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Manuela Lucini with Galila and Gazelle

by Manuela Lucini ■ photos by Harem Stud archive

I am Manuela Lucini, I was born in Switzerland, on the Italian side; I speak Italian, think and eat Italian. The “Fattoria Collina d’Oro “(Golden Hill Farm) located on the Golden Hill by the Lake of Lugano is the small oasis I founded in 1997 breeding Arabian horses. Actually not only Arabian horses and not only breeding. I breed Purebred Arabians as well as Straight Egyptians here. Today, 19 horses are stabled on the farm, two of them Anglo-Arabians and all of them accompanied by a lot of other animals such as two donkeys, more than a dozen Tibetan goats, and numerous other species and pets. The

frame offered by green pastures and woodlands gives the animals even more than an enormously high quality of living: they also get a premium view of the lake.

My passion for horses began when I was 7 years old, no one in my family encouraged me, it was born that way and that’s all I could talk about.

I was lucky enough to realise my big dream: to live with my horses and start breeding Arabians. It wasn’t as easy as writing this, like all great dreams to achieve it I went through a lot, but I’m still here.



I do almost everything by myself: show preparation, breaking in and training, equine physiotherapy, and rehabilitation of horses with physical and psychological problems.

I manage everything at 360 degrees around me - from the water pipe connections, to which nails to buy, to organizing the tractor overhaul; to horse management, training, and breeding; to property management, finances etc etc etc; I raise my mares by myself, break them in, train them, mate them with my stallion, I am present when they give birth, raise the foals, train them, break them in, and so on. It's just the line of work you choose when you breed for generations in a stud. I think it's better not to delegate much. And for a woman it is not easy anyway, even with employees. In all the roles I have never had any particular problems with men, except - and this is no small thing - in the daily management of employees, specifically stable men. It's hard to find someone who really does it for passion, and I admit that it's harder for a woman to be respected, and it's hard for men (depending on their brain) to accept orders or to know less than a woman. This is why

I stay in contact with my animals as much as possible.

Unfortunately in 2011 I suffered a serious accident due to an unjustified attack by a stallion for reasons that are still unknown.

As a result of the accident I lost the mobility of my left hand (the dominant one for me) and my wrist by 70 per cent, permanently.

From the window of the hospital during my recovery I could see a stable where the horses were being ridden, and beyond the hill on the horizon I knew that there were all my beloved Arabian horses waiting for me... I hardly ever cry, but at the time the tears often flowed because I didn't know if I would ever be able to ride or at least handle them again.

I never gave up for them! In fact, after a year of intensive physiotherapy, I was still able to write with my hand and get on the saddle. It was like living again!

Even the doctors can't explain how it's possible and are amazed at how a human body can react and adapt to new circumstances. But deep down I know that it's thanks to love, true passion. That is the real strength.

Horses and my farm are part of my DNA. I cannot even imagine a life without my animals anymore.

Today my life is entirely dedicated to horses. I would say that they are the ones who manage my life.

I am quite precise and thorough, so there is always plenty to do, for the horses as well as for external maintenance. It's not easy for me and not even for those who work alongside me, but the welfare and cleanliness of the horses are the priorities for me. I really want them not to lack anything. I would say they are all pretty spoiled, but in the end, they do everything I ask them to do. Working with them gives me a lot of satisfaction. I couldn't imagine my life without horses, they are part of my DNA.

I am quite proud to have bred some black offspring that earn excellent scores in shows and are successful otherwise too; which is because they have a lightness overall, and short and rather modern heads. But I don't have Egyptians only, I have several Egyptian-related Arab horses, and two Anglo Arabians that I care a lot about, offspring of my great love HAREM. I like all my horses very much, regardless of the success they have in the show or under the saddle.

