

Stud



STUD TRAINING CENTER ZICO GUARDIA

by Talitha Bakker

Zico Guardia is often seen at the European shows, either as a judge or visitor all around the globe. But even if you missed him at the shows, for sure you have seen his name written under one of his big collaborations he has around the world. In his homeland of Brazil, he is the president of Europe affairs of ABCCA, which is the Brazilian Arabian Horse association. Next year Brazil will host the WAHO conference for the first time and Zico is working very hard on the public relation in order to have a special conference with international guests.

Besides working as an agent, judge and his work for ABCCA, he also has his own farm and Training center called Haras Pin, in Braganca Paulista near Sao Paulo. A special place with an exclusive collection of the most beautiful Arabian Horses. Many of them owned by long time clients and friends of Zico Guardia from all around the world.

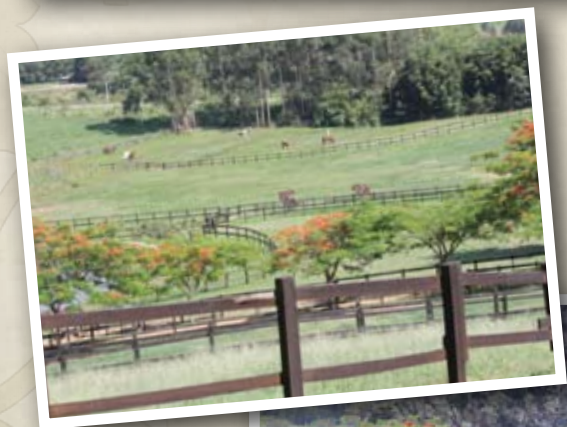
During our the National Championships in Brazil this November, we had the opportunity to ask him extensively about his activity and his profession.



Zico, Fernandinha and Cristiane



Stud



In the region of Bragança Paulista (São Paulo), Zico, Cristiane and Fernanda Guardia have created a place where Arabian horses can live healthily and happily. The Stud Training Center is just one hour and half from the São Paulo airport, and when Zico opened its gate, the scene we had before our eyes was amazing: horses enjoying the pastures, qualified staff working in a positive atmosphere. The center includes the main house, two stables with 40 boxes, 5 paddocks, veterinary facilities, show presentation ring, office, club house and 10 fenced runs. The location of the place is really strategic as he is very close the airport and very close a lot events organized in Brazil. The stud covers 20 hectares and everything is clean and tidy. "A place where you can spoil your visiting friends and live with what we love the most, the

Arabian Horses" commented Zico. The secret to Stud Training Center's success lies in the relationship they cultivate with clients, allowing them to discover the real needs of each breeder, their breeding expectations and the Arabian horses they truly like. For almost ten years Zico has shared his professional success with his great friend Simone Leo with whom he has also shared joy, exciting moments and vivacious exchanges of opinion. His experience in our worlds is thorough, as he has travelled all over the world.



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Cristiane,
HDB Sihr Ibn Massai,
Zico



Fernandinha



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We asked Zico:

T.A.: When did you get involved with Arabian horses?

Z.G.: I started with Arabian horses when I was twenty years old, when my father, who was also passionate about horses, bought one. That is when I fell in love with them and started working with these wonderful animals. It was this that convinced me to go to the USA to attend a horse school, where I also learnt how to manage a stud. On that occasion I met the Arabian horse and realized that this animal would play a leading role in my life. My adventure with the Arabian horse started when I went back to Brazil. I began with the ridden horse, evidence of how adaptable this wonderful animal can be, among its many talents, and I soon began to win ridden competitions. The American influence in Brazil could be felt already then, and conformation shows established themselves over the other





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Andrè Cruz with Zico



Lenita Perroy with Zico



Stud Open House 2012



Zico with David Boggs

competitions. My change to trainer was a direct consequence of this and was almost a natural progression. I continued travelling to America, and watching the shows and applying what I could see, I kept reaching remarkable results. From the start, it was very easy for me to work with the Arabian horse, because it is the most intelligent and balanced breed, with an amazing temperament. My activity as conformation trainer started in 1983, and I can say I saw this animal evolve and the change in the presentation style, which has evolved dramatically year after year. I have always tried not to be presumptuous and to continue studying breeding techniques, which were gradually becoming more advanced. I can say that I am totally happy with the way I can still achieve excellent results in conformation competitions presenting horses directly, even though now I tend to have a more managerial role. I currently manage several prominent international breeders.

