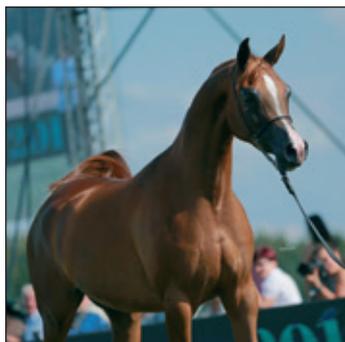
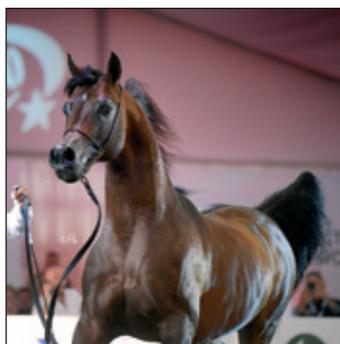
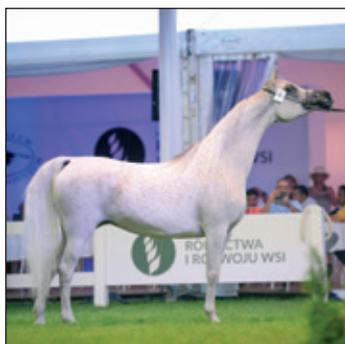


# European Champions Made in Michałów

*Is it all in the family?*



text by: Kamila Kozłowska  
photos by: Ewa Imielska-Hebda, Sylwia Itenda,  
Glenn Jacobs, Erwin Escher, Elisa Grassi,  
Michałów Stud archives



Estebna (Nabor x Estokada by Amurath Sahib)

*I*t is commonly believed that the progeny of two successful show horses do not necessarily need to exhibit all the admired traits of their sire and dam or to follow in their footsteps as show champions. Genetics, as we know, can be quite tricky, which in turn makes breeding an unpredictable venture full of unexpected outcomes. It is enough to look at some full siblings to understand that mating of the same individuals may each time bring a totally different result from a phenotypical point of view. A similar level of uncertainty is related to crossing two show winners. However, it happens that some families or strains carry a great genetic potential which continually results in producing remarkable representatives of the Arabian breed who become successful show champions.

