



ALJASSIMYA FARM

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Gigi Grasso, Darryl Larson, Emma Maxwell, Stuart Vesty, April Visel

hen I was in California to visit the first Arabian Foal Festival, I was invited to visit 100 Oaks Ranch. This is the home to the breeding stock of Aljassimya Farm, owned by Sheikh Jassim Bin Khalifa Al Thani from Qatar and since 2011 managed by Bart van Buggenhout with Debra Schliem as the manager of a 100 Oaks Ranch. Both kindly welcomed me at the farm that is still under construction. Located on one of the best spots of the Santa Ynez Valley, 100 Oaks Ranch provides a magnificent 360 degrees view on the valley. Gorgeous mountains surround the farm and the view is endless. To top it all, some of the great horses of the Santa Ynez valley are stabled here.

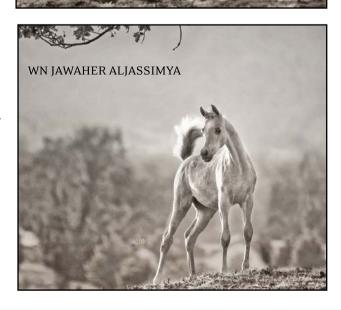
The 100 Oaks farm has three major barns and a lot of paddocks and pastures for the horses. Spectacular was the sight of a few mares performing a beautiful show in the sunset while enjoying the freedom in their pasture. It makes the whole image complete. The quietness of the environment and the pleasant atmosphere. The main stable has the majority of foals. Some already weaned and others with their natural mums or recipient mothers. Most boxes have a small outdoor space which they can use to go in and out as they please. The horses are covered in beautiful orange blankets, the color of Aljassimya farm.

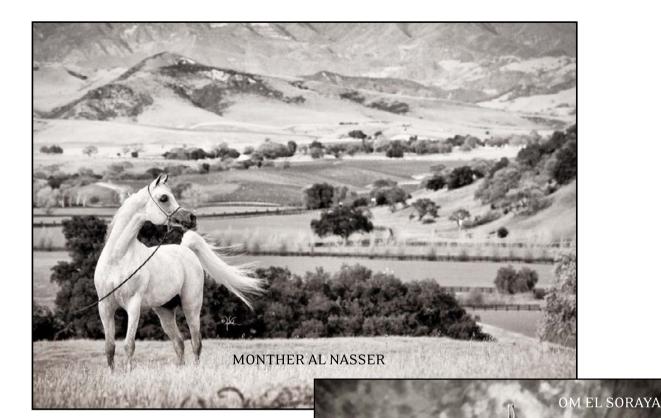
Bart explains the future vision for the further development of the Ranch, I am imaging now a true horse paradise in my head. The raining season is coming close now for the valley and I have no problem imaging how it would look like here in the spring when everything is green and abloom.



WH JUSTICE FILLIES 2013

The goal of Sheikh Jassim is to develop a top breeding farm with high quality horses that can compete at the highest level anywhere in the world. Slowly with the knowledge, patience and the passion of a true breeder. Planning the next generation step by step. To start his foundation, many farms around the world have been visited and a groups of incredible mares have been included in the breeding program. These mares and in some cases recipients mares, are now carrying the future of Aljassimya Farm. Many of the females will be retained for now and plans are being laid to provide a futurity program that encourages the use of the males / geldings in performance. Sheikh Jassim has made it clear from the beginning that he wants to make a commitment to each one of his foals born to provide a future to the best of its abilities. He knows not each single one is going to be a show winner. For this he was one of the first and active supporters and sponsors of the Arabian foal festival and a true believer that shows need to be accessible to all levels of horse ownership. With his support to the ideas of foal shows and the coming Aljassimya futurity program, he hopes to help each and every horse to find a place and a love in the Arabian horse world. His commitment only proves that the vision of Aljassimya is well thought out.



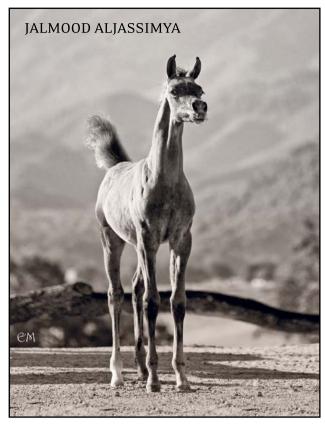


Most intriguing aspect of the visit to 100 Oaks is to get a look at the new collection of WH Justice foals. This collection of foals I have seen at the farm is in one word, spectacular. It is difficult to name a favorite as all are different though with all with the unmistakable Justice-look'. To name one is the very promising WN Jawaher Aljassimya out of the mare WN Aprils Love a daughter of the immaculate WN Antigua. WN Jawaher Aljassimya is a product of the wonderful relationships Aljassimya Farm seems to be able to make between some of the best breeding farms in the world.

