



Genetic Giant Comes Back Home

article by Chera Sabankaya

photos by Mustafa & Chera Sabankaya unless noted



You should not judge a book by

Who says beauty is only skin deep?

I'm about to tell you a story about a horse that is beautiful both inside and out, phenotypically and genotypically, a horse making foals with a type even more extreme than his own, a phenotype so different and so extreme, so beautiful and correct in every way. A horse that, according to some,

“has the genetic potential to take the look of the breed to a whole new level...”

Did I just say that? Yes, I did. And yes, yes, I realize what a courageous statement this is to make, especially within an industry overflowing with beautiful horses of all shapes, colors, and sizes. Surely, I do not blame you for questioning my credibility or assuming I am biased, which are both fair, but I assure you the statement is a valid one, and you will understand why when you hear the story I'm about to tell you.



its cover, else you might miss out on a good story...

If you have seen Calypso OS (Calypso) in the flesh, it was either as a foal at Gestüt Osterhof in Weitnau, Germany October 2010 or while he traveled across Europe and the Middle East during his 2011-2013 show campaign, but you have not seen him since, no one has.

That's because his owner, Mustafa Sabankaya, imported him to the United States in February 2013 to begin a life of seclusion high up in the mountains of Northern California, where he became the exclusive sire of hundreds of Ottoman Arabians' Kuhailan mares.

A breeding horse of a different color

Since arriving, Calypso has sired three sizable foal crops, creating just fewer than 100 foals under the always calculating, scientific eye of Mustafa. For the past three years, Mustafa created theories about how Calypso might cross with his Kuhailan mares (which you can read more about in our Tutto Arabi articles

published 2011-2013), but he was not expecting the magnitude of what happened.

Those who have had the opportunity to see Calypso's foals in person all agree he is not normal; he is producing foals with both a quality and consistency like no one has seen before.

above: 2015 Bay Filly SS Calypso's Butterfly (Calypso OS x SS Royal At by SS Atilgan by QR Excel) sold to Steve & Darla Miles of Milestone Arabians of Missouri, USA

...from the first moment we did see Calypso OS as a young boy, he was able to show something important... We got the feeling that he could be a great sire for his attitude and potential pedigree.

Seeing his babies in Scottsdale was a confirmation of all what we thought already. He was able to improve the quality of the mothers and to be consistent - this is very important for a breeding stallion. We really like him a lot and we are very anxious to see what kind of change he can do here in Europe!

-Noémie Zeller and Woody Giampaolo-

But things are about to change, Calypso and his foals will soon be available for the world to see, and now that his frozen semen has arrived to Germany, the place he was foaled, Calypso and his foals have the ability to change the look of our breed. For this reason, Calypso has become what could be described by some as a sleeping giant within our industry about to be awakened.

To fully understand the significance of Calypso's accomplishments as a sire, it helps to compare him to other popular stallions within our industry, and to do that, we must first sort out the difference between what makes a successful show horse and what makes a quality breeding horse.

Today's Arabian horse shows and promotional magazines are bursting at the seams with beautiful, top dollar horses, all jet setting across the globe like celebrities with their own passports, photographers, and groupies. With so many gorgeous horses to choose from, one would think breeding such high quality animals is as simple as selecting a popular, top dollar, winning mare and breeding her to a popular, top dollar, winning stallion.

Surely, this sounds logical, and should be simple enough, but it is not so easy, unfortunately. This is because determining

the quality of a breeding horse is complicated. With just a look, one can almost immediately assess the quality of a show horse, on the contrary, determining the quality of a breeding horse requires much more time, expertise, and patience. From studying lineages and performing an in-depth pedigree analysis to line breeding and out-crossing both it and its offspring in subsequent generations, it can take years or decades to truly determine the quality of a breeding horse.

In Mustafa's 40 years of breeding, it has been his experience there is a wide range in quality of the Arabian breeding horse. Despite winning several prestigious international awards, sporting a pedigree loaded with the highest quality ancestors, and possessing the most impressive heads and bodies you have ever seen, some horses end up having absolutely no beneficial reproductive influence over their offspring.

