

# SUMMER AT Om El Arab



Kelly Campbell

2018 grey filly **Sinon x Om El Benicia by Shahmaan**

Words by Janina Merz  
Photography by Elsa Marchenay unless stated

As we head into Fall, I am reflecting on a wonderful summer at Om El Arab. We once again held our Conformation Clinic, with the brilliant Cindy Reich, and I know that this magazine will be sharing news from there over the coming weeks.

I also had the honour of being part of the select group of top breeders at the Arabian Breeders' World Cup in Las Vegas. With my mom, Sigi, we have won this trophy outright three times, and this was the second time that I was recognised since Sigi passed away two years ago. It was a very special moment for me, and I was honoured to be able to share it with my partner, Bryon, and son Lucca.

Back at the farm, however, we have had a wonderful breeding season. I wanted to share a few highlights with you – a sneak preview, if you like, of the rising stars at Om El Arab this season. The Estopa (Tabal x Uyaima by Barquillo) influence continues to shine.



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## Grey filly - **Aziim Al Amaar x Om El Bint Shaina by Sharem El Sheikh**

When I became aware of the straight Egyptian stallion Aziim Al Amaar (Amaar al Rayyan x Imperial Maysama by Imperial Madheen), I wanted to bring him to the farm specifically to breed Om El Bint Shaina (ex Om El Shaina by Carmargue out of Estopa).

She is the dam of many wonderful foals, including Om El Excella by Al Lahab (Laheeb x The Vision HG by Thee Desperado).

When we bred Bint Shaina and then did a successful embryo transfer, I was very much hoping for a filly. Bint Shaina is now 24 years old, and I knew that this was most likely her last foal. I was so thrilled when her giant draft horse recipient mare foaled this dainty little filly! She is growing up just like I'd envisioned, and I am so thankful to have this lovely filly, a Bint Shaina daughter, for the breeding programme.

**Grey filly - Aziim Al Amaar x Om El Bint Bint Estopa by Sanadik El Shaklan**

It has always been our philosophy to try to keep at least one filly from each of our broodmares. In the case of Om El Bint Bint Estopa (ex Bint Estopa by El Shaklan out of Estopa), we didn't have an heir. She foaled a gorgeous filly by Al Lahab many years ago, and unfortunately we lost her. The two fillies she had after that were both sold; she was a young mare and we thought that we would easily get a replacement daughter for her. As we found out, however, sometimes fillies don't come along as often as one hopes. In the case of Bint Bint Estopa, it has taken years.

I was overjoyed when, finally, earlier this year, Bint Bint Estopa had a beautiful filly. She, too, is sired by Aziim Al Amaar and we will definitely be retaining her for the breeding programme.



**Grey filly - EKS Alihandro x Om El Justadorable by WH Justice**

Om El Justadorable (ex Om El Shahmaandura by Om El Shahmaan out of Om El Jimala) is one of my favourite WH Justice (Magnum Psyche x Vona Sher-Renea by El Sher-Mann) daughters on our farm. This year she had two beautiful foals for Om El Arab, a colt by SMA Magic One (Psytadel x Majidah bint Pacha by AS Sinans Pacha) and this filly by EKS Alihandro (Marwan al Shaqab x OFW Pshhouette by Padrans Psyche). I love both of her foals and am so pleased that Justadorable has been consistent as a broodmare, as she has stamped both foals, by such different stallions, with her type. These are her first foals, and I am more than happy with them.



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**Om El Sinon**  
(WH Justice x Om El Shadiva by Sanadik El Shaklan)

Now five-years old, Om El Sinon is an incredibly important stallion for me. He is by Om El Shadiva (ex Om El Shaina) and thus continues that illustrious line. Add in his grandsire, Sanadik El Shaklan (El Shaklan x Mohena by Hadban Enzahi), and it is clear to see why Om El Sinon is so important to all at the farm.

While Sinon may look very much like his world-famous sire, he is undeniably 'Om El Arab' as well. He is homozygous grey, and his first foals were born in 2016, as we lightly tested him on our own mares when he was two-years old. Sinon has already proven to be a very consistent sire, and from his very first foal on the ground, I was more than convinced in my faith in him. I am looking forward to showing some of his foals next year.



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**Om El Alaminta (Om El Sinon x Alamina by Om El Bellissimo)**

I adore this little grey filly! She is sired by our upcoming sire, Om El Sinon, and her dam, Alamina, is significant in the Om El Arab history. Alamina was bred by Janów Podlaski State Stud in Poland, who had Om El Bellissimo (Om El Shahmaan x Om El Benedict by Sanadik El Shaklan) on lease for two years. Alamina is out of Alameda (Wachlarz x Alejka by Palas), and Sigi spent a long time looking at the cross of Bellissimo on the Polish mares before making her selection. Alamina was the first new mare line brought to Om El Arab in generations, and she has not disappointed.

Om El Alaminta was foaled earlier this year. She is a beautiful example of Polish lines, combined with a lot of Estopa blood. I hope to be able to show this lovely filly next year.

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**Om El Shawan (FA El Shawan x Om El Beladeena by Al Lahab)**

The final horse I have to mention is the bay colt Om El Shawan. I know that a few people have seen him – Samantha included – and he has mesmerised them. He is sired by the late FA El Shawan (Marwan al Shaqab x Foxbriar Shakita by ZT Shakfantasy) and is out of our lovely mare, Om El Beladeena, another of the great Al Lahab progeny at the farm and out of Om El Benedict (Sanadik El Shaklan x Om El Beneera by Sharem El Sheikh). Om El Benedict was an amazing mare for us, and the influence that she had, for a mare who died so young, is unprecedented. Hers is a reach that is truly global, and we will celebrate this incredible mare in a future edition.

Foaled in 2017, Om El Shawan has big steps to fill as a sire at Om El Arab, but I am convinced that he has all the attributes needed – and more – to do so. He is co-owned with Greg and Nancy Gallún, and I am very excited by Om El Shawan. I hope to breed a few mares to him next year, and continue the cycle of life at Om El Arab. 🐾



Stuart Vesty