



^{SS} LA BELLA

WHO IS ^{SS} LA BELLA
AND WHY SHE IS OTTOMAN ARABIANS'
Pianissima?

by Chera Sabankaya



Above: Two-time Triple Crown Winner, Pianissima (Gazal Al Shaqab x Pianosa) photo: Marta Baranowska; Opposite page: SS La Bella (Calypso OS x EF Bella Contessa by QR Excel) and Philippe Hosay win the yearling filly silver championship at the Menton Show (France 2018), photo: Mustafa Sabankaya.



SS LA BELLA

PIANISSIMA

An Icon of Polish



Pianissima is an icon of Polish beauty that is aspired to by Polish breeders throughout the world. Bred and owned by Janów Podlaski Stud, she was born January 13, 2003, and passed away of colic on October 17, 2015. Her physical life on this planet was cut tragically short, but her legacy set the standard for correctness and type that will go on forever in history books and in the hearts of Polish breeding programs all over the world, including Ottoman Arabians.

To Mustafa Sabankaya of Ottoman Arabians, Pianissima was a symbol of more than just her horse show achievements and estimated financial worth. Like Trela said, she was the result of a long-term, dedicated breeding program that adhered to strict breeding principles. Always the history buff and once promotional director of historic Polish sires Gdansk and Ariston, Mustafa was inducted into the Arabian horse industry captivated by the Polish studs.

Line-breeding to the same foundation stock and monitoring the outcomes and interpretations of the Polish breeding masters for the next 41 years, Mustafa created an impromptu parallel program in the US. One of the genetic formulas Mustafa followed was the classic Kuhailan Haifi/Nazeer cross, which created the refined, feminine Kuhailan phenotype we see expressed in SS La Bella and Pianissima.



AN ICON OF OUR BREEDING...

Marek Trela, director of Janow Stud, talked about Pianissima in a February 2009 interview with Tutto Arabi Magazine

Tutto Arabi: After thirty years of your work in Janów, the stud achieved a historical success breeding a mare that has beaten all the score records at the shows she competed in. Also, she has become the only horse to have gained the Triple Crown (All Nations Cup and European and World Championships) twice--as a junior and senior mare. In addition to that, she has twice been the Polish National Champion, US National Champion, and Al Khalediah Festival Champion Mare.

Is Pianissima your biggest breeding achievement?

Marek Trela: Pianissima is a horse that is born once in an entire generation or maybe not even that often, proof of which are her results at the shows. She is also a very pleasant horse. Her individual success is, of course, a reason to be proud for our entire Polish breeding not only for Janów stud, especially as she has beaten her rivals in an unparalleled way, being chosen champion unanimously at every show she appeared at, as far as I remember. She is a very special horse and there is no doubt that we will not have Pianissimas born every year at Janów's barns. We are blessed that a horse like that was born in our time. ... She is a kind of icon of our breeding at the moment.

top and bottom opposite page: Marek Trela, director of Janow Stud, proudly presents Poland's Queen, Pianissima; photos by: A. Pyzara and Raf Rafał Guz. right: SS La Bella's feminine beauty and world-class graceful silhouette appear even under her cooler as she walks with her loving groom Melissa Van Genechten in the warm up arena at the 2018 All Nations Cup, where Mustafa prefers to capture moments like this of the horses in their natural, relaxed moments; photo: Mustafa Sabankaya



FINALLY

A CALYPSO BABY IN THE SHOW RING!

SS La Bella ("Bella") may be just one of the many beautiful little Arabian fillies in the yearling classes of this year's Menton, Aachen, and Paris shows, but her arrival to the European show ring this year is significant. Ever since Mustafa and Chera Sabankaya of Ottoman Arabians imported Bella's young sire, "Calypso" OS (Ajman Moniscione x AB Nastrapsy by Psytadel), to the United States to breed their herd of over 200 Kuhailan mares, European breeders, trainers, and judges around the world have all been anxiously waiting to see his babies in the flesh.

