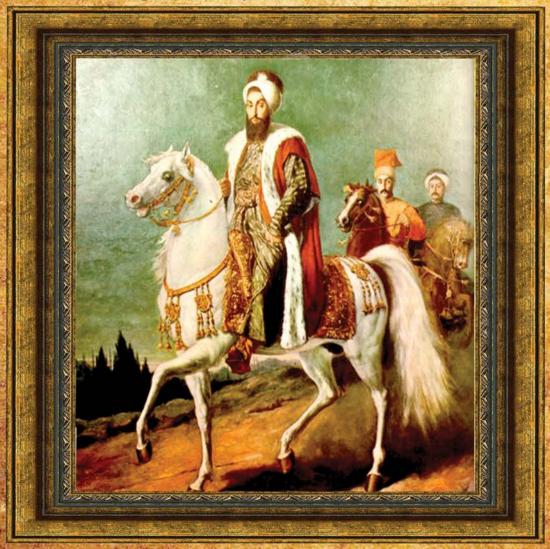


by Mustafa and Chera Sabankaya All photos by Sabankaya unless otherwise noted

The Sabankaya Family's Ottoman Arabians breeding program in California, USA goes back just 40 years, but the truth is the Ottoman-USA Arabian horse connection goes all the way back to the 1800's.



Sultan Selim III, Painting by H. Berteaux, Seraglio, Istanbul-



Although for many years the Sabankaya family promoted its Arabian horse breeding program under the name Sabankaya Select in order to honor the family members who each devoted years of hard work establishing and improving the program, it was not until purchasing Calypso OS at the end of 2010 and beginning a whole new marketing campaign worldwide that the family decided to also celebrate its Ottoman heritage by bringing forward, and honoring, its original farm name of Ottoman Arabians. The truth is, that although for years the family's farm and horses' registered names included the initials of Sabankaya Select, SS, the horses have always been registered as being owned by Ottoman Arabians. Today, the family is pleased to celebrate both its family name and its cultural heritage by using both Sabankaya Select and Ottoman Arabians in its current marketing campaigns.

The Ottoman Empire's Influence on Egyptian Arabian Horse Bloodlines

Ali Jamaal, Gazal Al Shagab, and *Padron... these are just three of the most successful Arabian sires in the history of the Arabian Horse Industry. In fact, at least one of them can be found in the pedigrees of almost every Arabian horse in the international show ring today, including Ottoman Arabian's new triple *Padron herd sire, Calypso OS (Aiman Moniscione x AB Nastrapsy). These three stallions are all descendants of the Nazeer sireline, a straight Egyptian foundation sire. These and other influential Egyptian Arabian horses, such as Fadl, the grandsire of Fadjur and great great grandsire of Khemosabi ++++//, and even the Crabbet horses, which Lady Ann Blunt brought to England from Egypt, all played a tremendous role in the development of the Arabian horse in America and beyond.













Clockwise from top: Nazeer, Ali Jamaal, Fadjur, Calypso OS & Chera Sabankaya, Khemosabi++++//, Gazal Al Shaqab, *Padron



ttoman Soldier Mohammed Ali the Great

It is fair to say, then, that without the influence of the these prominent Egyptian bloodlines, we would surely not have the kind of refined Arabian horses we are enjoying in the show ring today. It is also fair to say, then, that were it not for Mohamed Ali the Great (sent by Selim III to Ottoman ruled Egypt in 1801), there would be no influential Egyptian Arabian horse program at all. This Ottoman officer was sent to Egypt by the Ottoman Sultan to deal with the escalating problems with the Mamluke Dynasty. He started the Arabian horse breeding program in Egypt and his family dedicated their lives and fortunes to continue collecting and breeding the best Arabian horses of the desert, especially his grandon, Abbas Pasha..







To illustrate the vastness of his contributions to the Egyptian nation, Mohammed Ali the Great singlehandedly rebuilt and helped flourish the entire country into an internationally competitive force with which to be reckoned. According to Société Royale de Geographie d'Egypte, 1923, he was said to say, "I am well aware that the (Ottoman) Empire is heading by the day toward destruction... On its ruins I will build a vast kingdom... up to the Euphrates and the Tigris." One cannot help but admire the strength of his vision and foresight.



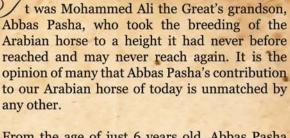
Clockwise top to bottom: Mohammed Ali the Great, building the Egyptian Navy, the Mamlukes, and the Battle of the Pyramids/French occupation of Egypt.

The results of Mohammed Ali the Great's efforts are still appreciated today. He sent Egyptians to Europe to study and imported European scholars to Egypt in order to build Egypt's new infrastructure, including its agricultural revolution, universities, hospitals, and monetary system. He also organized and built a manufacturing industry to support Egypt's new military, including its new seaport and Navy. Worldwide today, most people do not realize that they are actually wearing and sleeping within the luxurious cotton goods he produced Egypt back in 1820, now known as "Egyptian Cotton"-one of the best commodities of the world to this day. He identified so strongly with the new Egypt he created that he later declared both his and the country of Egypt's independence from the Ottoman Empire rule.



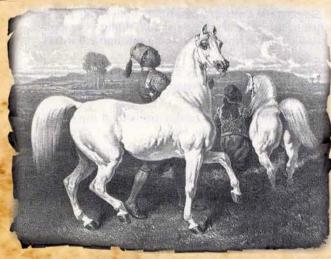


"Above: Abbas Pasha and his entourage" Painting by G.H. La Porte, owned by Douglas B. Marshall Below: A sample of Abbas Pasha's Magnificant Stallions



From the age of just 6 years old, Abbas Pasha loved the Arabian horse with great passion. By the time he was 23 years old, he owned 136 mares and 16 stallions and was considered by many to be a true expert on Arabian horse characteristics and breeding. In an attempt to learn and organize the bloodlines of his horses, he sent expert Bedouins out into the desert tribes to research and document the pedigrees of the horses he was collecting, since until then they had only existed through word of mouth and local legends passed down through the generations.









ttoman Empire and USA

Ottoman Empire Arabians also came directly to America. Stallions Leopard and Lindentree came to America as gifts to the then American General and later on president, Grant, from the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II in 1878 after Grant visited Istanbul in 1873. Later, in 1893, a group of Ottoman Arabians was brought to America to serve as exhibits in the Chicago world fair by the Hamidie Society of Syria. Although they were expected to stay only for the duration of the fair, they were forced to stay when the society went bankrupt and could not afford to transport them back to Turkey. Two of these horses, *Obeyran and *Neidme, became the first two horses to be registered in the Arabian Horse Registry of America.







Clockwise top to bottom: Sultan Abdul Hamid II, Sultan of Ottoman Empire, Stallions Lindentree and Leopard, Mare Nejdme, and Abdul Hamid II French Poster



* Linden Tree No. 234, a stallion presented by Abdul Hamid II, Sultan of Turkey, to Gen. U. S. Grant. Registered as an Arabian of "unknown" family, he was declared by Randolph Huntington and Maj. C. A. Benton "to be a B



 Leopard No. 233, Arabian stallion also presented by the Sultan of Turkey to Gen. U. S. Grant. He was the earliest imported (1879) Arabian registered with The Arabian Horse Club of America. Of the Seglawi-Jedran family, he was 14.3 hands high.

Jabankaya Family Becomes Ottoman Arabians

Most of the Polish foundation stock of Ottoman Arabians came from the same desert regions as the horses in Abbas Pasha's collection. When asked how the Ottoman Arabians breeding program began, Mustafa explains,

It is very hard to believe it has been 40 years since the day I bought my first Arabian horse, a Celebes daughter named "Daalda Cama."



*Daalda Cama (Celebes x Camora by Aquinor)

It all started when I bought a 1939 historic estate in Santa Cruz, California with some acreage for the family members I brought over from Turkey, including my mother, father, four brothers, one uncle, one aunt, and four cousins. Of course, the house had to have some animals on it, such as cats, dogs, chickens, goats, and horses.

