





ELKASUN ARABIAN HORSES

by Giorgia Mauri ■ photos by Alessio Azzali, Glenn Jacobs

Nestled between the vineyards in South Africa's well-known wine region, Elkasun Arabians paints a quaint picture on a balmy summer's evening in the beautiful Cape Winelands.

In 1996, Willie Brown started his breeding program where he also acts as Manager & Trainer. He has been a professional horseman for over 20 years, garnering 12 National Championship

titles during this period.

In the early 2000's, Elkasun Arabians imported their first mares from the United States, which laid the foundation for the successful breeding program we see today. Bloodlines like Marwan al Shaqab, Gazal al Shaqab, Versace, Besson Carol & Padrons Psyche were at the core of the Stud's breeding program early on. It was only many years later that Willie decided to add something





new – after paying a visit to Marieta Salas from Ses Planes, Willie imported 3 horses from the picturesque island of Palma de Mallorca.

A few years down the line, during a visit to Giacomo Capacci Arabians in Italy, Willie fell in love with an exquisite bloody-shouldered mare – heavily in foal at the time. Helwah AA (Al Ayad x Al Halah AA by Laheeb) gave birth to a grey filly by Laheeb shortly after. The filly had a rough start to life and spent the first few months in the clinic – but soon, mother & daughter made their way to sunny South Africa.

It was also during this time that KZ Jewel of Malakat was acquired, a gorgeous daughter of the Champion Maker, WH Justice, out of a black SE dam KZ Malakat al Lail (KZ Alone x Lady of the Evening).

Having a wonderful group of mares means nothing if you don't have stallions to breed them to...

Importing semen into South Africa has become increasingly difficult, the protocols and regulations make it near impossible. In 2015, Willie was invited to

judge the Abu-Dhabi National Championships. It was here where he saw IBN Farid – a 3-year-old colt at the time. Upon his return to South Africa, the negotiations started, and Dr. Ghanem Alhajri from Al Hawajer Stud graciously agreed to sell the young bay colt to Elkasun Arabians.

Willie took a leap of faith by placing his trust in this young and unproven stallion. The following breeding season, all of the mares were covered with IBN Farid – the first one being maiden mare EKS Bint Helwah (Laheeb x Helwah AA by Al Ayad).

On a cold and stormy night in June, after much anticipation, the first foal was born. A grey colt... Willie was on a flight to Bruges at the time, and upon his arrival was welcomed with the good news. An iPhone photo sent by Lisa put Willie at ease about his leap of faith. The colt was aptly named EKS Farajj – meaning comfort and a “happy outcome” in Arabic.

Four years later, the Stud has retained 8 IBN Farid







daughters. One of which recently had her first foal by Straight Egyptian stallion, Shams al Din AA.

In 2018 Lisa & Willie visited Israel and of course, no visit to Israel is complete without paying a visit to Chen & Eliko of Ariela Arabians. It was here that they were welcomed with warm hospitality, beautiful surroundings and exquisite horses. During their visit, Willie & Lisa hoped to discuss the possibility of a collaboration between Elkasun and Ariela, which could be the start of a longstanding business relationship.

High-quality Straight Egyptian stallions are few and far between, but when we looked at Shams al Din AA, we could see his potential even as a still-maturing 3-year-old. Shams al Din AA is a son of Shams Sharav AA (Simeon Sharav x Saniyyah RCA), out of a Laheeb daughter tracing back to Botswana on her damline. After some discussion, Chen & Eliko agreed to have the young Shams al Din AA come to South Africa on lease for two years.

This was exactly what Willie felt was necessary in his breeding program at the time, bearing in mind that the cross between RFI Farid and Egyptian had proven very successful. With broodmares from Spanish, Polish and Egyptian descent, Shams al Din AA promised to be a good match.

Backtrack to 2015 again, around the same time as Abu-Dhabi Nationals, Willie was told about a striking yearling colt – already snow-white. Since he was on the lookout for a future stud, Willie was curious about this colt and asked to know more. He was a son of SMA Magic One, out of one of the most beautiful WH Justice daughters of our time – FM Gloriaa. Unfortunately, at that point in time it was not ‘meant to be’ – unbeknownst at the time that their paths were to cross again in future...

