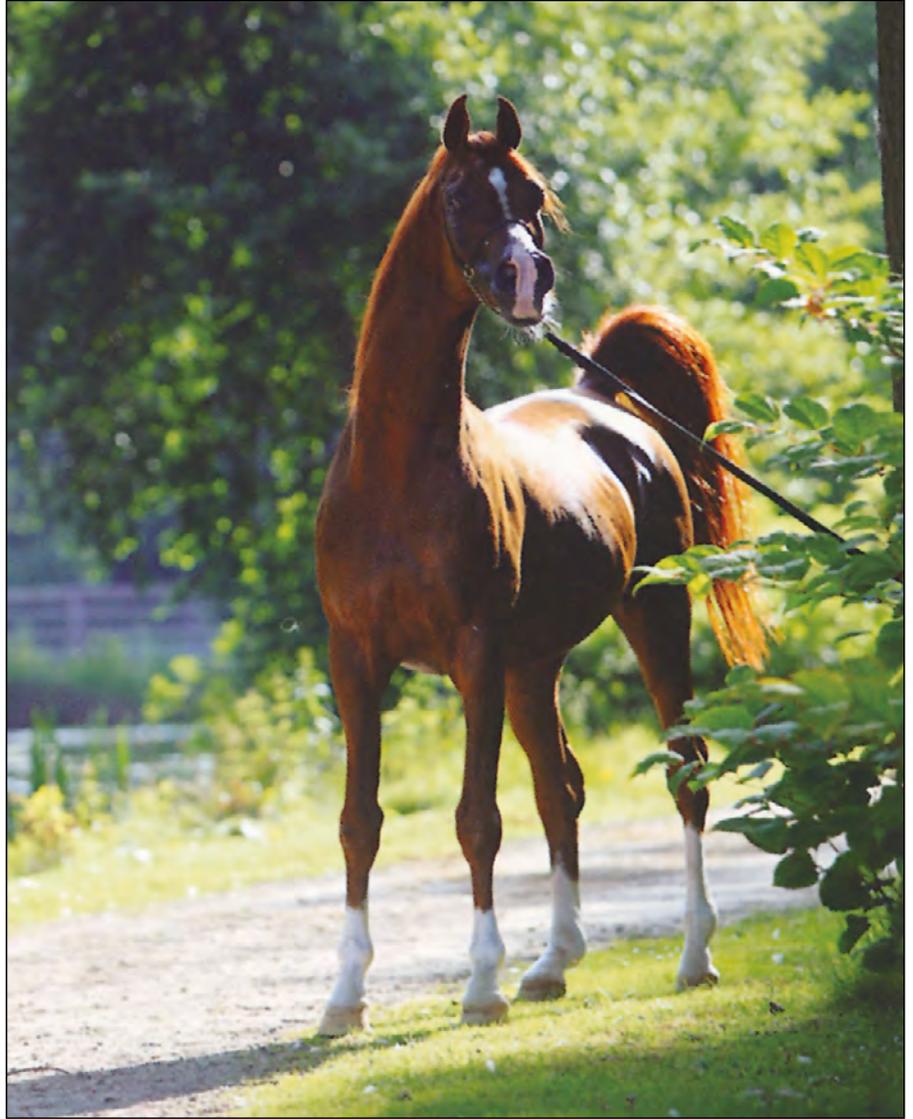
not to use him excessively but still, by the time he proved he could win a major title show, Justice was already hailed as a breeding phenomenon with several international champion offspring to his credit. This is what Catherine values the most about Justice as a sire: *“Most of the time, we recognize his offspring at first sight because the characteristic that he transmits above all is his charisma. In a bunch of horses in the pasture, his offspring stand out by their presence: elegant, tail on the back, snoring and blowing... And generally, his babies are close to humans, curious and quick to understand. They are sometimes a*

bit vivacious, but that is what we like about the Arabian horses, is it not?” Without doubt, many breeders share Catherine’s opinion on Justice’s huge genetic potential and hence have used him broadly in their breeding programmes.

