



AL ZOBAIR
Stud

THE STORY OF AL ZOB AIR



BY SAMANTHA MATTOCKS • PHOTOS BY S. TREES, G. GRASSO, M. VAN DEN ELSKEN, L. PILSINGER & G. JACOBS

Tucked away in the United Arab Emirates is Al Zobair Stud. Located in Sharjah, the third largest of the Emirates and uniquely facing on to both the beautiful Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, Al Zobair Stud provides a haven and oasis for the horses that dwell there.

H.E. Sheikh Abdulla Bin Mohamed Al Thani founded Al Zobair Stud in the middle of his own serene retreat, located in the desert. With everything at the farm that you could possibly need, the horses found here want from nothing.

And it is from here that World Champions have been bred, making the Al Zobair name so well known and regarded across the world.



*Farm manager
Michael Van den Elsen*

*Office secretary
Sarah Louise Broom*



The welfare of all the Al Zobair horses is of great importance to Sheikh Abdulla and as such, all breedings are performed on the farm including coverings through fresh and frozen semen as well as embryo transfers. A herd of 20 recipient mares enjoy life at Al Zobair with 10 already in foal for 2014, a very successful rate of which the team is justifiably proud. With the conditioning and upkeep of the horses so important, Al Zobair has an impressive indoor arena and a swimming pool for exercise as well as a vita floor and a hydroponic grass room. The Arabian horses born and bred here truly want for nothing.

No farm is complete without the people in place to ensure that all runs smoothly. Michael Van de Elsen has been Al Zobair's Farm Manager for the past six years. In addition to ensuring the day to day well being of the horses, Michael is also responsible for breeding and training. Meanwhile, Sarah Broom is the newest recruit to the Al Zobair family, being the Office Secretary and providing the administrative back bone to the farm's operations.

H.E. Sheikh Abdulla & Palestra

Very much a hands-on owner, Sheikh Abdulla has two different groups of horses at his farm. The first is concentrated on straight Egyptian bloodlines with world-class mares imported from across Europe to build a small but important nucleus from which to base foundations. The second group comprises mares of internationally recognised bloodlines that can excel in the show-ring as well as the breeding barn, and it is from here that two of the Filly World Champions in the past four years have been bred. Regardless of the group, Sheikh Abdulla's vision is clear: to breed a group of Arabian horses that are both balanced as well as beautiful, with many of the horses being ridden regularly by both Sheikh Abdulla and his sons, who are each becoming more involved with both the horses and the farm.



A special mention must be made of a mare who is of great importance to Sheikh Abdulla, being one of his favourites, the Polish Palestra (Penitent x Patera). Palestra provided one of the first big wins for Al Zobair Stud and since 2007, this beautiful

grey has been at Colorado State University (CSU) in the United States, where she has been successfully bred. Now 27 years old and retired from breeding, Palestra is on her way to Aljassimya Farm in California, where it is hoped that she will enjoy the rest of her days under the warm sun. Meanwhile, her lines continue to be part of the farm's future through her daughters; Shoola Al Zobair (by Gazal Al Shaqab by Anaza El Farid) and Tamriya Al Zobair (by Marwan Al Shaqab by Gazal Al Shaqab), as well as the two-year-old filly Mayada Al Zobair (by Besson Carol by Parys El Jamaal), are sure to make their dam proud through the progeny that they will produce at Al Zobair.

Preserving the straight Egyptian heritage

Ansata and Imperial lines feature heavily in Al Zobair Stud's straight Egyptian group and one of the first mares purchased for this breeding programme was the ethereal grey Khameela, by the Imperial Imdal son PVA Kariim (ex BKA Rakiisah by Thee Egyptian Prince) and out of Bint-stril (The Minstril x SS Bint Osiria). Born in 1998, Khameela's first foal was, in fact, the first foal for Al Zobair: Dalal Al Zobair (by Al Adeed Al Shaqab by Ansata Halim Shah). Dalal Al Zobair, in turn, produced the next generation for the stud with Zeinat Al Zobair, a 2005 grey sired by Ansata Shalim (Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata



Dalal Al Zobair has also been instrumental in being one of the homebred Al Zobair mares used in the outcross straight Egyptian programme. This is especially seen through her yearling filly Khelkhal Al Zobair, sired by multiple champion Marwan Al Shaqab (Gazal Al Shaqab x Little Liza Fame), who shows much promise for the future.