One day, quite by coincidence, I ended up at a horse farm in Southern California while on vacation. It turned out to be the farm of the late Mike Villaseñior, who was then a trainer but not yet a judge. He gave me a tour of his farm and before long, he realized just how



Mike Villasenior

little I knew about horses, in general, in fact, it may be more accurate to say that I knew absolutely nothing!

Being a good salesman, he was trying to sell me a horse, the only problem was that we could not decide on the type of horse I should purchase. I asked him what kind of horses he

had, to which he replied he had Saddlebreds, Ouarter Horses, Morgans, and Arabians. When I heard the word Arabians. I quickly thought of my Bosnian grandfather back home in Turkey, who sought Arabian racehorses from the Syrian desert and then raised and trained them during the last days of the Ottoman Empire. (Incidentally, he was born very close to the Albanian region where Mohammed Ali the Great was born.) My grandfather was a master blacksmith and horse shoer, and as such was considered to be an expert in horseflesh biomechanics, able to see quality in horses even when they were neglected and malnourished. His sons and grandsons were master wood and iron craftsmen, making race buggies and beautiful custom hand-forged brass bells, which was the signature of their production.

Once I decided on the breed of horse I was going to purchase, the next decision we had to make was the sex of the horse. Puzzled with both my lack of mastery in the English language and my ignorance of the horse, Mike explained to me what a gelding was and said that if I purchased a gelding I could only use it for pleasure, however, if I purchased a mare with some breedings, then I could deduct all expenses and depreciate the purchase price. I said, "Whoa! I came here just to look at horses, and now you have talked me into purchasing business... now it's getting complicated! If you don't mind, I would like to go home without a horse, or rather a business, to do some research and get back to you. By the way, I said, do you know where I could get a hold of some horse magazines to educate myself? He told me that the best Arabian horse magazine at that time was the Arabian Horse World in Palo Alto, California. From that moment on, I could not wait to get home to get my hands on those magazines! After that, as we said in our previous Tutto articles, I purchased a truckload of the magazines and turned myself into a hermit for two years as I studied them cover to cover. I studied the

history, pedigrees, phenotypes, race records, and show results of the most successful horses in the industry. I also consulted with as many breeders, trainers, and judges as I could from all walks of life. During that time I also visited other farms trying to decide which discipline to get into, with each farm having its own "experts" to give me their best sales pitches on buying their horses and competing in their specific disciplines. It seemed the more people I spoke with, the more confused I became. I knew I had to continue studying until I felt confident enough to decide what I really wanted.

I was beginning to lean more and more toward the Polish horses due to their success both in the show ring and public auctions. Fortunately, I did not have to settle on a single discipline, since the Polish horses were very successful in many disciplines, including but not limited to halter, western pleasure, working cattle, dressage, jumping, driving, high action classes, racing, and endurance.

It was during this soul searching that I came across a passage in my studies about Bogdan Zientarski's 1931 expedition the to Ruala Tribe. For me, it was as though this passage came to me directly from God. I knew then and there I

wanted to devote the rest of my 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 trip to Ruala.

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

Mustafa was even more impressed with what Zientarski had to say about Kuhailan Haifi's incredible stamina under saddle-perhaps even noteworthy than Zientarski's initial reaction upon meeting the horse was 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 Poland.

Zientarski said while that the other horses actually dropped dead from thirst and exhaustion on the 500 mile gallop through the deep sand without food and water (or vet checks), Kuhailan Haifi reached the seaport as if only warming up, as though

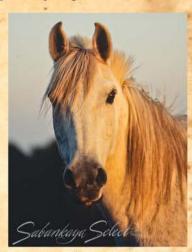
Bogdan Zientarski

Finally I hear a neigh they quide the stallions. They lead tinally I hear a neigh they quide the stallions... they lead the bay Kuhailan Saifi My legs buckled under me, it it the bay Kuhailan Saifi My legs buckled under me, it it was the bay to be an looking for Not large, dry on just the house I am looking for Not large, dry on splendid legs without any trace of cow books. A long splendid legs without any trace of cow books. A long splendid legs without any trace of cow books. thin and moveable nostrils; a splendid high corried tail. I feel the first time in my life, that during the purchase of a horse I am fainting... 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 warhorse. And for Mustafa, this was the horse he wanted to recreate.

What convinced Mustafa to focus his breeding program on Kuhailan Haifi was the horse's undeniable influence on the modern Arabian show and race horses through his grandsons, Witez II, Witraz (the sire of Bask and Celebes and a consistant creator of champion show horses), and Wielki Szlem, successful in both showing and racing industries. As described earlier, Mustafa's first horse was a Celebes daughter named *Daalda Cama. Shortly afterwards he collected four more Celebes daughters. One of them, *Triple-A-Celeta, was out of Harta, tracing back to the Arfa tail female line.

He purchased *Sambor daughters, such as Fitz Janny (out of *Tryncza by Tripolis out of

Kochana by Wielki Szlem), Sir Wms Dambra (out of Dimatra by Wielki Szlem out of Imatra by Hardy), and Palalaika (out of Halaliencandesent by *Bask out of Halali Enchanted by Comet).



Sir Wms Dambra (*Sambor x Dimatra)



The five Celebes daughters of Ottoman Arabians L to R: *Moneta, *Daalda Cama, *Rucella, *Triple-A-Celeta, and *Sierra

Sollecting the Broodmares...

He sought more mares from the Arfa tail female line (Arfa was *Bask's full sister). One of them happened to be double Arfa; this was *Almaa (Krezus x Aranda by Almifar). She went on to become one of the queens of the program as a producer because her granddaughter became quite popular, named SS Anna Maria (Spark x Almalita by Ariston out of *Almaa). (See photograph opposite page.) Another Arfa mare Mustafa purchased was Brusally Oraba. She was by the national champion race horse *Orzel and out of the Oaks Winner Abhazja by derby winning Omar II out of the fabulous Arfa.





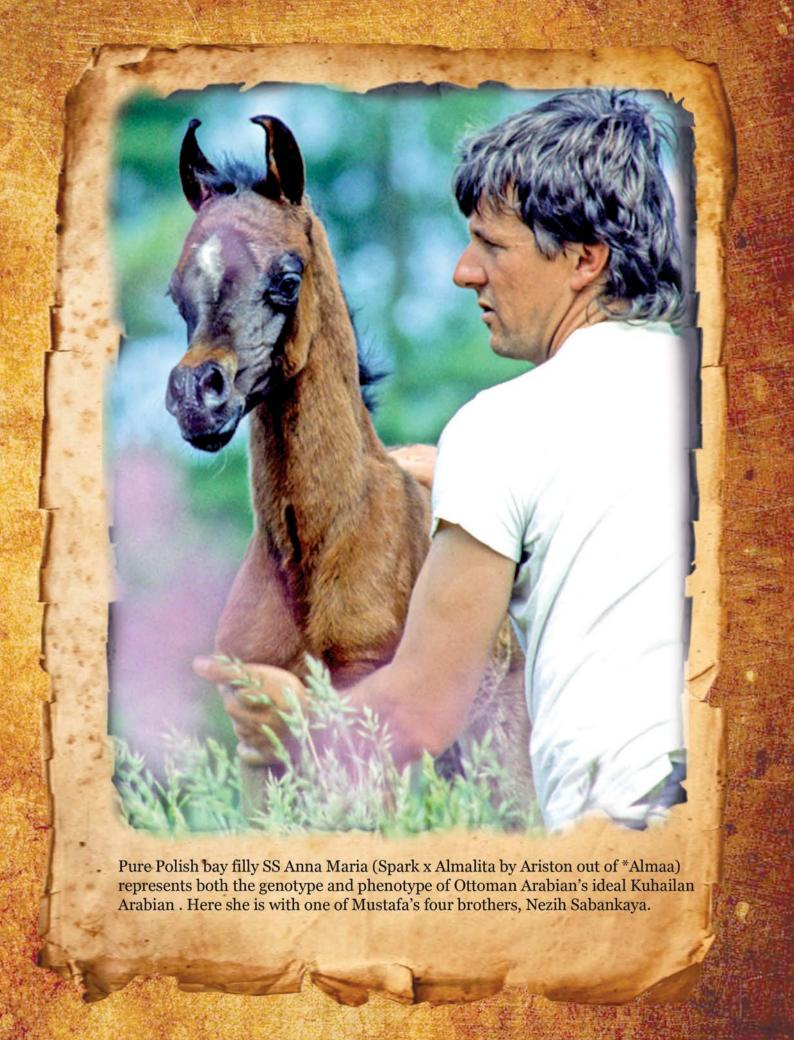
Left: *Bask, son of Witraz and sire of Ariston and Gdansk, among many other successful show horses. Right: Arfa, full sister to *Bask



Fitz Janny (*Sambor x *Tryncza by Tripolis with Ariston filly at side)



Palalaika (*Sambor x Halaliencandesent by *Bask out of Comet daughter)



Next, he purchased two *Orzel daughters out of fantastic race mares, with one being Brusally Oraba of the Arfa tail female line through the Oaks winning Abhazja and the other being Brusally Orenka, out of Daszenka by Tripolis out of Kazma by the infamous Kazmir.