After Justice’s long and lustrous career as a breeding stallion, an attempt to list all his champion get seems like a mission impossible. However, mentioning just the ones that significantly stood out from the crowd will surely draw a picture of a supreme sire who has brought the type and refinement of the Arabian horse to a whole



Vona Sber-Renea



Padrons Psyche (Padron x Kilika), WH Justice's grandsire. Photo by Gigi Grasso

new level. At the beginning of his breeding career, as a three-year-old colt, Justice sired only 14 foals. Nevertheless, this first small foal crop already featured the future shining stars of international showrings. The worldwide phenomenon of WH Justice seems to have started in Italy, when the gorgeous grey Panarea by Palawan, bred by Michele Boscarino, and the charismatic chestnut Ajman Moniscione, the pride and joy of Giancarlo and Rosanna Buzzi, were born in 2003. Interestingly enough, both Panarea and Ajman are out of two classy chestnut Padrons Ghibli daughters, Palawan and Anthea Moniscione. It looks

like the double dose of Padron in their pedigrees was the guarantee for success in the showring and in the breeding barn. The ethereally beautiful Panarea, currently owned by Ajman Stud of the UAE, became successful show champion on three continents, while the exotically refined Ajman Moniscione, who has his forever home with his breeders in Italy, has not only won many titles at major European shows but has also proved himself as a significant sire of international champions. However, that was just the beginning of Justice's success as a sire. His foals born in the following year included two other



El Shaklan (Shaker El Masri x Estopa), WH Justice's great grand sire. Photo by Gigi Grasso

internationally recognised superstars; the 2012 US National Supreme Champion Mare and the 2016 World Platinum Champion Mare, CR Jasmeenah (out of Fforget-Me-Not by Ffatal Attraction) and 2010 World Champion Mare, Bess Fa'izah (out of Sharon El Kendal by Ass Kendal). The classic desert beauty, CR Jasmeenah, was bred in the UK by Roy and Carole Ratcliffe but she currently represents the US branch of Aljassimya Farm, while the bewitching beauty Bess Fa'izah, bred by Francina Besseling of Bessewacht Arabians of Holland, joined the broodmare band of Ajman Stud in the UAE.

After this spectacular success, WH Justice continued to put a significant stamp on the breeding programmes all around the world. During his first lease in 2004, he left his mark on Redwood Lodge Arabians, an important Australian breeder based in Belgium at that time. The remarkable results soon received other breeders' recognition and since then Justice has been widely used across the Old Continent, continuing to produce outstanding offspring. In Spain, he sired the alluring Abha Opalina (out of Om El Amira Estopa by Sanadik El Shaklan) for Marieta Salas of Ses Planes. She became 2007 Reserve



WH Justice, photo by Elisa Grassi

Champion Filly in Aachen and is now a truly treasured broodmare at Al Shahania Stud in Qatar. Spain is also the motherland of the stunningly beautiful successor of WH Justice, the 2013 European Unanimous Gold Champion Stallion, the 2019 All Nations Cup Unanimous Gold Champion Stallion and the 2019 Silver World Champion Stallion, the spectacular snow-white Shanghai EA (out of Salymah by Khidar). Not only does Shanghai continue the legacy of his legendary sire in the hands of his current owner, Sheikh Ammar Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi of Ajman

Stud, but he also managed to produce his own outstanding heir, the exquisite Excalibur EA (out of Essence of Marwan EA by Marwan Al Shaqab), when he was only two-years-old. Both the phenomenal father and his striking son were bred by Equus Arabians and both became international sensations shortly after their first appearance in the showring.

However, the success of WH Justice as a sire goes far beyond the superb stud farms of Spain. Shortly after CR Jasmineah was born on British soil, another UK



WH Justice, photo by Elisa Grassi

breeder decided to include Justice's great genetic potential into their programme. Surely, Malcolm and Jane Hickford of Aja Arabians never regretted their decision as WH Justice brought their breeding programme to the next level. Apart from exquisite daughters who later became broodmares at Aja Arabians, WH Justice produced the widely admired Aja Justified, the gorgeous grey son of Aja Beneja (by FS Bengali) born in 2007. While on lease to the Saudi Arabian Athbah Stud as a three-year-old colt, Aja Justified became triple-crowned champion, winning All Nations

Cup as well as the European and World Championships and currently he continues his successful show career as a senior stallion. Another amazing colt sired by Justice at Aja Arabians was the 2009 grey Aja Angelo (out of Aja Aaisha by Ruger AMW), who has won many medals in Europe and the Middle East and now represents Al Baydaa Farm of Egypt. Although it was the stallions of Aja Arabians that achieved spectacular success as show horses, the double Padron charming chestnut Aja Aphrodite (out of Lovin Psyche SSA by Padrons Psyche), the 2013 World Bronze

Champion Mare, cannot be forgotten. But back to 2007, it was also the year when the world first laid their eyes on the phenomenal FM Gloriaa (out of Psity of Angels by Psytadel). The exotically refined 2013 World Silver Champion Mare, who also became European Gold and World Bronze Champion Mare in 2015, was bred by Mieke Sans of Belgium and now belongs to broodmare band of the Israeli Al Sheikh Stud, spreading the fame and glory of WH Justice in the world.