*From top clockwise:
Khameela, Khelkhal Al Zobair, Dalal Al Zobair & Zeinat Al Zobair.*

AL ZOB AIR

The next mare we come to is the 1999 exotic chestnut mare Maliha Bouznika, owned by Sheikh Abdulla's son, Sheikh Mohammed Abdulla Mohammed Al Thani. Maliha Bouznika is of classical Imperial lines and also has several crosses to the revered Ansata Ibn Halima in her pedigree. By Imperial Mashhar (Imperial Madheen x Imperial Janaabah), this beautiful mare is out of the Imperial Imdal daughter Imdalia (ex T Omayma Mabrouka by El Risaan).

Her five-year-old grey daughter Bahiya Al Zobair was outcrossed to World Champion Stallion Marajj (Marwan Al Shaqab x RGA Kouress) in 2010, resulting in the 2011 bay filly Souwairah Al Zobair; both are also owned by Sheikh Mohammed.

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*From top right clockwise:
Maliha Bouznika,
Bahiya Al Zobair &
Souwairah Al Zobair*





One of Al Zobair's best-producing straight Egyptian mares is the magical Mmecca, a beautiful fleabitten grey born in the year 2000. A multiple champion in both the US and Middle East, Mmecca has been a cornerstone of Al Zobair Stud and it is through this precious line, when outcrossed carefully, that we find a newly crowned World Champion Yearling Filly. Mmecca herself is by the black stallion Al Baraki (Thee Desperado x Alijamila) and is out of the Imperial Madheen daughter Imperial Maysama (ex Imperial Imtiarah by Ansata Imperial), and she is always a joy to watch.

AL ZOB AIR

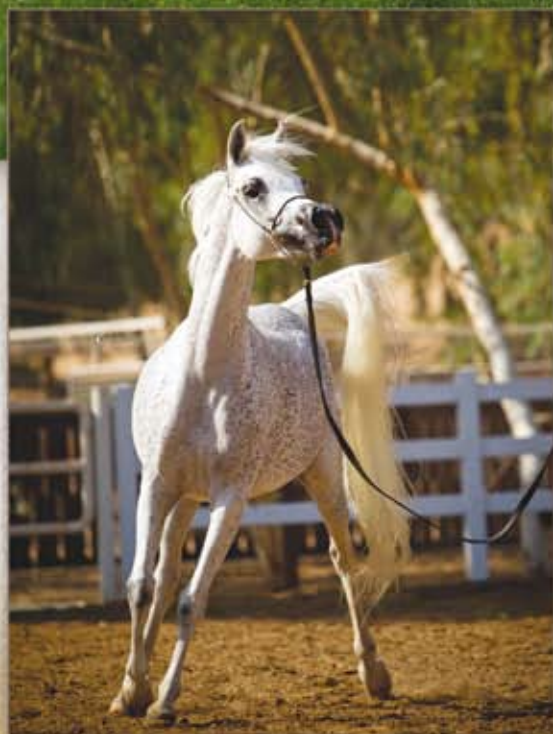
Stud

In 2005, Mmeca foaled the exceptional Thoraya Al Zobair (by Ansata Selman by Ansata Hejazi) who would, in turn, be outcrossed with MCA Magnum Gold (Magnum Psyche x Litique) to produce the 2011 bay beauty Ghanadir Al Zobair, named World Gold Champion Yearling Filly in 2012 and shown to all her wins by Tom Schoukens. In 2012, Thoraya Al Zobair produced the Marwan Al Shaqab son Barakah Al Zobair, Gold Champion Yearling Colt at this year's Ajman Show and described by all as a very promising new star for Al Zobair Stud.



*Above: Hasina Al Zobair
Right: Fakhira Al Zobair*





Mmecca has blessed the farm with two further daughters of note, the first being Hasina Al Zobair (by Al Aaqib Al Zamet by Ashhal Al Rayyan), a 2008 grey, and last year, she foaled Fakhira Al Zobair. Sired by Marajj, this long-necked grey is another great example of the Al Zobair straight Egyptian outcross programme.