In 1984, Mustafa felt very fortunate to have obtained whom he considers to be the best *Banat daughter of all, *Venetiaa by *Banat out of *Widawa by Gwarny (bred by Patricia Lindsay of Stocking Farm, United Kingdom). It is worth mentioning here that *Widawa also produced Warmia by Comet, who, in turn foaled Wizjia by *El Paso who became one of the most popular US National champion mares of all time. To date, like *Almaa, *Venetiaa has turned out to be one of Ottoman Arabians' best producers over the vears, as Ottoman Arabians currently has her blood showing up all over the place in its most marketable contemporary foals.

Although Ottoman Arabians purchased these two older Faher daughters, Mustafa was unfortunately unable to get them in foal due to their old ages. Mustafa said he felt very honored to have them on the farm, nonetheless.





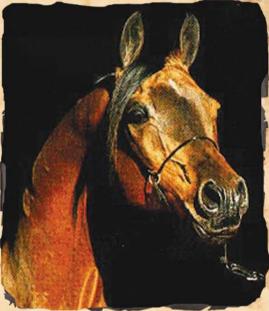


Top to bottom: Brusally Orenka, *Venitiaa, and left to right *Chlosta, and *Garufa



*Danina was a Classic Pure Polish 1967 chestnut mare by Chazar xout of Druchna by Rozmaryn--racing blood top and bottom of her pedigree. Even though she had a rather large, plain head, she was shown here age 16 yrs with a spectaculal body and motion for her age. She is of the Semrie tail female line. Unfortunately, after much effort, Ottoman Arabians was not able to get her in foal, just like the Faher daughters.







Seeking the blood of Kuhailan Afas (better known as the sireline of Comet) to combine with the blood of Kuhailan Haifi, Mustafa purchased two Probat daughters, Elmona out of Elektroda out of the Faher daughter, Elka, and Fosa PASB out of Finezia by Gedymin the Gwarny son and out of Fama by Nabor. Probat was a very wonderfully bred horse with Kuhailan Afas on the top of his pedigree and Kuhailan Haifi and Kuhailan Zaid on the bottom. Probat was a sire that produced very beautiful get, however it was the experience of Ottoman Arabians and other breeders within the states that the Probat daughters, themselves, were not necessarily potent reproducers. While their get were correct, the foals did not possess the same level of breathtaking beauty the Probat daughters had. For this reason, Mustafa made the difficult decision of selling them back to Europe after just a few years. Denis Shoukens took them back to Europe, where each of them became national champion

Counter-clockwise from top: *Danina, Fosa PASB, Elmona, and Probat mares in France and Belgium respectively.

*Carycyn was one of the best-bred Comet sons. Of special interest for Ottoman Arabians, he was Kuhailan bred top and bottom multiple times with Kuhailan Afas on top and Kuhailan Haifi on the bottom. Despite believing the pedigree does not make the horse (he believes the horse makes the pedigree), Mustafa said he was willing to purchase this mare by pedigree, alone. Cyreta (out of a Celebes daughter named *Atena out of a Pietuszok daughter named Ala, who was out of a Witraz daughter named Alga). Cyreta had additional Kuhailan Zaid blood on the bottom. As a mare, Cyreta was correct but average in type, with nothing special, but nothing wrong, to note about her. Fortunately, she turned out to be a very good producer for Ottoman Arabians; with Spark, Cyreta produced two very large, strong mares named SS Sparks Amore and SS Andria.



Top to bottom: Cyreta (Carycyn x *Atena by Celebes) and a section of the Ottoman Arabians' herd runs from one pasture to the next.

ast Thoughts On Collecting Mares...

Mustafa points out that not everyone has an unlimited budget with which to go out and collect million dollar mares overnight. And even if one had the money, selecting mares based on the number of trophies they or thier ascendants have won at the shows does not assure a consistent genotype. The truth is, selecting mares can be a long, painstaking process, but it can also be pleasurable and rewarding to find just the right bloodlines and individuals within those lines to meet a program's long-term goals. It took the Sabankaya family 40 years of very hard work, study, and experimentation to get to the point of feeling confident that they have a world-class broodmare band made of just the right phenotype and concentrated genotype with which to move forward into the future. It is deeply rewarding to know that such efforts will be enjoyed for generations to come.



Hallion Selection...

As mentioned earlier, once the decision was made to line breed to Kuhailan Haifi, there was no choice but to work through his grandsons, Witraz and Wielki Szlem, because this was as close as one could get to him, genetically speaking. Although they were 7/8 full siblings, they were two completely different horses. Contrary to Wielki Szlem, Witraz was hot and blowy, and his progeny did not excel in racing. As stated earlier, Mustafa - Celebes daughters collected granddaughters) with the idea of line breeding them to *Bask++ sons (Witraz grandsons) so that he could combine the blood of Kuhailan Haifi. He began searching for the most proven *Bask++ sons possible. Due to their dam lines, Ariston and Gdansk+ were chosen for this purpose. Ariston's dam, Amfibia, was both national top 10 halter and park horse, and she was by Sedziwoj, who was one of the best race horses of that era, always running neck to neck with Sabellina. Sedziwoj also sired Kluszyn, out of Kochana, the Wielki Szlem daughter, who was a memorable park horse. (By the way, Ottoman Arabians obtained the Sabellina blood through her son, *Sambor.) Gdansk+'s dam, *Gdynia++, was said to be one of Dr. LaCroix's favorite mares. Like her son, she halter and performance championships in the show ring.







Wielki Szlem





Witraz

Celebes



Negatraz







Ariston



Port Bask



Gdansk+



Promotion

ttoman Arabians First Two Foals

Mustafa liked Ariston so much, he purchased 10% of his syndication shares the moment he was first syndicated. Because he could not wait for the cross to take place, he decided to purchase a two-year old Ariston daughter from Tom Chauncey's public action to breed to Gdansk+... which he did as soon as she turned three years old, and the resulting foal was Spark (see opposite page). Mustafa already had a good idea how Gdansk+ was crossing with more Witraz blood, because he had already bred him to his first mare, *Daalda Cama, and received a big, gorgeous mare whom he named to honor the Celebes/*Bask++ cross: her name was Celebaska.

As depicted in the photo below, Celebaska appeared to have inherited more of the Siglawi characteristics in her pedigree than the Kuhailan, especially those of her sire, Gdansk+, and great grandsire, Aquinor.



