

Interview with Jennifer Dhombre



JENNIFER WITH JEMMA KALLISTE (SHANGHAI EA x SHAMILAH JINA BEA)

by Kamila Kozłowska ■ photos by Kalliste Arabians archive

There is something captivating about Jennifer Dhombre that, in some magical way, draws people and horses to her. I am not entirely sure whether it is the warm smile on her face or her wide-reaching positivity but there is one thing I know: it is been a long time since I wanted to get to know Jennifer personally. When I finally had a chance to talk with her, I realised that there is more than the love and passion for horses that we have in common. Her vision of a beautiful and versatile Arabian horse fully resonates with my own admiration for the horses that are both refined and functional. For both of us, the unique connection with a horse is a dream come true. The only difference between us is that I still keep dreaming, while she had the courage to make her dreams come true. Although her parents were not involved in the horse industry, she has become a horse addict at a very early stage of her life. Inspired by the famous novel 'The Black Stallion' by Walter Farley, she decided that one day she would become an Arabian horse breeder when she was just 7 years old. Thanks to her hard work, determination and the never-ending support from her parents, Jennifer started her own breeding programme at the very young age of 18. Today, at 32 years old, she is already an accomplished breeder with numerous amazing achievements to her credit. As the owner and manager of the world-renowned Kalliste Arabians, she can boast about breeding several great champions, including the wonderful Wortex Kalliste, a true show phenomenon and a legend in the making. Hearing the story of Wortex and other famous horses that live on this beautiful farm in the south of France directly from their breeder was an experience which exceeded all my expectations. The only thing that I regret is that you, Dear Reader, cannot personally hear Jennifer talking about Arabians, as the tone of her voice reveals the passion so great that no words can describe. Our rather lengthy conversation has painted a picture of an amazing young woman who, driven by her endless love and passion for horses, established one of the most interesting and innovative breeding programmes not only in France, but also across Europe and all over the world.



Kamila: How has the story of Kalliste Arabians begun?

Jennifer: It started many years ago in the imagination of a young girl and, some years later, this young girl's dream evolved into a plan for a professional career. However, turning my dream into reality would not have been possible without the help of my amazing parents who have always been my biggest supporters. Although at first, they wanted me to find another way to make a living and keep the horses just for pleasure, they did their best to help and support me in following my dreams. To me, this is the best proof of parental love. Thanks to them, I got my first filly that later on became the foundation mare for my breeding programme. However, my family philosophy states that if you really want something, you need to work hard and be responsible from an early age. So, my parents supported me but I had to work very hard in return and learn how to be responsible, which definitely helped me in reaching my goals. I consider myself very lucky and I am eternally grateful to my parents for all they have done for me. And today, I also have the invaluable support of my boyfriend, Aurélien Nouailles, who does his best to help me in all day to day duties on the farm.

Kamila: You were very lucky indeed. Not all children get that much support, especially if their dreams do not really fit in with their parents' expectations. Thanks to their help, you are already an accomplished breeder even though you are only 32 years old. How old were you when you got your first horse?

Jennifer: I was 15 years old and my mare, Al Najba de Lam (AS Sinans Pacha x Sadowa de Lam by Pegase EF), was just a yearling at that time. We started my breeding programme together. When I turned 18, she was ready to be bred for the first time. Also, at roughly the same time, my parents helped me to buy my first high-quality horse, the spectacular $\frac{3}{4}$ Spanish stallion BS Specific (Sandstorm JC x Basara Saiyana by Mel Nebli).

Kamila: Where does the name Kalliste come from?

Jennifer: It actually comes from Old Greek and it means 'the most beautiful'. So, the meaning of our farm's name is simply 'the most beautiful Arabians'. When I was younger, I loved studying ancient extinct languages, like Latin and Old Greek. I believe that it is really important to return to the roots, no matter whether we talk

WORTEX KALLISTE
(SHANGHAI EA x MIRWANAH KALLISTE)



about life, languages or horses. Also, I wanted something a bit different for the name of my stud, so I came up with combining two things that I love, horses and languages, into one.

Kamila: Again, your ideas and dreams have become your reality. In the end, you got what you wished for: the most beautiful Arabian horses. Why did you fell in love with this particular breed? What is so special about them?