*Top: Ghanadir Al Zobair
Left: Thoraya Al Zobair*

AL ZOB AIR



Top: Barakah Al Zobair
Right: Ghanadir Al Zobair



*Top: Bint Al Mamunah Al Zobair
Left: Marjanah Al Zobair*

While Al Zobair has several straight Egyptian families, the last mare group that we will look at here is that of the daughters of the Maysoun daughter Al Mamunah (ex Aminah Bint Aqaba), starting with the quality broodmare Marjanah Al Zobair, sired by NK Hafid Jamil (Ibn Nejdy x Helala), a good-producing mare who has returned home from a lease, and whose first foals for Al Zobair are eagerly anticipated. There is also Bint Al Mamunah Al Zobair (by Al Adeed Al Shaqab), a five year old grey with much promise.

AL ZOB AIR
Stud





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*I*t was in 2005 that Al Mamunah produced the Ansata Selman daughter Rayhana Al Zobair, who has that classic Maysoun look to her. In turn, Rayhana Al Zobair produced the exceptional two-year-old filly Rashida Al Zobair (by Alzeer Al Rayyan by Alidaar), whose titles in 2012 included Gold Junior Female Champion at the Egyptian Event Europe and Sharjah Straight Egyptian Show as well as Silver Junior Female Champion in Berlin. A second-generation Al Zobair straight Egyptian, Rashida Al Zobair is certainly one to watch.

Rashida Al Zobair



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AL ZOB AIR

Pure-bred Beauties

We begin this group with a rare El Shaklan daughter, HW Egyptian Art (ex Hal Sheena by Hal Gibby). Now 20 years old, HW Egyptian Art brings classic Arabian type to Al Zobair's breeding programme and her 2010 grey daughter, Risalah Al Zobair (by Marajj), provides the next step for the farm.



