

# Christine Jamar

## Interview

[ design: arabhorsepromotion.com ]



Guy and Christine enjoying the Middle East Championships in Jordan

interview by: Renata Schibler  
photos by: Jadem Arabians archive

**Renata Schibler:** *When did you become inflamed with the passion for Arabian Horses?*

**Christine Jamar:** *I don't know if would call it passion, I rather go for enthusiasm which started at the age of 16 or 17 when I had the chance to ride somebody else's Arabian Horse on the weekends. It was a Lady who asked me to ride her horse, by whom she was quite overwhelmed due to his energetic character. I truly appreciated his vitality and had a lot of fun riding him at the beach and to do some show jumping. Later on, much later on (she says and smiles) in 1978, I bought two horses.*

**RS:** *Did you ever imagine, that the love for these horses would have had such an impact in your life?*

**CJ:** *No, never. After I quit the Show Jumping I got married and bought two Arabian mares. At this point I imagined doing some breeding but I could never have imagined that it would have such an impact on my life and I've dared of even thinking of the consequences it brought along.*

**RS:** *Everybody who comes to visit Jadem Arabians is impressed by the buildings, the new clinic and of course by the high quality of the horses.*

*Please tell us how your Stud developed over the past years.*



Indoor arena at Jadem Arabians

**CJ:** All has started with the stallions. When you have stallions and you decide on sending their semen around the world, you need to have a clinic, which meets the European Standard. First of all you have to separate the stallions from the mares. Furthermore must the washing place, the grooming area ect. be in individual spaces. Even the mares' fields and paddocks need to be disconnected from the stallion's zone. All those strict requirements lead into new structures which resulted in a bigger office for myself, a kitchen only for my staff, we have now a seminar room too where I can welcome visitors. Overall, everything became much more comfortable.

**RS:** Which are the horses they gave you the most satisfaction and you are the most attached to?

**CJ:** Doubtlessly my mares. I love my mares. And the older they get, the more I respect them. The stallion who changed a lot for me and which had definitely a huge influence on my breeding program is Ekstern. I have Bandos daughters, which tend to be a little bit long in the back, short in the croup and with an attitude, which requires some improvement. My Bandos daughters can trot though but they are not so hot. Together with Ekstern I was able to improve significantly their weaknesses and the result, after only one generation, was a shorter back, longer croup and a fantastic temperament. Truly amazing offspring. Normally it requires two or three generations to improve all of these points.

**RS:** In a breeders life there are always moments of weal and woe.

**Please tell us about some particular moments, especially about the big successes!**

**CJ:** *What I enjoy the most is the moment when the babies are born. When the foal is still wet, that's a very emotional moment. I love the smell of a fresh born foal. When the foal gets on his legs, that's the crucial moment because then you realize if you did a good job in choosing the right stallion.*

*The birth of a beautiful foal is for me more exciting than winning a show. The happiness lasts at least for two or three weeks and this always encourages me to go on, breed again and wait patiently for eleven months until the next baby is born.*

*A further appreciation and joy of mine is to meet nice people and to share the passion with breeders all around the world for this unique breed.*

*In my life as a breeder I have also to deal with disappointments. For example when a foal does not fulfill my expectations. But this upsets me notably less than the disappointment I feel when people I trust let me down.*

**RS:** *For many years you are a well respected judge. Please tell us about the changes which took place over the time regarding the horses, the people as well as the judging itself?*

**CJ:** *If I remember correctly, I am an Arabian Horses Judge for about 15 or 17 years.*

*The quality of the horses improved a lot over the last 10 years. We have better horses, more beauty, more movement. Everybody tries to be on top of the game which improves the breeding quality significantly. At the shows nowadays judges give much higher scores than years ago. This is the result of the very rapidly improved breeding quality.*

