SHAHADA STUD Straight Egyptian Arabians in MOROCCO

by MONIKA SAVIER

Graphic design: Mario Brunetti Photos: Lise Laghzal, Monika Savier

SHAHADA JUMAAN by Rafahag x TB

SHAHADA STUD was once a traditional stud of straight Egyptian horses based in Normandy, France. In 2010, Youcef Laghzal, a successful French hotel manager whose family once had migrated from Morocco to France, decided to move to Morocco with his wife Lise and their son, and to export Shahada Stud there as well.

Not far from El Jadida, quite close to the Atlantic coast, there is Shahada Stud, a place where they breed with a stock of 30 to 40 Straight Egyptian Arabians.

The beautifully landscaped premises are spacious and intelligently styled. In the southern part of the premises there is a cool, well-shaded inner yard with roomy box stalls for the stallions, surrounded by paddocks with run-in sheds. In the northern area, there are barns for the mares and foals, also with a well-shaded inner yard and surrounded by pastures and paddocks. Many of the horses are broken for riding and trained by the Laghzal couple themselves, with Youcef Laghzal being his own show handler.



SHAHADA SEMIRAMIS by Ajmal Sahaab x Rajmala pc and Lise Laghzal

Looking for noble stallions as sires and for improving Shahada Stud's breeding, the Laghzal couple traveled Europe and ended up in Kuwait, where they bought the colt Ajmaal Sahaab (Ajamal Al Kout x Ajamal Sahaabah) from Mr Mohammed Al Marzouq.

Today, Ajmaal Sahaab is the leading sire of the stud, with extraordinarily beautiful offspring to his credit. Another stallion who is frequently used as a sire on the farm and elsewhere is GR Monet (Classic Shadwan x Mareekah). The typey chestnut Exotic Sadiiq (Shagran Al Nasser x Simeon Sarice) arrived from Germany. There are two successful home-bred stallions, Shahada Ibn Juray (Muharib Al Rayyan x TB Jumanaa) and Shahada El Fayed (Ajmal Sahaab x Fayza KA), both show winners.



SHAHADA SUDAARA by Ajmal Sahaab x Rajmala pc and Youcef Laghzal

In addition to the stallions, more than 10 broodmares with their last two to three foal crops live in the stud. Years ago, Youcef Laghzal bought a filly in Italy, TB Jumanaa (Ramses x Sulifah). Today, TB Jumanaa is a foundation mare featuring successful offspring. She was followed by Mona El Naarah (Masri El Salaam x Bint Mofisa I) imported from Germany, and later, by Alajneha Nahme (Anaza El farid x Nadima), a Dahman Shahwan mare bred by Judith Forbis (USA).



SHAHADA EL MAZI by Shahada Jumaan x Shahada Mumtaza



SHAHADA NARJIS by Ajmal Sahaab x Shahada Nejda



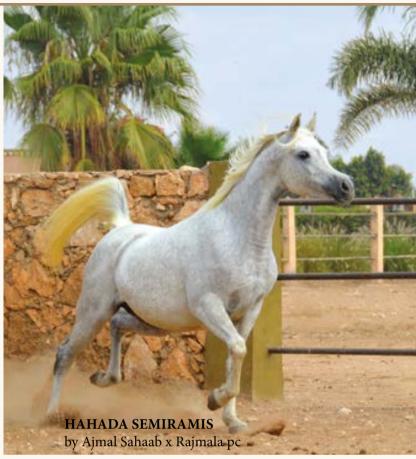
SHAHADA IBN SETH by Exotic Sadiiq x Shahada Sudara



SHAHADA SHAQRAN by Exotic Sadiiq x Rajmala pc

"All our horses, mares, and stallions are carefully selected. Our focus is impeccable pedigree, exotic type, correct conformation and athletic movement. Our broodmares band is of primary importance and the foundation of the stud. In the pedigree, we pay special attention to the dam line because of its prepotent genetical character. Our different selected broodmares belong to different strains. All are represented in the stud: the Slaklawi Jedran strain through the farm and











prolific Moniet El Nefous family; the rare Obeyan Um Grees strain through Marah and an affection for the Dahman Shahwan strain especially through Farida and Bukra family.

