



Interview by: KAMILA KOZLOWSKA  
Photos by Rach Stud archive



# RACH STUD

## BEST BREEDERS OF 2020 BRAZILIAN NATIONALS

Arabian horse breeding in Brazil has bloomed in the recent years, spreading its invaluable influence on various breeding programs all around the world. Consequently, the Brazilian Nationals have become a must-attend event for all Arabian horse breeders and enthusiasts. Anyone that has ever attended the show must have been wondering what is the Brazilian breeders' recipe for success. It looks as though there is no single formula and the secret ingredients seem to vary from breeder to breeder. This time, I decided to discover a heavily guarded recipe of the renowned Rach Stud, a private property of 2000 acres located on the Chapada Island in the picturesque Furnas Lake region, which is part of the large inland state of Minas Gerais. In this amazing place, which also happens to be a natural refuge for fantastic fauna including almost 200 different species of animals, the Saliba family are involved in multiple activities, like producing macadamia nuts and coffee as well as breeding cattle. It is also the place where two brothers, Ricardo and Paulo Saliba, have continued the longstanding Family tradition of breeding Arabian horses. With 35 years of experience in equine matters and with such amazing accomplishments as two prestigious titles for Best Halter Breeder and Best Performance Breeder at the 2020 Brazilian Nationals, their core ingredients must undoubtedly be super special.



The late Jamil Saliba and their sons Ricardo and Paulo



Pavel Rach - 1998 Brazilian National Champion Colt



\*EKSPORT  
2005 Brazilian National  
Champion Stallion



\*PASSION LTD  
1990 Brazilian National  
Champion Mare



\*POLONEZ  
1991 Brazilian National  
Champion Stallion



Preferida Rach - 2019 Brazilian  
National Champion Gold Filly



Ricardo and Paulo with Vaidosa Rach and Preferida Rach



STUD



Tup





## PREFERIDA RACH

2020 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SILVER CHAMPION YOUNG MARE



# INTERVIEW



## VAIDOSA RACH

RFI Maktub x Vanity Rach (Mister Eros HX)

2020 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SILVER CHAMPION MARE

2017 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL GOLD CHAMPION YOUNG MARE

**Kamila:** You have been breeding Arabian horses for the last 35 years. How did it all start?

**Ricardo and Paulo:** Our family have been involved in horse breeding since 1977. At the beginning, we bred Campolina and Mangalarga Marchador, Brazilian gaited horses, but because our ancestors come from Syria and Lebanon, our father Jamil was always obsessed with Arabians. The family tradition goes back as far as early 1900's, when our grandfather Rachid Saliba owned an Arabian mare that competed in local races in the Syrian countryside. At the end of 1985, we decided to purchase some mares in Brazil and, in January 1986, we flew to California in a search for other bloodlines that could enhance our breeding programme. The first stop on our journey was the well-known Ventura Farms with their amazing Polish Arabians. Stunned by their beauty and strength, we decided to base our breeding programme on the Polish lineages. After visiting Ventura, we travelled to Lasma Kentucky Arabians in Scottsdale, another famous US breeder specialising in the Polish Arabians, where our admiration for their charisma grew even stronger. And then, for obvious reasons, the last stop on our journey was Poland itself.



## PREFERIDA RACH

*\*Bandit SRA x Persephone Rach (Vulcano HVP)*

2020 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SILVER CHAMPION YOUNG MARE  
2019 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL GOLD CHAMPION FILLY

**Kamila:** Do you still remember your first broodmare?

Ricardo and Paulo: Of course! It was a mare with a Uruguayan pedigree that we bought in Brazil. Her name was Desdemona. However, it was the first group of mares that we imported from the USA back in 1980's that we consider as our foundation broodmares. This collection included the classy chestnut Canntina, an Aladdin daughter out of the US National Champion, Aristo Cantada by Ariston; the gorgeous grey Elbaa by El Paso and out of the ethereal European Champion Enklawa by Bandos. These two mares were joined by LS Varena (Amurath Varonezh x NI Tanara by Nigatt) whose pedigree was only partially Polish. Yet she was so pretty that we decided to buy her with a filly by her side. It turned out to be a good move as the grey Gwydion daughter Vanity VF became Brazilian National Champion Filly the year after.

