

# ARABIAN HORSES

AT HOME IN  
SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA

by Beth Ellen Hunziker - B. Creative

A life with Arabian horses is a life that is blessed. Many of us can not imagine our lives without them. The American breeders and owners featured on the following pages have created very special homes for their Arabian horses. Large or small, simple or grand, it's all about the love of the Arabian horse and wanting to share them with others...







## INTRODUCTION ~ KRIS JOHNSTON

Managing Broker & Partner,  
Engel & Völkers Real Estate  
Santa Ynez, CA  
[www.krisjohnston.evusa.com](http://www.krisjohnston.evusa.com)


If you want to learn about an area quickly, just ask a real estate broker. A good broker will know the best places to live, work, eat and play. Kris Johnston is a long time resident of Santa Ynez, California with a history in the Arabian horse community there and around the country. Kris represents the best of the best and has a working knowledge of the unique and very specialized requirements that make a property function well for an equestrian business or hobby farm. Ask Kris what she likes best about living in Santa Ynez and be prepared for a litany of reasons. But first, grab a table at Trattoria Grappalo, a glass of local wine, and relax. After all, this is Santa Ynez style at it's best.







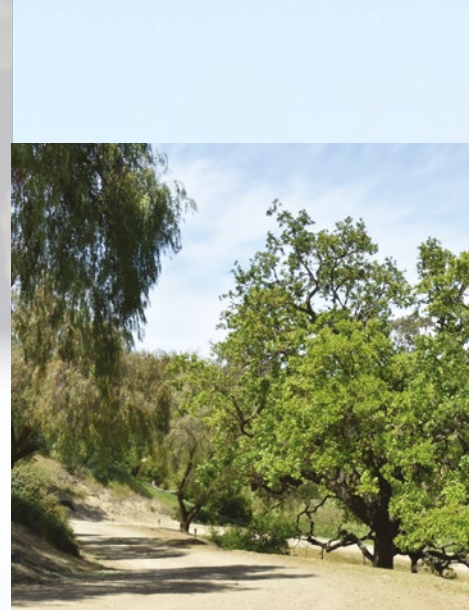




## OM EL ARAB INTERNATIONAL

Janina Merz  
[www.omelarab.com](http://www.omelarab.com)

