



The First Al-Khaleidiah International Arabian Horse Show

January 17-18, 2008 • Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Story by Mike Villaseñor • Photos by Irina Filsinger

The First Al-Khaleidiah International Arabian Horse Show was held January 17th and 18th in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The host of the show was His Royal Highness Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, and the venue was his beautiful desert oasis known as Al-Khaleidiah Stud. The facilities at his farm are simply some of the finest in the world and boasts paved and curbed roadways lined with mature eucalyptus trees. There are literally hundreds of stalls in several large barns that house the farm's breeding, race and show horses. Al-Khaleidiah Stud is known worldwide for their horse acquisitions and the breeding of some of the very best Arabian show horses and racehorses, and I saw many familiar faces in the beautiful stalls of Al-Khaleidiah during a leisurely stroll.

The trip to Saudi Arabia is a quick jaunt from the United States to London with a connecting flight to Riyadh, a city of over 4 million people. I experienced unusually high security measures during my visit, because President Bush was in Saudi Arabia to meet with Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. During his visit, President Bush was hosted at a showing of the King's prized Arabian horses at the monarch's horse farm in Al Janadriyah, Saudi Arabia. That is what I call breed promotion!

The weeklong event started with an auction of approximately 60 Arabian horses from Al-Khaleidiah Stud.

The bidding was fast and spirited, and many beautiful horses were sold to Middle Eastern and Saudi breeders. The sale accommodations were extremely comfortable, as we sat in the ultra-luxurious clubhouse at the private racecourse of His Royal Highness Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. The clubhouse boasts superior amenities, including displays for the trophies won by the farm's beautiful Arabian horses. As luck would have it, the weather was very cold. However, our host made everyone feel comfortable by providing portable propane heaters and blankets.

During the festivities we were treated to a spectacular race meet of some outstanding purebred Arabian runners from the Al-Khaleidiah racing stables. Not only does Al-Khaleidiah Farm Manager Mr. Mutlaq bin Mushrif have a very keen eye for beautiful Arabian show horses, but he is also an outstanding racehorse trainer as well. His horses were fit and very well trained. The races all had very large fields, and they were very exciting to watch.

After the races were completed, we were taken to a very special dinner hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. The dinner was held at the Prince's private lodge which overlooks his wild animal park, where giraffe, zebras, gazelles, deer and other assorted animals roam freely in front of a gorgeous lake with a fountain. There is turf and alfalfa hay everywhere for the





Left to right: Peter Upton, United Kingdom; Dr. Francesco Santoro, Italy; Marianne Tengstedt, Denmark; Ringmaster Philip Jenkins; Sylvie Eberhardt, Germany; Luis Rocco, Brazil; and Dr. Nasr Marei, Egypt.



Right: HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, the host of the First Al-Khaleidiah International Arabian Horse Show.

animals, and the “lodge” is actually a huge building with an ornate dining room and floor-to-ceiling glass windows for viewing the animals. The Prince personally greeted each and every guest and proved to be very friendly and well-spoken.

On the third day, the First Al-Khaleidiah International Arabian Horse Show, an ECAHO International B Show, commenced. The show enjoyed a huge turnout with over 200 horses competing from several different countries in the Middle East and Europe. The show ring was simply beautiful, and premium seating was provided for all guests along with food and refreshments during the day. The competition featured many world-class entries and some definite stars of the future. The judges did a very efficient job of sorting them out, and they should be congratulated on a job well done.

The show’s judging panel consisted of experienced judges from six different countries. They were: Dr. Nasr Marei from Egypt; Luis Rocco from Brazil; Sylvie Eberhardt from Germany; Peter Upton from the United Kingdom; Dr. Francesco Santoro from Italy; and Marianne Tengstedt from Denmark. Each class was judged by four out of the six judges; names were drawn before each class to determine who would officiate the class.

As the show came to a close, the organizers provided one of the most spectacular closing acts in the history of horse shows. There was pageantry, laser-light shows and an outstanding dressage performance by Salim bin Laden on his wonderful chestnut, Al Fareh. This was followed by a spectacular fireworks display, which marked the end to a very memorable Arabian horse show.



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Left and Below: **Pianissima** (Gazal Al Shaqab x Pianosa), Senior Mare Champion, bred and owned by Janów Podlaski Stud, Poland.