Aquinor



Gdansk+



Celebaska (Gdansk+ x *Daalda Cama by Celebes out of Camorra by Aquinor out of Comet's full sister, Canberra)

Because Spark's parents were both flea-bitten greys and did not look like Spark (Witraz phenotype) Mustafa saw Spark as a throwback to one of his grandparents, meaning that Spark did not resemble either of his parents and was a throwback to the Kuhailan-type horses far back in his pedigree, such as Witraz. In fact, while at the US Arabian Horse Nationals when Mustafa showed Spark's photograph to Mr. Roman Pankiewicz, world renown authority and author on Polish Arabian bloodlines, breeder of *Bask, and handler and trainer of Witraz, he exclaimed loudly, "Witraz! Witraz!" He did not speak English, but his reaction to the photograph confirmed Mustafa's belief that Spark was a throwback to Witraz. This view was confirmed when Mustafa began breeding Spark in 1986 and saw that Spark was consistently passing down the Witraz look to his foals. They were primarily black/bay in color with very thick, long forelocks, manes, and tails. They had short heads, large nostrils



All photos on this page: Spark (Gdansk x Arista Blanca)

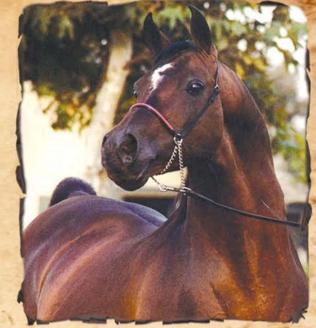
with charcoal-colored teacup muzzles, wide-set, liquid eyes, long well shaped necks, prominent withers, short backs, deep heart girths, wide strong loins, high-set tails, large joints, long, ground-covering strides, and, the icing on the cake, short, tight, hooky ears, which Mustafa believes came from Kuhailan Haifi!

Because he continued to linebreed to Kuhailan Haifi through Spark, the type has now been "set" in Ottoman Arabian's breeding program, and this is the phenotype for which Ottoman Arabians is becoming most known today. Ottoman Arabians has hundreds of his progeny.



Ariston was chosen because of his mother more than anything else. *Amfibia was a world-class mare with sufficient motion and Arabian type to earn national top ten awards in both to park and halter. She was known to have one of the longest strides of any horse, including thoroughbreds, that anyone had ever seen. Like his mother, Ariston had a spectacular carriage with strong, snappy hocks that reached up well underneath his body, which consisted of a well sprung-out barrel like that of a pregnant mare, very good shoulder, prominent withers, and a neck that earned him the reputation of having one of the best necks in the business. He also had a very masculine, protruding breast bone, causing his neck to appear as though it came out of his body much higher than it actually did, like that of a rooster. Another characteristic about Ariston Mustafa remembers most fondly about the horse was that his skin was as thin and coat as shiny as silk-he never grew a winter coat.

his strengths came But with his shortcomings, which included less than perfect front legs (slightly offset knees with twisted tendons) and his back was a bit longer than ideal with rather loose coupling. His known to have were temperaments, but were consistently head shy. They inherited his beautiful, large liquid eye, long neck, and fantastic hock movement. Unfortunately, the front leg and coupling issues did make their appearance into the next generation, making him a true consistent breeding horse, good and bad. He



Ariston



Morwa (Wielki Szlem x Mordzana by Kazmir) nicknamed "the tank," dam of Arista Blanca

lived late into his twenties, being fertile to the last of his days. Ottoman Arabians bred to Ariston numerous times, ending up with 27 of his daughters. His sons were all gelded.

Left to Right: Almalita (Ariston x *Almaa by *Krezus out of Aranda), dam of SS Anna Maria on previous pages; *Triple-A-Celeta (Celebes x Harta) and her Ariston daughter, Arista Celeste; Arista Blanca (Ariston x Morwa)







Gdansk+ was a perfect example of the well known Comet-Witraz cross, from which most of the world's best park horses came. He and his full brother, Cognac, were both national champion park horses. And they produced national champion park horses. Gdansk+ was line bred to Amurath Sahib on both sides of his pedigree and therefore looked quite a bit like him. He had a long, upright neck with a flat topline. He was narrow between the front legs and had the fullest and longest mane and tail. Dr. LaCroix said that Gdansk was possibly his favorite *Bask++ son, and this is not something to take lightly, as there were about 500 *Bask++ sons around at the time. Mustafa feels he was blessed to have the opportunity to use Gdansk+ with his mares to get closer to his dream of recreating the Kuhailan horse. He kept nine Gdansk+ daughters and one Gdansk+ son, which was Spark, gelding at least one dozen colts.

As a breeding horse, Gdansk+ seemed to throw foals of distinct type depending upon their color-the beys tended to look more like Wielki Szlem (except for Spark, who looked more like Witraz) while the grevs looked much more like himself. The foals received Gdansk+'s long hair, something Spark definitely inherited and passed on consistently to his own foals. Unlike the Ariston horses, the Gdansk+ horses are not known to be as head shy or ticklish, however, they have earned a reputation within the industry for being "tough minded." Mustafa is sure to point out, however, that when treated properly, they do just fine.

Above: Last Dansk (Gdansk x Arista Blanca), full sister to Spark, shown here two days after foaling at age 26 years old; Left: Defina (Gdansk x Sir Wms Daambra by *Sambor); Right: Spark (Gdansk x Arista Blanca).



Gdansk











*Menes (Nabeg x Metropolia by Priboj out of Mammona) with his good friend, Director Alexander Ponomarev in Russia

Mustafa became very active in the American Arabian horse industry in the late 1970's to late 1980's. He served as promotional director for Ariston and Gdansk and was shortly after offered a position to manage the promotions of *Menes, working hand to hand with Michael Weinstein, who is one of the world's best connoisseurs of Arabian horse type and loved *Menes, Mustafa says, more than life, itself. Mustafa believed that *Menes had a very unusual skull structure, which he described as having the shortest head with the widest set eyes that were humungous, popping out of very prominent eye sockets. This combined with a very flat forehead made his head one of a kind and one that could be spotted from a distance even in the fourth generation-as Mustafa can see at Ottoman Arabians. In addition, *Menes was very fine skinned with a shiny coat covering a typical Arax body. The structure of his body and large size of eye definitely came from Arax... The length of *Menes' body compared to his height and width were just perfect according to Mustafa. *Menes also had broad, strong loins.



Balatone -



Kubinec



El Nabila

And it goes without saying that *Menes had a strong influence over the look of the Arabian horse through three successful generations of his progeny--world champion Balaton (his son), world champion Kubinec (Balaton's son), and Brazilian and US national champion El Nabila (Kubinec's son), just to name a few. There were also dozens of other champions worldwide. It is unusual to find a stallion that sires both outstanding males and females, but *Menes is an exception to this. Ottoman Arabians used *Menes on a small selection of mares, ending up with two, SS Vanessa out of Venetiaa (Banat x Widawa) and SS Caressa out of SS Caramel (Ariston x *Daalda Cama). The strongest presence of *Menes blood in Ottoman Arabians today comes through SS Vanessa's son, SS Volkan by Spark, was bred to his own sister, SS Raven (Spark x Lalechka by *Aladdinn), creating a colt named SS Velocity. SS Velocity is no doubt one of the all-time superstar breeding stallions of Ottoman Arabians, so much so that Ottoman Arabians bred over 40 mares to him between 2010-2012.

Clockwise top to bottom: SS Vanessa (*Menes x *Venetiaa by *Banat), SS Volkan (Spark x SS Vanessa by *Menes), SS Velocity (SS Volkan x SS Raven by Spark), SS Raven (Spark x Lalechka by *Aladdinn)









This cross created a band of future broodmares the likes of which no one has ever seen. They have the *Menes phenotype described above, with bulging eyes and protruding eve sockets on short heads with wide-set foreheads. They all have short, tight, curly ears that are the result of more Kuhailan blood added to *Menes' blood. Perhaps the most unique characteristic all of the SS Velocity daughters share is their very short backs with big barrels and outstanding tail-sets and carriage. The first year Ottoman Arabians tested SS Velocity with only a few mares, but when the foals came out with such equisite *Menes type and strong bodies with extraordinarily short backs, the decision was made to breed SS Velocity to dozens more mares the following year in preparation of having sufficient appropriate mares to cross with the Ajman Monscione blood. At the time this article was written, two of the SS Velocity daughters have already had foals by Ottoman Arabians' Ajman son, Calypso OS, with great success (see colt SS A Lot of Bask and filly SS Calypso's Thundergirl on subsequent pages).