This is because Calypso, himself, did very well in these shows when he competed between the ages of 9 months and 2 years old. He earned six high points, five golds, two silvers, three bronzes, and a Best Head award. Most notably, he earned 93 points in Dubai 2012, the second highest score of the entire show, just 0.5 point behind adult world champions Pianissima and QR Marc, who tied with the high score of 93.5 points.

But the plan was only to show him until he was old enough to breed, so the moment he finished the Al Khalediah show January 2013, he went home to Ottoman Arabians in California.

If you got to see Calypso in the flesh, it was either as a foal at Gestüt Osterhof in Weitnau, Germany or as he traveled throughout Europe and the Middle East during his 2011-2013 show campaign. But you have not seen him since—no one has—because he has been living a life of peaceful seclusion, running free with his mares and foals among 1,000 irrigated and forested acres in the high desert mountains of Northern California. Since arriving, Calypso has sired five sizable foal crops under the ever-calculating, scientific eye of Mustafa. For three years, Mustafa had theories about how Calypso might cross with his Kuhailan mares, which the Sabankaya's wrote about in previous Tutto Arabi articles, but no one expected the consistency or magnitude with which the blood would cross.

At his first show in Blommeröd 2011, many people were affected by Calypso's charisma and beautiful Arabian type, some to the extent they became emotional, got tears in their eyes! Something the Sabankaya's had never seen before. One of the women affected by Calypso during that show was Carina Söderström, who said,

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



above: Calypso OS earns the gold at his first show (Blommeröd 2011), from left to right: breeder, Heinz Stockle of Osterhof Stud, loving handler and friend, Katrien Vandycke, and owners, Mustafa & Chera Sabankaya of Ottoman Arabians. photo: Franc Cibois
opposite top: SS La Bella put on a memorable show for the enthusiastic crowd with Alcides Rodrigues at Midwest Training Center's open barn presentation during the Scottsdale Show (Feb 2018), photo: Mustafa Sabankaya



As the breeder of Calypso OS, I am more than proud of him as a sire. With his daughter, SS La Bella, he has one of the most beautiful fillies right now in Europe and in the world. SS La Bella was announced silver champion yearling filly 2018 at the toughest show in the world.... The All Nations Cup. As most of the breeders know, Calypso OS is out of AB Nastrapsy, which was the best producing brood mare in our life at our stud. She produced one by one international show champions. After all of Calypso OS' show success, I believed he could produce something very special, like himself, and now he has done it!! Congratulations to his owners, Mustafa & Chera Sabankaya!! I used Calypso OS in 2017 for my breeding and I got an outstanding filly born 2018 that will surely be shown in 2019.

Best of luck,
Osterhof Stud
Heinz Stoeckle

UNUSUAL QUALITY AND CONSISTENCY

KUHAILAN TYPE

**UNTIL SS LA BELLA
ARRIVED TO EUROPE
APRIL 2018, FEW PEOPLE
GOT TO SEE CALYPSO'S
FOALS IN PERSON. BUT
THOSE WHO DID ALL
AGREED HE WAS
CREATING FOALS OF
UNUSUAL QUALITY AND
CONSISTENCY, WHICH
MUSTAFA ATTRIBUTES TO
THE KUHAILAN
HAIFI/NAZEER FORMULA.**

“After seeing two wonderful foal crops by Calypso, he proves to be as pre-potent in his type as any horse I have ever seen.”

~Greg Knowles, international judge, auctioneer, and trainer

The very first person to see the Calypso foals was international judge, trainer, and auctioneer, Greg Knowles in the fall of 2015. Mustafa told him he had a bunch of “little *Pianissima*’s” to show him, but Greg did not believe it... that is, until he visited the ranch and saw the first two foal crops with his own eyes.