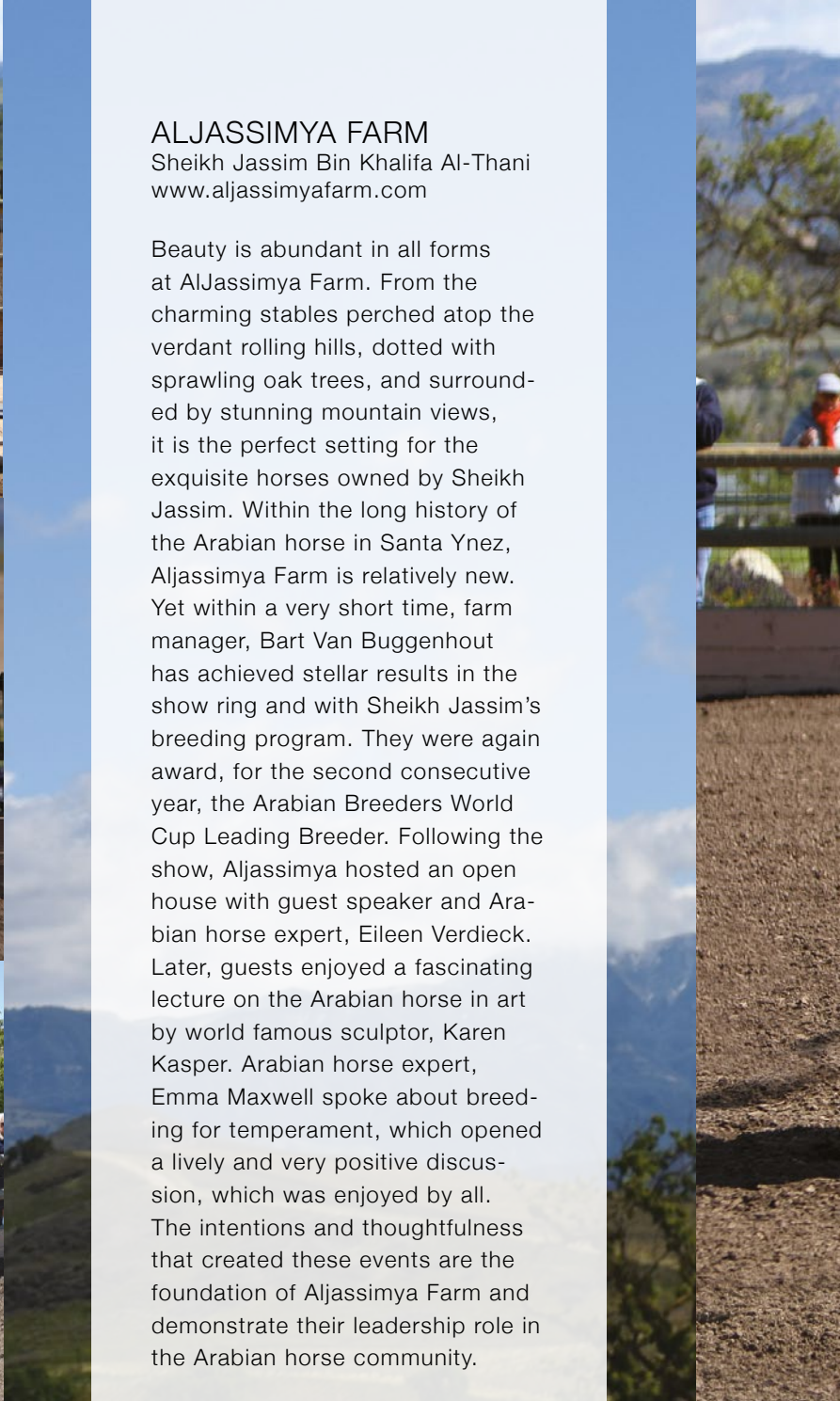
For over 40 years, Sigi Siller was been the heart and soul of the internationally acclaimed breeding farm, Om El Arab. Together with her daughter Janina, they established a paradise for their family and their Arabians horses. Today, Janina is faithfully continuing her mother's program and directing its future. In April, Janina attended the Arabian Breeders World Cup in Las Vegas where three Om El Arab bred horses won Supreme Championships, and many Om El Arab related horses won awards as well. Again this year, the farm was awarded a top breeder of the show. Following the show, Janina hosted a farm open house where she welcomed visitors from around the world. Guests were greeted with refreshments and then gathered for an incredible presentation of exquisite mares, beautiful babies, exciting new superstars and of course the stallions who call Om El Arab home. It was a brilliant look into the future. Bravo!











## ALJASSIMYA FARM

Sheikh Jassim Bin Khalifa Al-Thani  
[www.aljassimyafarm.com](http://www.aljassimyafarm.com)

Beauty is abundant in all forms at AlJassimya Farm. From the charming stables perched atop the verdant rolling hills, dotted with sprawling oak trees, and surrounded by stunning mountain views, it is the perfect setting for the exquisite horses owned by Sheikh Jassim. Within the long history of the Arabian horse in Santa Ynez, Aljassimya Farm is relatively new. Yet within a very short time, farm manager, Bart Van Buggenhout has achieved stellar results in the show ring and with Sheikh Jassim's breeding program. They were again award, for the second consecutive year, the Arabian Breeders World Cup Leading Breeder. Following the show, Aljassimya hosted an open house with guest speaker and Arabian horse expert, Eileen Verdieck. Later, guests enjoyed a fascinating lecture on the Arabian horse in art by world famous sculptor, Karen Kasper. Arabian horse expert, Emma Maxwell spoke about breeding for temperament, which opened a lively and very positive discussion, which was enjoyed by all. The intentions and thoughtfulness that created these events are the foundation of Aljassimya Farm and demonstrate their leadership role in the Arabian horse community.











## MINDY PETERS ARABIANS

Mindy Peters,  
[www.mindypeters.com](http://www.mindypeters.com)

The introduction of Mindy Peters' website says, "Celebrating four generations of breeders." That says a lot about this woman who brings such grace, humor, knowledge, passion, and elegance to the term, "horsemwoman".

