



# THE ROYAL ENTOURAGE

## The Path to Doha

By THERESA CARDAMONE



*Royal Arabians*

Mark Davis & Cindy McGown



Rodolfo Guzzo & Natalia Nieves



Ricardo Rivero



Fred Kunze

For the first time in recent memory, or perhaps ever, a strong cohort of Arabian horses from the Americas will be making the trip across the Atlantic and beyond to compete for year-end world titles. Spearheaded by seven horses owned by Royal Arabians and their clients, the contingent of GCAT Americas medal winners will face their European and Middle Eastern counterparts at the 2025 World Arabian Horse Championship Supreme in Doha, Qatar, in December.

Launched in the Middle East and Europe in 2024, the wildly successful Global Champions Arabians Tour (GCAT) expanded to North and South America in 2025 with the introduction of the GCAT Americas show series. Medal winners from all four continents are thus eligible to compete in the finals.

Cindy McGown, owner of Royal Arabians, is the driving force behind GCAT Americas and serves as its CEO. Under her guidance, the GCAT Americas tour has proven to be an exciting, popular adjunct to the traditional American show circuits. The GCAT brand emphasizes elegance, culture, entertainment, and spectacular settings that draw people in and make them want to stay.

“I believe that to grow our industry in the Americas, people have to be taken into consideration,” McGown states. “They are the ones who make the ultimate decision on when and where their horses will show, and it should be enjoyable for the people. Royal Arabians is proud to compete in the GCAT with our clients. The locations are fun and exciting, the shows are top shelf, and the people enjoy the experience. The prize money is a plus; if you are spending the funds to show your horse, there should be a reward for your success. GCAT offers more prize money than any other show in the Arabian industry.”

Going to Doha together as a Royal entourage is especially important to Cindy. “We are committed to providing great opportunities for our client base and enjoy spending time together. Of the seven horses we have competing, five are partnerships, and I look forward to the fun we will have together, rooting for our horses. We are proud to participate in such a prestigious event.”

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**CINDY MCGOWN**



Natalia Nieves is Royal's Office Manager and coordinates the complex scheduling involved in transporting horses and humans alike to far-off Doha. "It takes a lot of planning," Nieves acknowledges. "Many of the horses in the U.S. don't have passports, so those needed to be acquired, and the horses had to be microchipped. They also needed blood tests and other medical tests to travel."

The Royal-affiliated horses were to travel by truck from Scottsdale, Arizona, to Houston, Texas, and three days later, board a chartered Qatar Airways jet along with several other American-owned horses. They will fly directly to Doha, where Al Shaqab Arabians will be their host as they acclimate to their new surroundings. About two weeks later, the horses will arrive at the showgrounds for the World Championship Supreme.

Nieves is also responsible for arranging the accommodations for the humans. "About 15 Royal clients are coming to support the show and our horses," she states. "I am arranging for their hotels and other needs, too. Some of them are owners of the horses being shown, while others are clients who have traveled with us to other shows and want to share this experience. The GCAT shows have become an important part of the industry, and American breeders should be proud that their horses will compete among the best of the best. I'm very excited to see it all unfold."





Rodolfo Guzzo is the longtime head trainer at Royal Arabians and an integral part of their operation as a whole. He appreciates the GCAT programs for the stimulation they have already provided to the breed as a whole. “The quality of the shows themselves is incredible,” he avers. “Settings like Miami Beach and Las Vegas draw new people, who see how much fun it is. For example, people who saw the show in Miami, who weren’t in the horse business at all, got excited and have already bought horses to prepare for next year.

“And GCAT Americas waived the entry fees for all of the American shows to encourage everyone who may not think they can afford to participate. You don’t see this happen at other shows.”

Guzzo shared that the original idea for expanding GCAT into the Americas was to test it for a single show. He related that it took a couple of tries to engage the proper decision-makers, but once the idea was floated, Cindy was on a plane to Doha to iron out the details and get the GCAT Americas series up and running. “Cindy never starts something she cannot accomplish or make happen,” Guzzo acknowledges. “It makes no difference, the ups and downs, she always steps it up to make things happen. She is an incredible lady.”

Abdullah Walibi, Royal’s sales manager, believes this is the perfect time for a strong contingent of American horses to make their presence known on a global level. “The United States is home to the best broodmares in the world. I am happy that American breeders are willing to spend what it takes to compete against the best in the world in Qatar. It is very important for our market.”

Nour Alzubaidi, founder of U.S.-based Al-Ameera Stud carries his Arab roots and heritage with pride. This year he travels to Doha with one mission: to represent both America and the Arab world at the World Championship Supreme. “Royal Arabians is family,” he explains. “Our relationship is built on trust, respect, and a shared passion for the Arabian horse – a partnership guided by one vision: to keep raising the standard of excellence. Our collaboration in SVB Calais represents that perfectly. From the first moment I saw him, I knew he would become a big name in the Arabian horse world. That’s why we decided to invest in him; and yes, he proved it right away.”