Stud



Zico,
Jose Alves Filho,
Carlos Roizner,
David Boggs
and Rinaldo Longuini



Cristiane, Fernandinha and Zico, Urszula Leczycka, Nina Suskeviciova and friend



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Zico, Paulo Zandavalli and Tercio Miranda



Pippo Palumbo with Zico

T.A.: Are you still presenting Arabian horses bred in your farm and on behalf of your clients?

Z.G.: as I said earlier, my activity as a trainer continues, but for just a few selected clients. The Stud Training Center that I manage has everything that is required to work with the horses in the best possible way. I do not often present horses, I often condition them, prepare them for the most important competitions and present them directly. Thanks to my work as an observer and agent, I lead my clients towards various well-established training centers for the most important competitions in Brazil, USA and Europe.

T.A.: In the last few years you have managed and sold a lot of horses in North America, South America, Europe and Middle East. You also traveled in every country in the world, including Australia. What is the key to your success?

Z.G.: I keep on travelling everywhere, from North to South America, in Europe, in the Middle East, in Australia and South Africa and luck has always been by my side. Over the last few years, I have almost always found what I was looking for for my clients, it would take a long time to list all the horses I had the pleasure to buy over the years. To be concise, I would like just to mention what happened over the last twelve months thanks fruit of a collaboration with my close friend Simone Leo: Together with Simone Leo, I have market a lot of horses to Brazil and with great success! Of course we work on other



Zico, Cristiane, Ines and Laucidio Coelho

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Aryel

(Ajman Moniscione x *PSYX Spellbound H) bred by Zico Guardia



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Cristiane and Zico with Maria Atonieta and Leandro De Aguiar



Pippo Palumbo with Heinz Stockle



Jane Hickford, Talitha Bakker, Rosanna Boscarino, Amir Ashiraf, Giacomo Boscarino, Simone Leo, Malcom Hickford

Stud

way as well we exported from Brazil worldwide a lot of horses that had a lot of success in all the show.

The year of 2012 was really an active year for us!

For my long time clients and friends of Haras Cruzeiro, we realized this year the leasing of the Straight Egyptian stallion Nedel del Guardo (by Ansata Shaamis). owned by Lo bello danielle, who will stay in Brazil for a two years lease periode.

Furthermore we sold many many breedings of well known stallions to famous studs here in Brazil and as off this year Simone and I are the sole agents of Aja Justified (WH Justice).

The horses we bought for Haras Cruzeiro last year, were very successful this season:

VA Exotica by Alija (Ajman Moniscione x MA Alija) - who got cham-

pion at the show in Araxa this year, Murana's Mabrouka (Marwan al Shaqab x Mamuschka) - who became recently became the Brazilian National Reserve Champion. Besides that FT Havana el Keav (Keav el Power) - was named Brazilian National Champion for the 3rd year in a row!

For Aja Arabians from the UK, Simone and I sold already 40 breedings of their stallion Aja Justified to Brazil and we also guided them to the purchase of:

Lumiar Biarritz (Lumiar Balzac) in foal to RFI Maktub
TH Lamanda (Laman HVP) to be bred to FA El Shawan
Riadin (Lumiar Amadeus) - in partnership with Simone Leo and Talitha Bakker

As well as the purchase of an embryo of:

MPE Turkiya (WH Justice) with Marwan Al Shaqab
Afire Star (Magnum Psyche) - from Haras JM





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**Margueritte*
(Marwan Al Shaqab x Majaarani)

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Simone Leo, Talitha Bakker and Zico

