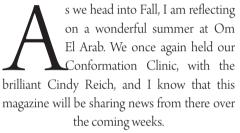
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2018 grey filly Sinon x Om El Benicia by Shahmaan

Words by Janina Merz Photography by Elsa Marchenay unless stated



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.



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 - 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 Psylhouette by Padrons 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.







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.

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. \bigcirc