Jennifer: No doubt it is a beautiful animal but I mostly admire Arabians for their soul, spirit and intelligence. Their connection with humans cannot be compared to that of any other breed. When you spend time around Arabians, you realise how human-like they really are in both their attitude and language. In order to consider yourself a true horseperson, you need to be capable of communicating with an Arabian horse. Another quality which I personally admire is their versatility. There is no activity or sport in which an Arabian horse could not participate. Also, they are fantastic for crossing with other breeds, being known as the best breed improvers since ever. And their charisma is unbelievable. Every morning when I open the window and see them in the pasture playing together, trotting and snorting, I immediately have goosebumps. To me, this feeling is the best motivation to continue my hard work.

Kamila: I know this feeling too well but I am also aware of how hard you need to work as a breeder. Can you tell us something about your breeding vision and how it has changed or developed over the years?

Jennifer: Over the last 14 years, my breeding vision has evolved in some respects and in others it has stayed unchanged. First of all, I am a rider, so to me the functionality of a horse has always been the most important criterium for selection. I love horses that are breathtakingly beautiful but it means nothing if they are not functional. 'Motion is emotion' has always been my motto. Apart from good movement, all my horses need to have great bodies, correct legs and feet. To me, refinement, charisma as well as a beautiful head and neck are more of a bonus than the criteria for selection. I would never choose a horse with just a pretty head if it is not functional. Contrary to popular belief, the championships are great for selection as show horses must be complete not only when it comes to their morphology and movement, but also with regards to their mental readiness to compete. Unfortunately, sometimes the score does not reflect how good the horse really is simply because, as judges, we can use only a small spectrum of the scoring system. However, one thing that has changed in my breeding programme is

that I started breeding Arabians also for sports, mainly for endurance riding. Endurance has always been a very important activity in France. The problem is that very often the horses selected to take part in rides do not even resemble Arabian horses anymore and I believe that it does not need to be the case. What is more, we are perfectly able to breed horses that are both beautiful and functional without reaching the extreme in one or the other. It is really important for me to show that in endurance riding we can have the best of both worlds: a functional horse with a touch of beauty and refinement.

Kamila: Apart from your innovative approach to breeding, you are well known for developing and using your own techniques when it comes to horse care and management. What do you do differently in comparison to other breeders?

Jennifer: I believe that the more natural ways of working on the farm, the better. To me, it is totally unnatural to separate the baby from its mother at a very young age, so that it grows on its own in the stable without seeing or meeting other horses. Obviously, you need to be careful so that they do not hurt themselves but it is extremely important for the babies to learn from other horses. Another thing I refuse is the idea of intensive breeding. I do not start breeding my mares until they are at least four years old because most of them are not ready before reaching this age. For this reason, I also decided to become the artificial inseminator. I know exactly what is happening to my mares and I always try to do everything in the most natural way that I can. Making the insemination process as natural as possible is beneficial for the mare's mind, body, fertility and longevity. I have been trying to gain all the knowledge and skills to be a good breeder and I share it with the members of my team. I teach every new member of staff how to behave and communicate with horses in any circumstances. It is very important for me that my horses are happy and that my team look after them to the best of their abilities.

Kamila: Every Arabian horse enthusiast has heard about Wortex Kalliste, an amazing young stallion of whom you are the proud breeder and owner. I fell in love with this charismatic horse when I saw him for the first time in Paris 2019, 'dancing' with his trainer and handler, Frederik Van Sas.

Jennifer: Wortex worked greatly with Ted Carson some years ago, and now, with Frederik, they are the best dancing partners ever. I love how they work together because, for most of the time, it is more playing than working. As I am





WORTEX KALLISTE
(SHANGHAI EA x MIRWANAH KALLISTE)

not a fan of hard stand up, Frederik and I agreed to, first of all, keep Wortex happy, so that he enjoys his time at the show.

Kamila: Why do you call Wortex the 'Dream Maker'?

Jennifer: *It all started with his exceptional dam, Mirwanah Kalliste, whom I also bred myself. She was out of a straight Russian mare, Nakubaya Kossack (Kubay Khan x Nalatonna by Balaton), whom I absolutely adored and for whom the cross with Marwan Al Shaqab turned out to be really successful. For years, Mirwanah was considered one of the most complete and extreme Marwan daughters. Thanks to her, I became part of the elite breeders' circle. As is often the case, the best show mares are not always the best producers. Yet I expected something truly special from this mare but, even in my wildest dreams, I did not imagine her first foal to be so spectacular. Wortex was a very impressive colt from the moment he was born. I felt really blessed because he was exactly the kind of baby I had always dreamt of breeding one day. What is more, as he was growing older, he has become one of the horses that I consider the epitome of the Arabian breed. To me, breeding is a massive amount of knowledge combined with hard work and a bit of luck, so I consider myself very lucky. I had not expected to breed a horse like that for years or maybe never. And Wortex made*



me dream bigger and bigger. Not only did he win several prestigious shows but also, he clearly enjoyed his time in the showing. He also fulfilled my American dream. As a little girl, I was dreaming of Scottsdale, where years later he became Gold Champion. Every time I go to Scottsdale and I see his name on the wall of fame among all the other international gold champions, I am deeply touched.

