

# The Arabian Foal Festival

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AUGUST 22-23, 2015

LOS OLIVOS, CALIFORNIA

ORGANIZER: SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

JUDGES: SHAWN CREWS, LISA

MARKLEY, AND BILL MELENDEZ

This year marked the third year of the ever popular Arabian Foal Festival in Santa Ynez, California, and it was my third year attending as well. I must say this was indeed the best year, not only with the organization and flow to the show, which exemplifies the definition of exhibitor friendly, but the new venue offered the ideal setting for this event. As an exhibitor, I was impressed with the convenient stall location and superior footing in the arena, making it fantastic for exhibitors, and the seating area for the spectators was exceptional, with a shaded area that was comfortable and perfectly positioned to view the horses being shown.

This year in particular the exhibition of the foals was appropriately done in a relaxed manner and to the foals' advantage, along with minimal clipping, making this a good first experience for them. A new class offered was for horses four years and older that had never been shown before, which was a perfect opportunity for owners to bring out their beautiful broodmares or young prospects that one has been waiting to mature. This year that range was represented and made for a diverse group of quality horses being presented. The other new addition to the foal show class list was a class





Gold Champion Junior Filly, Novice Handler **OM EL JUSTADORABLE** (WH Justice x Om El Shahmaandura), owned by Om El Arab International, Santa Ynez.



Gold Champion Junior Filly, Amateur Handler **JENAN ALJASSIMYA** (WH Justice x Redwood Lodge Saffiq), owned by Ajassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez, and Santa Ynez.



Gold Champion Junior Colt/Gelding, Novice Handler **OM EL BELLAMI** (WH Justice x Om El Bellona), owned by Om El Arab International, Santa Ynez.



Gold Champion Junior Colt/Gelding, Amateur Handler **PROMETEUSZ** (FA El Shawan x Pianissima), owned by Janow Podlaski, Poland.



Gold Champion Halter **NABIL AJF** (\*El Nabila B x Om El Soraya), owned by Ronald York, Atascadero.



First Place Four and Over Never Been Shown **OM EL JINAAH** (Al Lahab x Om El Jimala), owned by Om El Arab International, Santa Ynez.

for novice handlers, which gave any exhibitor with limited showing the opportunity to gain experience.

Saturday evening was a treat because there was a party hosted at the show venue, an excellent event to visit with friends, enjoy delicious wine and food, and live music. It is always exciting and fun to watch the breeders' challenge, where all the breeders in the Santa Ynez area submit one of their stallions and then each breeder draws a name. For example, Henry Metz of Silver Maple Farm drew the handsome stallion Brandon Bey (owned by Manny Lawerence of Jade Creek Arabians). All these breeders will use the stallion breeding that they drew from the mix on a mare they believe will be the best match and they will then come back and compete with the resulting offspring.

#### SHOW RESULTS

##### CHAMPION JUNIOR FILLY, NOVICE HANDLER

**GOLD:** Om El Justadorable (WH Justice x Om El Shahmaandura), Om El Arab International, Santa Ynez

**SILVER:** Noor El Nil SMF (Magiestic Noble SMF x Ansata Nile Starlight), Silver Maple Farms, Inc., Santa Ynez

**BRONZE:** A Loves Premiira (IA Ambassador x Alasting Love VF), Dianne Peltak, San Ramon



Gold Champion Trail In-Hand, Novice Handler B **MATTAR AJF** (Monther Al Nasser x Bint Shaia), owned by Jessica Crockett, Corona.



Gold Champion Trail In-Hand, Amateur Handler B **LETISHA** (FA El Shawan x BHF Shahs Lullaby), owned by Gallún Farms, Inc., Santa Ynez, and Silver Champion Trail In-Hand, Amateur Handler B **MON AMIEE** (Eden C x WCA Mon Cherie), owned by Gallún Farms, Inc., Santa Ynez.



Gold Champion Trail Futurity **MIQDAD AJF** (Monther Al Nasser x Toscana PGA), owned by Ajassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez, and raised at 100 Oaks Ranch.