For three days, Greg thoroughly entertained the Sabankaya’s with his witty impersonations and humorous auctioneer dialogues. As they walked through the ranch, Greg commented what a treat it was to see the herd in its natural state, hanging out in the rivers, grazing and galloping in the meadows, climbing up through the giant Ponderosa pines beneath the snowcapped mountains. (Mustafa thinks it is funny Greg later referred to the horses as “range monkeys.”) The Sabankaya’s ran just

over 60 of the Calypso offspring through the arena for close up inspection, during which Greg pretended to auction them off. Making light of their resemblance, he yelled out “*and here comes the next Calypso filly... wait, haven’t we seen this one, already? I think we already saw this one...*” Greg explained that when he typically visits a farm to evaluate livestock, he has to pick the one or two exceptional individuals that stand out, but in the case of Calypso’s offspring from Sabankaya’s line-bred Kuhailan mares, Greg said he was forced, instead, to look for the exceptional *bad* one, because they were all such high quality. Greg’s comments on the program’s quality and consistency further confirm the power of the classic Kuhailan Haifi/Nazeer cross used by the great breeding masters.

opposite left: Just three months after visiting Ottoman Arabians, Greg Knowles made the first sale of a Calypso offspring, SS Calypsos Butterfly (out of SS Royal At by SS Atilgan by QR Excel), during his 2015 Scottsdale New Years barn tour, *photo: Mustafa Sabankaya*; *below:* Greg Knowles seems to like what he sees of another bay 2015 Calypso filly, SS Calypsos Moonlight (out of SS Precious by Spark by Gdansk out of an Ariston daughter), *photo: Howard Schatzberg.*



Howard
Schatzberg



Despite pulling Calypso out of the shows in 2013, Mustafa has done his best to keep Calypso and his offspring in the public eye. Since he was the photographer and promotional director of world class sires Menes, Ariston, and Gdansk, Mustafa developed a passion for taking photographs of his own horses over the years, which he shares online and in magazines. No more fancy photo shoots, though, this time it is personal.

Even after a long day of work, he pours himself a glass of his favorite wine, throws his camera over his shoulder, and treks out into the mountains to sit with the herd. The sounds of birds, the cold mountain snow melt trickling through the rocks mixed with the sounds of horses neighing and chomping on grass relaxes him into a state of open mind. He studies how the horses move, how their personalities, body shapes, and way of going are all revealed through the generations. He takes photos of interesting things to study when he gets home, comparing them with historic paintings, pedigrees, and writings from historic breeding masters. Documenting his breeding strategies and their outcomes, Mustafa's photos have created an extensive archive of his work as a breeder. Throughout the years, Mustafa has shared some of his photographs in articles and on Calypso's Facebook page, but it is not the same as seeing the horses in real life.

So you can imagine, then, with all this buildup in the pictures and articles about how amazing Calypsos foals were turning out, poor little Bella has a lot of pressure on her to do justice for all her siblings back home. On top of that, she will be compared against the offspring of all the colts Calypso competed against, including Emerald J, Equator, Kanz Albidayer, AJ Barzan, and EKS Alihandro.

Bella has received a warm reception in Europe—so much so, Mustafa and Chera were asked repeatedly in Menton and Aachen:

“Was she an accident or do you have more like her at home?”

Mustafa takes the question of Bella being an accident as both a compliment that he bred a good horse and a reflection of how far he has separated himself from our industry's ideology of breeding ribbon-to-ribbon without any long-term vision or purpose outside of marketability.

When Janow Director, Marek Trela, was asked about Pianissima in his 2009 Tutto Arabi interview, he said:

“The power of our breeding lies in the fact that for many years and many horse generations we have had the same philosophy, the same breeding program, and for that reason we have to maintain a high level no matter what happens on the market or in the trends.”

**Was
Bella
an
accident?**



SS La Bella 2 weeks old



Similarly, when asked about how he created a horse like Bella, Mustafa said:

“A nonconformist from the start, I have been breeding purebred Arabian horses for 41 years, now. I think I was forced to separate myself from the horse show crowd and find my own path as a breeder because I wanted to create my own stamp.