Kamila: No doubt breeding is great knowledge, hard work and a bit of luck but Mirwanah for sure did not disappoint you.

Jennifer: *Definitely not! And she is still an amazing mare today and surely the best broodmare on the farm. She only gave us one full sibling to Wortex, a very pretty mare Alpha Kalliste, who resembles her famous brother in so many respects, being very different from him at the same time. Mirwanah is not easy to breed but every time she blesses us with a baby, it is a real treasure.*



KALLISTE ARABIANS



MIRWANAH KALLISTE (MARWAN AL SHAQAB × NAKUBAYA KOSSACK)

Kamila: Apart from Mirwanah, which horses have had the greatest influence on your breeding programme?

Jennifer: I would say it is the old Russian bloodlines and stallions like Balaton, Kubinec, Menes, Warandes Plakat and Plakat. I really love these old lines for their completeness, great structure and amazing movement. Most of them are remarkably functional horses that can be successfully mixed with modern bloodlines in order to add a bit of refinement. Mirwanah can serve as a perfect example as she is very refined but she has also retained all the power and functionality of her straight Russian dam, not particularly refined but a very functional and complete mare. And Wortex is yet another step towards modernity. To me, he is both classic and modern at the same time and this is what I really like about him. And I am not saying this because he is mine. Actually, I am very selective and critical about my own horses. Another mare that hugely influenced my breeding programme is Starlight De Lam, ¾ Russian, sired by Menes's son Pegase EF and bred by Alain Coural who, in my heart, is like my second father. Her gorgeous grey daughter LA Saalmah (by BS Specific), amazingly flea-bitten, with the biggest black eyes and a very wide forehead, is among my three best broodmares. She is also the dam of Styx Kalliste (by Shanghai EA), who is one of my great champions. In fact, Styx is the link between the two very different worlds that we have in France: shows and endurance riding. Hi is an amazing horse, the best of both worlds: very pretty, double National Champion, second in Menton, third in Aachen but, at the same time,

very tall (1.65 m), super functional and complete. Due to an unfortunate accident just before a big international A show, he lost one eye and that put his show career to an end. Anyway, my plan was to stop showing him at the age of six and make him an endurance horse only. Luckily, he is still able to take part in rides and prove that a functional horse can also be beautiful. As I have already said, most of French horses used for sports do not even resemble Arabians anymore. I do not have the pretention to change it but I will make my contribution for sure.

Kamila: When you choose a mare for your breeding programme, what are the most important characteristics that she should possess?

Jennifer: As I have said, I am very selective when it comes to my horses. Talking about phenotype, she must be a functional horse in the first place. Some flaws I can accept but not the ones that would influence her movement or functionality. When it comes to her genotype, I must have an in-depth knowledge about her sire and what he has produced so far, with what kind of mares, with which bloodlines as well as the best qualities and the major flaws of his progeny. Then, I also look at her paternal grandsire and granddam, and I thoroughly analyse her dam line. I must feel that I can work with her pedigree to keep its best qualities, trying to improve it at the same time. And then, it is really important for me to approach the mare in order to get my own feeling about her spirit, soul and mind as well as to find out how she behaves towards people and other horses and whether





SIGMA KALLISTE, LADY URBINA, AJMANAH DE LAM,
JEMMA KALLISTE

she enjoys showing off in a small arena. Last but not least, I need to have a good connection with the mare from the very beginning.

Kamila: Is it the same qualities that you look for in a breeding stallion?

Jennifer: Many desirable traits are the same with one major difference: I always choose a stallion that, in my opinion, will complement the mare, not the one that I like. He needs to have the capability of improving the mare's flaws. On the other hand, there are stallions that may not be my personal favourites that I would still consider using because of their ability to improve some traits that are not the strongest points of my mares.

Kamila: We all know that there is no ideal horse but there are some very close to perfection. Can you name any horse that you consider the epitome of the Arabian breed?