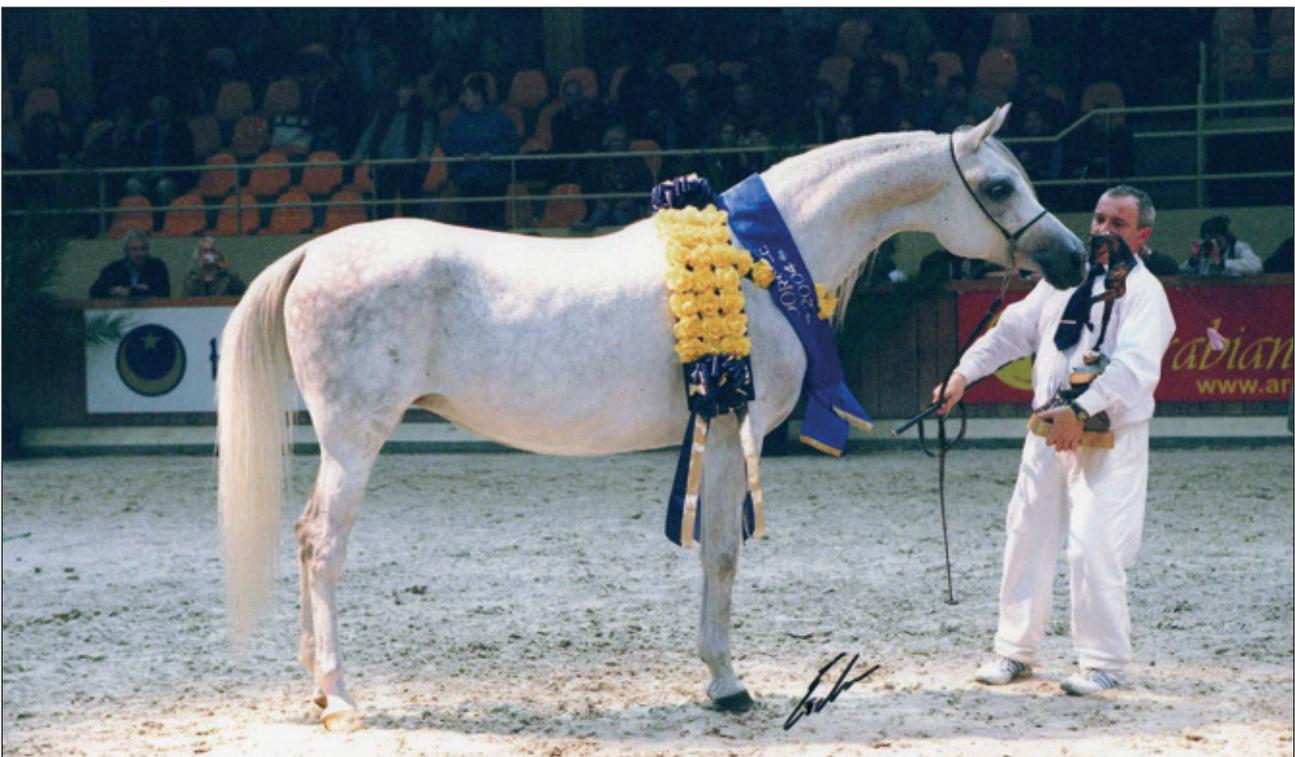
Is it all in the family? This question inevitably comes to mind while looking at the long list of European champions bred by the majestic Michalow Stud of Poland. Established in 1953, until now Michalow can boast about breeding 65 gold, silver and bronze medallist of this prestigious title show. For many Arabian horse enthusiasts, this Polish state stud is synonymous with the stunning show champions representing the Saklawi type; predominantly grey, in large

frames, characterised by impeccable Arabian type, commanding charisma, refined head with huge dark eyes, a swan-like neck, correct conformation and powerful movement. Names like Emanacja, Emigrantka, Ekstern, El Dorada, Emigrant, Emira, Emandoria echo in the ears of all breeders around the world, making their hearts beat faster. What is common for all these horses that keep enchanting the crowds anywhere they appear? All of them took a place on the podium at the European Championships, some of them more than once, and all of them belong to one family, the true genetic treasury of Michalow, the dam line of Milordka, widely known as the champion producing E-line. No wonder the greatest potential of the stud is continuously associated with this particular dam line. More than half of the 65 medals won by Michalow were awarded to the members of the meritorious Milordka family. What is more, 23 European champions were the result of what one may consider a Michalow golden cross; the combination of the fine blood of E-line with the all-pervading sire line of Saklawi I, whose genetic potential of passing the most desirable traits of Saklawi strains comes with the name. Is it a coincidence that the first ever Michalow mare to have won the European champion title was the daughter of the





Emanacija (Eukaliptus x Emigracija by Palas)



El Dorada (Sanadik El Shaklan x Emigrantka by Eukaliptus)



Emilda (Pamir x Emanacja by Eukaliptus)

legendary Estokada (Amurath Sahib x Saga by Hardy), foaled in 1951 in Klemensow and believed to be the main progenitor of the Milordka dam line? Twenty years after the breeding programme of Michalow was established, the twelve-year-old elegant Estebna 1961 (by Nabor) became first Michalow bred European Champion Senior Mare almost as if she was the first sign of the stud's spectacular success. She has started a long list of European champions representing the family of Milordka born at the Polish state stud.