**Kamila:** What qualities do Polish Arabians possess that make you rate them so highly?

Ricardo and Paulo: The list seems to be very long! Beautiful bewitching eyes, perfectly shaped swanlike necks, well-modelled correct bodies, athletic strength, amazing attitude and powerful movement, to name just a few.



Ricardo and Paulo Saliba - 2007

**Kamila:** And which of the abovementioned horses contributed the most to your breeding programme?

**Ricardo and Paulo:** There were so many of them that it is really difficult to say. From a stallion perspective, Ekho VF (Bandos x Enora by Czort) and Gwydion (Bask x Gwyn by Comet) came at the very beginning. Then, in the 1990's, we imported Polonez (Etap x Parma by Aswan), Armagnac (Aladdinn x Grenedyne by Bask) and Aicyng (Aikon x Porcelyn by Bey Shah). At the beginning of the new millennium, our chief stallions included Sarmata (Pepton x Sarmacja by Gil), Eksport (Europejczyk x Esparceta by Favor) and Almir SWSB (Alt x Espmira by Ali Mir). The last three, together with Polonez, became Brazilian National Champions. When it comes to our foundation mares, there are four that we consider very precious: the above-mentioned LS Varena, who started our well-known V-line, with such successful descendants as Vivaldi Rach, Vandalo Rach, Voltaire Rach and Vaidosa Rach; Passion Ltd (Aladdinn x Passing Fancy by Bask), a National Champion Mare and the dam of our most influential stallion, Pavel Rach; Aluia (Ponomarev x OKW Alleluia by Aladdinn), also a National Champion Mare; and, last but not least, Peridot (Nabor x Perdida by Elkin), the progenitor of our P-line, the most successful family of Rach Stud at the moment.





## \*ELFERUS

WH Justice x Elfeera (Psytadel)

2019 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL BRONZE CHAMPION STALLION



## \*VOLARI NA

QR Marc x Felisha BHF (Falcon BHF)

2019 SCOTTSDALE CHAMPION 3 YEARS OLD STALLIONS

**Kamila:** It is an impressive list of remarkable individuals. Are you able to pick your personal favourites?

**Ricardo and Paulo:** Again, it is not easy, but we would probably go for the incredible bay Polonez, bred by the Janow Podlaski State Stud in Poland, for his personal charisma, for becoming our first National Champion Stallion and for being a versatile sire of outstanding offspring that excelled at many disciplines, including halter, racing, endurance and performance. Our own bred Pavel Rach was also very special to us; a National Champion Colt who was a living image of his legendary grandsire Aladdinn. Passing his correct conformation onto his progeny, Pavel Rach was an excellent sire of both halter and endurance champions.





## MISTER EROS HX *Pavel Rach x Almadena (Nejniy)*

NATIONAL MULTI TOP TEN STALLION  
INTERESTADUAL CHAMPION STALLION

## VOLTAIRE RACH

*Pavel Rach x Vaal Rach (\*Aicyng)*

2009 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL  
RESERVE CHAMPION STALLION





## TIMON RACH

*Pavel Rach x Tiffany Bey (Huckleberry Bey)*

4 TIMES NATIONAL CHAMPION  
IN ENGLISH PLEASURE



## INSIGNIA RACH

*El Shakhry x Isis Rach (Vaillant Rach)*

2020 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL TOP TEN MARE

**Kamila:** At first glance, your breeding vision reminds me of the old Polish philosophy to breed horses that are both show champions and great performance horses. Is this what you are trying to achieve?