We want the mares to have constant characteristics like good body and structure, athleticism and powerful movement, exoticism and charisma, expressive black eyes and high tail carriage that they will transmit to their progeny," says Youcef Laghzal.

"Concerning the evolution of the breeding



The mares and their progenies in the farm

"Concerning the evolution of the breeding program today we have a selection of broodmares based on:

- The lineage of Ansata Nefer Isis with
- Rajmala pc and her daughters Shahada Sudara and Shahada Semiramis.
- The line of TB Jumaana with her daughter Shahada Jeewah and granddaughter Shahada Juriyya.



- The line of Alajneha Nahme with her daughters Shahada Nejda, Shahada Nadra, Shahada Narjis and Shahada Nubla.
- The line of Mona Al Naarah with her daughters Shahada Mamluka and Shahada Mumtaza.
- The line of Frasera Hadiyeh with her daughter Shahada Hekmet.
- The line of Fer Iris.
- The line of EH Sulimana.

In order to achieve their breeding goal, three valuable stallions are standing in the stables of the Al Shahada stud:

- Gr Monet by Classic Shadwan.
- Ajmal Sahaab by Ajmal Al Kout.
- Exotic Sadiiq by Shagran Al Nasser.

There are also the self-bred stallions that grew up in the stud farm. Shahada Jumaan by Rafahag and Shahada Sudaar by Exotic Sadiiq.

Shahada Stud has set itself many more goals. Besides the further development of the breeding, Youcef and Lise's commitment to the Pyramid Society, which they have co-founded in Morocco, is an example of international cooperation for the benefit of the horses.





SHAHADA STUD

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The Pyramid Society Morocco

As a kind of interface between cultures, the Laghzal family is well trusted by many of the Moroccan breeders and are often asked for their advice. The success and the beauty of the Shahada Arabians is a motivation for them. Encouraging them to put their emphasis more in the direction of well-planned breeding that takes genetics into account and is bound to be the most powerful and sensible path to take in the long run. There are plans to offer more clinics covering important topics in Arabian horse breeding, and to further improve the cooperation between breeders from all over the world.

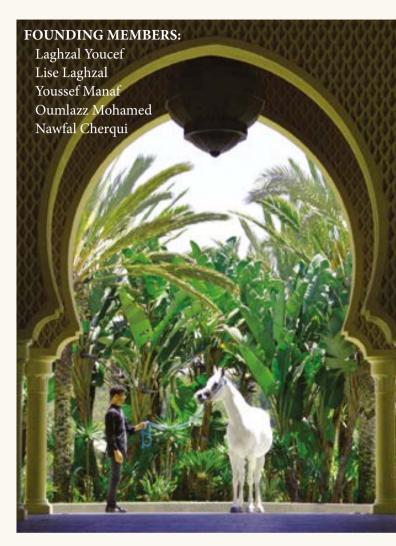
After an excursion of the Pyramid Society Europe to the stud farms of Morocco and many talks with the Moroccan breeders of STRAIGHT EGYPTIANS, they decided to start a Pyramid Society in Morocco.

Youcef Laghzal says: "We are a Moroccan organisation dedicated to the breeders and development of the Straight Egyptian Arabian horse. We believe that working together as a team will help each breeder individually achieve more knowledge and understanding of the long and difficult path of genetic improvement.

Our offices are located very close to the city Fl Jadida and our action extends all over Morocco.

We are deeply inspired by the work of Pyramid Society America and our actions are in line with its principals and values."









Koheilan Oriental Lodge Farm
Right next to the stud farm, Lisa and Youcef developed the concept

Right next to the stud farm, Lisa and Youcef developed the concept of a Bed & Breakfast for friends of horse breeding, and riding enthusiasts interested to come and discover Morocco differently.

Today there are luxurious and capacious bungalows, built from natural stone and nestled into the green of the palm trees and the colors of exotic plants. They serve as a good base for horsey tourists.

Koheïlan Oriental Lodge Farm, offers you peace and serenity to appreciate the sweetness and virtues of a nature imbued with authenticity. Hotel restaurant lodge located 30km south of El Jadida on the road to Marrakech, in the heart of the Moroccan countryside.