These are the sires whose foals make you shake your head in disbelief as you run to the phone to call the breeding farm to make sure they sent you semen from the right horse. These horses are genetic *duds*, seemingly disconnected from the flow of genetic information between their past and future generations, creating average or below average offspring that look little or nothing like them.



So what exactly are we looking for in a high quality breeding horse? What is it that makes one beautiful, highly accomplished Arabian horse a better breeding animal than the next beautiful, highly accomplished Arabian horse?

The answer is simple, although accomplishing it is anything but.

This is because we are looking for a horse that is a genuine *time traveler*—one with access to the great genetic gateway linking the heritable riches of its ancestors to the DNA of its offspring and infinite descendants, one capable of bridging the gap between countless generations, bringing forth distinctly desired traits at the highest rate of predictability possible. Like cookie cutters on assembly lines, such breeding horses reliably produce offspring of predetermined type and quality, and the phenotype passes on through its offspring to future generations.

A time traveling horse is a phenomenal breeding animal that can change the look of an entire population within a single generation.

From what he could see, Mustafa felt Calypso was phenotypically just what he was looking for to give that extra type to our Kuhailan mares (see photo below). Calypso was conformationally correct and possessed both

charismatic self-carriage and a wonderful, cooperative temperament.

Mustafa also believed Calypso was genotypically strong, given his pedigree contained high quality individuals possessing the phenotypical traits Mustafa wished to incorporate into our program at Ottoman Arabians. What we did not know, however, was what type of breeding horse he would become, since no one can know the quality

Mustafa knew the moment he bought Calypso that SS A Lot Of Spark (SS Velocity x SS Sparks Rose by Spark) 2009 Bay Filly would be bred to him when she got old enough. You can see her son later in this article, named SS A Lot Of Nabeg. She was bred twice to Calypso and gave two almost identical bay colts.



below: Kuhailan Mares of Ottoman Arabians





above: The two smiling men behind Calypso OS (left to right) owner, Mustafa Sabankaya, of Ottoman Arabians (USA) and breeder, Heinz Stöckle, of Gestüte Osterhof (Germany) as they celebrate Calypso's first show (and gold) at Blommeröd Stud in Håbo, Sweden 2011.

of a breeding horse until it is actually bred. This is an unfortunate truth for the uneducated investors and impatient breeders of our industry that considers foals to be a lucrative commodity.

Just as there are some people who assume all great show horses make great breeding animals, so, too, are there those, usually from the same group, who also assume all great breeding horses were once great show horses—as though there were actually a proven cause-and-effect relationship between the two, but this is not the case.

This is definitely not the case, and could cause breeders to breed to inferior or genetically inappropriate horses successful in the show ring or to overlook strong breeding horses just because they were either not shown or they did not do well in the shows.

right: Heinz and Calypso at 2011 Blommeröd show.

In order to demonstrate the tenuousness of the showing versus breeding equation, Calypso's success in the show ring was not as good as it could have been and almost did not even happen, were it not for his breeder, Heinz Stöckle (photos left and below).

First of all, Calypso was purchased at the age of just two months old for the sole purpose of breeding Mustafa's mares, not to be shown, but Heinz Stöckle, his breeder, urged Mustafa to show the horse, making the argument that Calypso would not be old enough to breed for another year and a half, anyway. Heinz even offered to take on all the cost and logistics of the show campaign, an offer Mustafa found hard to refuse! Mustafa obliged, and soon he and Heinz became good friends, with Calypso serving as the glue that bonds them.

Another challenge facing Calypso was the





Katrien VanDyke warms up with 9-month old Calypso OS just before entering his first show at Blommeröd, he won highpoint and was the gold champion junior colt

fact he was an October baby, meaning he was up to nine months younger than his competitors, and such lack of development is well known for having a negative impact on a horse's ability to do well in the show ring during the first two years of life.

A third challenge Calypso faced was his lack of political and financial prowess and the fact he was only moderately promoted by way of print and electronic media. There were no wine and cheese parties, nor were there any open barn presentations on his behalf.