Left: **Eagleridge Passionata** (Sanadik El Shaklan x River Oak Dimity), Senior Mare Reserve Champion, bred by Paul Ronald & Jennifer Ogden, U.S.A., and owned by Ajman Stud, U.A.E.

Bottom Left: **Madinah Bint Saariyah** (Imperial Madheen x PLF Saariyah), First Place Mare 10 Years & Over, bred by Diane Jeffries, United Kingdom, and owned by Khalid Saad Al Haddad, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Bottom Right: **Bilkis Begum** (Khidar x Nur Jahan), First Place Mare 4-6 Years Old (a), bred by Balmaseda, Spain, and owned by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.





Right and Below: **Sara Al Mohamadiyah** (Marwan Al Shaqab x ZT Maghan), Junior Female Champion, bred by Harold & Dolly Orr/Michael Byatt, U.S.A., and owned by HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahad bin Abdullah Al Saud, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Right: **FS Cayenne** (A.S. Natsir-Apal x FS Cleopatra), Junior Female Reserve Champion, bred by Frank Sponle, Germany, and owned by Ajman Stud, U.A.E.

Bottom, Left: **Ballerina BVA** (Ames Charisma x LC Pirouette), First Place 2-Year-Old Filly (a), bred by Brookville Arabians, U.S.A., and owned by HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahad bin Abdullah Al Saud, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



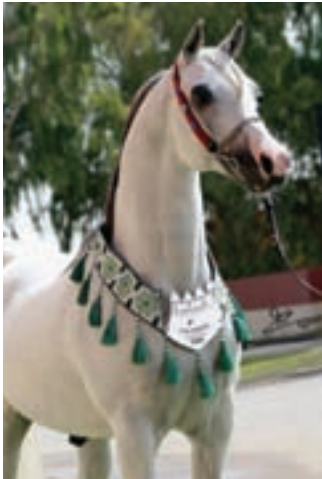
Bottom, Middle: **Psyches Victoria** (Ekstern x Pallas-Atena), First Place 2-Year-Old Filly (b), bred and owned by Crzynno-Palace Stud, Krzystof Poszepczynski, Poland.

Bottom, Right: **Bint Najd** (Koronec x Rayanah), First Place 1-Year-Old Filly (b), bred and owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.





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Above and Right: **Padrons Immage** (Padrons Psyche x Scarlett Angaell), Senior Champion Stallion, bred by Zahra Arabian Stud, France, and owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Left: **Esparto** (Ekstern x Ekspozycja), Senior Stallion Reserve Champion, bred by Michalów State Stud, Poland, and owned by Ajman Stud, U.A.E.



Right: **Emiliusz** (Labeeb x Emocja), First Place Stallion 7-9 Years, bred by Michalów State Stud, Poland, and owned by Liezl Els, Agmal Arabians, South Africa.



Right and Below: **QR Marc** (Marwan Al Shaqab x Swete Dreams), Junior Stallion Champion, bred by Vicki L. Saxton Doyle & Louis F. Doyle, U.S.A., and owned by Paul Gheysens, Belgium.



Right: **Baanderos** (Marwan Al Shaqab x HB Bessolea), Junior Stallion Reserve Champion, bred by Taylor Hickman Arabians, U.S.A., and owned by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Bottom, Left: **Ataa Al Khalidiah** (Aja Sangali x Mashael Al Khamisa), First Place 2-Year-Old Colt (a), bred and owned by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Bottom, Middle: **Altis** (WH Justice x Albia), First Place 2-Year-Old Colt (b), bred and owned by Krzysztof Gozdziński, Falborek Arabians, Poland.

Bottom, Right: **Numas Al Thani** (Sabea Al Sahraa Anapura x Shamilah), First Place 1-Year-Old Colt, bred and owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.





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Mandouba (Haleem x Okbt Al-Nadba), First Place KSA Desert-Bred Mare, bred by HRH Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and owned by HRH Prince Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Saud, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Bint Khuzamah (Rezaiq x Khuzamah), First Place KSA Desert-Bred Filly, bred and owned by King Abdul Aziz Arabian Horse Center, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Rezaiq (Haleem x Zhuriya), First Place KSA Desert-Bred Stallion, bred and owned by King Abdul Aziz Arabian Horse Center, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Majd Al Kbalidiah (Rahi x Meraisla), First Place KSA Desert-Bred Stallion, bred and owned by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