I wanted people to point to a horse in the distance and say ‘that looks like a horse Mustafa bred.’ I also wanted to provide this gift to the next generation of breeders with which they can carry on. This required me to develop a long-term plan of carefully selecting individuals based on their genetic traits rather than their marketability or show ring success, and I have stuck with it all these years.”

across top: SS La Bella takes a shortcut over the boulders to catch up with mom, EF Bella Contessa, while on a spring stroll, photo: Mustafa Sabankaya; above: SS La Bella playing in front of the barn, photo: Mustafa Sabankaya.



Bella comes from the fourth of Calypso's five foal crops at Ottoman Arabians, and although she is a gorgeous, high quality filly, she was by no means an accident. She is the result of the strategic Kuhailan Haifi/Nazeer formula originally discovered by the Russians and then used by the Poles and other breeders. This genetic formula can be found in the pedigrees of successful horses Marsianin, Balaton, Gazal Al Shaqab, Ajman Moniscione, Padrons Psyche, and, of course, Pianissima. Mustafa has been researching this formula for many years and can see, now, especially after using a horse like Calypso with his Kuhailan mares, how powerful it is.

SS LA BELLA, PIANISSIMA, AND THE GENETIC FORMULA





opposite top: Pianissima at the 2004 All Nations Cup, photo: Dolinska; opposite bottom: SS La Bella at Menton 2018, photo: Chera Sabankaya; below: 2014 Calypso gelding SS Willie Wonka (out of SS Meliha by SS Atilgan by QR Excel) is an example of how Calypso's offspring get better with age. Although he can really turn on, blowing and prancing, "Willie" is also very sweet and calm, like his sire, Calypso. Willie is turning out to be a wonderful riding horse for the Sabankaya's. photo: Mustafa Sabankaya.

Looking at SS La Bella and Pianissima, the two have a lot in common in both phenotype and genotype. Phenotypically, they both have a feminine beauty and overall Kuhailan flavor, meaning they are dark bay in color with black points, have little or no white, thick black manes and tails, and wedge-shaped skulls, with large, soft, liquid, eyes. Genotypically, they both trace back to Kuhailan Haifi and Nazeer. Pianissima was 12x Kuhailan Haifi and 7x Nazeer while Bella's dam, EF Bella Contessa, was 7x Kuhailan Haifi and 10x Nazeer. Once bred to Calypso, these figures are enhanced for little Bella, increasing to 30x Kuhailan Haifi and 22x Nazeer.

The use of this equation keeps the ratio steady while providing a track or roadmap for each generation to follow, but it requires the eye of an experienced human to make sure the individuals being used actually represent the traits being sought. Mustafa explains,

“I was guilty of this for many years, but so many people think the pedigree makes the horse, and that is not the case. The horse makes the pedigree, because you have to look at the horse to make sure it represents the traits you are seeking from that pedigree.”

What happened to the chestnut color with white markings?

Taking the Kuhailan Haifi/Nazeer formula further... Another common question Mustafa receives is “Calypso is a chestnut with a lot of white markings, but we are seeing only dark bays with little or no white, like Bella—how can this be?”

The color of a horse is not important to the Sabankaya's in terms of that individual being a good horse, but it is significant as a trait indicator, known within the world of genetic research as “color-linked traits.” Calypso did produce a good number foals with chestnut color and white markings, but because Mustafa is looking for

color-linked Kuhailan traits, only those offspring exhibiting dark bay color with minimal white get to move on to the next level, while those that do not either go back into the breeding shed to try again if they have other good traits, or get marketed to people who want to breed flashy colored horses.

As Mustafa has said many times, it was his hope the day he purchased Calypso at the age of two months old that he could capture his refinement and pull out even more Kuhailan traits from his pedigree without compromising the Kuhailan traits he had already established in his program back home the previous 35 years.