But lastly, and perhaps even more importantly, although Calypso's loud color and markings helped to create excitement among spectators in the stands by making him stand out visually among all of the solid-colored horses in the show ring, the truth is our industry discriminates against such markings, and such discrimination actually caused some judges and trainers to consider Calypso less seriously as a quality breeding prospect.

But despite all of this, Calypso earned six high points, five golds, two silvers, three bronze, and a Best Head award. He even earned 93 points in Dubai 2012, the second highest score of the entire show, just ½ point behind adult world champions *Pianisima* and *QR Marc*, who tied with the highest score of 93.5 points! A true testament of his high quality to overcome such difficult odds.



Katrien and Calypso in Dubai 2012

CALYPSO OS SHOW RESULTS

1. Blommeröd (Sweden)

Highpoint (92) Jr Champion Colt Gold—at 9 months old

2. Elran Arabian Cup Futurities (Belgium)

Highpoint Overall Champion Colt Gold—at 10 months old

3. Aachen German Arabian Nationals

Highpoint Jr National Champion Colt Gold—at 11 months old

4. Abu Dhabi Int'l Arabian Championship Show

Highpoint (93.13) First Place Yearling Colt /Jr Colt Bronze—at 16 months old

5. Sharjah Int'l Arabian Horse Festival

Highpoint (92.75) Jr Colt Show Champion Gold—at 17 months old

6. Dubai Int'l Arabian Horse Championship

Second highest score in show (93; just $\frac{1}{2}$ pt behind the tied Pianissima and QR Marc) Jr Colt Silver—at 17 months old

7. Tulip Cup

(Holland) Highpoint (92) Jr Colt Champion Gold—at 19 months old

8. Mediterranean & Arab Countries Arabian Horse Championship

(France) (92.5) Second Place Two Year Old Colts and Top 5 Jr Champion Colt—at 20 months old

9. Elran Cup

(Belgium) (92.25) Second Place Two Year Old Colts and Bronze Winner Jr Champion Colt—at 21 months old

10. All Nation's Cup

(Aachen, Germany) (91.40) Fourth Place Two Year Old Colts—at 23 months old

11. European Championships

(Moorsele, Belgium) (91.70) Second Place & Best Head Award Two Year Old Colts and Bronze Champion Jr Stallion—at 24 months old

12. Salon Du Cheval World Championship Show

(Paris, France) (91.7) Sixth Place & Top Ten Jr Stallion—at 25 months old

13. Al Khalediah's Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz

International Arabian Horse Festival (Ryadh, Saudi Arabia) First Place 2 Yr Old Colt and Silver Jr Colt out of 22—at 27 months old



Calypso and Katrien showing at Elran Cup 2011, where Calypso earned highpoint and gold champion colt at 10 months old

For some, including Carina Söderström in Sweden, his white made him extra special. And his personality captured the heart of Katrien VanDycke, his handler, who traveled around the globe with him. She shared:

"Calypso OS came to me when he was still very young, a bit older than 7 months. But then I soon realised that he is a special little guy!

I took him to his first show when he was just only 9 months old. This was the show in Sweden, Blommerød. It was a long trip and the day before the show I had him out for a walk in the show ring so he could look around a bit, then he just walked relaxed, quiet, nearly sleeping... But the next morning, when he walked out of the barn, as soon he heard the music and saw the other colts, he flipped up his tail on his back and danced his way to the showring and in the showring and

When I first saw Calypso as a yearling colt at the Blommerød Show in 2011, he really caught my eye! He had the tail on his back and he was flying over the grass and his blaze accentuated his pretty head. He popped out from the rest of the crowd.

~Carina Söderström~

to the title gold junior colt! I never will forget that weekend, was amazing to see how he enjoyed to show off!!! And that with only 9 months.