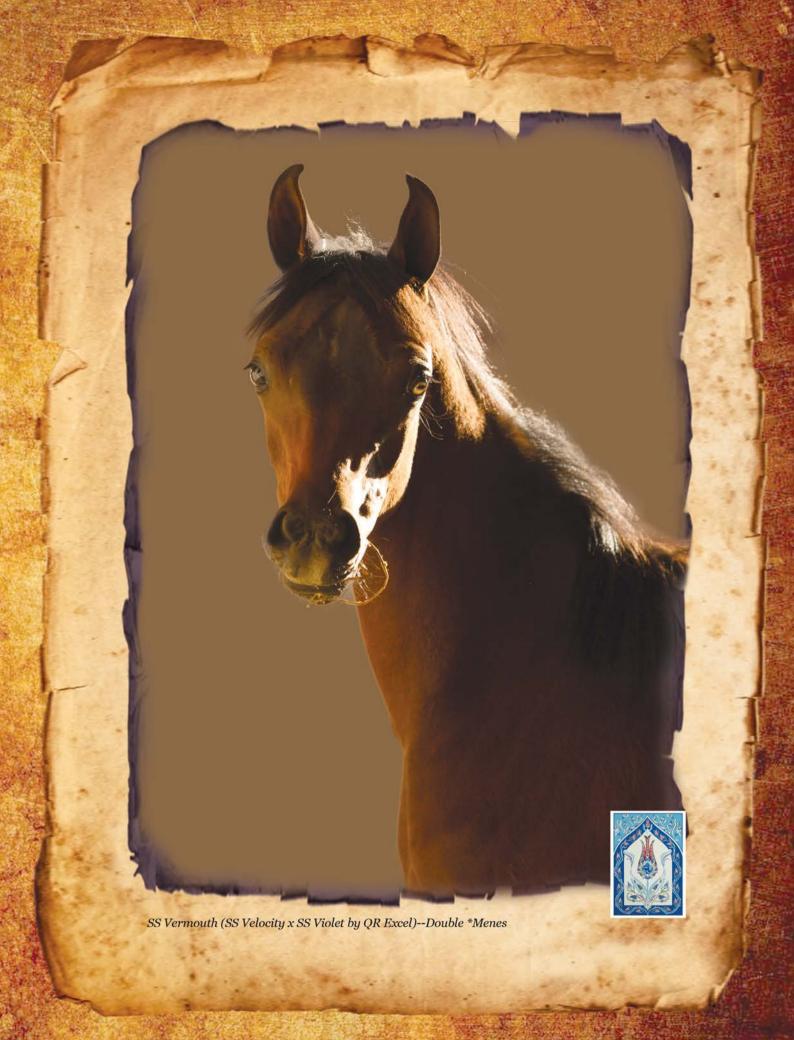
SS Melih (SS Velocity x SS Meleka by SS Thunderbolt by Spark)

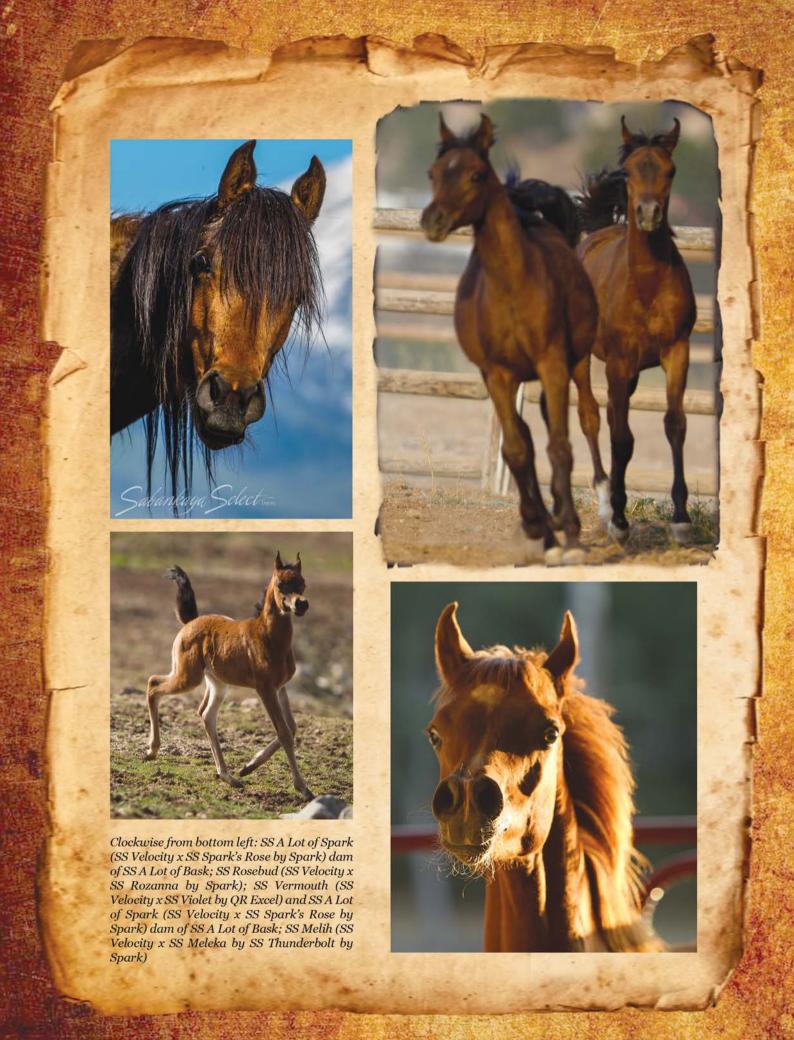


SS A Lot of Spark (SS Velocity x SS Spark's Rose by Spark)

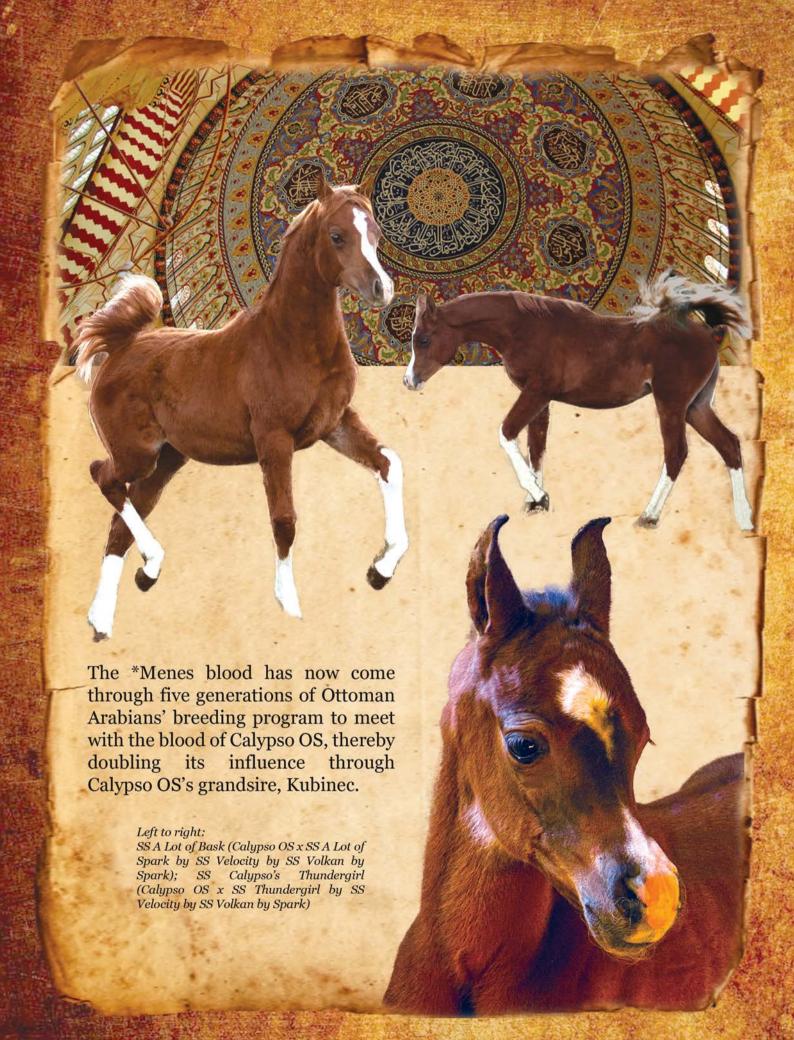


SS Van Gogh (SS Velocity x SS Victoria by SS Alexander by Spark)