Poland was another place on the map of European breeders where WH Justice exhibited his priceless potential, helping private breeders profoundly progress with their programmes. Krzysztof Gozdziński of Falborek Arabians was the first breeder in Poland to put his trust in Justice and he achieved amazing results in the form of 2007 All Nations Cup Reserve Champion Colt Altis (out of Albia by Pers), 2020 Polish National Gold Champion Stallion Empower (out of Eksterna by Ekstern) and the wondrous Wasa (out of Waresa by Empres), many times champion mare in Qatar. Although the Polish state studs have never decided to use Justice directly, his great genetic prepotency is clearly visible in the outstanding offspring of his sons, Shanghai EA and Sahm El Arab (out of Om El Excella by Al Lahab), leased to Michalow Stud in 2012 and 2017 respectively. Such shining stars of international showings as the gorgeous Galerida (Shanghai EA x Galilea by Laheeb), the wonderful Wildona (Shanghai EA x Wilda by Gazal Al Shaqab) and the enchanting Emarella (Sahm El Arab x Emandorella by Eden C), together with one of Michalow best young producers, the elegant El Medonia (Shanghai EA x El Medina by Gazal Al Shaqab), shows the extent to which the precious blood of Justice has influenced the most renowned breeding programmes in Europe.

The outstanding achievements of WH

Justice on the Old Continent inevitably attracted the attention of US breeders. His American dream commenced in 2011 with the help of the current owner of CR Jasmeenah, Sheikh Jassim bin Khalifa Al Thani, a great admirer of the stallion and his achievements as a sire. The fruitful cooperation between Sheikh Jassim and the Kerjean family, with the invaluable involvement of Sigi Siller and Janina Merz of Om El Arab International, resulted in Justice's return to his homeland at the beginning of 2012. Leased by Al Jassimya Farm, he spent his time in the US standing at Om El Arab, adding greatly to their already extraordinary genetic pool. Combined with their magnificent mares, he produced the stunning Om El Sultanah (out of Om El Sofia by Al Lahab), the 2021 Arabian Breeders World Cup Supreme Bronze Champion Mare; the charismatic Om El Benicio (out of Om El Benecia by Om El Shahmaan), the 2018 Bronze Champion in Scottsdale and Silver Champion in Las Vegas; the one of a kind Om El Aisha Al Jassimya (out of Om El Aliha by Om El Al Azeem), the 2015 World Bronze Champion Junior Filly and the 2018 World Silver Senior Mare; the outstanding Om El Sinon (out of Om El Shadiva by Sanadik El Shaklan), the 2019 Arabian Breeders World Cup Supreme Gold Champion Stallion; the noble Nadeem El Arab (out of Om El Euphoria by Sanadik El Shaklan), 2017 World Bronze Champion Colt; and the aforementioned silver-grey Sahm El Arab, who used on a limited number of high quality mares has already proved to have a great potential as a sire.

However, the American adventure of WH Justice was not only about spreading his genes across the US population of Arabian horses. He also achieved an amazing success as a show horse, winning the Supreme Silver Champion Senior Stallion title as well as the Highest Score and Best Movement awards at the Arabian Breeders World Cup of Las