And like this he was every single time on the show, you always could count on him, he always gave his best. He didn't see it as work,



(above) Katrien has an intimate moment with her pal, Calypso, while waiting to be judged at Salon De Cheval 2012, where she helped him earn top ten Jr Stallion at 25 months old; (middle right) Calypso frequently entertains us (and himself) with all kinds of toys; (bottom right) Katrien gives Calypso a last minute rub to make sure he looks his best at the German Nationals, where he earned highpoint and was Junior National Champion colt at age 11 months old



he just likes showing off, just a real showhorse, a dream of every handler, cause it's hard to find a horse like this.

And on the other hand he was the sweetest horse you could imagine. He loved cuddling and was happy to learn all kind of tricks, for example if you stroke his nose, he would stick out his tongue Gesicht mit Freudentränen, could play with you with his ball for hours... Calypso for me is a very special horse with the best character you can wish. If you treat him with respect, he will do any thing for you."



Okay, politics are one thing, but what about the white?

Good question, and an article about Calypso as a breeding horse would not be complete without it.

True breeders cannot afford to be barn blind, and we would not use a horse like Calypso with so much white without first giving it careful consideration in terms of possible reproductive outcomes and marketability.

Regarding Calypso's color and markings, some of our longtime friends and fellow breeders were surprised to hear we had taken on a chestnut with a lot of white as our new herd sire to be used on our 40-year breeding program of black and black/bay Kuhailan mares. "What are you doing?" they asked.

For the most part, Mustafa and I consider ourselves colorblind, because first we judge the quality of the horse and then we look at its color, mostly as it relates to tracing color-linked traits. In defense of our industry's discrimination against white markings, Mustafa and I are aware of the fact that white flesh on the legs can develop fungal infections in humid climates and sunburn on the nose, *but we are staunch believers such markings*

should never be considered a deal breaker for breeders.

Mustafa points out that many of our most influential breeding horses had a lot of white, which only proves that we, as breeders, cannot afford to discriminate against using horses with such markings when looking for other extreme qualities.

Don't believe me?

Okay, fair enough... All one has to do is look back and see how many horses with excessive white have been used without which the breed would not be the same today.

The first horse that comes to mind is a chestnut stallion named Mesaoud. Foaled in 1887, he was bred by Ali Pasha Sherif of Egypt and was later imported to England by Wilfred and Lady Anne Blunt in 1891. He became a foundation sire of the Crabbet Arabian Stud. Sporting four white socks and a blaze, he was known for his impeccable



Katrien comforts Calypso at Salon De Cheval 2012



The legendary Mesaoud, foundation sire of the Crabbet Arabian Stud in England, used for his strength, type, and correctness.



Painting of Mesaoud

conformation, powerful build, and Arabian type. After siring 100 registered foals in England, he was sold to Wladislas Kliniewski in July 1903, and soon after sold to Tersk Stud in Russia, where he spent the rest of his life. Due to such heavy use of Mesaoud in multiple established stud farms, his blood can be found in 90% of our Arabian horses today.

Another horse with a lot of white who contributed much to the breed was the famous foundation mare named Gazella II. And three more horses benefitting the breed were Naseem, Muscat, Padron, and Solon.



Gazella II is the most important mare line from Poland



Naseem was a keystone sire of Tersk Stud



The importation of Padron (above) and Muscat (above right) to the US helped to stimulate new interest Russian movement of Russian horses in the US

Okay, so now what? What do we do next? Is it possible to work around the white in order to access the horse's other characteristics, the extreme ones we want to perpetuate and amplify?

Whether we are trying to breed around a horse's markings, or any other trait, for that matter, whether it be long, thick ears, small, high-set eyes, or soft backs, a big problem in Europe today, it is possible to work around it to get what you want, but you have to learn to look at horses differently and you cannot be in a hurry.

Mustafa is a breeder who sees horses in parts, or traits, rather than as a whole package, especially the extreme parts he is hoping either to accentuate in (or eradicate from) his breeding program. Unlike other breeders, he says he does not bother to look for horses that have "everything," because such horses tend to be either correct, but mediocre, or simply do not exist.