Left: Risalah Al Zobair

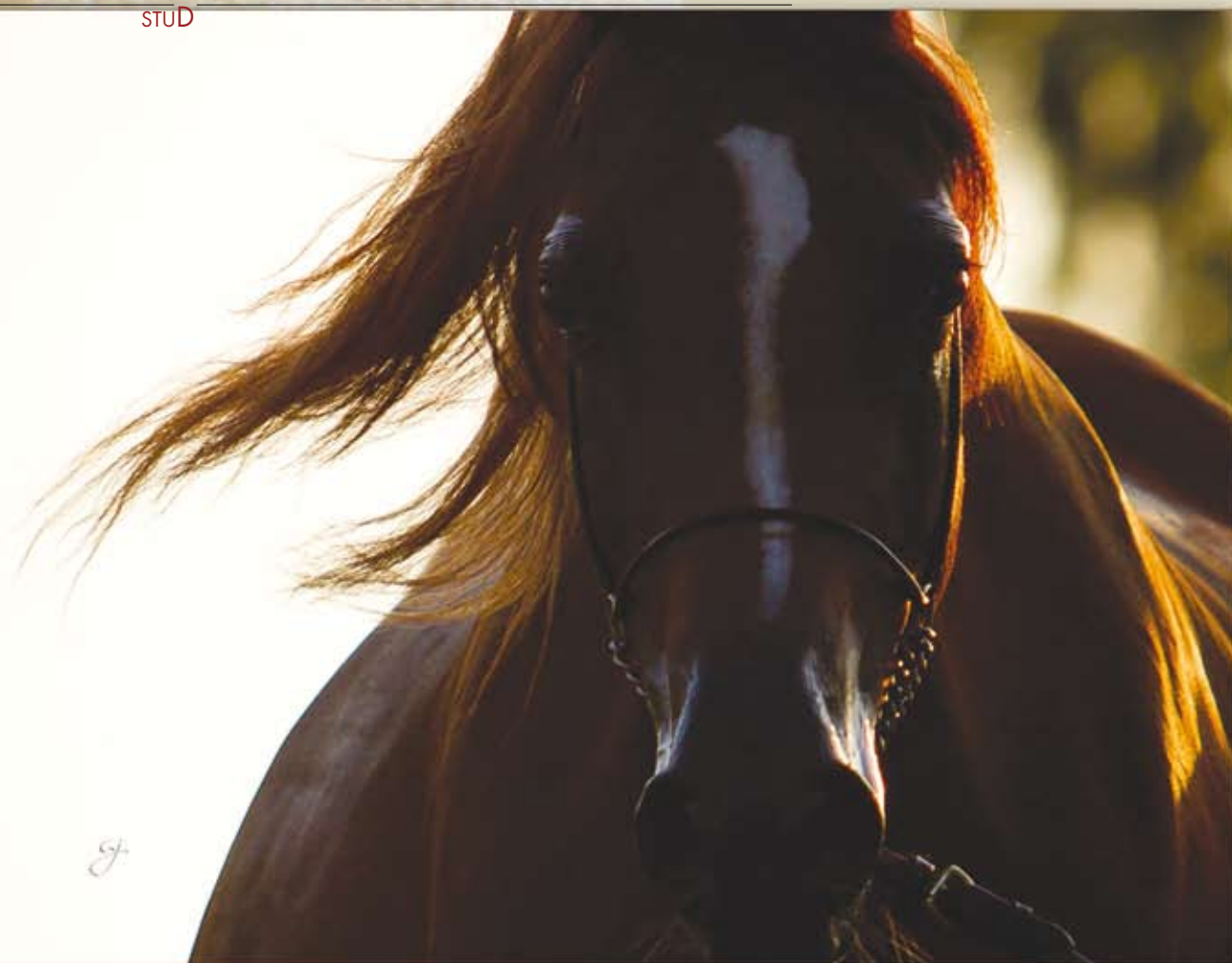


Esklawā at 28 years old.

Now 28 years old, the phenomenal Polish Esklawia is one of the senior mares at the farm. By the famed Eukalip-tus and out of Ekstaza (Celebes x Eskapada), Esklawia is one of those horses that needs little introduction. Her six-year-old daughter by Marajj, Salwa Al Zobair, is an elegant grey and she is an important mare for the farm. While she may live in the shadows of Najdah Al Zobair, the 2009 World Champion Filly foaled the same year, Salwa Al Zobair is just as beautiful and she is a pivotal part of the stud. This year, she foaled Farasha Al Zobair, sired by Juwel OS (WH Justice x Swana by Kubinec), a grey filly.