Making the list of all the superb show winners who over the years have contributed to the fame and glory of Milordka family would surely make this read a rather boring exercise. In the end, almost all Arabian horse aficionados are familiar with such names as Emanacja, Emigrantka, Ekstern, Emanda, Emigrant, El Dorada, Emira, Emandoria or Equator. However, it is interesting to look at the correlations between various champions within this dominant dam line, where the powerful genetic potential has often prevailed over the unpredictability of breeding. Thus, the gorgeous grey Emigrantka 1985 (Eukaliptus x Emigracja by Palas), who ended up on the European

Championships podium two times, as a junior filly in 1987 and as a senior mare in 1994, is the dam of 2001 European Champion Senior Stallion, Emigrant 1991 (by Ararat), as well as the widely admired El Dorada 1998 (by Sanadik El Shaklan), who doubled the success of her amazing dam by taking the place on the podium four times; in 2000 as a junior filly and later in 2002, 2004 and 2012 as a mature mare. In 1988, Emigrantka's full sister, the ethereal Emanacja 1986, was crowned a Champion Junior Filly while Endel 1981 (Palas x Elwira by Elf), the maternal grandson of the first Michalow bred European champion Estebna, became Vice-champion Senior Stallion. Another family member that tail female traces back to Estebna is the show superstar, Ekstern 1994 (Monogramm x Ernestyna by Piechur), who won the title of Champion Senior Stallion at the beginning of the new millennium. Extending this fantastic family further, Emanacja blessed Michalow with outstanding offspring, including her two incomparable daughters, the 1999 European Champion Senior Mare Emilda 1990 (by Pamir) and the 2001 Vice-champion Senior Mare Emanda 1996 (by Ecaho). Both broodmares continued the long family tradition of producing European champions. Following in her dam's footsteps, Emandorissa 2012 (Abha





Emandorissa (Abha Qatar x Emanda by Ecaho)



Emandoria (Gazal Al Shaqab x Emanda by Ecaho)



**Emandoria (Gazal Al Shaqab x Emanda by Ecaho)**

*Qatar x Emanda by Ecaho) became Silver Champion Senior Mare last year, but it was Emanda's older daughter, the matchless Emandoria 2004 (by Gazal Al Shaqab), who ended up on the podium for a record number of times. She started her lustrous show career as a yearling in 2005 and she won the titles of Vice-champion and Champion Junior Filly two years in a row. As a senior mare, she became Bronze Champion in 2009 and Gold Champion in 2010 and 2013. Another phenomenal family member who tail female traces back to Estebna, the striking bay Equator 2010 (QR Marc x Ekliptyka by Ekstern), was never defeated at the European Championships. He became gold medallist four times; in 2012 as a two-year-old colt and three times as a senior male competitor (2014, 2015 and 2018). In the same year that Equator triumphed as a junior colt, his dam's full brother Esparto 2002, sired by the 2000 European Champion Ekstern, won a silver medal as a senior stallion. This is not an exhaustive list of all the European champions descending from the esteemed E-line, however it still paints a picture of a prodigious family, whose magnificent members are more than capable of taking European showgrounds by storm.*

*Another family of Michalow whose members have shone in European showrings is the glorious dam line of Gazella d.b. So far, the desert bred Gazella is the proud progenitor of twelve European champions. One of the most precious branches of this family tail female traces back to the legendary grey Carmen 1942 (Trypolis x Wilga by Ofir), bred by Janow Podlaski Stud and best known as the dam of the epoch sire Comet 1953 (by Abu Afas). Through her beautiful flea-bitten grey daughter Cumparsita 1960 (by Gwamy), exported to the USA in 1976, and her granddaughter Kometa 1971 (Elf x Cumparsita), Carmen commenced a sub-family of very successful show horses, of which the charismatic chestnut Kwestura 1995 (Monogramm x Kwesta by Pesennik), two times European Champion Senior Mare (2000 and 2009), is probably the most recognised representative. Her son sired by Poganin, the stunning snow-white Kabsztad 2006, stepped into the shoes of his dam, becoming Vice-champion Junior Stallion in 2008 and Silver Champion Senior Stallion at the last year's European show in Prague. Another splendid sub-family of Gazella d.b. traces back to Tersk bred chestnut Porfira 1953 (Priboj x Operetka by Ofir), imported to Poland to bring back the precious blood of the treasured*





Equator (QR Marc x Ekliptyka by Ekstern)



Esparto (Ekstern x Ekspozycja by Eukaliptus)