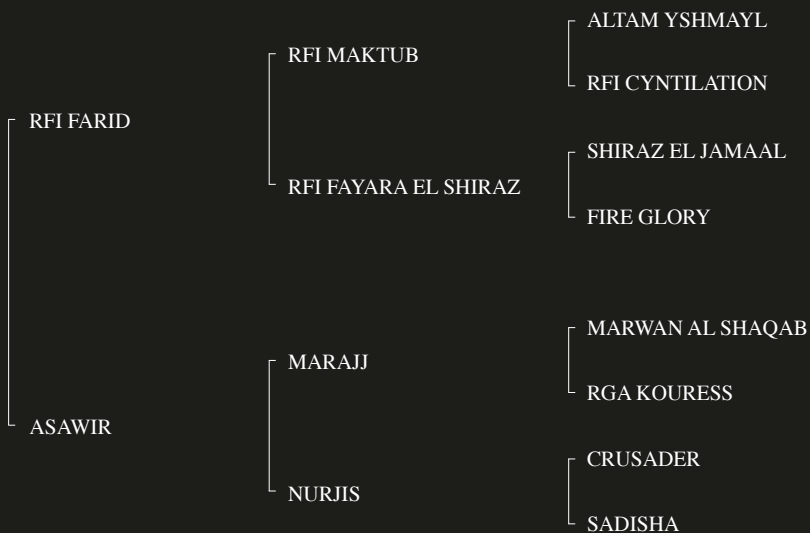
IBN Farid was sold to the United States after 3 years in South Africa, and so Willie was on the lookout once again.





OWNED BY IBN FARID PARTNERS

IBN FARID





OWNED BY AL KHASHAB STUD

EKS FARAJJ



EKS HAIFA IBN FARID | HELWAH AA BY AL AYAD



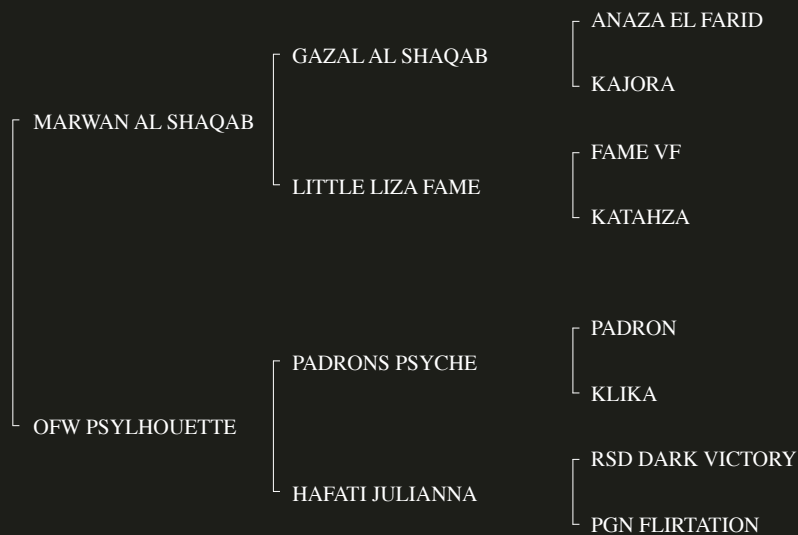
EKS FLAMENCA IBN FARID | LA DAUPHINE BY FS BENGALI