In 2025, SVB Calais captured hearts across the Americas – crowned Gold Champion Yearling Colt at the GCAT Americas shows in Scottsdale, Denver, and Las Vegas, and Silver Champion in Miami Beach. “Calais isn’t just another stallion – he’s a story,” Alzubaidi continues. “His pedigree unites strength and beauty as the son of Royal Asad and Caressable NA. In his first year, he earned three GCAT Gold titles – a remarkable achievement that proves great horses can be made in the USA. Calais is showing the world that the American Arabian horse industry can produce champions at the highest level. He carries a legacy that makes you believe he’s not only a champion today, but a future icon for American and global breeding. SVB Calais will change the Arabian horse industry in the USA – he is truly one-of-a-kind.”

As Alzubaidi looks ahead to competing in Doha, his words carry deep meaning.

“As a Palestinian-American Arabian, I feel proud to bring together my roots, our rich Arab history, and our shared culture in this special moment,” he explains. “It means so much to me to share this journey with the world—especially with my Arabian brothers and sisters across the Middle East and the beautiful nation of Qatar—as my special horse, SVB Calais, shines in Doha. I want to extend special thanks to Cindy McGown, Mark Davis, Rodolfo Guzzo, and the entire Royal Arabians team for their trust, vision, and continued support. Together, we are not just making champions, we are building a legacy.”

Rodrigo Gonzales has been breeding Arabian horses in the Mexican highlands for many years under the name Arabian Soul. In partnership with Royal Arabians, he is sending two yearling fillies sired by Dominic M to Doha. Maia AS, out of Marbella PCF, was the Bronze Champion at both the GCAT Denver and Miami Beach editions, and Sedona AS, out of CW Sexxi, was the high-point Best Female of the entire GCAT Americas series. To achieve that honor, Sedona was the Gold Champion Yearling Filly at GCAT Americas Scottsdale and Denver, and Silver Champion in Miami Beach and Las Vegas. Rodrigo and his wife, Maru, met Cindy McGown and Mark Davis in Brazil, and the couples clicked immediately.

“It is a relationship we built step by step, not in a rush,” states Gonzales. “We are totally comfortable taking care of each other. Mark is like a brother to me, and Cindy and I share all this passion for the Arabian horse. We can spend hours together looking at horses, and it doesn't matter if they are perfect or not; we enjoy the camaraderie. And we create many champions together. For the last decade, Cindy has made significant contributions to the industry, and as CEO of GCAT Americas, it is a partnership that is literally revolutionizing the world.”

Gonzales knows that winning the Supreme titles in Doha against the best horses from Europe and the Middle East will not be easy. “We achieved a lot with Sedona, earning the Best Female in the Americas honor. However, the Supreme Championship is a whole other territory with different players and a different kind of judging, as most judges will be from the Middle East and Europe. I can hardly wait to see Sedona and Maia standing next to the Middle Eastern and European winners; it will be truly wonderful as a horseman. So, let's see how it goes.

“I'm going there with no expectations, but I'm very happy that Sedona will arrive as the queen of America! She will be shown, as usual, by Sandro Pinha, who was the top handler in the Americas Tour. They know each other so well; they are a perfect match. And Fred Kunze has done an amazing job with Maia. I plan to enjoy the moment, no matter the outcome. Oh, what a proud moment as a breeder! It's an honor to breed such high-quality horses and bring them to Doha to show them against the best of the best. I feel honored to be part of this very exclusive group.”

Eric and Karen England hold the distinction of being among Royal Arabians' longest-tenured clients and the first to breed a foal from Royal Asad. They co-own Royal Namir EKA, a full sibling to that first foal, in partnership with Royal Arabians. Namir was the Bronze Champion Yearling Colt at GCAT Americas Denver, and Eric and Karen are thrilled to have him compete in Doha.

"The GCAT shows represent my dream concept of what Arabian horse shows should be," Eric England enthuses. "A series of shows that lead up to a great big final event. What could be more exciting? I've shown at the U.S. regionals and nationals many times, but the GCAT tour is different. I've shown a horse at each one of the GCAT Americas shows, and I am proud that a horse I bred will be competing for a Supreme title."

Also traveling to Doha with the Royal group is Bella Z, an American-bred daughter of Dominic M and OFW Bella Marajj, now representing Sultan Hamed Mastor Alharthi's Sarm Stud of Saudi Arabia. Bella was the Gold Champion Junior Filly at the GCAT Americas Scottsdale and Las Vegas, making her a strong contender for Doha.