Above: Farasha Al Zobair
Top & left: Salwa Al Zobair

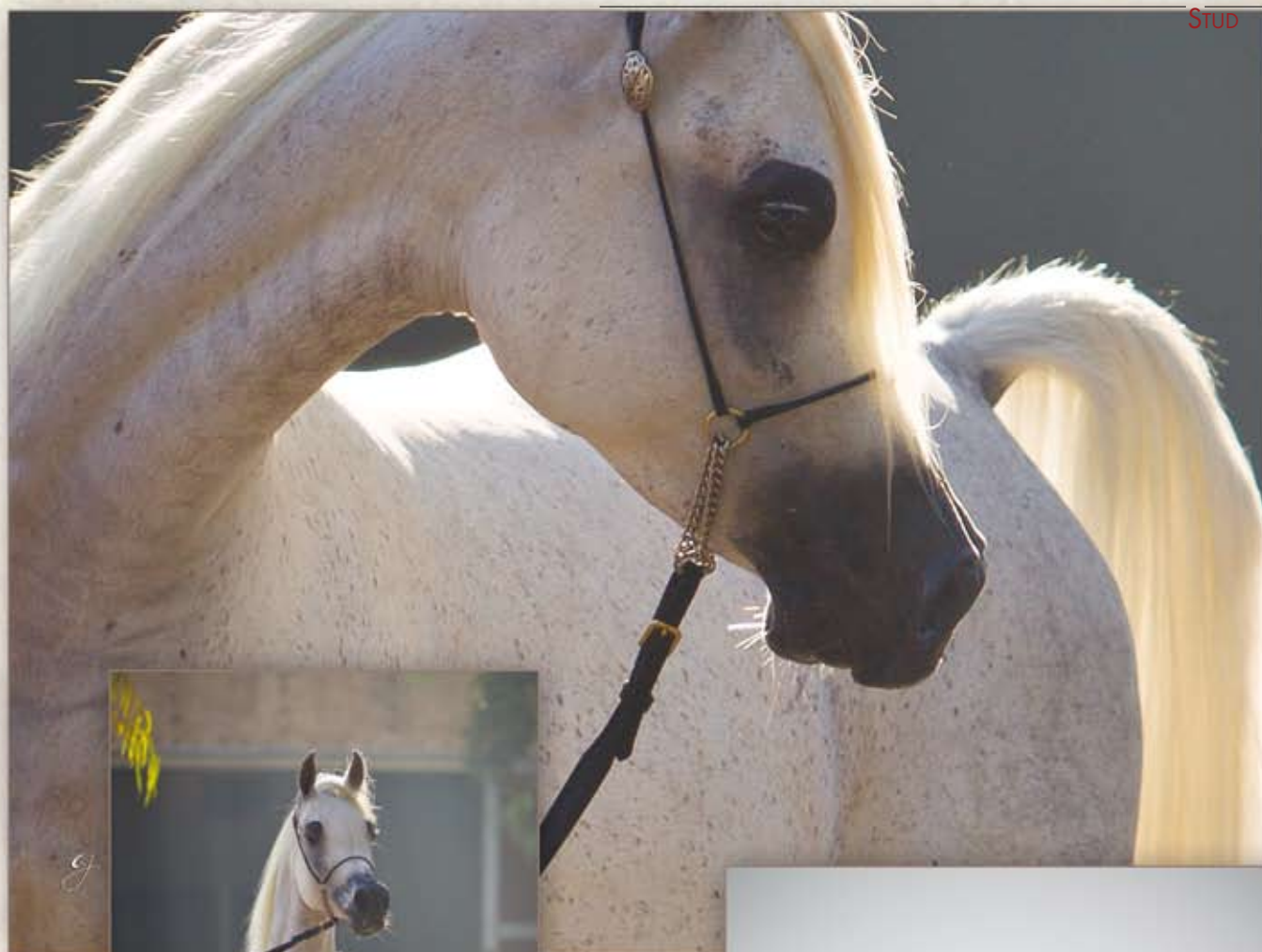


Above: Mishmisha Al Zobair

The El Shaklan influence is also found at Al Zobair through the exotic 1994 chestnut Fairview Shaklas Sugar and Spice, imported from Australia. Sired by SK Shakla Khan (Sanadik El Shaklan x Sun King Raindrop) and out of Fair Flirtation (Amir El Shaklan x Vanity Fair), Fairview Shaklas Sugar and Spice has an important family at Al Zobair.

AL ZOB AIR
Stallion





Her 2005 grey Khidar (Ansata Sinan x Elizja) daughter, Bashayer Al Zobair, has in turn produced a potential future sire in the form of the three-year-old bay colt Wannas Al Zobair (by Marajj). Bashayer Al Zobair is also noteworthy as she exemplifies the versatility of the Arabian horse that Sheikh Abdulla strives to breed, having performed well under saddle and taking second place in a very strong class at the 2012 Sharjah International Show. The success of the cross of Fairview Shaklas Sugar and Spice with Marajj is underlined by their 2009 daughter Mishmisha Al Zobair, a bay beauty with much promise.



*Top: Bashayer Al Zobair
Above: Wannas Al Zobair*



Above: JFN Bint Ludhan
Right: Najdiya Al Zobair
Opposite page: Najdah Al Zobair



AL ZOB AIR
Stable



The charismatic Ali Jamaal lines are very much evident in the mare JFN Bint Ludhan and her family. Sired by the Magnum Psyche son AB Magnum (ex Echos Love Song by Aladdin Echo), this beautiful bay is out of ZT Ludhan (Ludjin El Jamaal x ZT Gasfahan) and it is through her that we find our first Al Zobair-bred World Champion. Foaled in 2007, Najdah Al Zobair is by Marwan Al Shaqab and she took the show-ring by storm in 2009, culminating in being named unanimous World Champion Filly, also shown by Tom Schoukens. With her exotic type, grace, and natural beauty, now aged six years old, Najdah Al Zobair continues to blossom. In 2012, she foaled Najdiya Al Zobair, a very feminine and typey filly sired by Eden C (Enzo x Silken Sable), and she is sure to continue in the winning ways of her damline, having already taken the Gold Yearling Champion Filly title at both the 2012 UAE National Championships and Abu Dhabi International Arabian Horse Show.