As far as Egyptian horses are concerned, I must tell that I am not a great expert of lines. I rather work according to what I see, although I do not even choose the color. By pure chance, my five Egyptians are black. I look at their characteristics in general, with strong points and weak points included, and try to give them a stallion who can improve their progeny. Basically it's not easy to breed blacks who are elegant and typey. Mine turned out quite well, however: they have beautiful small heads with a well-expressed dish, they have strong bodies, and both of them are great movers. Regardless of color, I prefer type and charisma. I am not prejudiced against particular Egyptian lines. I get my orientation from the official definitions of Straight Egyptians by the Egyptian State Stud and the Pyramid Society.

For me it's essential that every single horse is trained to the saddle, in addition to the show work. The mares here are broken in for riding before they are covered for the first time. The same is true for the stallions before they are allowed to mate. In my opinion, that's a bit like school for children and young people, which serves to create a certain discipline, as well as some extra motivation in their lives. I find that for a horse to be alone in the pasture, or their box stall, or to run their circles on the lounging line – it's got to be terribly boring. However, training takes experience and competence, of course.

A show horse who is or was also ridden needs to be trained in a correct manner and outline, meaning we can't lounge

him with his head in the air. We would ruin his back muscles that way, and not only that, the neck would also change in a negative way, a ewe neck will easily form. I'm sure you understand why it's not easy to just hand a horse over to somebody for show training, without applying certain standards of quality.

At the moment I can't breed more than I do, because I don't have any more box stalls available. Sounds odd, maybe, but it's true. I would have to sell horses, but that's a challenge for me emotionally, as I need to be entirely convinced they will get a good new home. I am not very good at selling a horse, I can screw it all up if the person or the new place doesn't convince me. So I live on passion as long as I can.

And I try to spread my passion as much as possible.

I tried in many ways to promote Arabian horses in my country with interviews in television programs etc, but unfortunately here in Switzerland most people here have a false picture of Arabian horses. They have a reputation for being difficult to ride, and to be too small for many people – to sum things up in two keywords. Luckily, among us fans of Arabian horses, we understand each other and laugh because we know that the warmblood riders don't know what they are missing. I tried to breed quality offspring, but even so few people know how to distinguish between a typey and a non-typey head. Maybe they are more color-oriented. But I must emphasize that great demands are made on the qualities of Arabian horses under saddle, ignoring their proper intrinsic qualities. Those who choose Arabian horses, choose them simply as their bestlife companions.

I have a background as an athlete, lots of sport from childhood, even at competitive levels, and the good fortune to have spent years in close contact with great athletes, trainers and physiotherapists of a great Italian football team. With them and from that experience I learned a lot, certainly that you need discipline, sacrifice, perseverance and athletic training.

I personally believe that laziness does not go hand in hand with success.

Success requires passion, love, dedication, sacrifices. And also luck! □

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 SWITZERLAND



H GLAMOURS
(Royal Colours x Galila)

SL



SL



SL

H GEYSER

(H Glamours x Gazelle)



H SHAOLIN

(H Glamours x H Shador)



H GINGERGLAM

(H Glamours x Gazelle)

H SHAMOURS

(H Glamours x H Alisha)



GALILA

(Coaltown x UP Bint montaha)
Straight Egyptian foundation mare





H SHAGAL
(Shasali' x Galila)

GAZELLE

(Classic Shadwan x Galila)



H GOGHLEINE

(Van Gogh AM x Galila)

Triple Winner in one show
Swiss Champion Filly
Best in Show
Waho Trophy



TUAREG DREAM-CHA

(Shahil x LF Chantilly)

Egyptian Related foundation mare





GEISHA
(Gopak x Dream-cha)



H ALISHA
(Shasali x Geisha)



H SHAMAN
(Laman HVP x Geisha)



SHASALI'

(Classic Shadwan x Dream-cha)



CHAZANNE (Area Sirhaan x Dream-cha)



H DHARMA

(Harem x Dream-cha)



H SHADOR (Khidar x Dream-cha)



SHAKIR

(Khidar x Dream-cha)



H KEISHA (Kanz Albydayer x H Shador)



BEAUTY ODESSA
(Mabroc Said x Odessa Dennenord)

THAT'S AMORE

Anglo Arabian stallion by HAREM



HAREM Anglo Arabian stallion



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more shiny and fit!!*



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