**Kabsztad (Poganin x Kwestura by Monogramm)**

*Taraszcza 1937 (Enwer Bey x Gazella II by Koheilan d.b.), bred by Janow Podlaski Stud but captured by the Soviet troops and taken to Russia in 1939. The most renowned members of this sub-family include the 2003 European Champion Junior Mare and 2006 Vice-champion Senior Mare Palanga 2002 (Ekstern x Panika by Eukaliptus), the 2013 Bronze Champion Yearling Filly and 2014 Gold Champion Junior Filly, Piacolla 2012 (Enzo x Polonica by Ekstern), whose dam is Palanga's full sister, as well as the 2019 Silver Champion Senior Mare Poganinka 2015 (El Omari x Pentra by Poganin), whose powerful animated trot has been highly appreciated by the judges.*

*The superb dam line of Selma d.b. started in Michalow with the acquisition of the bay mare Zlota Iwa 1958 (Arax x Cesima by Witraz), who produced the amazing grey Zazula 1972 when crossed with the Tersk bred stallion Negatiw 1945 (Naseem x Taraszcza by Enwer Bey). In 1981, Zazula became Vice-champion Senior Mare at the European Championships in Paris, whereas her gorgeous grey granddaughter Zagrobla 1994 (Monogramm x Zguba by Enriilo) mirrored her amazing achievement twice in 2000 and 2007. Zagrobla's own outstanding daughter, Zigi Zana*

*2009 (by QR Marc), also won a silver medal twice but she did not have to wait for her success until she became senior mare. Her career commenced quickly, with two Silver European Champion titles collected by the time she was only two years old.*

*The Slawuta bred mare Szweykowska started the family which in 2000 celebrated a 200th anniversary of documented breeding and can boast about having the same number of European champion titles to its credit as the splendid Selma d.b. Currently, there are two main sub-families of Szweykowska in Michalow; both started by the Janow Podlaski bred chestnut daughters of the stallion Wojski; Werbena 1945 (out of Kalina Wnuczka by Koheilan I) and Fanfara 1945 (out of Cesia by Lirnik). Through her excellent chestnut daughter Wadera 1957 (by Doktryner), Werbena started a successful sub-family with such shining stars of the European showrings as the 2011 Bronze and 2012 Gold Champion Junior Filly, the wonderful dark bay Wieza Mocy 2010 (QR Marc x Wieza Marzen by Ekstern) or the spectacular snow-white 2018 Gold Senior Mare Wildona 2014 (Shanghai EA x Wilda by Gazal Al Shaqab). The other branch of the family, started by Fanfara, did not reveal its*





Palanga (Ekstern x Panika by Eukaliptus)



Protekcja (Ekstern x Pentra by Poganin)



Zagrobla (Monogramm x Zguba by Enrilo)

full potential until last year, when the phenomenal dark bay Ferrum 2019 (Morion x Ferrmaria by El Omari) became Gold Champion Yearling Colt at the European Championships in Prague.

Last but not least, the remarkable dam line of Rodania, not very high in number, has got four European champion titles to its credit. Acquired with the purchase of the grey Pienoczka 1952 (Pawodok x Naturalistka by Naseem) from Tersk Stud in 1956, was further extended by Pienoczka's only progeny, the valuable grey Planeta 1958 (by Nabor). The European champions that tail female trace back to Planeta include the 2007 Gold Champion Junior Filly Pistoria 2004 (Gazal Al Shaqab x Palmira by Monogramm), the 2014 Silver Champion Yearling Filly and 2017 Silver Champion Senior Mare Pustynia Kahila 2013 (Kahil Al Shaqab x Pustynna Malwa by Ekstern) and the 2020 Silver Champion Junior Colt Ptolemeusz 2018 (Zloty Medal x Parmana by Al Maraam).