Mustafa started with one mare back in the 1970's and now has a herd of hundreds of mares he has selectively bred over so many generations to exhibit and, more importantly, to perpetuate the traits he likes to see in a horse: solid bodies, dryness in flesh and tendons, hard bone and hoof, resilience, and efficient movement, just to name a few. These happen to be the traits of

the Kuhailan horse from the Ruala Tribe (breeders of the great desert horse, Kuhailan Haifi), so Mustafa can afford to take risks as he experiments to get specific extreme traits. Think of it this way, just as a chef goes on a treasure hunt, searching from tent to tent at a farmer's market to find just the right vegetables and herbs for his gourmet dish, so, too, does Mustafa go to horse shows,



Katrien and Calypso at Abu Dhabi Show 2011, where they earned highpoint, first place yearling, and bronze junior colt

searching horse to horse for just the right head, neck, ears, loins, or coupling he needs to “spice” up his breeding program, the original purpose of horse shows, by the way.



Our chef likely pays no regard to the length of roots and stems on the carrots and onions he buys, because he knows he will whack them off with his heavy kitchen cleaver when he gets home and throw them into the compost pile. Likewise, Mustafa refuses to allow a horse's markings to get in the way when selecting breeding stock for specific traits, because he knows he can likely breed around them through strategic line breeding and culling practices.

He believes if your breeding program is strongly developed, meaning it strongly exhibits correctness and perpetuates the specific phenotype you envision as your dream horse, then you have a genetic cushion, so to speak, with which you can reduce the risks of using the blood of individuals with extreme desirable traits. So, even though Calypso had a lot of white markings, Mustafa, theorized he could work around them by line breeding the Kuhailan blood in Calypso's pedigree to the Kuhailan blood in his herd.

How did Mustafa know which line to pick? What is the significance of the Kuhailan blood?

When most people look at Calypso, they see a chestnut with white, a progenitor of the Padron, Ajman, or Kubinec sirelines, but to those who know pedigrees, there is yet another substantial presence within his pedigree that one would not see just by looking at him, and that is Kuhailan Haifi.

First of all, when we say “Kuhailan blood,” we are referring to blood going all the way back to the Ruala Tribe of the Syrian Desert, more specifically, the individual horse named Kuhailan Haifi.



KUHAILAN-HAIFI

Imported to Poland 1930 and gave the stud at Janow-Podlaski the desired affluence of pure Arab blood.

He was known for being a very masculine, dark bay horse with minimal white. He had hooky ears, a long, thick, black mane and tail, a flat forehead with wide-set, large, expressive eyes, large, expansive nostrils, a short back, prominent withers, high-set tail, deep heart girth, and hard, heavy hooves. And the horses he produced, bred by the Poles, exhibited this same phenotype but became more refined with each successive generation, which is what we would hope to have happen. Perhaps one of the most famous of his contemporary descendants was Bask, sire of popular stallions Gdansk and Ariston for whom Mustafa eventually



Kuhailan broodmare herd at Ottoman Arabians in the Northern California.

became promotional director. He bred many of his mares to these sires, resulting in a stallion Mustafa is most known for, Spark (Gdansk x Arista Blanca by Ariston out of Morwa by Wielki Szlem). And over the years, Mustafa used Spark to line breed to Kuhailan Haifi, creating the Kuhailan herd he has now.



Spark (Gdansk x Arista Blanca by Ariston), bred by Mustafa and used exclusively as a foundation sire for his Kuhailan traits with the Ottoman Arabians herd. Most horses are one to three times Spark.

It all began back in the 1970's, when Mustafa was just getting into the horse business and was trying to figure out which type of Arabian horse resonated with him most. It was while studying bloodlines, show ring statistics, and

the marketplace that he began to lean more and more toward the Polish (Kuhailan) horses. This was mostly due to their high sales in public auctions and all around success in multiple disciplines, including halter, western pleasure, working cattle, dressage, jumping, driving, high action classes, racing, and endurance. It was during Mustafa's research that he came across a moving passage about Bogdan Zientarski's 1931 expedition to the Ruala Tribe. For Mustafa, it was as though this passage came to him directly from God. He knew then and there he wanted to devote the rest of his life to perpetuating the fine qualities of Kuhailan Haifi by carefully line breeding to him. Below is the famous passage Zientarski recorded while on that fateful trip to Ruala to purchase Kuhailan Haifi.



