



STUD TRAINING CENTER
ZICO GUARDIA

TUTTO **ARABI**
YOUR WORLDWIDE *Connection*

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Zico Guardia, Fernandinha and Cristiane with *Turchiya MPE

Zico Guardia has his home and training center near São Paulo in Brazil.

A beautiful place where it is a true paradise for both the horse and the visitor! Especially in the last years, Zico Guardia is often seen at the European shows, either as a judge or visitor, as well as visiting and judging other shows all around the globe. But even if you missed him at the shows, for sure you have seen his name written under one of big collaboration he has around the world.

During our recent visit there, we had the opportunity to ask him extensively about his activity and his profession.

In the region of Bragança Paulista (São Paulo), Zico, Cristiane and Fernanda Guardia have created a place where Arabian horses can live healthily and happily. The Stud Training Center is just one hour and half from the Sao Paulo airport, and when Zico opened its gate, the scene we had before our eyes was amazing: horses enjoying the pastures, qualified staff working in a positive atmosphere.



The center includes the main house, two stables with 40 boxes, 13 paddocks, Veterinary Laboratory and facilities, show presentation ring, office, walker and 12 hectares of own hay production

The Stud covers 32 hectares cleaned and sanitary correct, with careful preservation of the native forest and home to countless species of plants and animals, so in perfect harmony with ecosystem. The location of the place is really strategic, is very close the airport and near a lot events organized in Brazil.

"A place where you can explore your visiting friends and live with what we love the most, the Arabian Horses" commented Zico





The secret to Stud Training Center's success lies in the relationship they cultivate with clients, allowing them to discover the real needs of each breeder, their breeding expectations and the Arabian horses they truly like.

For eight years Zico has shared his professional success with his great friend Simone Leo with whom he has also shared joy, exciting moments and vivacious exchanges of opinion. His experience in our worlds is thorough, as he has travelled all over the world.

When did you get involved with Arabian horses?

Z.G. I started with Arabian horses when I was twenty years old, when my father, who was also passionate about horses, bought one. That is when I fell in love with them and started working with these wonderful animals. It was this that convinced me to go to the USA to attend a horse school, where I also learnt how to manage a stud. On that occasion I met the Arabian horse and realized that this animal would play a leading role in my life. My adventure with the Arabian horse started when I went back to Brazil. I began with the ridden horse, evidence of how adaptable this wonderful animal can be, among its many talents, and I soon began to win ridden competitions. The American influence in Brazil could be felt already then, and conformation shows established themselves over the other competitions. My change to trainer was a direct consequence of this and was almost a natural progression. I continued travelling to America, and watching the shows and applying what I could see, I kept reaching remarkable results. From the start, it was very easy for me to work with the Arabian horse, because it is the most intelligent and balanced breed, with an amazing temperament. My activity as conformation trainer started in 1983, and I can say I saw this animal evolve and the change in the presentation style, which has evolved dramatically year after year. I have always tried not to be presumptuous and to continue studying breeding techniques, which were gradually becoming more advanced. I can say that I am totally happy with the way I can still achieve excellent results in conformation competitions presenting horses directly, even though now I tend to have a more managerial role. I currently manage several prominent international breeders.





Luca Oberti, Zico Guardia and Pipo Palumbo



Simone Leo, Pipo, Jaime Pinheiro,
Zico and Luciano Cury



Zico and his father Afonso Guardia



Zico and Simone Leo

T.A.: Are you still presenting Arabian horses bred in your farm and on behalf of your clients?

Z.G. As i said earlier, my activity as a trainer continues, but for just a few selected clients. The Stud Training Center that I manage has everything that is required to work with the horses in the best possible way. I do not often present horses, I often condition them, prepare them for the most important competitions and present them directly, I lead my clients towards various well-established training centers for the most important competitions in Brazil, USA and Europe.



Luca, Gigi, Zico, Pipo, Heinz, Bertran, Felipe



Zico, Christine Jamar and Murilo Kammer



Judges at Milano's Show



Fernandinha, Zico, Cris, Dixie, Robert, Catherine and Ryan



Zico and Bourasse at Menton Show



Zico and Simone Leo at Aachen

T.A.: In the last few years you have managed and sold a lot of horses in North America, South America, Europe and Middle East. You also traveled in every country in the world, including Australia. What is the key to your success?

Z.G. I keep on travelling everywhere, from North to South America, in Europe, in the Middle East, in Australia and South Africa and luck has always been by my side. Over the last few years, I have almost always found what I was looking for for my clients, it would take a long time to list all the horses I had the pleasure to buy over the years, together with my business partner and friend Simone Leo.



Milano Show



Tripodi Arabians - Italy

The year started with looking for some quality stallions to import their semen to Brazil. Together with Simone Leo, I have marketed a lot of horses to Brazil and with great success! For my long time clients and friends Andre Cruz and Leandro Aguiar of Haras Cruzeiro, we realized the leasing of HDB Sihr Ibn Massai (Massai Ibn Marenga x Mayana), owned by Woody Arabians for 2 years (2011 and 2012), who recently was named Brazilian National Young Stallion Champion. Furthermore we sold 5 breedings to Al Adeed al Shaqab, 20 breedings to Shadow El Sher and 95 breedings to WH Justice to Haras Cruzeiro.

We sold also breeding of A Sharif Pasha, Stival, Kubinec, Stival Ajman Moniscione and Monther al Nasser, Magnum Gold, WH Justice and Farid to our other client Jaime Pinheiro (Haras Vila dos Pinheiros).