**Ricardo and Paulo:** This is exactly what we aim at in our breeding programme. Our selection criteria for halter horses include athletic capabilities, which means that the horses we choose need to have some successful sport champions in their pedigrees. The discipline does not really matter; it can be racing, endurance or performance. Additionally, all the colts and fillies chosen for breeding are submitted to a rigorous selection to ensure that their size, conformation of legs and quality of movement will enable them to become successful sport horses. We should not forget that athletic capability, resistance, velocity and agility are all components of the Arabian horse type. Due to all these qualities, the Arabs protected and preserved the breed for hundreds of years. We cannot afford to lose all of this now. And we are living proof that it is possible to combine beauty and classic type with functionality. At the 2020 Brazilian Nationals, we received the honours for the Best Halter Breeder as well as the Best Performance Breeder. But it has not happened in a day, it has actually been a long process, consisting of a few stages. First, our breeding programme was based on the Polish stallions that we brought from the USA and Poland, including Polonez, Armagnac, Sarmata, Eksport, Aicyng and Almir. All these stallions produced many winners and National Champions in endurance. Then, our own bred Pavel Rach by Armagnac, together with his sons Voltaire Rach and Mister Eros HX as well as his grandsons Vaillant Rach and Vesper Rach, not only became very successful show champions, but also produced great endurance and race horses. At this stage, we also reintegrated two proven stallions, Eksort Rach and Feitizzo Rach, into our breeding programme. After that, we decided to use only those stallions that proved themselves as racing or endurance horses. This includes Erastus Rach, Marei Rach, Bismarck Rach, Rhondo Rach, Lion Kong AA Rach and Araçai AA Rach. At the final stage, in order to accomplish our goal of breeding an internationally competitive Arabian horse, we imported the semen of such world-famous stallions as Mared Al Sahra, Asraa Min Albarq, Sadepers, Djevar de Graves, Seraphin Du Paon, Al Mamun Monlau, Mister Ginoux and Sir Bani Yas. We believe that a blend of our classic pedigrees with these well-known race and endurance producers will bring great results, which has already been proved by their first foals born at our farm that are just stunning!



# VAIDOSA RACH

2020 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SILVER  
CHAMPION MARE





## RAGNAR RACH

*Vulcano HVP x Rapunzel Rach (Voltaire Rach)*

### BRAZILIAN NATIONAL:

2019 Champion Get of Sire  
 2019 Top Ten Stallion  
 2017 Liberty Class Champion  
 2017 and 2018 Top Ten Young Stallion  
 2016 Silver Champion Colt  
 2016 and 2018 Gold Champion  
 Most Classic Head

**Kamila:** This is an amazing achievement which shows that a clearly defined breeding vision will eventually bring a desired outcome. As highly experienced and accomplished breeders, what could you say about the general approach to Arabian horse breeding in Brazil?

**Ricardo and Paulo:** The halter breeding in Brazil is incredible. In our opinion, the breeders here are the best and the competition is fantastic. It is great to see more and more people breeding sport horses and supporting performance classes. Also, the current board of directors at ABCCA are giving a lot of support to the breeders involved in sport and performance activities, which is a positive thing. For many years, the Arabian horse in Brazil was considered an expensive hobby for the elite. If we want to expand the Brazilian breeding programme, we need to make sure Arabians become more popular in our country. It can be achieved by promoting the breed as a versatile horse capable of performing well in every sport discipline.



## JUSTINA RACH

*\*El Tino x Jasmin FWM (\*FA El Shawan)*

2020 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL TOP TEN  
YOUNG MARE



## JAZZLA RACH

*Hariry Al Shaqab x Jazella FA  
(Padrons Psyche)*

2019 SCOTTSDALE SIGNATURE  
CHAMPION 3 YEARS OLD MARE

2019 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL TOP TEN  
YOUNG MARE



**Kamila:** While on the subject of achievements, what would you consider to be your most spectacular success?

Ricardo and Paulo: When it comes to wins in the championships, we have 4 National Champion Stallions and 2 National Champion Mares, including a Gold Champion Mare title, to our credit. However, our most significant success is staying ahead of the competition in various areas of the Arabian horse industry; be it halter, performance, racing or endurance.

**Kamila:** And what was the most memorable moment at a show?

Ricardo and Paulo: It was probably our first Brazilian Nationals back in 1987. Nobody knew us then and we won all 3 classes of fillies that morning.



**JUPITER RACH** \*AAS Elishahh x Jasmin FWM (\*FA El Shawan)  
2020 AND 2019 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL TOP TEN YOUNG STALLION



**PERLAN RACH** TS Khidam El Shawan x Persephone Rach (Vulcano HVP)  
2020 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL TOP TEN YOUNG STALLION



## PERSEPHONE RACH

*Vulcano HVP x Pimpinella Rach (Mister Eros HX)*

2018 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL  
SILVER CHAMPION PRODUCE OF DAM

2019 BRAZILIAN NATIONAL  
GOLD CHAMPION PRODUCE OF DAM



**Kamila:** In the video made at your stud during the Brazilian Farm Tour 2020, all your horses, including the breeding stallions, seem to have a kind and friendly disposition. What is your approach to training?