“I think when most people look at a tall, elegant chestnut horse with white markings like Calypso, they see a progenitor of the Padron, Ajman Moniscione, or Kubinec sirelines—not Kuhailan Haifi. But if you look at his pedigree, you will see that Kuhailan Haifi is actually in there 33 times by way of 8x Arax, 8x Bask, 3x Comet (double Kuhailan Haifi), and 11x Mammona.” Breeding requires research, but breeding is also an intuitive art. Calypso was such an amazing individual in spirit, carriage, and overall correctness, Mustafa believed he was worth the risk. “It was a gamble,” he said, “but, I have learned that being a successful breeder requires I listen to my heart. Like my wife, Chera, Calypso captured my heart the moment I first laid eyes upon him.”

It is important to realize that Mustafa is a breeder who sees horses in parts, or traits, rather than as a whole, especially the extreme parts he is hoping to accentuate or eradicate in his program.

Unlike other breeders, he says he does not bother to look for horses that have “everything,” because such horses tend to be either an unrepeatable result of mixed blood (the typical show champion that does not reproduce itself) or they are conformationally correct but mediocre in type.

“Besides,” Mustafa says, “a breeder is supposed to find a vision, a phenotype, that resonates with him or her, allowing breeders to manifest their visions into their own special flavor, or stamps. If we are not putting our stamps on our foals, then what are we doing? Are we breeders or just mindlessly reproducing for marketability--and what does that leave for future breeders to work with?”



SS La Bella is the *vision*
Mustafa has been breeding for
since he began 41 years ago.
She is to Ottoman Arabians
what Pianissima was to Janow.
Here she is with her groom
and new human mom, Melissa
Van Genechten, as they locate
Mustafa on the rail of the warm
up arena at the Menton show
(June 2016). *photo: Mustafa
Sabankaya*

SO MUCH TYPE...

Mustafa truly has trained his eye to evaluate Kuhailan-bred foals and predict their development. For decades, he has been looking at and taking pictures of hundreds of horses every day, learning more with each generation. The moment a horse is born he typically knows whether or not it has fulfilled his expectations when he bred it and how it might be utilized back into the program.

left: 2017 Calypso granddaughter, SS Morajmanne (SS Calypsos Nabeg x SS Ajmalina by Ajman Moniscione) and right: her sire when he was a foal, 2014 SS Calypsos Nabeg (Calypso OS x SS ALotof Spark). These two adorable foals demonstrate the double curl Calypso puts on the ears of his foals. In this case, the curly ears are passing down through a second generation--further evidence Calypso is a prepotent sire. SS Calypsos Nabeg has two full brothers born 2016 and 2017, both of which also demonstrate the bay color and curly ears. After the breeding success of SS Calypsos Nabeg, Ottoman Arabians has begun breeding with his 2016 brother, SS Hilal, whose foals are due to arrive spring 2019. photos: Mustafa Sabankaya



Because ears have always been the “icing on the cake” for Mustafa, perhaps his favorite, and most unexpected, gift from Calypso has been how he has consistently improved the ears. Not only does he make them smaller and tighter, like Padron’s ears, he makes their tips curl inwards and backwards, taking our existing hooky Kuhailan ears to a whole new level of aesthetic beauty.

The offspring of Calypso have been remarkably consistent in type, each having Calypso’s distinct dish and noticeably shorter, wedge-shaped skull with Calypso’s world class nostrils, like no other.

Calypso consistently enhanced the silhouettes of their bodies. In the front end, he maintained the Kuhailan mares’ long polls and clean throatlatches and added length to the neck topline, creating a rounder, more pleasing shape.

The necks were set higher, due to coming out further back behind the shoulders. Perhaps due to being 11x Mammona, Calypso maintained the short backs, strong loins, and high-set tails of the Kuhailan mares, but enhanced the overall body

proportions by increasing substance and depth in the haunches. Calypso never failed to pass on his high intelligence, sweet personality, and charismatic show ring attitude.

MORAFIC/NAZEER BLOOD...