**CHAMPION JUNIOR FILLY, AMATEUR HANDLER**

**GOLD:** Jenan Aljassimya (WH Justice x Redwood Lodge Saffiqa), Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez

**SILVER:** Arwa Aljassimya (\*Besson Carol x Athina El Jamaal), Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez

**BRONZE:** Monyat Aljassimya (Monther Al Nasser x RP Miss Surprise), Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez

**CHAMPION JUNIOR COLT/GELDING, NOVICE HANDLER**

**GOLD:** Om El Bellami (WH Justice x Om El Bellona), Om El International, Santa Ynez

**SILVER:** Moja Vi SRM (ZT Magnanimus x Viva Marwan), Santiago Ramirez, Santa Ynez

**BRONZE:** Nughats Amir (Nughat VF x Alada Flamin Fortune), Cindy Bevier Hodges, Temecula

**CHAMPION JUNIOR COLT/GELDING, AMATEUR HANDLER**

**GOLD:** Prometheus (Fa El Shawan x Pianissima), Janow Podlaski, Poland

**SILVER:** Shaheen (Stival x Silken Sable), Gallun Farms, Inc., Santa Ynez

**BRONZE:** The Seeker V (Audacious x Satine IA), Varian Arabians, Arroyo Grande

**CHAMPION HALTER**

**GOLD:** Nabil AJF (El Nabila B x Om El Soraya), Ronald York, Atascadero

**SILVER:** Mahzeer AJF (Monther Al Nasser x Dubravka), Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez

**BRONZE:** Shah AJF [name changed to Make It So] (Monther Al Nasser x Om El Shadream), Ann & Tony Pesja, Santa Ynez

**FOUR AND OVER NEVER BEEN SHOWN:**

1. Om El Jinaah (Al Lahab x Om El Jimala), Om El Arab International, Santa Ynez;
2. Fahad Al Rayyan (Sinan Al Rayyan x Noof Al Rayyan), Al Rayyan Farm, Doha, Qatar;
3. Forever Bint Czar (Forever Czar x KHF Crescent), T. Miller & A. Padilla, Sebastopol

**CHAMPION TRAIL IN-HAND, NOVICE HANDLER A**

**GOLD:** Nughats Amir (Nughat VF x Alada Flamin Fortune), Cindy Bevier Hodges, Temecula

**SILVER:** Jasir Aljassimya (ZT Marwteyn x CR Jasmeenah), Ashley Dillard, Santa Margarita

**BRONZE:** Missbah AJF (Monther Al Nasser x RP Miss Surprise), Travis Burnett, Santa Ynez

**CHAMPION TRAIL IN-HAND, NOVICE HANDLER B**

**GOLD:** Mattar AJF (Monther Al Nasser x Bint Shaia), Jessica Crockett, Corona

**SILVER:** Om El Sadiki (Om El Al Azeem x Om El Shaheera), Sophia Merz

**CHAMPION TRAIL IN-HAND, AMATEUR HANDLER**

**GOLD:** Pristyna (Stival x EVG Pilahr), Gallun Farms, Inc., Santa Ynez

**CHAMPION TRAIL IN-HAND, AMATEUR HANDLER B**

**GOLD:** Letisha (FA El Shawan x BHF Shahs Lullaby), Gallun Farms, Inc., Santa Ynez

**SILVER:** Mon Amiee (Eden C x WCA Mon Cherie), Gallun Farms, Inc., Santa Ynez

**BRONZE:** Monther AJF (Monther Al Nasser x Bruma Bahamas), Nancy Hunsicker, Solvang



Silver Champion Trail Futurity **WN JAY AJF** (WH Justice x WN Stars Angel), owned by Carol Steppe, Santa Ynez.



Gold Champion Produce of Dam **\*BILLY JEAN BAPS** (AS Sinans Pacha x AS Imaani), bred by C. Mevr. Vanhie, Belgium; foals bred by Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez.



Gold Champion Get of Sire WH Justice (Magnum Psyche x Von Sher-Renea), bred by Wendell Hansen; owned by Equid System, Ltd., Italy.



Gold Champion Weanling Filly Foal **JAZANAH ALJASSIMYA** (WH Justice x \*Billy Jean BAPS), owned by Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez.



Bart Van Buggenhout, left, with show judges Lisa Markley, Bill Melendez, and Shawn Crews.

"It was a pleasure to judge this incredibly innovative, all-amateur show with Lisa Markley and Bill Melendez. The Arabian Foal Festival is not your normal horse show; it is a combination of several creative programs.