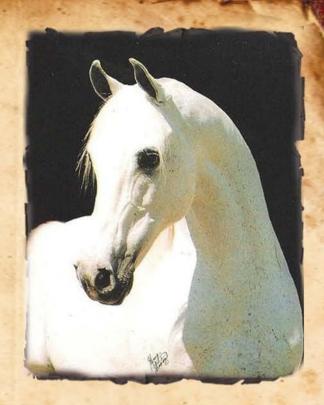


In an attempt to line breed to Kuhailan Haifi. Mustafa looked everywhere for the blood of Witraz and Wielki Szlem. It just so happened that one of the best horses of our times in the USA happened to be out of the best Witraz daughter of all, Karramba, and his name was *Karadjordje+++. He was bred by Patricia Lindsay of the United Kingdom. According to Mustafa, he had absolutely the best barrel, shoulder, and the highest and longest neck anyone had ever seen. He was a true moving machine! His legs were absolutely the model of perfection with the driest and strongest bone one could imagine. His cannon bones were extremely short with hocks and knees set very low. His tail carriage and attitude was well known by everyone who had seen him. His sire was Ilderim, but it was his dam, especially, that interested Mustafa. Karramba! *Karadjordje+++'s sire was a very handsome, athletic horse that competed in eventing. Ottoman Arabians leased him in 1991 and covered a moderate portion of the herd with him, ending up with a spectacular group of females with which to breed on.

Although he sired foals of different colors, *Karadjordje+++ stamped his foals with his outstanding qualities. At Ottoman Arabians, he threw blacks, bays, and greys with no chestnuts to speak of. All things being considered, however, his head and the heads of his foals would likely not be of sufficient Arabian type to be competitive in today's show ring. But, the ears remain small and tight, beautifully curled inward, eyes were large, and nostrils were tremendous. In Mustafa's mind, the *Karadjordje+++ horses are the "classic war horse" you see in paintings. They have large barrels, short backs, and surprisingly long, upright necks with clean throatlatches. And can they ever move! Every one of Ottoman Arabians' *Karadjordje+++ daughters are still healthy, fertile, and full of charisma even into their mid twenties. They are all very beautiful in a classic way.



Clockwise from top: *Karadjordje+++ (Gerwazy x Karramba by Witraz); *Karadjordje+++; SS Dorothy (*Karadjordje+++ x *Dazsel by Ariston) at age 23 years; SS Viola (*Karadjordje+++ x *Venetiaa by *Banat) at age 23 years







*Gedymin and *Estragon were the last two Polish stallions leased by Ottoman Arabians to cover its mares in the late 80's, early 90's. *Gedymin was a horse used by the Polish State Stud to continue the Bairactar OA sire line, better known as the Amurath Sahib sire line. He was absolutely beautifully built, with the cleanest legs one can imagine, with perfect barrel, haunches, even though a little heavy in the neck. His best feature was probably the large nostrils he inherited from his dam, Gastronomia. He was a successful race horse in Poland. He was very large but balanced and had a bright, shiny coat. His temperament was very sweet.

*Gedymin was known to create beautiful daughters, although not much has been said about his sons. Upon arriving to Ottoman Arabians, *Gedymin was only able to live cover two to three mares before dying of liver failure, the result of ingesting pesticides sometime in his past. Ottoman Arabians ended up with two *Gedymin daughters that are still alive today. One of them, a flea bitten mare named Flamenka, surprised everyone with a beautiful filly at age 26 years in Dec of 2012—the filly was aptly named SS Jingle Bells.

*Estragon was *Gedymin's son out of Eskapada, the Oueen of Poland, Eskapada was by Naborr out of an Amurath Sahib daughter. This was thought to be the golden cross in Poland. *Estragon raced successfully in Poland 56 times and retired without injury or blemish. Mustafa recalls having a wonderful relationship with the horse while he stayed at Ottoman Arabians. He, Chera, and his brothers would all ride *Estragon bareback (Mustafa in just his Speedo swimsuit) up into the mountains where the mares lived with only a halter or simple snaffle to control him. They would jump down, tease the herd, cover a couple of mares in hand, and then jump back up on him before galloping back down to the barn. He had a strong, ground covering stride that felt like a rocking horse motion. The Sabankaya's say that *Estragon was a true sweetheart.

Unfortunately, although his daughters all looked like him, with strong toplines, they had a masculine appearance to them that may explain why they ended up being mostly infertile the remainder of their lives.

Clockwise from top: *Gedymin (Gwarny x Gastronomia); Flamenka (*Gedymin x Florida by *Elkin), Flamenka at age 26 years with SS Arkadash filly at side named SS Jingle Bells; Nezih Sabankaya riding *Estragon (*Gedymin x Eskapada by Naborr) bareback around the farm.







n Search of Greatness,

Ottoman Arabians Expands its Gene Pool

Looking back in the 1970's and 1980's, Mustafa recalls just about everyone was trying to breed straight this or straight that, and he admits to being guilty of getting caught up in that line of thinking, as well.

It was during that time that Mustafa began thinking maybe it was not such a good idea to be breeding horses within such a narrow genetic scope. One day, while at a Scottsdale show back in the mid 1980's, he saw a grey horse from a distance and completely and immediately fell in love with the whole package: the silhouette, the charisma, and the carriage. Mesmerized by the horse, Mustafa made an effort to find out how the horse was bred. It turned out that the horse was the son of a stallion named Fadjur. When the show was over, Mustafa made arrangements to visit the farm that bred, raised, and owned Fadjur to learn more about the farm's breeding program and meet his breeders.

If one were to look at Fadjur and his progeny, which looks just like him, the phenotype of these horses could be described as having:

- a short head with extreme width between the very large, magically blue-rimmed, liquid eyes (this blue rim being a personal observation of the Sabankaya family over the 30+ years as it comes through consistently in subsequent generations),
- very powerful jowls with plenty of space between the two bottom branches to fit a man's fist,
- · a very broad, powerful, square frame,
- a spectacularly shaped crested neck with generous mid bah, a clean throatlatch that comes out of a very deep, laid back shoulder with extremely prominent withers,
- full, round, heavily muscled haunches like those seen in old masters' paintings,
- and a charisma for life that is contagious to anyone who
 is privileged enough to see such a horse.





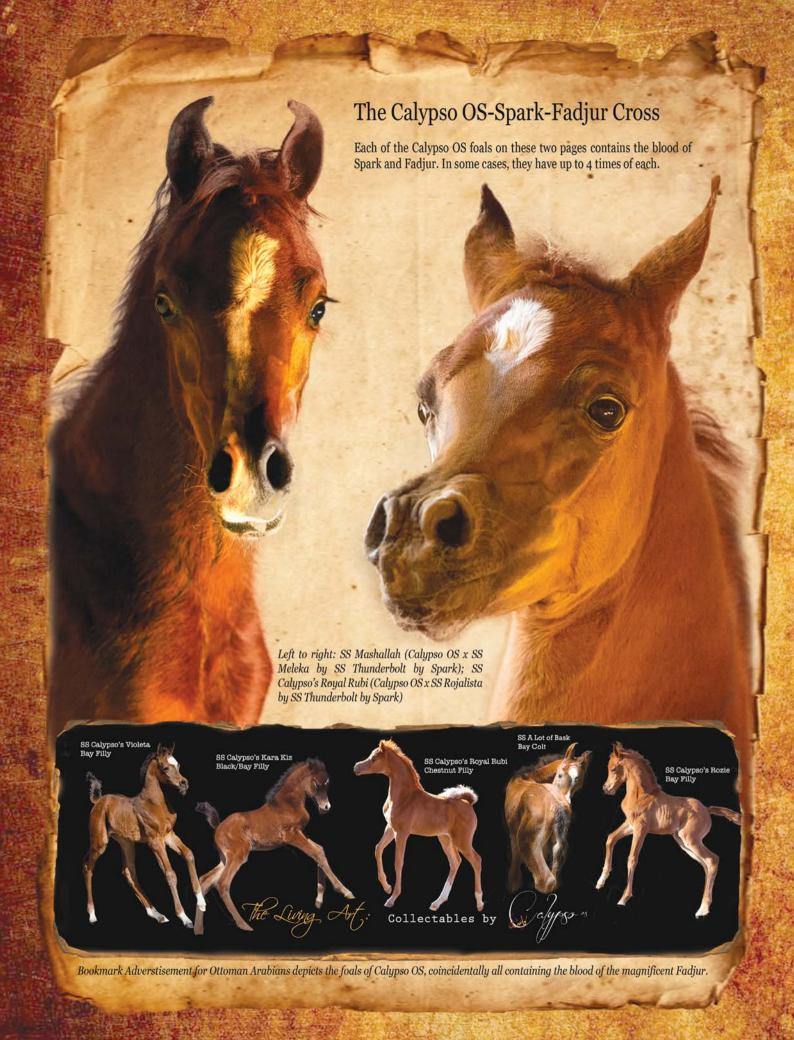
Left to right: Fadjur, Jack & Marge Tone, and Saki