Back to Bella, although the foals had a strong resemblance to one another, Calypso did allow certain flavors of the mares to come through, some more than others. One of the mare lines the Sabankaya’s observed giving slightly more type and taller, more contemporary silhouettes was the line they had outcrossed a decade earlier with the blood of Nazeer through his descendent QR Excel.

**IT’S COMING
OUT OUR
EARS!**





Bella's dam is by QR Excel and represents the classic Kuhailan Haifi/Nazeer cross, and on the morning of May 20th, 2017 went into labor. Like a painting, Mustafa and Chera watched the early morning sun come floating in through the barn window in separate beams of light, creating a glowing outline of the adorable little Bella new to the world.

"She was exactly what I had imagined—and more." Mustafa said. "The first thought I had was how feminine she was and how she looked like Pianissima. She was a manifestation of the vision I'd been striving to create for over 40 years. I considered her to be a finished product of my breeding

career. I just don't know how I would improve her, and I have never said that about any horse before."

The Sabankaya's chose to keep little Bella and her dam in the yard around their house. She and her mother would come to the kitchen door every morning for carrots, grain, and a some attention. The Sabankaya's could not make their coffee in the morning without little Bella staring at them through the kitchen window. She very quickly became a cherished member of the family and a significant part of the daily routine the Sabankaya's looked forward to each morning.

Winter came around, and Mustafa started thinking about the upcoming Scottsdale show in February. Because Bella was a finished product in his eyes, he decided she should be out in the world to represent the program and for others to

enjoy. He called long-time friend, trainer, and judge, David Boggs, to inform him of the special Calypso filly he wanted to bring down to Midwest Training Center for marketing. Just as he told Greg Knowles two years earlier, Mustafa assured David he would like her, referring to her as “*his Pianissima*—his ultimate accomplishment as a breeder.”

It was just before Christmas 2017, and a winter storm warning was forecast for the ranch. Wanting to get through the mountains before the roads closed, Mustafa and Chera put little Bella into the trailer and began their two-day journey to Scottsdale. Chera rode in the trailer with Bella to keep her company the first half of the trip.

David was not there when the Sabankaya's arrived to Midwest Training Center, but trainer Alcides Rodrigues was, and the look on his face when the trailer door opened was priceless. From the trailer, into the barn, down the aisle way, and into her stall, Alcides did not take his eyes off her face. A showing was scheduled for the following morning so David could get a good look at her. Barely halter trained, Bella trotted very nicely on a loose line with Alcides, who adored her. David liked her, too, and told Mustafa he knew just the person who would love to have her. Chera followed Bella back to the stall to say a heartbreaking goodbye, but she knew Bella was in good hands.

No longer than 24 hours upon arriving home—just 72 hours since dropping Bella off—David had a buyer. She was purchased by Al Saqran Stud. It was an honor for the Sabankaya's to learn that Bella would be joining one of world's best collections of world champion show horses. While still in Scottsdale, Bella was presented to an enthusiastic crowd in Midwest's open barn presentation. But she did not stay for long.

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I REMEMBER DISTINCTLY THE FIRST TELEPHONE CALL FROM AN EXCITED MUSTAFA DESCRIBING THE BEAUTY AND CHARISMA OF HIS YOUNG FILLY HE HAD BRED NAMED SS LA BELLA, I CONVINCED HIM TO “LOAD HER UP” AND BRING HER TO MIDWEST IN SCOTTSDALE. I’LL NEVER FORGET THE FIRST TIME I LAID EYES ON HER, WOW! EVERY WORD WAS TRUE, EXOTIC, ATHLETIC, AND SOLID CONFORMATION. I AM THRILLED THAT MY FRIEND AND FELLOW GREAT BREEDER MR. BASSAM PURCHASED BELLA THROUGH ME AND THAT HE IS NOW ENJOYING HER TREMENDOUS SUCCESS IN EUROPE FOR AL SAQRAN STUD.