WH Justice, photo by Glenn Jacobs



WH Justice, photo by Suzanne Sturgill

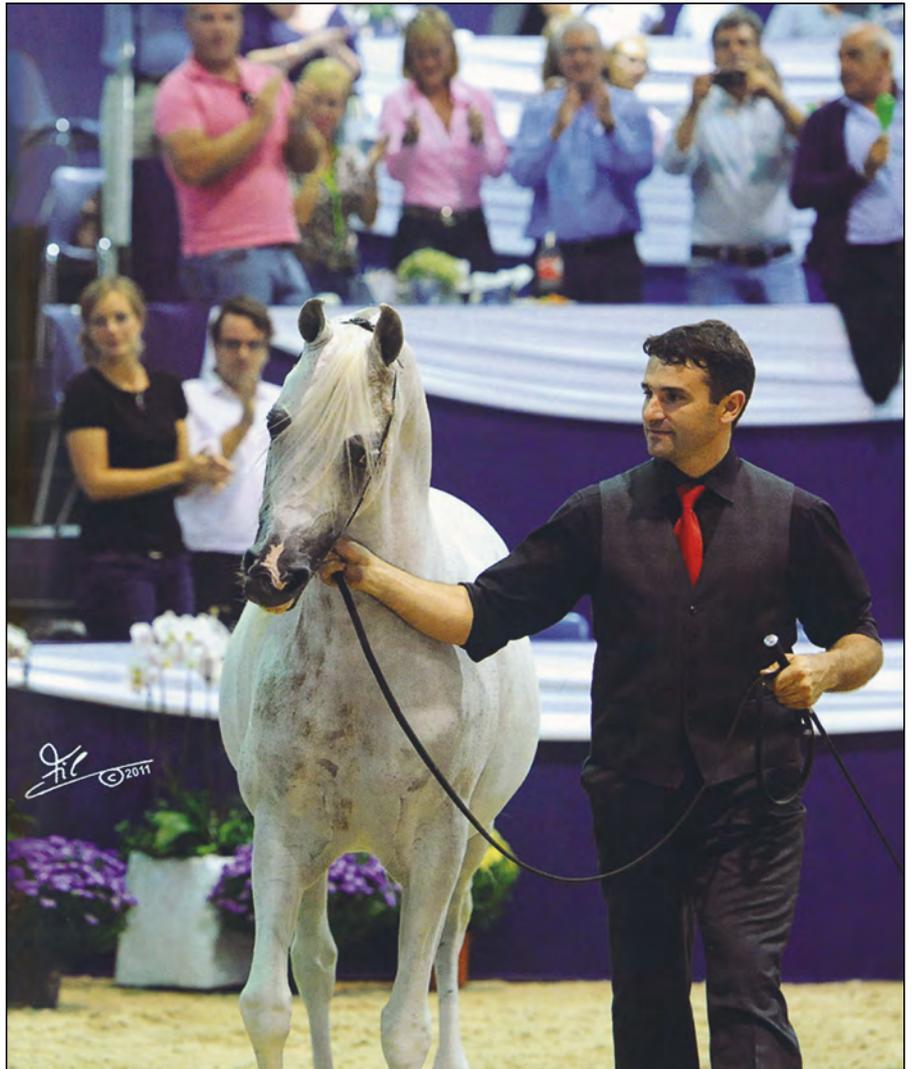
Vegas in 2013, led to his victory by Michael Byatt. After a fruitful stay in the States, Justice returned to Europe in October 2014 to spend some time with his human family and to continue his duties as a sire. And what a wonderful sire he has been! At the 2016 European Championships, 10 out of 18 medallists could boast about having him in their pedigrees. Over the years, Justice won several fully-deserved awards for the most successful sires, including the prestigious Best Sire trophy at the Arabian Horse World Championships in 2017.

2017 was not only a very successful but also an extremely busy year for WH Justice. Another adventure was awaiting the fantastic flea-bitten stallion when the

world-famous Al Shaqab Stud of Qatar decided to lease him to add even more refinement and a bit of grey colour to their classy collection of broodmares. The choice was driven by the fact that Justice was an outcross to their mares and the cross of his blood with Marwan Al Shaqab daughters was already proved to be very successful. Their goal was to get the exotic type and refinement of Justice with the correct conformation of Marwan. As was expected, the results exceeded their expectations. WH Justice crossed well not only with Marwan mares but also with other bloodlines, siring the 2019 Qatari Gold National Champion Yearling Colt, Fahar Al Shaqab (out of Vanessa Al Shaqab by HC Psyches Soul). Shortly after coming



WH Justice, photo by April Visel



WH Justice and his long time handler Frank Spoenle. Photo by Irina Filsinger

back from the Middle East, WH Justice spent time at Knocke Arabians in Belgium, where he also added his invaluable genes to their precious broodmare band. And although this remarkable stallion is already 22-years-old, it seems that he has not 'said' his last word as a sire yet. When asked about his future, Catherine commented: *"It is not easy to imagine him retired because he is always so excited at the sight of a truck or a plane, it must be said that he has always loved to travel! And even now he likes to jump on the phantom, occasionally. But when he will get tired of it, we would like him to have a peaceful retirement, with his own pasture, close to the mares he loves so much to watch*

over, surrounded by people who care for him and respect his needs, and lots of cuddles and carrots every day!"