Ricardo and Paulo: After 35 years of breeding and showing Arabian horses, we have seen all kinds of training techniques in many different divisions. Our own approach is to always be close to our horses and choose the most qualified trainers to school, ride and show them. The same philosophy is applied to endurance and racing. We always keep an eye on training and exercising and we develop a good relationship with our staff, including trainers, riders and jockeys. It is very important for us that they understand how much we care for our horses and that we are not interested in winning at any cost. Obviously, we want to be competitive and succeed but the welfare of our horses is of the utmost importance for us.

**Kamila:** Do all the activities related to training of halter and sport horses happen in the same place?

Ricardo and Paulo: No, our main Training and Breeding Centre known as Rach Stud Marco Zero, where we train our show horses and collect embryos from our

best halter mares, is located in Araçoiaba da Serra, 75 minutes' drive from São Paulo City. The activity in our facility on the Chapada Island is now mainly concentrated on our endurance and race programme.

**Kamila:** If you were to describe an Arabian horse using only 3 words, which words would that be?

Ricardo and Paulo: Beautiful, smart and strong.

**Kamila:** They truly are! But what is the most important characteristics of an Arabian horse to you and why?

Ricardo and Paulo: As we have already mentioned, they are naturally beautiful; there is no question about it. Also, they have a smart personality. Sometimes we think they will start talking to us. However, what makes Arabians really special is their versatility. Maybe their trot is not as high as the one of a Saddlebred, and maybe they are unable to beat a Thoroughbred on a race track, or perform in barrel racing better than a Quarter Horse, or jump as high as a Selle Français, but they are the only breed capable of doing all these things. Besides, no other horse is able to go 160 km with an average speed of 25km/h; it is just unbelievable! Arabians are surely the most versatile horses on earth!



## *\*GWYDION*

*Bask x Gwyn (Comet)  
1968-1990  
Bred by Lasma Arabians*



**Kamila:** No doubt they are unique! Are you able to name an Arabian that you consider as the epitome of the breed?

Ricardo and Paulo: Talking about halter, there are so many horses around the world that truly inspire us. However, we are lucky to have two mares at our own farm that fulfil many of our expectations of how an Arabian horse should look like in its prime. These two mares, Preferida Rach and Vaidosa Rach, are also the ruling Brazilian National Silver Champion Young Mare and Silver Champion Senior Mare respectively.

**Kamila:** Are there any historical horses that you wish you could use in your breeding programme but it is no longer possible?

Ricardo and Paulo: In the past, there were several horses that we wanted to use but some had already been gone and the problem with others was that the export of their frozen semen was impossible at the time. The legendary Polish stallion Bask we were unable to use for the first reason and it was a real shame. As a halter, performance and racing winner but, most importantly, as a sire, Bask changed the Arabian horse breeding forever. We imported many of his granddaughters and grandsons when our breeding program commenced. Additionally, we purchased his daughter Bornaska (out of Borszna by Kasztel) as well as one of his best sons, Gwydion, who unfortunately passed away only 10 months after his arrival. Another stallion that we really wanted to use was the elegant Eukaliptus. Unfortunately, we were unable to import his frozen semen. There was something very special in simply being around him. He had a beautiful head with some of the biggest black eyes we have ever seen, a long swan-like neck and great movement exposing his strong limbs. Obviously, he had his faults and would have to be used carefully, but he had the potential to improve the type of our mares at the early stages of our breeding program.

**Kamila:** These two Polish stallions are legends in their own right! But can you name one horse that is especially close to your heart?

Ricardo and Paulo: So many horses will stay in our hearts forever and we are unable to name just one. Polonez, Passion, Pavel, Voltaire, Marei, Vaidosa, Preferida, Epopeu... I guess this is the problem of being a breeder; we just cannot stop loving them as well as the next generations...

**Kamila:** In your opinion, in which direction is the Arabian horse industry going to develop in the future?

Ricardo and Paulo: The Arabian horse has a great future ahead if the breeders never forget that, besides being beautiful, this horse is an athlete! Although we cannot expect from every halter horse to become successful in other divisions such as racing or endurance, we must at least expect that it is capable of becoming a good riding horse. For this reason, such qualities as good temper and correct legs cannot be put aside and considered unimportant.