photo by Cigi Grasso

EKS ALIHANDRO



EKS AMIRA EKS ALIHANDRO | EKS LATHINA BY WN STAR OF ANTIGUA



EKS MANSOUR EKS ALIHANDRO | EKS PHATEENA BY WN STAR OF ANTIGUA

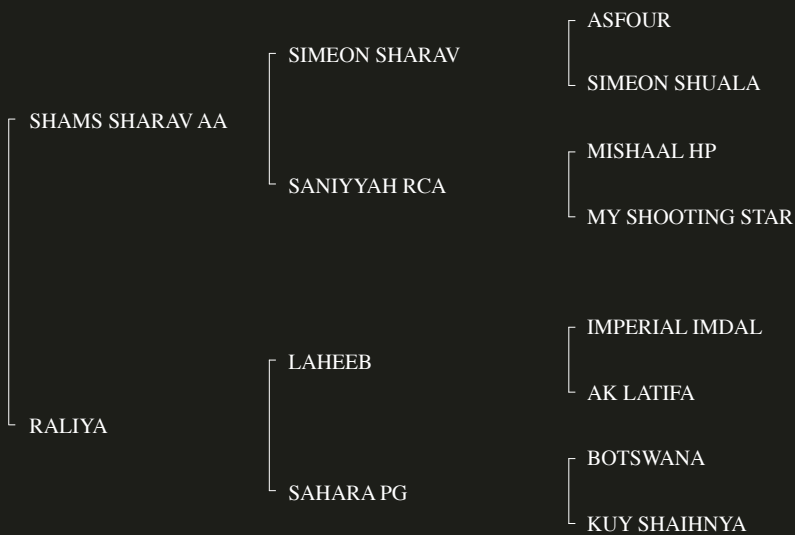


OWNED BY AL SHAHANIA STUD



SHAMS AL DIN AA

OWNED BY ARIELA ARABIANS



EKS SHAALIB SHAMS AL DIN AA | EKS FLAMENCA BY IBN FARID



EKS SADIYYAH SHAMS AL DIN AA | EKS FAHIRAH BY FARHOUD AL SHAQAB



EKS BINT HELWAH

LAHEEB | HELWAH AA BY ALAYAD



KZ JEWEL OF MALAKAT

WH JUSTICE | KZ MALAKAT AL LAIL BY KZ ALONE



Royal Fantastica EL TINO | TAWANY HVP BY FA EL SHAWAN



Montaha Aljassimya

MONTHER AL NASSER | ULTIMATE MONISAH BY WN ULTIMATE STAR



serendipity

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noun

1. the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.

One evening, Willie received a message from Michael van den Elskan, manager of Al Zobair Stud at the time. Michael informed Willie of a few sale horses, and Willie proceeded to ask what ever happened to the young son of FM Gloriaa he had seen some years ago. It was that very same evening that the deal was sealed

and Elkasun Arabians would soon be the new owners of Barjass al Zobair. The stallion spent a year in Belgium with Privilege SFQ, where he was collected for freezing and also bred some wonderful mares. This season, he will be bred to most of the mares on the farm – the first foals in South Africa are due later this year.



BARJASS AL ZOB AIR

S.M.A. MAGIC ONE

PSYTADEL

PADRON'S PSYCHE

BINT BEY SHAH

MAJIDAH BINT PACHA

AS SINANS PACHA

AS MOUNAH

FM GLORIAA

WH JUSTICE

MAGNUM PSYCHE

VONA SHER-RENEA

PSITY OF ANGELS

PSYTADEL

NATHANYA JC



In May of 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic, a very striking bay stallion came to Lisa & Willie's attention...

With a Gold title already to his name as a yearling and a golden pedigree behind him, Mahboob al Hawajer would fit into the future of Elkasun perfectly. It was a pleasure doing business with Dr. Ghanem again – who

acquired the Kalba Gold Champion filly EKS Jasminah (Ibn Farid x Asala Jameela by MD Al Shakel) the year before. Building such mutually beneficial business relationships are the key to success!

As a son of the legendary and globally influential FA El Rasheem, we have high hopes for this (once again) unproven stallion.



MAHBOOB AL HAWAJER

FA EL RASHEEM

FA EL SHAWAN

MARWAN AL SHAQAB

FOXBRIAR SHAKITA

VIRTUOSA MLR

VERSACE

ALISHAHMAAL

IILLUMINATE

IIMAGINE

MAGNUM PSYCHE

RD KASHANDRA

LUMIAR TAMARA

RSD DARK VICTORY

MOMENTKHA



INTERVIEW WITH

WILLIE BROWN

You own and run one of the most important farms in the world – can you tell our Readers your biggest success and biggest delusion?

My biggest success would have to be breeding two World Champions, with 3 World Champion titles between them to date. Our farm is relatively small, we only have around 12 foals each year, so I feel honoured to have produced two stallions like EKS Alihandro & EKS Farajj.

I think my biggest delusion would be underestimating the amount of luck that is required for breeding. Together with research and an understanding of what breeding entails, you need a lot of luck on your side!

What are some of your breeding secrets?

I try to find stallions that compliment my mares, and not only run after big names and show titles. I always say that the best show stallion is not necessarily the best fit for your mare. I have always had this idea to breed with younger generation stallions, that are often overlooked as most people only focus on breeding to the “famous” stallions. The fact that importing frozen semen to South Africa is very difficult, is both a blessing and a curse; we do not have “easy access” to all the stallions. This forces us to innovate and be a bit more creative with our breeding decisions.

In your breeding program, are you focused on breeding immediately show horses or on breeding mares with genetic power for future generations?

Breeding is a long-term commitment; therefore, I aim to strengthen the genetic pool of my broodmares in each future generation.

You have already reached arguably the highest achievement by producing two World Champions, what is your next goal?

To try and breed the next one... My goal is to uphold the standard of EKS-horses on a global level, and to build on the successes we have already had.

Name three stallions and three mares you would like to have bred, and why?

Pianissima, Emandoria and Noft al Nayfat.

For me, these mares each represent classic Arabian type in their own way.

Padrons Psyche, Marwan al Shaqab & Shanghai EA. A diverse selection, but each of them represents something that I like in the Arabian horse. Each of them of course, also contributed to the breed in a huge way.

Name 5 of your favourite breeding lines?

If I only look at my own breeding program and what has worked for me, I will have to say WH Justice, Gazal al Shaqab, Padrons Psyche, Laheeb & Ali Jamaal.