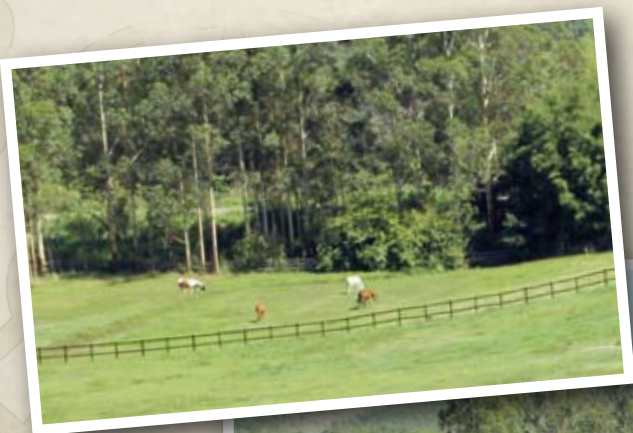
Psyx Spellbound (Padrons Psyche)
Fashionata NA (Marwan al Shaqab)
LA Fleur Carol (Brionz Carol)

To our client Gestut Osterhof from Germany we sold one embryo of the special broodmare of Haras el Madan. For our clients in Italy we have sold two special fillies.

To our friend Massimiliano Rocchino a special Matisse daughter and to our friend Franco Bloisi the beautiful young mare Felly Pin. To my friend and Simone's girlfriend Talitha Bakker, we fulfilled her longtime wish to purchase an Ali Jamaal daughter, that we found in Geraldnye el Jamaal who she will breed to El Tino.

T.A.: We know that you are also a breeder. How many horses have you bred in your life?

Z.G.: I have created many many horses in my life, many of which are still with me whereas the others have been sold. When I create or buy a horse, I always think about my image of the perfect horse, the essence of everything I have learnt throughout my life. It is a great satisfaction seeing my products winning shows. Recently, I was so pleased to see that one of my colts won the latest Brazilian National





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Championship, *El Shkhyr. Having started breeding in 1983, I have been rewarded a lot, and over the years I have also lost some horses which I treated as real friends. Seeing one of my products being born is the source of great joy for me. Every year I have eight or nine mares covered, which I select among those that I have. I am now

starting breeding through the embryo transfer technique, and I hope I will succeed in this new area for me, which allows me to speed up the breeding progress using also European stallions such as *WH Justice, *Aja Justified,- I like also to breed straight Egyptians. In fact I have just purchased two straight Egyptian mares, which I think I will



Jane and Malcom Hickford



Stud

get in foal with *Ansata Nejdi. Over the years I have been a judge in several shows in Australia, Africa, Europe, North and South America and thanks to globalization we can share the same emotions in different parts of the world, which is one of the secrets of the Arabian Horse.

T.A.: Could you tell me which qualities you look for when you are thinking about breeding?

Z.G.: What I required is the ideal Arabian horse, with a snub nose, a very fine head, small ears and large eyes, long and extended neck, 1.55 meters tall, a correct body that fits in a square, straight croup and well-marked movement. All this is much more important than color. The temperament of the horse is also of great relevance for me, they must be balanced, full of charisma, tame and quick at learning.

T.A.: At what moment do you realize that a horse can be of high quality?

Z.G.: At the beginning I might have some hopes for a specific horse, but certainty can only be obtained in the ring. It is only there that one realizes whether the horse has the required traits for competitions or not. In any case, I always advise people try the horses on different types of terrains and in different situations, from indoor competitions to outdoor ones. From the results of these tests I can then gauge the qualities of each horse and their abilities. Not always do beautiful horses turn into champions. It takes all this to win, but especially their attitude towards shows, which is a talent they are born with.

T.A.: We know that you are also a judge. Which criterion do you use when you judge in America or in Europe. In your opinion, are these criterion the same?

Z.G.: For me it does not matter where I am judging, whether it is





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America, Europe or Africa. What is important is that the horse has winning qualities. The Arabian horse is fantastic and judging is a pleasure for me. I feel happy when I see a horse trot or show its talents in the standing position. Showing off is innate for many horses, what is important is not the individual score but that the best horse wins. What I value in a horse is principally type, charisma and how it expresses itself during the competition. Very important for me are also conformation, legs and the head, which must be proportionate. The Arabian horse is a rare creature, it either wins you over or not, but when it gets under your skin you can no longer live without it. Zico Guardia is a real horseman and very passionate of the Arabian Horse. Every day Zico is ready to share his passion with Arabian lovers and to help them reach their goals.

Our chat with Zico came to an end. People like him are extremely constructive for "our world" and really help globalization which is necessary for a complete view that is also the essence of the Arabian horse.



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