Jennifer: It is a very difficult question! When it comes to stallions, I really like Shanghai EA, Khidar, Al Adeed Al Shaqab, Eternity Ibn Navarrone-D, all of them snow-



SIGMA KALLISTE (SHANGHAI EA × LA SAALMAH)

white and none of them perfect. As far as the mares are concerned, I have always loved Col Cora and all the Monogram daughters, like Kwestura and Zagrobla. These horses were really touching my heart. An amazing thing about the Arabian horse is that it is an international breed without one clear standard and with good genetic diversity. I have my own vision of a perfect Arabian horse but, as long as it is complete and functional, I more than happy to use different bloodlines. And that is why, I am using mixed blood rather than just concentrate on one line. Especially that now, due to the overuse of popular stallions and lines, the diversity of genetic material has decreased substantially and



KALLISTE ARABIANS



STYX KALLISTE
(SHANGHAI EA × LA SAALMAH)

we desperately need to use different bloods. For this reason, the old bloodlines, which also cross very well with modern horses, are so valuable. BS Specific, my first high-quality stallion, is a very classic horse; ¾ Spanish, 1.60-meter-tall with superb body, exceptional legs that you rarely see these days except in these old bloodlines, amazing huge black eyes, very wide forehead and powerful movement. Now, he is 21 years old and he looks like he was maximum 10. When I noticed that he no longer enjoyed being in the arena, I used him mainly for riding and for breeding. He produced some of my most amazing broodmares. But most people have no idea how valuable the old bloods are, so they become more and more neglected and forgotten. In order to increase the genetic diversity of my horses, apart from working with old bloodlines, I also like to experiment and use something different. Last year, I bred Sigma Kalliste, full sister to Styx, to Straight Egyptian World Champion Stallion Naseem Al Rashediah and this cross resulted in an exceptional filly. She mostly resembles her powerful dam line of Starlight de Lam but you can definitely see the touch of Naseem in her.



Kamila: In my opinion, not all beautiful horses are charismatic and vice versa. Can you name any horses that, every time you see them, take your breath away?

Jennifer: I love many horses for many different reasons: the unforgettable Pianissima, the perfectly imperfect Venezia, the charismatic Lady Veronica or the powerfully moving Equator. Actually, my list could be very long. It also features some of my own horses that I have already mentioned: Wortex, Mirwanah, Styx, BS Specific, Sigma. But there is one very special horse that I have not mentioned yet. This mare is amazing in every way and I love her to the moon and back. For years, I had been looking for a WH Justice daughter with a great body, which is not very easy to find in this stallion's line. Another of my dreams was to find a black mare but not just any black mare; she had to be very special. I did not expect that I would manage to find one mare that has it all, until I saw OFW Poetic Justice. She is an extremely rare, black Justice daughter who is almost perfect to me. She is a full package: tall (1.60 m) and amazingly functional, with a perfect attitude and mindset, correct body and powerful movement. Additionally, she is

VERSAILLES
(NA'MOUS AL SHAHANIA × H EKZACTLY H)





JEMMA KALLISTE (SHANGHAI EA × SHAMILAH JINA BEA)

very beautiful, with pretty but not extreme face, huge black eyes and very long neck. Her dam, Hafati Julianna by RSD Dark Victory, is the granddam of World Champion EKS Alibandro. What more could I wish for? I call her 'My Black Beauty' or 'My Perfection' as she is very special to my heart and the connection between us is magical.

Kamila: A few years ago, you purchased another mare that has a potential to strengthen the 'black section' of your breeding programme. I am talking about the Michalów-bred bay El Gotta (Ascot DD x El Mediara by Eryks). You also have other horses in your breeding programme that represent Polish bloodlines. Are there any particular features of Polish horses that make you choose them as your breeding prospects?

Jennifer: I like the Polish horses very much but in France the Russian bloodlines were far more popular when I started. When I was a young girl, it was the time of the famous Monogramm, his great son Ekstern and all his amazing daughters. It is just impossible to dislike these horses! When you look at the pedigree of El Gotta, you will see so many remarkable representatives of the breed in her dam line: Monogramm, Ekstern, Emmona, Emigracja, Eukaliptus, Gazal Al Shaqab and many more. I also love the sire's side: the Padron Psyche's line, double Psytadel and Monogramm again in his dam line. I saw some very good foals by Ascot in Poland. El Gotta is a very good outcross, combining an



BS SPECIFIC (SANDSTORM JC × BASARA SAIYANA)

interesting sire line with an exceptional dam line in one pedigree. What is more, she carries one copy of the black gene and I like black horses. However, unlike some breeders, I would never select a horse on the basis of the colour only. To me, it is just the icing on the cake rather than the key criterion for selection.