Also stabled at the farm was the stallion Royal Magic (Ansata Shaamis x Magic Mirage). Clearly enjoying the serene atmosphere at 100 oaks farm as he gently stands in his private paddock, having a magnificent view on all the mares and foals in the fields above him.

The 'king' himself, WH Justice was stabled at Gallun Farms, just a few minutes away from the farm. Of course we went over to see him. Although I have seen him in Europe many times, I never get bored of this boy! Such

an elegance and presence that is so typical with the Arabian horse. Only fourteen years and already a legend in the breeding scene. Aljassimyafarm did a life changing decision by taking this stallion to the US in 2012. He was standing at Om el Arab the first two years after his arrival and also there he has produced some amazing offspring, some of who are owned by Aljassmiya farm. In general, the foals I have seen here in California are much different from the ones I have seen in Europe. Though the same look, they seem to have a stronger body. I am loo-



COLT BY WH JUSTICE 2013

king forward to see all these foals again when they are grown up! I can only imagine how spectacular they will be! An exciting fact is that Aljassimya has recently renewed their cooperation with the famous Wayne Newton program. Also further collaborations have been made with Mindy Peters Arabians and Carol Steppe's Day Dream Arabians both owners of strong well built mare groups, this for sure will expand the WH Justice influence even stronger here in the USA. Aljassimya also opened an interesting Brazilian chapter for WH Justice and Aljassimya farm by making an agreement with Lenita Peroy of Haras Meia Lua. The mares of this world renown breeding program will be bred to WH Justice in a joint venture with Haras Mea Lua, owned by Mrs. Lenita Perroy. Blending the famous Ali Jamaal and Ludjin El Jamaal daughters with WH Justice is a genius move and I am anxiously awaiting the results!

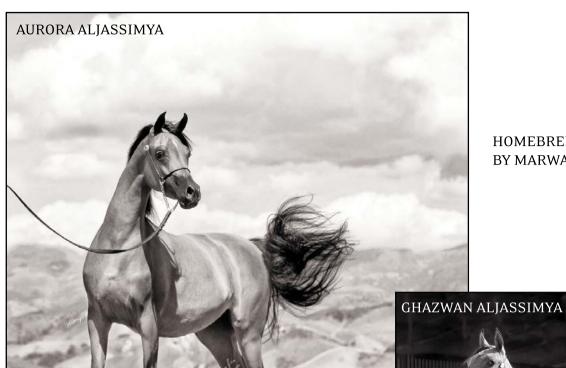
While building up their breeding program, Aljassimya-Farm also acquired some high quality show mares. One of them is the extraordinary CR Jasmeenah (WH Justice x Fforget me not). She was unfortunately not based at the farm for now but is standing with Michael Byatt in Texas. She was named World Champion mare in 2011 and claimed the title of US National Champion mare here in the US, setting the standard of what Aljassimya farm is aiming for; classical type and overall quality. Another WH Justice daughter is RP Miss Surprise (x Nefertari by Laman HVP), a great mover who will be shown in the Scottsdale International classes next year.

The star for 2013 is the yearling filly Minwah, by Kahil Al Shaqab and from a Wayne Newton dam line, she took Menton by storm in June winning Gold Champion Yearling Filly. She will remain in the hands of Giacomo Capacci for the rest of 2013 and 2014 to continue her show career.

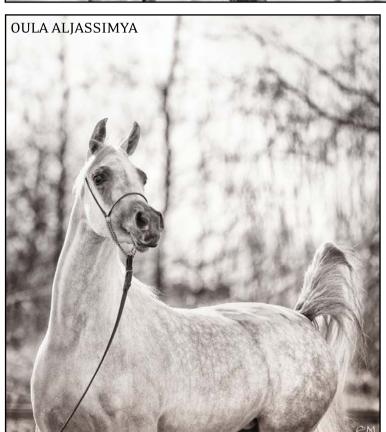
Other stallions used in the program are the for 2013 leased stallion Monther al Nasser (Ansata Hejazi x Aliah al Nasser) owned by AL Nasser Stud in Qatar. Monther was champion both time shown on American soil. Supreme Champion at The Egyptian Event and Champion Stallion at Region II in Santa Barbara, California. Next year SMA Magic One (Psytadel x Majidah bint Pacha) is kindly leased from Al Zobair Stud also in Qatar and will also arrive for his American adventure. Some of the horses that captured my attention were by the other stallions used including a Besson Carol bred filly named Ameena Aljassimya. A well build individual with a beautiful face and elegant motion.

As sunset approaches over the Santa Ynez valley, it is time for me to go back to the hotel. Bedazzled from all the foals I have seen, I'm looking forward to follow up how this foal group will grow up. I have written down some names to follow up in the next years. For me as a breeder it is very interesting to follow such newly set up breeding program like Aljassimyawhom have a clear view, goals and patience for what they want to reach over time. I am looking forward to return here next year!

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HOMEBRED BY MARWAN AL SHAQAB



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