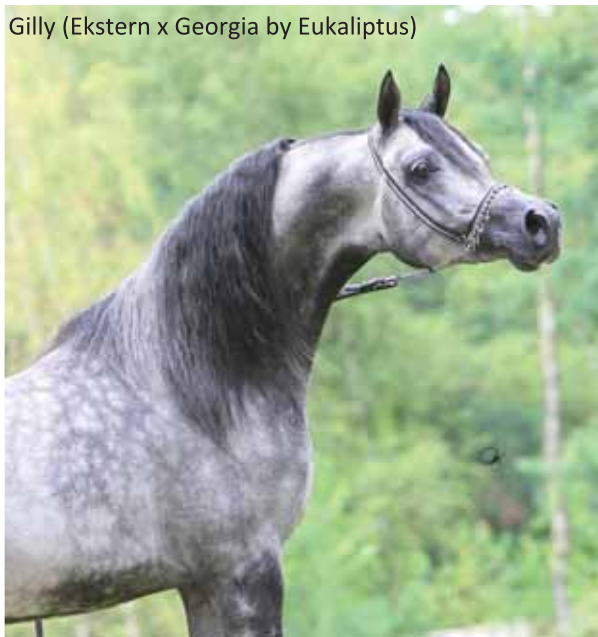
*Back in the days we went to a show, brought along our own picnic, had fun, enjoyed our horses more as well as the people we were surrounded by. Winning was nice but definitely not the priority as it is nowadays. Sometimes the owner forgets about the horse and is only focusing on the trophy which puts a lot of pressure on the people which are professionally involved in this industry.*



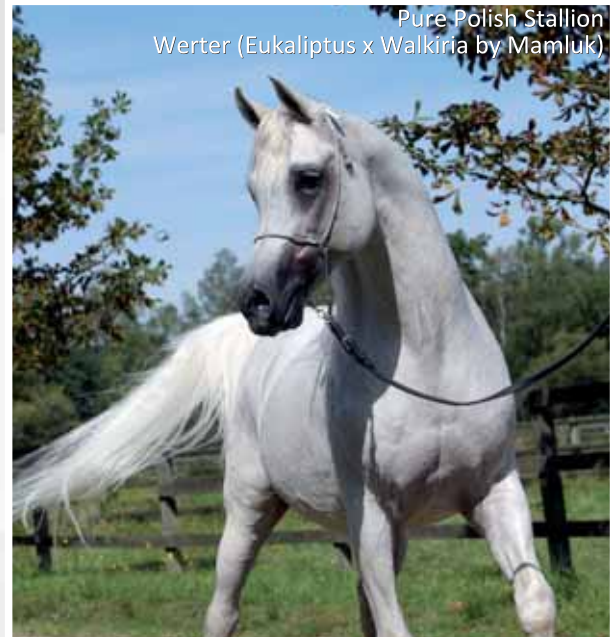
HRH Prince Abdulaziz from Atbah Stud and Christine discussing horses in Dubai



QR Marc Champion stallion at the Elran Cup 2010



Gilly (Ekstern x Georgia by Eukaliptus)



Pure Polish Stallion  
Werter (Eukaliptus x Walkiria by Mamluk)

Epril Love J - filly from QR MARC



Padrons Psyche

QR Marc (Marwan Al Shaquab x Swete Dreams)



Danuta: daughter of Ekstern x Dahna III





Visit to Al Khalediah Farm Poland, the place where Mr. Ignacy Jaworowski (the founder of Michałów Stud) was born



Eberia Reserve Champion mare at Towerlands 2009

**RS:** Please explain to the readers of *TUTTO ARABI* what is one of the biggest challenge while judging a renowned class or championship.

**CJ:** Every time while I am judging, I feel like I'm writing an exam again. When the horse stands in front of me, I try to scrutinize it to my best ability. To keep the focus only on the horse and to forget the handler, the owner and the crowd, requires a lot of concentration. Luckily this isn't a big problem for me because I love horses too much to think about other things while I'm judging them. My main aim is to give every horse the best points he deserves.