Bogdan Zientarski

Finally I hear a neigh, they guide the stallions... they lead the best Kuhailan Haifi. My legs buckled under me, it is just the horse I am looking for. Not large, legs on splendid legs without any trace of iron hooves. A long neck, a noble head, although not very small, with distended thin and movable nostrils; a splendid high arched tail. I feel the first time in my life that during the purchase of a horse I am fainting...



Ghera and Calypso call out to the herd to see who is ready for in-band breeding 2013--no stud chain, no whip, perfect gentleman, and we bred two-three mares per trip.

Mustafa was even more impressed with what Zientarski had to say about Kuhailan Haifi's incredible stamina under saddle—perhaps even more noteworthy than Zientarski's initial reaction upon meeting the horse. His depiction of the horse's undeniable ability to outrun (and, sadly, outlive) many of the horses that accompanied him on the long trek back to the seaport was impressive. While the other horses actually dropped dead from thirst and exhaustion on the 500 mile gallop through the deep sand without food and water, Kuhailan Haifi reached the seaport as if only warming up, as though, Zientarski said, he were ready to do it all over again!

For Zientarski, Kuhailan Haifi proved himself to have the qualities he was looking for—the qualities of the true desert warhorse. And for Mustafa, this was the horse he wanted to recreate from the past. Fortunately for Mustafa, Spark was foaled in 1984, a complete throwback to Kuhailan Haifi, looking nothing like his parents, who were both greys. (By the way, while on the subject of line breeding for traits, it is important to note that it has been our experience when a foal has extreme traits but looks not at all like its parents, odds are very good this horse will be a “sport,” a concentrated genetic portal to another horse presenting with the same extreme traits back

in its pedigree, several generations back. Spark is five generations from Kuhailan Haifi.)

So now you know what Mustafa had up his sleeve, so to speak, when he purchased Calypso with the intention of breeding the “white” out of him. He would utilize his concentrated black and black/bay Kuhailan broodmares, something not too many other programs could have attempted, seeing how so many breeders these days do not have the depth of pedigree knowledge and specialized livestock at their disposal. In this sense, Calypso is very fortunate to have been discovered by Mustafa.



Calypso and Katrien take on the 2012 European Championships, where they earned Second Place Two Year Old Colts, Best Head Award, and Bronze Champion Junior Colt

So what's the verdict?

How did Calypso cross with the Kuhailan mares?

Calypso has produced close to 100 foals to date with the Ottoman Arabians broodmares, so we have a very nice population size from which to draw some conclusions about how well the Kuhailan blood was able to counteract the white factor in Calypso's genes.

He produced equal number chestnuts and bays with a small number of greys, but in all fairness, there were only a few greys bred to him and the bulk of the chestnut foals came directly from chestnut mares. There was an interesting pattern of medium to high white on chestnuts and little to no white at all on bays.

As for type, Mashallah, all of Calypso's foals received his unique skull shape... a true blessing! They got his tight, small, double curly ears and soft, deep, delicately wrinkled muzzle joined with his large, expansive nostrils and wedge-shaped profiles from both side and front. They also got his beautifully high-set neck and long, clean, straight legs with thick, heavy hooves. And, just like icing on a cake, regardless their colors, each of his foals received his high-set, silver-lined tail. And their movements are dreamy, they literally float up in the air the entire time above the ground as they move--Calypso, himself, got many 20's for movement in the shows, as did his grandsire, Kubinec, from whom he also got the white.



(top) Even down to the silver highlights in her tail, SS Calypso's Royal Rubi demonstrates the type of head, body, neck, and charisma Calypso passed on to all of his foals. She is part of his first foal crop; 2014 Chestnut Filly out of chestnut mare SS Rojalista by SS Thunderbolt (Spark x Freluks Fadjur by Fadjur) out of Rubi (MS Ellusion x Rucella by Celebes); (bottom) SS Calypso's Moonlight wows Greg Knowles with her long, upright neck and overall elegance. She is out of SS Preciouss (Spark x Palalaika by Sambor).