Kamila: What do you consider your most spectacular success over the past few years?

Jennifer: There are a few achievements that I feel I should mention; the first European Championships that I won with BS Specific when I was 18 years old and just started my career as a breeder. Another great victory belongs to Mirwanah, my first high-level home-bred horse. During her spectacular show career, she became gold medallist many times. However, the silver medal that she won in Menton, matters to me more than any other titles. At the show, Mirwanah was surrounded by all the French breeders who, united by their passion, were sharing her success with me. I must admit that I was deeply touched. And my most recent success is surely Wortex, especially his triumph on the American stage. I am very patriotic and I love my country but I also love the USA for many different reasons. The Americans love success and they also seem to be less jealous of other people's achievements than the Europeans, which improves the atmosphere at the shows. In the USA, if you are the winner, you are the person to be with and not the one to criticise and condemn.



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ALIAHANDRA Z (EKS ALIHANDRO × LOREDONNA Z)



NAKUBAYA KOSSACK (KUBAY KHAN × NALATONNA)

Kamila: *You have achieved so much already but what is your greatest dream in relation to horses?*

Jennifer: *Obviously, we all dream about winning a medal at the World Championships one day. But to me, learning more about communication with horses is more important than the trophies. Most people, when they see me around horses, are surprised by how good I am at this but I still want to learn and develop.*

Kamila: *I can tell that you love to learn! Apart from being a breeder and an artificial inseminator, are there any other activities related to horses that you would like to pursue in the future?*

Jennifer: *At the moment, I am a trainee as a judge and I hope I can become a good one for the sake of the breed and the industry. I would also love to get more qualifications in endurance riding. And even though I am a professional artificial inseminator, I would like to continue learning and developing my skills because it is something I love and something that you never stop improving.*

Kamila: *Very ambitious personal development plan! And what about the stud? Where do you see Kalliste Arabians in 5 years from now?*

Jennifer: *I hope that, with all my knowledge and skills, I will help Kalliste Arabians go in the right direction, with many happy horses and healthy babies on the way. I would also like to retain my philosophy of breeding and keep following my*

heart and my passion for horses, exactly as I am doing now.

Kamila: *Sounds like a good plan! In your opinion, what direction is the whole Arabian industry going at the moment?*

Jennifer: *Unfortunately, the industry is known for some poor practices, like hard stan-up or using neck collars to make the neck very stretchy. It may lead to some deformity of the horse's respiratory system, and thus, the horse may be unable to breath properly. And all this suffering happens just for aesthetic reasons. If you think it already goes too far, there were also cases of plastic surgeries performed on horses. And in the end, is the extreme really what we want to achieve?*

Kamila: *Looking at how it has changed over the last 20 years, it is a bit scary for me to think what we are going to end up with in the next 20 years, if we continue to breed and favour the extreme.*

Jennifer: *This is really scary indeed! I am also using some modern horses but I refuse to go too far like many breeders do. An extreme head that is the source of suffering is something that I cannot accept. I was roughly 10 years old when I attended my first World Championships, so I have seen many changes too. Not once, I was crying after the show, saying that this is exactly what I refuse to breed. I remember that, in the past, what was really appreciated by most people were the Polish mares and other great movers, complete horses with structure and bones, like Zagrobla. She*





LADY URBINA (JA URBINO × TA LADY DELILAH)



ARKANSAS KALLISTE (ARES KALLISTE × SAHIWAL DE LAM)

was shown twice at the World Championships many years ago because the applauding crowd did not want her to leave the arena. It was an unforgettable moment! Unfortunately, situations like that rarely happen nowadays and I feel like we are losing something just because we go too far and too extreme. Luckily, there are some responsible breeders who care about the future of the breed and not about winning another show.

Kamila: Looks like there is still hope. Is going towards the extreme the only burning issue of the industry?

Jennifer: Corruption is another major problem. Fortunately, it is not as widespread as we think it is but we cannot pretend that it does not exist. We often feel like the most powerful players of the industry must be the ones who win and they will do a lot to make it happen. It definitely spoils the atmosphere of the show and discourages the participants.