At the moment, Michalow Stud is the home of twelve different dam lines, of which the aforementioned five families produced approximately 94% of all homebred

European champions. It is no coincidence that the potential participants of the 2021 European Championships, competing under the Michalow flag, include the members of these five champion producing families. The most numerous Michalow family of Milordka will be represented by five classy contenders. The youngest generation of the family will feature two beautiful bay yearlings by the 2014 Silver European Champion Yearling Colt Morion; the feminine filly El Mariella (out of El Marina by Ganges) and the classy colt El Maestro (out of El Medonia by Shanghai EA). On the dam side, they are greatgrandchildren of another European champion, the exquisite El Dorada, through her beautiful bay daughter El Medina 2004 (by Gazal Al Shaqab). Although they are still very young, both of them have already won a few medals in their short show career, including the Gold Champion title in their respective categories during the 2021 Bialka Junior Spring Show. Later on, El Maestro added the 2021 Polish National Bronze Champion Yearling Colt title to his show record, while El Mariella managed to win another two awards during the recent Prague Intercup; the bronze medal in the general competition and a silver one in the EuroCup. The gorgeous granddaughter of the unforgettable Emanacja, the





Zagrobla (Monogramm x Zguba by Enrilo)



Zigi Zana (QR Marc x Zagrobla by Monogramm)



Wieza Mocy (QR Marc x Wieza Marzen by Ekstern)



**El Bellisima (Ascot DD x Ekliptyka by Ekstern)**

refined grey *El Medida* (*Morion x El Medara* by *Shanghai EA*), will compete in the two-year-old fillies' section. So far, she was unconquered at the *Bialka Junior Spring Show* two years in a row. In 2020, she won a gold medal in the *Yearling Fillies Championship*, whereas this year she became *Unanimous Gold Champion Junior Filly* as well as *Best in Show*, leaving all the other competitors behind. In 2021, *El Medida* also won her class during the prestigious *Mediterranean and Arab Countries Arabian Horse Championships* in Menton, France. Another junior female contender, the three-year-old charismatic grey *El Esmera* (*Sahm El Arab x Esmeraldia* by *QR Marc*), represents a very special branch of E-line. As the granddaughter of the mesmerising *Emandoria*, *El Esmera* is under a lot of pressure. Up to this point, her achievements include the silver medal in the *Junior Fillies Championship* at the 2021 *Bialka Junior Spring Show* and the *Bronze Champion Junior Filly* title at the 2021 *Prague EuroCup*. During this year's *Polish National Show*, she won the class of three-year-old fillies and the *Top Five* title in the *Junior Fillies Championship*. The only senior contender coming from the *Milordka* dam line is the four-year-old classy chestnut *El Bellisima* (*Ascot DD x Ekliptyka* by *Ekstern*). Her

commanding charisma must have stemmed from her amazing ancestors. Being a maternal half-sister to the unconquered *Equator*, tail female *El Bellisima* traces back to the first *Michalow* bred *European Champion Mare*, *Estebna*. As the sole senior representant of E-line, she has a lot of responsibility on her shoulders. However, her show career looks very promising as she has already won a few titles both as a junior filly and as a senior mare. As a yearling and a two-year old, *El Bellisima* became *Silver Champion Junior Filly* at the *Polish Nationals*, while this year she reached for her first success as a senior contender, becoming *Polish National Bronze Champion Mare* at the *Janow Podlaski* show.

The remaining four families have each got one potential participant. The gifted family of *Gazella d.b.* will have one senior representative in the form of the four-year-old pristine *Protekcja* (*Ekstern x Pentra* by *Poganin*). As one of the last daughters of the excellent *Ekstern*, close cousin to the precious *Palanga* and maternal half-sister to the powerfully moving *Poganinka*, *Protekcja* proudly continues the legacy of this champion making dam line. At the 2019 *Bialka Junior Spring Show*, she became bronze medallist





Ferrum (Morion x Ferrmaria by El Omari)



Pustynia Kahila (Kahil Al Shaqab x Pustynna Malwa by Ekstern)



Wildona (Shanghai EA x Wilda by Gazal Al Shaqab)



Ptolemeusz (Zloty Medal x Parmana by Al Maraam)