Without doubt, many breeders around the world will appreciate the fact that Justice does not feel like retiring yet and will continue to spread his precious genes for a little bit longer. Genotypically, he is a very interesting mixture of various important bloodlines as he carries the blood of American, Spanish, Egyptian, Crabbet, Russian and Polish horses in his veins. At the same time, he represents Saklawi I, the most influential sire line of the modern Arabian horse breeding, believed to be the



WH Justice, photo by Elisa Grassi

endless source of significant sires. Tracing back to the legendary Nazeer through his champion producing sire Magnum Psyche and grandsire Padrons Psyche, Justice inherited the title of Sire Supreme and his striking sons are next in line of succession. Tail female, it is quite the opposite; it is not easy to find show champions or prolific producers in Justice's dam line. However, his dam Vona Sher-Renea, who passed away in 2019 at the advanced age of 30, was a classic Arabian beauty sired by the powerfully moving El Shaklan son, El Sher-Mann (out of Gazira by Eldon), the senior stallion class winner at the 2000 All Nations Cup in Aachen. It makes Justice

an exception to the rule that behind every successful sire there is an equally excellent dam. Another interesting fact about Justice's pedigree is how little inbreeding can be found when considering his direct ancestors. In fact, no names are repeated as far as 5 generations back, which is quite unusual for an Arabian horse. This may be the reason why WH Justice crosses so well with all sorts of pedigrees and bloodlines. And although he is mostly known for producing countless show champions, he is no stranger to the world of western or endurance. In 2019, he was nominated to the Arabian Western Pleasure Association award as the sire of 2017 US National

Western Pleasure Futurity winner, Jazaa Aljassimya (out of Toscana PGA by Khadraj NA), as well as the Reserve Champion in the Western Pleasure 3-Year-Old Futurity, Jaweesh Aljassimya (out of LR Valita by DA Valentino).

However, WH Justice is so much more than a widely recognised show superstar and an amazingly versatile Arabian stallion that guarantees outstanding quality when crossed with mares of various pedigrees. He is an icon who has touched the hearts and changed the lives of so many people around the world, including his human family, and continues to do so as a 22-year-old embodiment of Arabian type and charisma. Asked about the most memorable moments, Catherine replied: *“There are so many of them! To have the chance to share the life of such a horse is a joy. If we talk of the companion horse, we really enjoyed the time when Thierry rode him during our endurance horses training. If we talk about the show horse, how can we not remember his victory at the All Nations Cup in Aachen in 2011 and the standing ovation he received. If we talk about the sire, the satisfactions are innumerable but the victory of two of his daughters in the same year at the World Championship in Paris (2006), one World Champion and the other Reserve World Champion, is engraved in our memories. But there are so many others...”* And for those who have not had the pleasure of meeting WH Justice personally and are wondering about his character, Catherine added: *“He is unique, with a very strong personality. Over time, he has taken on the habits and expectations of a star, but if you respect them, he is a sweetheart. He likes to feel like the boss of a stable and above all, to have an eye on his mares. As long as he is close to them everything is fine, it gets complicated if you move them. He can be whimsical with someone who does not take his needs into consideration, and be very gentle with someone who respects him. He is a star and*

he knows it.” I was curious about one word that immediately comes to Catherine’s mind when she looks at the stallion: *“One word? It is complicated... several words come to mind. Perhaps the main one is legendary, because he is very close to the representation of the Arabian horse for many enthusiasts, for the happiness he brings to all those who are lucky enough to share a moment of life with him, for the emotions he provides through his offspring to so many breeders, owners, trainers and riders all over the world, and for everything he leaves in legacy. We often think also to the Legend of the Bloody Shoulder Arabian. Since that time, hundreds of years have passed, but once in a great while there is a mare who foals a very special foal graced by God with the ‘bloody shoulder’. The Bedouins have continued to believe this is a sign of Allah’s favour. Who are we to disagree?”*

I do not believe anyone would dare to disagree with both Catherine and the Bedouins. Just one look at this sensational stallion and the sparkle in his eyes shows that he knows he is the King. Long live King Justice! Your priceless legacy is already immortal and your legend will live on forever not only through all your outstanding offspring but also through all the people whose lives you have blessed by being who you are: a living legend, an icon, an Arabian Stallion Supreme. ○



2011 All Nations Cup Gold Champion Stallion. From left to right: Catherine, WH Justice, Frank Spoenle, Thierry and Thomas Kerjean. Photo by Irina Filsinger