



# An eye for vision...

## *with* Elba Training Center

### *In the heart of Belgium...*

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Alessio Azzali, Glenn Jacobs, Jan Kan,  
Kelly Delen, Arabian Insider by Paola Drea

In the heart of Belgium, just ten minutes away from Brussels Airport, we visit Elba Training Center, a new and upcoming training facility founded by two young people: Tony Bauwens and Kelly Delen.

In the charming village of Kampenhout, we meet up with them and their horses to find out what their “eye for vision” is all about. The stables are easy accessible and only thirty minutes away from two of Belgium’s most vibrant cities: Brussels and Leuven, which makes a visit to Elba Training center even more enjoyable for their clients.

When walking into the large, brand new barn you get a serene feeling. The sound of relaxed horses munching away on their hay, in combination with the wide corridors and the spacious horse stalls, (which measure 5m by 3m) give a sense of peace and quiet to any horse lover. Through the stall window of each stable, every individual horse has a view of the entire barn.

Adjacent to the Arabian horse barn, there’s a second corridor which accommodates the warmblood horses. Not only are Tony and Kelly known for their love for the Arabian horse, they are also passionate breeders of dressage horses and take great joy in their riding horses. They love sharing their passion and their excellent facilities with like minded people, who have their own horses in boarding with Elba Training Center and make use of this lovely place. When you walk through Elba Training Center you see a variety of horses and riders, disciplines at all levels. From Andalusian horses to jumping horses, to dressage horses, competing at the highest level, all call Elba Training Center their home. It’s no surprise that their Arabian horses present themselves in a relaxed and happy manner in the show ring, because, as Kelly says: “At Elba they are and need to be, more than just a pretty face.”

In many European training centers the emphasis on the riding aspect is gaining more popularity from the

**KHALED AL HAMAD**

Multi champion stallion

*(Ajman Moniscione x Magnificent PPA)*

*Owned by H.E. Sheikh Hamad Khaled Al Sabah*

*Standing at stud at Elba Training Center*





### **MURHAF ALBIDAYER**

Bronze champion senior stallions  
Shrajah UAE bred show  
(*Marajj x Magic Mon Amour*)

Arabian horse society. The desirability of owning a pretty, but versatile horse is slowly on the rise again. The fully equipped tack room at Elba proves that every training horse older than three, get's acquainted with saddle and bridle.

When talking about their horses and the preferred method of training, Tony is quite meticulous. Every horse has his own personalized working schedule, that is specific to his needs, based on age, abilities and conformation. A working day for a horse in training can go from working on the double reins, to riding or lunging,... From July 2021 they will even offer aqua



training, for the Arabian horses in training, as well as for outside clients. When asked about their future goals and dreams they both cheekily smile and say... “you’ll just have to wait and follow our journey, because this is only the kickoff of our adventure”.

At Elba training center you can feel “the eye for vision”. The setting puts the horses at ease, while the horsemanship of these upcoming trainers embraces the individuality and talent of each distinctive horse they receive in training. From warmblood, to Arabian...

At Elba training center every horse is seen in focus! □

**D NAWASY**  
*(FA El Rasheem x D Nawali)*  
*proudly owned by Dr. Sorin*  
*Danubius Arabians*



**ASE FARHAN**

crowned Gold champion for numerous times

*(RFI Farid x ASE Bisiriya Hlayyl)*

*Proudly bred by Arabian Stud Europe*



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*Kelly together with the exotic,  
six year old stallion*

**SAHIR ALBIDAYER**

*who was Bronze champion Classic pleasure  
and Bronze champion Hunter pleasure in 2019*