In addition to the partnerships, Royal Arabians will present two horses that they solely own in Doha. RFI Pavarotti (RFI Unique x Preferida RACH), who was the 2024 Brazilian National Champion Colt, earned his ticket to Qatar with a Silver Champion Junior Colt award at GCAT Americas Miami Beach and a Bronze Champion title in Las Vegas. Royal will also have an entry in the Senior Stallion division, in the form of GCAT Americas Sao Paulo Silver Champion, Alborada Ragnar Lodbrok (HP Ali x Alborada Anabel).

"Royal Arabians is an international horse farm with horses and owners from all over the globe," Cindy McGown states. "I believe if you love the Arabian horse and you are afforded the opportunity of not only attending, but participating in a world championship, that is, in my opinion, as good as it gets! GCAT creates a better environment for business and pleasure, and I am honored and proud to participate with friends in such a beautiful location. I will continue to work on putting the shows together for the Americas with Taryl OShea and our local team. And Royal Arabians will continue to strive to bring these types of experiences to both our clients and the industry. Win or lose in Doha, we look forward to a great 2026." ■

# ROYAL ARABIANS | 2025 GCAT TOUR - AMERICAS



The logo features the letters 'SVB' in a bold, serif font, followed by the word 'Calais' in a large, elegant, cursive script. The entire logo is rendered in a golden-yellow color.

ROYAL ASAD | CARESSABLE NA

A powerhouse young stallion that has held his position at the top of the Global Champions Arabians Tour, finishing the season tied in points for overall top male. Named Gold Champion in Scottsdale, Denver and Las Vegas. Heading to Doha, Qatar for the Supreme Yearling Colt Championship.

Presented by Ricardo Rivero

Owned by Royal Arabians & Al-Ameera Stud

Bred by Silver Box Southwest LLC





# Sedona AS

DOMINIC M | CW SEXXI

A brilliant filly that captured the hearts and eyes of many during the Global Champions Arabians Tour in the United States, securing the gold titles in Scottsdale and Denver and silver in Miami and Las Vegas. Her consistency landed her the highest ranked female of the season. Heading to Doha, Qatar for the Supreme Yearling Filly Championship.

Presented by Sandro Pinla

Owned by Royal Arabians & Arabian Soul Partners

Bred by Green Pastures Arabians Inc or Colleen Cozzetto





# Maria AS

DOMINIC M | MARBELLA PCF

She debuted at the prestigious Scottsdale Championships in February, where she was named Reserve Champion Junior Filly. She would then compete on the Global Champions Arabians Tour where she was the class winner and Bronze champion in both Miami and Denver. Heading to Doha, Qatar for the Supreme Yearling Filly Championship.

Presented by Fred Kunze

Owned by Royal Arabians and Arabian Soul Partners Ltd.

Bred by Arabian Soul Partners Ltd.





ROYAL  
*Nasrin*  
EKA

ROYAL ASAD | R ARABELLA

An exciting colt sired by the exquisite Royal Asad out of a Julyen El Jamaal daughter, bred royally by the Englands and named Bronze Champion in Denver. Heading to Doha, Qatar for the Supreme Yearling Colt Championship.

Presented by Fred Kunze

Owned by Royal Arabians, Eric and Karen England

Bred by Eric and Karen England





# Bella Z

DOMINIC M | OFW BELLA MARAJJ

One of the most dynamic and memorable show horses capable of competing on any continent for gold. She holds multiple championship titles at the United States Nationals, and was the high score and Gold Champion at the Global Champions Arabians Tour in both Scottsdale and Las Vegas. Heading to Doha, Qatar for the Supreme Junior Filly Championship.

Presented by Giacomo Capacci  
Owned by Sarm Stud  
Bred by Duke and Renae Mendel





# RFI *Parasol*

## RFI UNIQUE | PREFERIDA RACH

The charismatic Brazilian National and Scottsdale Champion Colt held his own on the Global Champions Arabians Tour, being named the Junior Colt Silver Champion in Miami and Bronze Champion in Las Vegas. Heading to Doha, Qatar for the Supreme Junior Colt Championship.

Presented by Ricardo Rivero  
Owned by Royal Arabians | Bred by Rodrigo Fox Forte





# Alborada

RAGNAR LODBROK

HP ALI | ALBORADA ANABEL

An exciting and brilliant stallion who stunned the crowd and judges in São Paulo, Brazil in the Global Champions Arabians Tour Championships earning the Silver Champion title. Heading to Doha, Qatar for the Supreme Senior Stallion Championship.

Presented by Fred Kunze  
Owned by Royal Arabians & Família Bulnes  
Bred by Manuel Bulnes Muzard