Following in her family's footsteps as an Arabian horse breeder, Mindy still has very close ties to family who are also actively involved in breeding, including her aunt, Shelly Hjelm of Hartley, Iowa. Mindy's daughter, Kendyl Peters, is also deeply involved with the horses and is a highly accomplished horsewoman in her own right. Over the years, Mindy has created her own program, which includes horses from her dear friends Sigi Siller and Janina Merz's Om El Arab.

Mindy and her family of hard-working, intelligent women have bred and owned national and international champions that have contributed to breeding programs around the world. The peaceful landscape, the close circle of friends, and quiet life of Santa Ynez make it the perfect place for Mindy and her daughter to raise their beautiful Arabian horses, while the rest of the world is theirs to explore and enjoy together.













## ANTHEIA ARABIANS

Diane Brown

A deep love of the Arabian horse and a close friendship with Sigi Siller and Janina Merz inspired Diane Brown to take a leap of faith and purchase a beautiful farm in Santa Ynez. Already a resident in nearby Santa Barbara, Diane made frequent visits to the valley to see her friends and her small, but very impressive collection of Arabian horses.

The farm Diane and her husband purchased is one of the most beautiful properties in all the valley. Diane has added her own special touches to create a personal and peaceful sanctuary for her family's busy life.

Diane's select herd includes horses from the Om El Arab program. She will limit breeding, focusing on producing just a few quality individuals, rather building a large herd. With her sunny, optimistic attitude, and a goal in mind, a lovely farm with beautiful horses in Santa Ynez is the ideal place to make her dreams come true.



Vesty Photo





## VARIAN ARABIANS

Angela Alvarez

[www.varianarabians.com](http://www.varianarabians.com)

Without a doubt, Sheila Varian was one of the most influential breeders of Arabian horses in America and perhaps the world. Sheila was deeply committed to sharing her love of the breed, as well as her deep knowledge gained through her life with horses. Several times each year Sheila hosted educational days at Varian Arabians. Since Sheila's passing, her farm manager, Angela Alvarez has continued that effort. In April, Varian Arabians hosted their "Hands-On Clinic", which is an opportunity for owners to bring their horses and work with expert horsemen and women including Lester Buckley, Brett and Marjie Becker, Jaime Hernandez and Mike Perez. Everyone enjoyed learning new techniques and spending quality time with their horses. Check the website for more upcoming events.

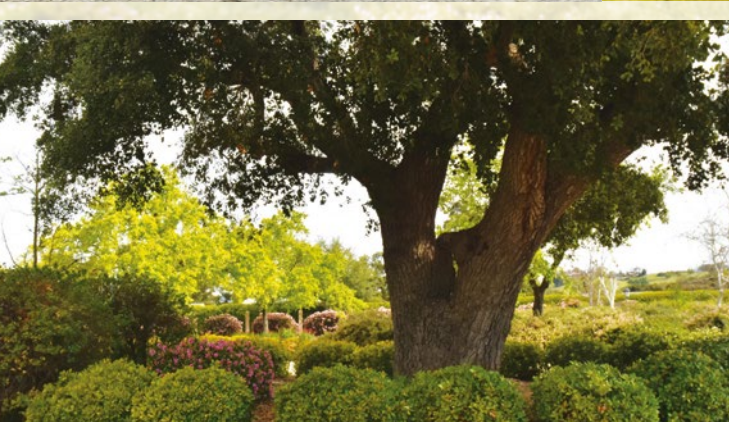

*Boeth Ellert*









## ARABIAN OAKS

Tiffany Schmidt,  
[www.facebook.com/arabianoaks](http://www.facebook.com/arabianoaks)

Tiffany Schmidt is a problem solver with a passion for Arabian horses. She will willingly admit that horses rule her life and she wouldn't have it any other way.

Tiffany recognized that many small breeders needed help with their horses' care and management. Tiffany stepped up and created her own Arabian horse management business, which is owned and operated by Tiffany and her family. Located in a secluded part of the Santa Ynez valley, Arabian Oaks is home to an impressive group of stallions, mares, and foals, as well as show horses for clients around the globe. Tiffany specializes in all areas of equine management including breeding, conditioning, marketing, and boarding.

Tiffany is also the creative genius behind the very popular Arabian Oaks Breeders Jubilee, an event created by breeders and for breeders. It provides an opportunity for small breeders to showcase their horses in a low-key environment with little or no stress for the horses or owners - it's all about the fun and friends sharing their love of the Arabian horse.