**RS:** Can you please name 4 or 5 horses which have extensively improved or changed your breeding.

**CJ:** The Bando's daughter Morning Light, some of her daughters, the mother of Extreme Elegantkah, my first Pure Polish Arabian Horse Gwana, the whole dam line, all the

daughters, which still produce very well.

Gwana, her daughter Galia, Georgia and the Ekstern daughter Gomera. These are the four dam lines which produce very well and I respect them very much for that.

Ekstern, which I already mentioned, is a very important stallion in my breeding.

Now I have also QR Marc, which I highly appreciate for his great influence on his offspring. I love his babies. They have beautiful eyes and a fantastic temperament. Already at the age of only few weeks, when you enter the barn to feed them, the QR Marc-babies are the first to call you. I love their nature!

**RS:** Tell us about "your" European Championship.

We consider it "yours", because it has your "fingerprints" and like your breeding it gained success from year to year.

**CJ:** I always wanted to organize Shows in Belgium. I come

Happy moments with beautiful horses in the USA



Pianissima, World Champion mare, Successfully trained at Jadem Arabians





Judging in South Africa with Renata Schibler



Abha Qatar: Triple crown winner 2009

*from the Warmblood scene where they make jokes about the so called "rabbits". That made me decide to organize Shows and to promote the Arabian Horse. I started to organize first National Championships at my farm and this for 20 years. We had over the 3000 visitors pro weekend. In 1987 I started to organize the European Chamionships and continue this every 2nd year with one of my best friends, Carl. And I am very fortunate to have a great team working alongside with me, which is essential for the success of such an event. A well respected panel of honest and experienced judges is for me a further deal maker. What makes me the most satisfied is, when I see that the atmosphere between the breeders is cheerful. It happens that on Sunday night a breeder walks up to me and says "Christine, this was a great Show!", even though his horse scored the ungrateful 4th place. Those moments enable me to go on with organizing such a big event over and over again.*

**RS: Before we end a very last question for you, maybe the most complicated one: What would you change to**

**improve the Shows at a very high level? And to do so, who do you consider the most capable for making decisions which lead us towards a promising future?**

**CJ:** *I don't think it is a person, I rather think it is ECAHO, which should find a system to make the people more satisfied and that there is more transparency. Sometimes people are not happy with the panel of judges and we should put some thought into that. Maybe it would be better if ECAHO nominates the judges. Unfortunately, there are not many judges which have enough experience to judge Title Shows. If you look at the "Blue Book" there might be 25 to 30 experienced judges. A person ...? I don't see any person – only God can help us. But if you ask me for the most capable person, it should be someone which is honest, has a lot of ambition and time. And even if this person has a stud, as soon as he takes place of the President's chair he must let go his private life and focus only on the objective benefit of ECAHO. I think this is possible. Maybe it is not always easy, because you have ten board members which*

Ekstern, when he was European Champion stallion 2000



QR Marc, Silver Champion Stallion in Paris. Trained and managed by Jadem Arabians.



have influence with their votes. And at the end you can not blame the President if the majority voted for something else. One can just say "I like it like this".

I am aware that the momentarily situation is not easy, mainly due to the overwhelming amount of money which is involved through buying and selling horses. There are people involved in the Show Commission, who have no idea about the horse itself and this causes problems. But I believe this is a common problem. The people on the board of the Show Commission are not professionals and come from different countries and different backgrounds. I think it would be better to have a good working group with several people elected by the members who come to

the GM. This might be a more successful solution. It's worth it to try but then we have to change the constitutions which, we are aware, are old-fashioned. And last but not least we must never forget our goal!

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Shila, Christine's guard dog



The manor house of Guy and Christine in Balen





Shael Dream Desert.  
Christine is using Shael Dream Desert  
(owner Freeland Farms) for her very nice  
Extreme daughters

Extreme: Ararat x Elegantkah (by Gwizd)



Mystic Dream:  
Extreme x Mysterious Lady (by Ekstern)