Seeing the 2015 foals was so special, and the handlers, both novice and amateur, did a wonderful job. The in-hand trail classes, judged by Bill Melendez, were a personal favorite. I want to get our clients into this class!

I came away from the show so impressed with this group — each person put so much energy and passion into their role in order to create this amazing and unique opportunity to share the Arabian horse. Well done!" — Shawn Crews.

A contest we all will look forward to, it will no doubt be deep with quality as some of the greatest breeders of all time are in the Challenge, such as Sheila Varian and Carol Steppe.

This year was particularly special because a tribute was given to Sigi Siller and Om El Arab, whose contributions to the breed have been immeasurable. The story of Sigi's journey is indeed inspiring given the worldwide influence her breeding program has had and continues to have.

Sunday began with the in-hand trail classes, providing a fabulous example of how trainable young horses are! One group of particular interest were the now two-year-old geldings that are part of the Gelding Futurity program. As yearlings, the colts competed for the prize money in halter, and this year as two-year-olds they came back and competed in the in-hand trail. Next year as three-year-olds they will compete under saddle. The quality of these geldings is exceptional, and the



From left: Foal Festival show announcer Robin Hopkinson, Debra Schleim, and Foal Festival show organizer Michelle Kelly.

Om El Arabs International, Santa Ynez won Silver Champion Large Breeder. Pictured second from left is Sigi Siller is her son Ben Merz, granddaughter Sophie Merz and daughter Janina holding her son Luca. and family.



prize money program is excellent. This would be an outstanding opportunity for anyone to acquire an excellent horse with great earning potential.

One of the truly excellent things about the foal show is that one gets the opportunity to see horses that are likely to have successful futures before they start on that journey ... I recall seeing Santino V at the very first foal show and now he is a Scottsdale winner and will undoubtedly be siring very nice foals. This year Greg and Nancy Gallun had an outstanding young colt that is sure to make his mark in future years.

As the day drew to an end I took a moment to observe the surrounding environment. It was a sight to behold, some of the most exceptional breeding programs in the world were represented there, with Varian Arabians, Day Dream Arabians, Aljassimya Farm, and the list goes on — all there in one place enjoying the exhibition of their foals, and the promise of a bright future.



Sheila Varian of Varian Arabians, Arroyo Grande.

#### CHAMPION TRAIL FUTURITY

**GOLD:** Miqdad AJF (Monther Al Nasser x Toscana PGA), Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez  
**SILVER:** WN Jay AJF (WH Justice x WN Stars Angel), Carol Steppe, Santa Ynez  
**BRONZE:** Monther AJF (Monther Al Nasser x Bruma Bahamas), Nancy Hunsicker, Solvang

#### CHAMPION PRODUCE OF DAM

**GOLD:** \*Billy Jean BAPS (AS Sinans Pacha x AS Imaani), bred by C. Mevr. Vanhie, Belgium; foals bred by Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez

#### CHAMPION GET OF SIRE

**GOLD:** WH Justice (Magnum Psyche x Von Sher-Renea), bred by Wendell Hansen; owned by Equid System, Ltd., Italy  
**SILVER:** Monther Al Nasser (Ansata Hejazi x Aliah Al Nasser), bred by Al Nasser Stud; owned by Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez  
**BRONZE:** Symbolic SMF (Magestic Noble SMF x Shaboura), bred and owned by Sliver Maple Farms, Santa Ynez

#### CHAMPION WEANLING FILLY FOAL

**GOLD:** Jazanah Aljassimya (WH Justice x \*Billy Jean BAPS), Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez  
**SILVER:** Sihr Aljassimya (SMA Magic One x Show Blessed), Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez  
**BRONZE:** Charis RBV (Hairiry Al Shaqab x Jakhara Jamal JCA), Karen Cunningham, San Juan Capistrano

#### CHAMPION WEANLING COLT FOAL

**GOLD:** Badr Aljassimya (Om El Bellissimo x RP Miss Surprise), Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, and Santa Ynez  
**SILVER:** Om El Bertigo (Baha AA x Om El Benecia), Om El Arab International, Santa Ynez  
**BRONZE:** Montasir Aljassimya (Monther Al Nasser x Aurora Aljassimya), Aljassimya Farm, Doha,