A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO MUSTAFA & CHERA!!

FONDLY,

**DAVID BOGGS
MIDWEST TRAINING CENTRE**

”

SS La Bella wins the silver medal behind the yearling filly she tied in qualifying rounds in Aachen 2018. *above:* Chera Sabankaya and a friend of Bassam Saqran pose for pictures with SS La Bella, *photo: Jan Kan Horse Photography;* *right:* Everyone is smiling after Bella gets the silver. *(left to right):* Chera Sabankaya, Bassam Saqran, Evi Verstrepen, Melissa Van Genechten, SS La Bella, and Philippe Hosay, *photo: Mustafa Sabankaya*



IT TAKES A LITTLE MORE THAN A LIFETIME TO CREATE A GREAT BREEDING PROGRAM AND MUSTAFA AND CHERA HAVE PERFECTED THEIR PROGRAM IN A LITTLE LESS THAN THAT – IN THE STUNNING EXAMPLE – INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION FILLY SS LA BELLA.


USING THE GREATS OF THE POLISH DYNASTY, THE BEAUTY OF THE EGYPTIAN LINES THRU MORAFIC AND THEN COUPLED WITH THE GREAT PADRON PSYCHE THRU AJMAN MONISCIONE – INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION SS LA BELLA – SHE IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF 40 PLUS YEARS OF VISION, EDUCATION, HARD WORK AND A DEDICATED PASSIONATE BREEDING PROGRAM. AS A FORMER OWNER OF PADRON'S PSYCHE – I AM MOST HAPPY TO SEE THE SUCCESS OF HIS GREAT GENETICS INCORPORATED INTO THEIR BREEDING PROGRAM.

I WOULD INVITE THE BREEDERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO EXPERIENCE SOMETHING TOTALLY DIFFERENT OF THE AMBIENCE OF NEARLY 300 HORSES AT THEIR FARM IN A SETTING UNLIKE ANYTHING ELSE AROUND THE WORLD. HERE YOU WILL FIND A COUPLE IN LOVE WITH THE ARABIAN HORSE AND GLORIOUS ARABIANS OF WORLD CLASS QUALITY.

WALTER R. MISHEK
MISHEKS ARABIANS
WASECA, MINNESOTA – USA

Bella was exported to Belgium to prepare for the upcoming Menton show with trainer Philippe Hosay. The Sabankaya's got to see Bella again and all of the breeders, trainers, and judges would finally get to see a Calypso foal up close. Mustafa and Chera were pleased to see how much Bella had grown, how her body filled out, and how her head became even more refined in recent months—just what one would expect from their own Pianissima. Competition was strong, and





Bella was not herself due to experiencing hardships from so much traveling and climate change, but in spite of that, went on to win second place in her qualifying class, the Most Beautiful Head award, and was within a half point of the bronze medal in the championship.

Bella's next show was the All Nation's Cup in Aachen. Although she looked much better than she did in Menton, she was still not her prancing blowing self we know her to be. Al Saqran stud did a magnificent job promoting her for this show with an email blast, a spread in the show program, and a larger than life size picture of her head on the back panel of their booth in the VIP tent. Bella tied for 1st place in her qualifying class in Menton and received the silver medal behind the same horse in her championship class.

Bella's next European show will be the upcoming Salon de Cheval in Paris, Mustafa says, "inshallah, she will be back to her true, spectacular self by then and everyone will fall in love with her like we did." While thousands of spectators will be watching from the stands, few will know the true significance of the first and only Calypso offspring to compete in Europe to date. She was the result of one man's dream of creating his own Pianissima.

SS La Bella and Philippe Hosay at the 2018 Menton Show. photo: Mustafa Sabankaya

It's an honour to be involved in SS La Bella's show career. It's a very complete show filly, what she proved already with her silver medal in Aachen. I'm sure there's much more to come in her future. It's a goal for every breeder to breed a filly like this.

**Philippe Hosay
Oct 2018**