We also sold 2 more breedings of Al Adeed al Shaqab to our long time friend Luciano Cury (Haras Boa Vista) and also some breeding of Ajman Moniscione to our friend Murillo Kammer (Haras Aratinga).

And this was just the start!

For Haras Cruzeiro we bought:

VA Exotica by Alija (Ajman Moniscione x MA Alija)

VA Magija by Alija (Magnum Chall x MA Alija) – this filly is co-owned by Simone and me.

Shariba (Gazal al Shaqab x Thee Rahiba) Brazilian Reserve National Champion Mare.



Zico, Simone, Luciano and Jaime



Ansata Shaamis (Ansata Halim Shah x Ak Faressa)

GHS Mary Rose (WH Justice x Thee Rahiba) Brazilian Reserve National Champion Young Filly.

Murana's Mabrouka (Marwan al Shaqab x Mamuschka)

For our client Jaime Pinheiro of HVP farms we bought:

Millenia (The Final Judgement x Madeira)

Mariana (Marwan Al Shaqab x G Silver Rain)

RP Johara (WH Justice x Nevada V)

AJ Kharena (Marwan Al Shaqab x Kharrea PGA)

To our clients of Equid System we sold two embryo's. One of Rafoletta Rose and one of the beautiful Padrons Psyche daughter, Psyx Spellbound.

To our client Federico Castellani one embryo of Afrodite K and Amir Ashiraf to our client Gestut Osterhof one embryo of one special mare Michaela Pin owned by me and Simone Leo;

to our client Luciano Cury one embryo of Siluen by WH Justice



Andre Cruz, Maisa, Zico, Dito,
Jose Alves and Leandro Aguiar



Thierry, Catherine and Thomas Kerjean with Zico,
Simone Leo, Leandro and André Cruz



Zico, Travis Rice and Cristiane



Zico, Andre Cruz, Leonardo Castro,
Dito and Leandro Aguiar

T.A.: We know that you are also a breeder. How many horses have you bred in your life?

Z.G.: I have created many many horses in my life, many of which are still with me some of the others have been sold. When I create or buy a horse, I always think about my image of the perfect horse, the essence of everything I have learnt throughout my life. It is a great satisfaction seeing my products winning shows. Recently, I was so pleased to see that one of my colts won the latest Brazilian National Championship, *El Shakhyr. Having started breeding in 1983, I have been rewarded a lot, and over the years I have also lost some horses which I treated as real friends. Seeing one of my products being born is the source of great joy for me. Every year I have eight or nine mares covered, which I select among those that I have. I am now starting breeding through the embryo transfer technique, and I hope I will succeed in this new area for me, which allows me to speed up the breeding progress using also European stallions such as *WH Justice, *Ajman Moniscione, *Thor IA, sired by *Gazal Al Shaqab, recently imported from America. I have some straight Egyptians, in fact I have just purchased three straight Egyptian mares, one filly by *Ansata Nejdi and two foals with *Ansata Shamiss. Over the years I have been a judge in several shows in Australia, Africa, Europe, North and South America and thanks to globalization we can share the same emotions in different parts of the world, which is one of the secrets of the Arabian Horse.





Luiz Felipe, Valentina, Fernandinha and Antonella



T.A.: Could you tell me which qualities you look for when you are thinking about breeding?

Z.G. I required is the ideal Arabian horse with a lot of charisma, big movement , short and square body, good roofs , nice neck (long and shaped with thin throat), the head has to be: fine with small ears, big and round eyes, dish face, big nose and square muzzle.

T.A.: At what moment do you realize that a horse can be of high quality at the show results?

Z.G. At the beginning I might have some hopes for a specific horse, but certainty can only be obtained in the ring. It is only there that one realizes whether the horse has the required traits for competitions or not. In any case, I always advise people try the horses on different types of terrains and in different situations, from indoor competitions to outdoor. From the results of these tests you will see the qualities of each horse and their abilities, always the correct and the beautiful horses turn into champions. The attitude and performance it takes all this to win.



Andre Cruz, Leandro Aguiar and Zico Guardia



Milano's Show



Simone Leo, Talitha Bakker and Zico Guardia



Renato Sorvilo, Zico and Cris Guardia at Araxa's party

T.A.: We know that you are also a judge. Which criterion do you use when you judge in America or in Europe. In your opinion, are these criterion the same?

Z.G.: For me it does not matter where I am judging, whether it is America, Europe. What is important is that the horse has winning qualities. The Arabian horse is fantastic and judging is a pleasure for me. I feel happy when I see a horse trot or show its talents in the standing position. Showing off is innate for many horses, what is important is not the individual score but that the best horse wins. What I value in a horse is principally type, charisma and how it expresses itself during the competition. Very important for me are also conformation, legs and the head, which must be proportionate. The Arabian horse is a rare creature, it either wins you over or not, but when it gets under your skin you can no longer live without it.



Stud Team with Tuchiya MPE

Our visit to Stud Training Center was over, but every day Zico is ready to share his passion with Arabian lovers and to help them reach their goals.

Our chat with Zico Guardia came to an end. People like him are extremely constructive for "our world" and really help globalization which is necessary for a complete view that is also the essence of the Arabian horse.



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Zico Guardia-Bragança Paulista
caixa postal 254-cep.12900-000 - Brasil
ph. 55-11-83232251 - e.mail zicoguardia@hotmail.com