**El Maestro (Morion x El Medonia by Shanghai EA) and Porto Rico (Zloty Medal x Parmania by Kahil Al Shaqab)**

and she won the Top Five Junior Filly title during the Polish Nationals in Janow Podlaski later on in the year. Her career as a senior mare also started on a high note. This year, Protekja won her class at the significant Menton show with a spectacular total score of 93.17 points. After this successful start of the European show season, she managed to win three silver medals; one at the Polish Nationals and another two at the Intercup and EuroCup in Prague. The dam lines of Selma d.b. and Rodania d.b. will be represented by two yearlings who have just started their show career. The zingy Zlota Mysl (Equator x Zlota Bulla by Kahil Al Shaqab), sired by the unconquered European Champion Equator, tail female traces back to one of the first Michalow bred European winners, the wonderful Zazula. Such aristocratic ancestry seems obliging hence Zlota Mysl is expected to have some successes as a show horse already. And she does indeed. She won her class and the Top Five title during the 2021 Bialka Junior Spring Show and became Polish National Silver Champion Yearling Filly in Janow Podlaski shortly after. Her classy stable companion Porto Rico (Zloty Medal x Parmania by Kahil Al Shaqab), tracing back to Rodania d.b. through his remarkable great-granddam Palmira 1995 (Monogramm x Palestra by Penitent), is closely related to the 2020 Silver European

Champion Junior Colt Ptolemeusz. Both colts were sired by Zloty Medal, with Porto Rico's dam being maternal half-sister to Ptolemeusz. At the very start of his rather short show career, Porto Rico won two medals and a Top Five title. After becoming Silver Champion Yearling Colt in Bialka, he won the Top Five title at the Polish Nationals and the bronze medal during the EuroCup in Prague. Last but not least, the marvellous member of the Szweykowska family, the two-year-old flamboyant Ferrum, closes the list of the potential participants of the 2021 European Championships bred and owned by Michalow Stud. Although tail female Ferrum does not trace back to any European champion, his superb sire Morion was a Silver Champion Yearling Colt at the 2014 European show in Lier. Moreover, the captivating colt has already added greatly to the fame and glory of his fantastic family. Not only did he become Gold European Champion Yearling Colt at the last year's Championships in Prague but he can also boast about bringing home another four Gold Champion titles from the Bialka Junior Spring Show and the Polish National Show in both 2020 and 2021. Apart from five gold medals, his impressive collection of trophies includes a few significant special awards, like Best in Show and Best Mover titles won at the 2020 Polish Nationals.





Zlota Mysl (Equator x Zlota Bulla by Kahil Al Shaqab)



El Esmera (Sahm El Arab x Esmeraldia by QR Marc)



El Medida (Morion x El Medara by Shanghai EA)

*The impressive number of Michalow bred European champions indicates the great genetic potential stored in their invaluable herd of Arabian horses. And although crossing two superb show champions does not always guarantee outstanding results, a high concentration of the precious genes has helped the stud create one of the most admired and cherished breeding programmes in the world. The balance between the preservation of existing families and careful selection of the highest quality breeding material is the key to the stud's inspiring international success. Keeping a variety of dam lines adds greatly to the genetic diversity of the bloodstock while choosing only the most prepotent individuals ensures the unprecedented breeding progress so palpable in the 68 years of Michalow's existence. 65 European Champion titles in the last 48 years is an accomplishment no other stud farm in the world can*

*brag about. What is more, it will not be easy to repeat or catch up with the astonishing achievements of Michalow as new generations of Arabian horse elite are born at the stud year after year. The 2021 European Championships in Verona will be an excellent opportunity to admire the youngest generations representing the famous Polish state stud. Without a doubt, some of them will follow in the footsteps of their legendary ancestors and become legends themselves. History has shown that the long register of European champions bred by Michalow Stud is never an exhaustive list. It will soon be extended with the names of horses born to continue the legacy of their great ancestors and to spread the magic of Michalow on European showgrounds. At the end of the day, the European Championships would not have been the same without the magnificent Arabian horses 'made in Michalow'.*