(top) this adorable little 2016 chestnut filly (name pending) is identical to Calypso in many ways, even down to the little black dot on her upper lip! She's out of SS Cignificance (SS Miami Vice by Spark out of Florida by Elkin); (above) the little 2014 colt above is named SS Calypso's Labeeb, and he was the very first Calypso foal ever to be born. He is actually a grey, but he was born chestnut and took on the phenotype of Calypso's chestnut foals. (right) SS Calypso's Casanova (2014) is a great example of the kind of type Calypso is capable of producing in his chestnut colts. He is out of SS Clove (SS Alexander by Spark out of Carioka by Ariston).

There were some differences between the chestnuts and bays, though, meaning we believe we found some color-linked traits.

As just mentioned, the amount of white was higher for the chestnuts, but we also found the chestnuts looked more like Calypso, himself, in type... it was so adorable to have what looked like a few dozen little Calypsos running around the farm! And it is just as fun to watch them grow up to be very good sized, striking individuals.





SS A Lot of Nabeg (Calypso OS x SS A Lot of Spark) 2014 Bay Colt at 16 months demonstrates the square body and phenotype he inherited from his ancestors Menes, Arax, and Nabeg.

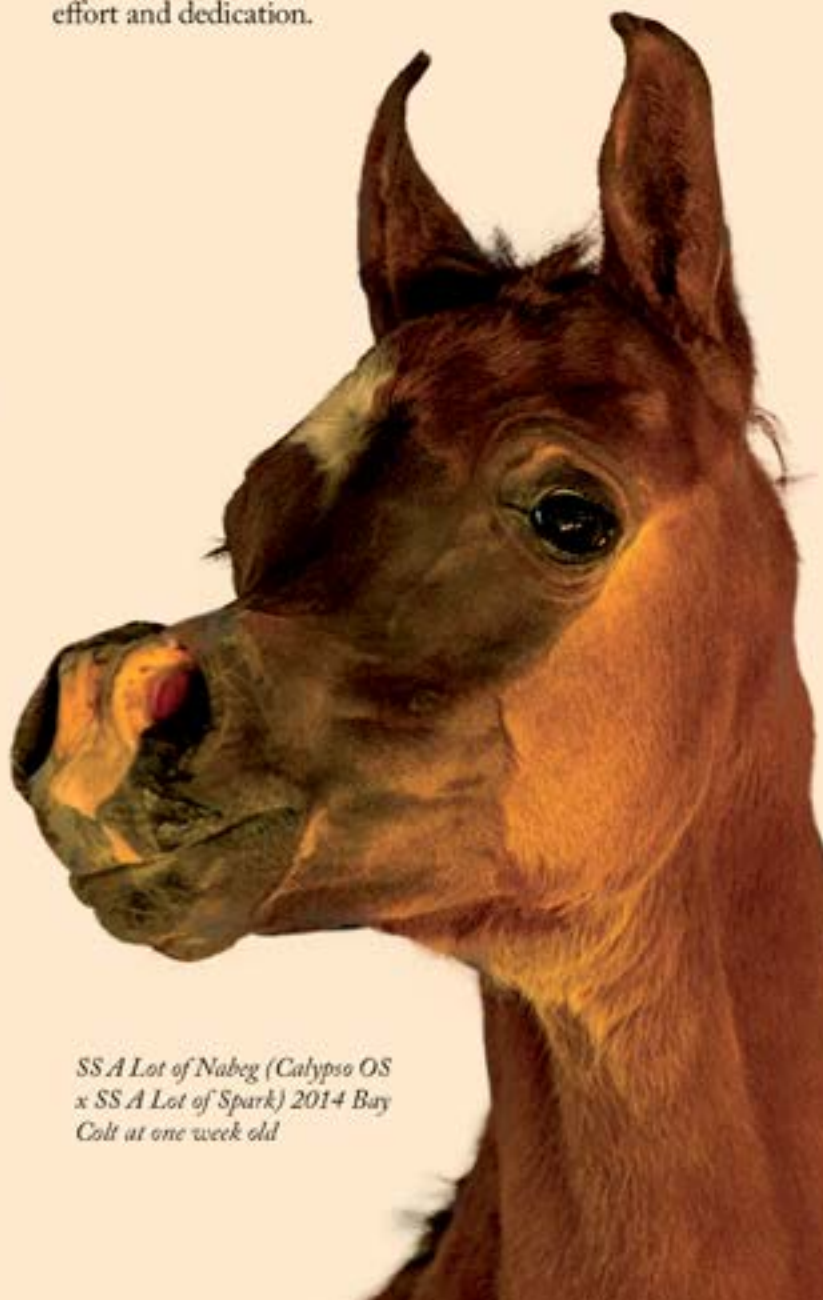
Calypso's bay foals came from mares of all colors, not just the bays, and do not look as much like him (especially in facial expression). They do not have as much white.