In a new venture for Al Zobair, the beautiful Najdah Al Zobair is currently in the United States where she will be shown at Scottsdale, Las Vegas and the US Nationals. Sheikh Abdulla is not alone in preferring to keep his horses close to him but this opportunity of showing this vibrant bay mare to the world is one that we should all enjoy.



*From left clockwise:
S.M.A. Magic One
Fazea Al Zobair
Moth'hela Al Zobair*



Nesj El Khidouna (Khidar x Nesj El Shayna) is a grey 2004 mare and the dam of the four-year-old Marajj daughter Fazea Al Zobair. In 2013, Nesj El Khidouna produced a very special grey filly, Moth'hela Al Zobair, sired by one of Al Zobair's stallion group, S.M.A Magic One.

By Psytadel and out of Majidah Bint Pacha, this charismatic three year old grey S.M.A Magic One combines Sheikh Abdulla's passion for Egyptian lines through his dam, who is by AS Sinans Pacha, while bringing the Polish and powerful Crabber lines through his sire. All at Al Zobair are thrilled with Moth'hela Al Zobair and look forward to seeing the future of all of the 2013 foals.

AL ZOB AIR

Mahrisa is a five-year-old mare very typical of her sire, WH Justice. Out of Maharah (Kharrazan x Makarah), this exotic grey produced Basha Al Zobair this year, a grey colt sired by Fadi Al Shaqab (Besson Carol x Abha Myra), and it will be interesting to see how he matures.



Left: Nuhayla Al Zobair
Down: Mahrisa



Above: Alita Psy
Right: Basha Al Zobair



Alita Psy is a six-year-old mare sired by the world-famous Padrons Psyche (Padron x Kilika), and with her exotic bay looks and length of neck, she is an instrumental part of the broodmare group. Her 2013 foal, a grey filly by Jewel OS, proves Alita Psy's promise. Nuhayla Al Zobair combines the Padrons Psyche blood beautifully through both sire and dam.



An undoubted star of the Al Zobair mares is SA Misha Apal (AS Natsir Apal x Nyara JC), an ethereal 13 year old grey and a World Champion Filly as a yearling in 2001. Universally loved, SA Misha Apal has also proved herself in the breeding barn through her three-year-old daughter Salama Al Zobair (by Marajj), who shows the same exotic and graceful qualities as her dam.

Tehama Ballalina brings something different through her South African-bred sire Tehama Na Sidaqa (Thee Cyclone x Banghor Darica). Out of JJ Shai Majestic Queen (Ladddin x Sidi Escondida), this enchanting 11-year-old grey has a yearling daughter at the farm. Samira Al Zobair (by El Chall WR by Magnum Chall HVP out of Major Love Affair) is sure to follow in her dam's footsteps.



From top left clockwise: Tehama Ballalina, SA Misha Apal, Samira Al Zobair & Salama Al Zobair

AL ZOB AIR
Stud

The final two mares are yet to produce foals at AL Zobair Stud but both are important to the farm for future generations. The first is the flamboyantly beautiful HCE Magdonna (AB Magnum x SHA Bint Padron), a seven-year-old mare newly imported by the farm. Striking liver chestnut in colour, HCE Magdonna is sure to make her mark at Al Zobair. Lastly, we come to FM Gloraa (WH Justice x Psity of Angels), a very typey and exotic six-year-old mare that completes this beautiful group perfectly. Proudly bred by Mieke Sans, FM Gloraa is on lease to Al Zobair, thanks to the Schoukens Training Center, and the farm is looking forward to having her line in their breeding programme.



Above: FM Gloraa
Right: HCE Magdonna



Looking at the mares of Al Zobair Stud, it is easy to see the vision of Sheikh Abdulla and how he is realising his dreams. The horses being produced here are of exceptional quality and, in spite of the seemingly different bloodlines at the farm, there is a consistent look across the Al Zobair foals. This is, no doubt, down to the careful selection of the mares by Sheikh Abdulla, and the common ancestors that these horses share.



Al Zobair Stud has a rich and enticing history, and with the enchanting beauty of its mares and foals to be seen everywhere you look, it is little wonder that the farm has emerged as the jewel of Sharjah, with balanced and beautiful Arabians casting their spell over everyone that enters this paradise, found under the Middle Eastern skies.



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