SHAMILAH JINA BEA (WARANDES PLAKAT × JULIA BEA)



OFW POETIC JUSTICE (WH JUSTICE × HAFATI JULIANNA)



KALLISTE ARABIANS



LA SAALMAH (BS SPECIFIC × STARLIGHT DE LAM)

What is more, these winners are usually the biggest studs with 200 horses and 100 babies a year. It is really difficult for smaller breeders to compete with such numbers. I myself refuse intensive breeding and overproduction. With less market and fewer shows due to worldwide pandemics, only 3 babies were born on my farm this year. For next year, I plan to have a few more but I never have more than 10. It links to my philosophy of breeding most of my mares every second year rather than every year. Of course, it all depends on the individual preferences as some mares, when they do not have their own babies, will try to steal a foal from one of their stable companions, in which case, they need to be taught that this is not their baby.

Kamila: You know your mares very well and you treat each one of them individually. To me, this is a major difference between a responsible breeder who truly cares about the horses and someone who relies on intensive breeding.

Jennifer: And long term, this kind of breeding may kill the industry because the horse itself becomes far less important than money, trophies, fame and glory. And I am not saying that money is not important at all, especially when the industry-related activities become more and more expensive; from advertising and promoting the breeding to training and showing the horses. Most buyers nowadays go to training centres rather than to individual breeders, so if you want to sell your horse, you have no choice but to put it in training. It is more than obvious that the horses at the training centres, with all the clipping, makeup and in top condition, look like superstars compared with the horses on the breeding farms, even if



AVALON MISS KALLISTE (MARAJ × AVALON KORTANA)

their quality is not exceptional. And when a trainer sells your horse, you need to pay a commission. I am lucky to have many visitors on the farm but not all breeders are so fortunate and, if they keep investing with no sale and no return, they quit because they cannot afford to pay any longer. Entering a competition and winning, as great as it may sound, is also expensive because you need to cover the cost of the training and pay commission if your horse wins. That is why, small breeders often sell their best horses, which I was lucky enough to avoid. I always resisted the temptation because I know that, long term, the loss would be much bigger than the gain.

Kamila: This is a very responsible approach to breeding.

Jennifer: To me, protecting the breed is our utmost responsibility. We need to save it from people who have no idea about horses and who do not care about them at all. And practices like cloning the best individuals just to obtain the same genetic material, when we already lack a much-needed genetic diversity, should be banned. It is enough that many breeders use the same stallions and bloodlines, which definitely does not help to diversify the genetic pool of the breed. It is not only dangerous for the future of the Arabian horse but it also makes the competition less interesting as all the horses that belong to the same generation look almost exactly the same.

Kamila: Why did you decide to take part in the project 'We, women', originated and led by Giorgia Mauri? What benefits of it can you see for both women and the industry?

Jennifer: To me, it is a fantastic initiative. In the past years, we have observed many changes in the industry, which is still predominantly a men's world. Fortunately, there are more and





JADOORE AL KALLISTE (BS SPECIFIC × KZ ROSELLA)

more women, also in France, who are very successful and whom I greatly admire. I am emotionally attached to my country and to the concept of femininity and women's success. Years ago, we could not even vote or drive, which is unfortunately still the case in some countries. Women's rights are something that deeply touches my heart and soul. It is our heritage: what the past has conceded to us, what we value in the present and what we choose to preserve for future generations.

I could not agree with Jennifer more on this matter. The 'We, women' project was immensely important also to me but now, after my conversation with her, I appreciate being part of it



ARTE MISS KALLISTE (EKS ALIHANDRO × AVALON MISS KALLISTE)



ARES KALLISTE (EKS ALIHANDRO × AVALON MISS KALLISTE)

even more. I realised how privileged I am to be able to share my passion for both horses and femininity alongside such wonderful women. Jennifer is a true inspiration for all the young women who do not have the courage to dream big and make their own way. However, it is not enough to just believe in one's dreams to make them come true. In fact, as Jennifer's story clearly shows, it requires a lot of hard work, determination and continuous personal improvement to make one's dreams a reality. Her thirst for knowledge and experience in all the equine matters is truly impressive and inspirational. What is more, her deep knowledge of horse genetics is complemented with her innate intuition of an experienced horseperson, who refuses to follow the current fashion. Her well-thought-out breeding vision resulted in a unique combination of modern refinement with the versatility of the old bloodlines. Appreciating the enormous responsibility of being a breeder, Jennifer deeply cares about the wellbeing of her horses and clearly despises all poor practices of the industry. I am pretty sure that if it was not for her strength and bravery, she would have never been so successful in this male dominated industry. But it is well worth the effort as the reward is truly remarkable; all her wishes, sooner or later, become reality. A young girl's dream manifested in the form of the most beautiful Arabians – Kalliste Arabians, where a horse is so much more than a beautiful creature that pleases the eye of its owner. It is a dearest friend, a most respected companion and a lifelong soul mate. □

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