After our conversation, I was left with the impression that there is more than one core ingredient in Ricardo and Paulo's recipe for success. Their impressive achievements have resulted from a carefully selected blend of deep love and passion for Arabian horses mixed with many years of experience in breeding both halter and performance champions. This successful combination has been further enriched with a clearly defined approach to breeding and seasoned with a strong belief that Arabians are the most versatile horses on earth. But the recipe of Rach Stud is not secret at all! In fact, the Saliba brothers are more than happy to share their vision with other breeders to help them appreciate and preserve all the amazing attributes of Arabians that make them the most unique and versatile breed of horses in the world.

# IMMORTAL STALLIONS



## \*SARMATA

*Pepton x Sarmacja (Gil) - 1992-201*

Bred by Janow Podalski

Imported by Rach 1999

2001 Brazilian National Champion Stallion



## \*POLONEZ

*Etap x Parma (Aswan) - 1980-2006*

Bred by Janow Podlaski - Imported by Rach Stud 1988

1990 Brazilian National Champion Stallion



## \*EKSPORT

*Europejczyk x Esparceta (Fawor)*

1994-2007

Bred by Janow Podlaski

Imported by Rach Stud in 1999

2005 Brazilian National Champion Stallion



## \*ALMIR

*Alt x Espmira (Ali Mir) - 1996-2017*

Bred by Ramonia Arabians - Imported by Rach in 2001

2002 Brazilian National Champion Stallion

2004 Canadian National Reserve Champion Stallion

2005 U.S National Top 5 Stallion





## \*AICYNG

*Aikon x Porcelyn (Bey Shah) - 1990-2009*

Bred by Robert Meade USA

Imported by Rach Stud in 1995

Canadian and Brazilian National Top Ten Stallion



## \*ARMAGNAC

*Aladdinn x Grenedyn (Bask) - 1982 -1999*

Bred by Act III USA - Imported by Rach Stud in 1991

USA, Canadian and Brazilian National Top Ten Stallion



## PAVEL RACH

*\*Armagnac x Passion LTD (Aladdinn) - 1994-2010*

1996 Brazilian National Champion Colt

Seven times Brazilian National Top Ten Stallion



## VAILLANT RACH

*Mister Eros HX x Viola Rach (\*Eksport)*

2008-2013

2012 Brazilian National Top Ten Young Stallion

## HISTORIC MARES



### \*PASSION LTD

*Aladdinn x Passing Fancy (Bask)*

1990 Brazilian National Champion Mare  
1990 Brazilian National Grand Champion Mare  
1997 Brazilian National Champion Produce of Dam





## \*ALUIA

*Ponomarev x OKW Alleluia (Aladdinn)*

1988 Brazilian National Champion Mare  
1988 Brazilian National Grand Champion Mare



## SHILA RACH

*\*Armagnac x PCF Sheer Delight (Deficyt)*

Multi National Top Ten Mare



## LARA RACH

*Cagnac x Larenda (Rezus)*

1988 Brazilian National Champion Filly  
1990 Centro Brasileira Grand Champion Mare



## \*LS VAREENA

*Amurath Varonezh x Ni Tanara (Nigatt)*

1987 Brazilian National Champion Produce of Dam



## CALIFORNIA RACH

*Wizjon x Curious (Cagnac) - 1980-2006*

Multi Brazilian National Top Ten Mare  
1992 Rio Show Grand Champion Mare





## LUANA RACH

\*Almaden x Hakima ELS (Prichal)

Multi National Top Ten Mare



## POLONAIZE RACH

\*Polonez x \*Passion LTD (Aladdinn)

Multi National Top Ten Mare  
1997 International Show Grand Champion Mare



## VAAL RACH

\*Aicyng x Vanity VF (\*Gwydion)

2007 Brazilian National Champion Produce of Dam



## \*VANITY VF

\*Gwydion x LS Vareena (Amurath Varonezh)

1987 Brazilian National Champion Jr Filly







Ana Paula Storani Saliba and Elmer Rach



Renato Storani Saliba with Pelleus Rach



Rodrigo Storani Saliba with Mantineu Rach









## ALL POL RACH

\*Polonez x \*After the Rapture (Aristo Kossack)

First winner in the new Brazilian Racing Program











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