It seems the bay horses are looking more like specific horses back in their pedigrees. For example, SS A Lot of Nabeg, (photos this page) shows a strong resemblance to Nabeg, Arax, and Menes. Understandably, he is out of SS A Lot of Spark, a mare we bred going back to Menes, so this crossed with Calypso's line to Menes (through Kubinec on his dam's side) has plucked out and emphasized this distinct phenotype.

This colt turned two years old this spring, so we decided to try him with a few mares to see if he would carry the Menes look (along with bay color and square frame) to his offspring. His strong body is no accident, as he is 12 times Mammona, the legendary daughter of Ofir, who was the son of Kuhailan Haifi and to whom this colt also goes back 48 times.

As with Gazal Al Shagab, this colt represents the Nazeer sire line, going back to him 17 times. Menes, who represents the Bairactar sire line through Amurath Sahib (and to whom this colt goes back 28 times), and his son, Arax, were both well-known for making high quality daughters. One of Amurath Sahib's daughters, Balalajka,

went on to produce the incomparable Bask while Arax went on to sire Nabeg, out of a Mammona daughter, who went on to sire Menes, also out of a Mammona daughter. Menes sired Balaton out of an Aswan daughter, who then produced Kubinec, Calypso's great grandsire. We could talk about this horse's pedigree all day and all night, from the present time going all the way back to the desert. Although such depth of analysis and understanding provides a more reliable compass for the breeder than simply choosing a horse based on the number of ribbons it has won, it certainly requires much more effort and dedication.



SS A Lot of Nabeg (Calypso OS x SS A Lot of Spark) 2014 Bay Colt at one week old



Heinz, Calypso, Katrien, Mustafa, and Cbera at Calypso's first show (Blommeröd)

So now you know the whole story of Calypso, inside and out, and hopefully you agree that sometimes beauty can be so much more than skin deep.

Mustafa may have discovered the equivalent of genetic gold in Calypso, but this is just the beginning. While Kuhailan horses may be extremely athletic and resilient, let's face it, they are not necessarily known for their exotic type. So, if Calypso made one magnificent foal after another with Mustafa's Kuhailan mares, just imagine what kind of foals he will create with mares from exotic bloodlines!

In the 40 years Mustafa has been breeding Arabian horses, Calypso is the first stallion he is offering to the public. Why? Because he wholeheartedly believes Calypso is a gift from God that belongs to all of us. For this reason, in September of this year we sent a large shipment of Calypso's frozen semen to Gestüte Osterhof (Germany), where it can be distributed to serious breeders the world over for the 2017 breeding season by the one and only man who brought Calypso OS into this world, Heinz Stöckle.

The first 25 breedings will be available at the introductory price of 2.500€ per breeding, with special considerations for the first ten sold.

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SS Calypso's Ruyia is out of SS Rubia (Spark x Rubi by MS Elusion) 2015 Bay Filly; owned by Kristian Thorlund & Greg VanWyk of Arabian Heights