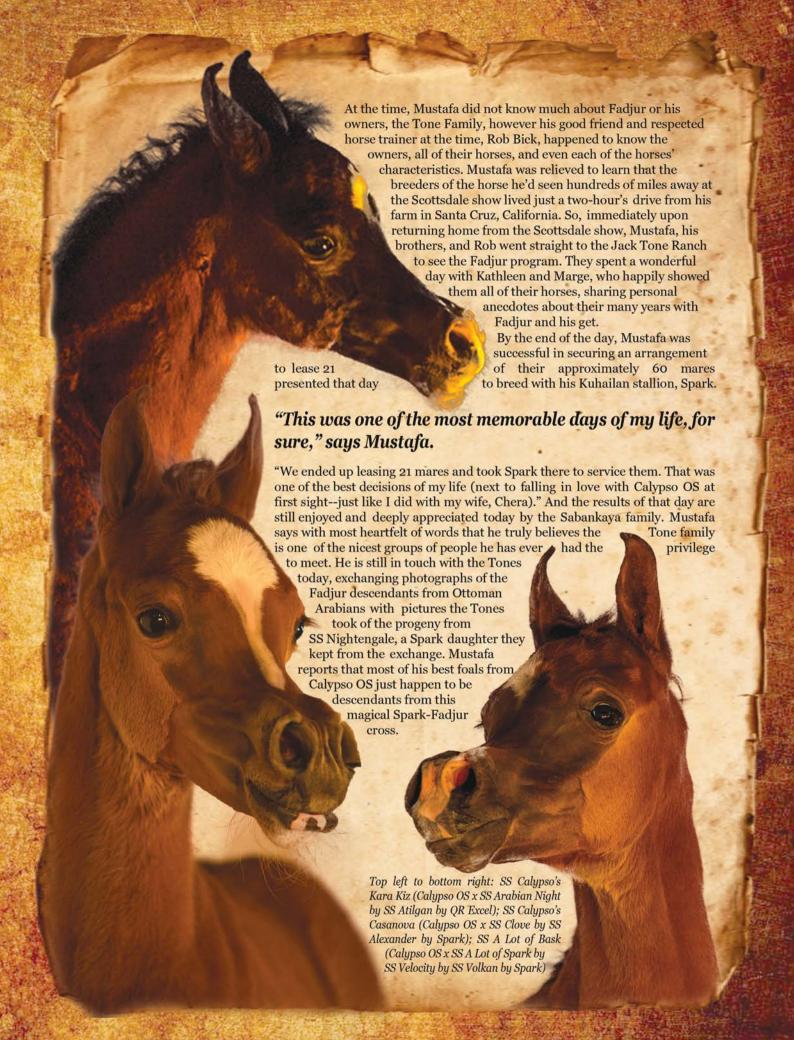


Left to right: SS Cleopatra (Spark x Fadjur's Joi by Fadjur) with David Boggs, SS Alexander (Spark x Fadjur's Beauty by Fadjur) with Ray LaCroix, and SS Kaptivator (Spark x Khazzida by Khazzan+/) with Rob Bick winning Get of Sire Class for Spark (against Monagram, who got second place) at the 1990 Scottsdale Arabian horse show. SS Cleopatra went on to become Belgium National Champion Mare and Bronze Metal Winner at Salon Du Cheval in Paris, France.

Fadjur is coming from the Jellabi strain of the desert, which in a nutshell is known for very strong muscular skeletal structures and was prized by the family of Mohammed Ali the Great. Specifically, Fadjur traces through his grandsire, *Fadl, a Bobson import, back to Ibn Rabdan, a horse known to be perhaps the most influencial sire of the entire Egyptian Arabian horse strain today. One of the best attributes of the Fadjur line had to be its self-carriage. Generation after generation, his progeny certainly have it.

Fadjur happened to be a combination of Egyptian, Polish, and Crabbet bloodlines. That combined with these beautiful attributes caused Mustafa to question the motivation behind his commitment to stay within the narrow, limited gene pool of the Polish bloodlines. Another revelation came to Mustafa when he realized the Polish Studs had been bringing in new outcross blood from horses such as Nazeer via Aswan's sons and daughters (Palas and Parma). Mustafa began to wonder what was the meaning of *Pure Polish*, or even if there was a meaning at all?



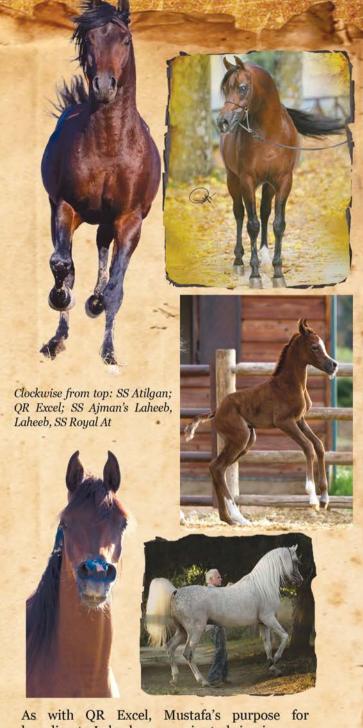


The next two horses he used were QR Excel (Magic Dream CAHR x Kouream De Ment) in 2001 and Laheeb (*Imperial Imdal+ x *AK Latifa) in 2007. QR Excel goes back to the Nazeer sireline through some of the industry's all-time great Egyptian horses, especially *Morafic, a horse Mustafa feels was the most contributing to the entire Arabian breed. *Morafic had extreme Arabian type and attitude. It is Mustafa's opinion that QR Excel did not meet the expectations of the impatient American breeders, because he could not stamp his beautiful type onto his foals in the first generation. However, Mustafa is pleased with the seven daughters he received from the outcross breedings.

Mustafa decided not to geld one of the QR Excel colts, a tall, elegant, dark bay horse with only the smallest white star at the center of his forehead named SS Atilgan (out of SS Alexandrea by SS Alexander out of a double Fadjur mare named Fadjur's Beauty by Spark). Much bigger than his sire and with much more motion, SS Atilgan is not quite as exotic in the head as QR Excel. SS Atilgan did provide Mustafa with unforeseen future strategic possibilities regarding his homozygous bay genetic makeup, which is coming in handy as Mustafa attempts to pull out the Kuhailan traits while reducing some of the whiite makings from Calypso OS's pedigree. For this reason, Mustafa bred many mares to SS Atilgan the past few years in preparation of crossing them with Calypso.

Like SS Atilgan, his daughters are very well proportioned, tall, and sporty. They also have chiseled faces with expansive nostrils. With the oldest foal crop of SS Atilgan daughters being born in 2008, they have proven themselves to be good producers. Shown here is SS Royal At by SS Atilgan out of SS Rojalista (SS Thunderbolt x Rubie by MS Elusion). She is three times Spark and five times Fadjur.

One example of the patience Mustafa was talking about in his comment above is when he could not get the type he had hoped from QR Excel, he bred SS Atilgan to one of his paternal sisters, SS Caranfil (by QR Excel out of SS Cinnamen by Spark out of Celebes/Ariston bred mare), resulting in the foaling of SS Arabian Night, a black/bay elegant filly. While she was very nice, SS Araabian Night still did not have the extreme type Mustafa was hoping for, so he bred her to Calypso OS in order to linebred her to Nazeer. The resulting filly, born spring of 2014, SS Calypso's Kara Kizz (meaning the black girl in Turkish) had everything Mustafa had hoped for. This is the patience he is referring to that most breeders today do not seem to have, unfortunately.



As with QR Excel, Mustafa's purpose for breeding to Laheeb was, again, to bring in more Nazeer blood (Laheeb crosses nine times to Nazeer), and Laheeb also had an extreme bottomline containing such horses as Moniet El Nefous by *Morafic. From the cross Ottoman Arabians has one very nice colt and two super daughters, one of which produced a beautiful Ajman Moniscione filly in 2012 named SS Ajman's Laheeb, who was imported to Norway by a very serious breeder, Talat Abunima and his family, of Al Fares Arabians. These two Laheeb daughters are classic individuals niching very nicely with the Ajman and Calypso blood.

he New Era of ottoman analians

Ajman Moniscione and his son, Calypso OS, were the most recent horses to be outcrossed with the Ottoman Arabian mares, and based on the results thus far, it appears this volatile genetic combination will have positive effects reaching far into the future of Ottoman Arabians. It all started quite by coincidence, really, while Mustafa and Chera were sitting around the wood oven on the patio hosting the overnight visit of an old-time friend and fellow California Arabian horse breeder, Inga Applequist, and her two good friends, Ricardo and Riyan Rivero, then married international trainer and horse marketer, respectively. It turned out Ricardo and Riyan had just returned to the US from a worldwide tour visiting the world's major Arabian horse farms. Intrigued, Mustafa spoke with them about their trip, asking specifically if they had run into any up-and-coming Arabian stallions putting consistent type on the heads of their foals. Rivan replied that although they did not actually see any, personally, word had it there was a horse named Ajman in Europe somewhere who was earning a reputation for siring extreme type, and it was her understanding that someone in Scottsdale was working as his agent. Mustafa immediately got to work, researching the horse on the Internet, consulting with his contacts, and analyzing Ajman's pedigree. To his surprise, Ajman was not just another progenitor of the *Padron/Aswan sireline, as he had assumed, but he traced back rather quickly to a mare named Margerita 1976 (Cognac x Spring Basket by *Bask, out of a Witez II daughter on the bottom). Mustafa could not believe his eyes-he found a horse with extreme Arabian type that was carrying Kuhailan Haifi blood more than any other horse he had seen in a long time! In fact, Ajman had at least 15 crosses to Kuhailan Haifi that Mustafa could see, right away! Mustafa was convinced Ajman would be the most ideal cross for his Kuhailan Haifi-bred mares and prayed he could give them the finishing phenotypical touches Mustafa was seeking. It was not long before Mustafa connected with the owners of Ajman and purchased 20 breedings to him. A new era had began for Ottoman Arabians!

While in Europe attending the 2010 Salon Du Cheval Arabian Horse World Championships, Mustafa and his friend of many years, Kit Hall, drove through a treacherous snowstorm to see Ajman at the Osterhof Stud in Germany. Mustafa was hoping to see Ajman in order to really get to know him up close and personally so that he could better decide which mares to breed to him. It happened to be a dark, gloomy, December afternoon when Kit and Mustafa arrived—one of the





Ajman Moniscione

worst winter storms Europe had experienced in many years. After a very stressful trip from Paris to Germany, they were welcomed warmly and offered some strong, hot coffee from Heinz Stöckle and his lovely wife. After they warmed up, Heinz took them for a tour of the stables to see Ajman as well as the other horses he had there. There was much anticipation built up for seeing Ajman and the exotic type for which he had become known, and he did not disappoint. Both Mustafa and Kit agree that Ajman deserved the international reputation he had earned as having the most exotic head. His beauty was absolutely breathtaking.

Next, Heinz offered to take Mustafa and Kit down the isle way to look at some of the foals by Ajman and various other stallions. The very first stall they came to happened to be outside the glow of the nearby aisle way lights. Mustafa says he was straining to see what was behind the bars of the stall, and before his eyes had a chance to adjust, he was startled by the palpable, dominating presence of a confident little foal that stepped forward from the darkness as if to check him out. The foal was just over two months old and was completely hidden under a thick, fuzzy winter coat to a point that Mustafa had to palpate Calypso to find out how tightly coupled he was.

Mustafa asked Heinz who the colt was by, to which Heinz answered nonchalantly, "Ajman." At that



moment, Mustafa thought to himself, this must be how Mr. Bogdan Zientarski felt when he first saw Kuhailan Haifi—when he said his knees buckled underneath him and he felt he was about to faint. From that precise moment in time, Mustafa knew this was a horse he had to have. The appearance of this colt would have been enough to justify his purchase, but when Mustafa was able to review his pedigree later that day, he could see that not only did the colt trace back to the legendary Mammona, but he had her in his pedigree nine more times, for a total of ten! Mustafa simply could not believe such a colt could exist! He said he had to pinch himself to make sure it was not just a dream.

Of course, for those who have been following Ottoman Arabians these past few years, there is no doubt this little colt was the one and only Calypso OS. Mustafa purchased him that same night, making Calypso's the fastest purchase he has ever made. Because Calypso was not old enough to breed, an arrangement was made with Heinz allowing him to show Calypso in Europe and the Middle East for the next year and a half (at his expense). The Sabankaya's attended every one of his 13 shows during that time. He competed across Europe and the Middle East, winning many Gold, Silver, and Bronze Jr. Colt Championships along with the 2 Year Old Colt Prettiest Head Award at the 2012 European Championships in Belgium. One of his most memorable achievements was in Dubai 2012, when he earned the second highest score of the entire show with 93 pts-just .5 pt behind both Pianisima and QR Marc, who tied with 93.5 pts!



After being invited by Al Khalediah Stud to compete in his last show, where he placed 2nd out of 22 two-yr-old colts at the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Arabian Horse Festival in Saudi Arabia in January 2013, he finally came home to live with the Sabankaya family, taking his rightful place as the new herd sire of Ottoman Arabians.

In 2012, Ottoman Arabians' mares foaled six fillies and three colts by Ajman Moniscione and the foals were just what Mustafa had hoped they would be, possessing the sound structure and powerful motion of Spark's Polish heritage as well as the world renowned extreme Arabian type of Ajman Moniscione. Of the six fillies, two of them were sold and exported within months. The first filly, SS Selebrajman (out of SS Excelebration by QR Excel out of SS Selebration by Spark), was purchased by Dr. Tarig Enava from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (see pictures of her in Ottoman Arabian's August 2013 Tutto advertisement). Dr. Enava showed her at the Addington Show in the UK, where she tied for the first place, ultimately placing second. The second filly was purchased and imported to Norway by the Sabankaya's dear friend, and definitely one of the most promising new breeders in the world, Talat, Lisa, and their lovely daughter, Celina Abunima of Al Fares Arabians. Ottoman Arabians is deeply honored to have Al Fares Arabians choose its bloodstock as a foundation for its new breeding program.

Ottoman Arabians' 2014 advertisement campaign promoting Calypso's foals denotes the Sabankaya's belief that breeding is an art, something to be appreciated and mastered with years of practice and experimentation. And as such, the Calypso foals are labeled as "Collectibles." His foals are demonstrating faces even prettier than his own in some cases, with long, arching necks, large, expressive, liquid eyes, small, curly ears (that one can find nowhere else), high tail carriage (mostly up, over the back) and never-ending charisma--just like Calypso's. The are all inheriting his skull shape and long flaxen manes and tails, even the bays have flaxen hairs in their manes and under their tails. Some are also getting his white markings, yet due to his bay gene, he is also siring dark bay foals with little or no white. Mustafa says with great confidence that Calypso is stamping his foals and they will surely dominate the show ring as soon as they are old enough to be shown, and he says he will guarantee" this.

As with the family of Mohammed Ali the Great, the Sabankaya family of Ottoman Arabians are hoping that their hard work of breeding Arabian horses will be appreciated for centuries to come.