



The Arabian
Breeders'
magazine
Collectors' Edition



elisa

Celebrating the true heart and soul of the Arabian horse



OM EL ARAB GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

OM EL ARAB CELEBRATED ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2020.

In this special edition of The Arabian Breeders' Magazine, we pay tribute to the horses from this world-famous stud, as well as acknowledge the huge achievements of the stud's founder Sigi Siller and her daughter, Janina Merz. Without them, the world would not have had the Estopa influence, found in so many Arabian horses across the globe today. These next few pages contain a true celebration of how the vision of one breeder can ripple across the oceans and create a whole new world.

Honoring 50 Years
of GIFTING THE
WORLD *Beauty*

Thank you, Janina, for loving Sigi so much,
and working for so long at her side. For carrying on with a broken heart.
For surpassing even your Mother's stellar accomplishments.
For setting the standard for every aspiring Arabian breeder. For your friendship.
For your gracious hospitality. For all your myriad labors of love in the quiet hours.
For the eternal privilege of creating this Sigi Siller Memorial Trophy,
modeled on your exquisite horses, but which in fact is a portrait of your legendary Mom —
and her "filly", our Arabian world treasure,
YOU, Janina.

With all my love and admiration,
Carol Fensholt Nierenberg
SILVER BOX STUDIOS



Sigi Siller / Om El Arab Memorial Perpetual Trophy - Scottsdale Champion Senior Mare



CELEBRATING THE *golden anniversary* OF THE *golden cross*

Congratulations to OM EL ARAB on **50** years
of breeding the worlds finest Arabian horses.

50 years of breeding National Champions,
International Champions, and World Champions.

Thank you Sigi and Janina for your
incredible unwavering vision.



NATIONAL CHAMPION STALLION OM EL BENICIO (WH JUSTICE X OM EL BENEZIA)

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We so often hear it said that Arabian horses connect us with wonderful people. If you've met Janina Merz and Sigi Siller, you'll agree, no truer words have ever been spoken.

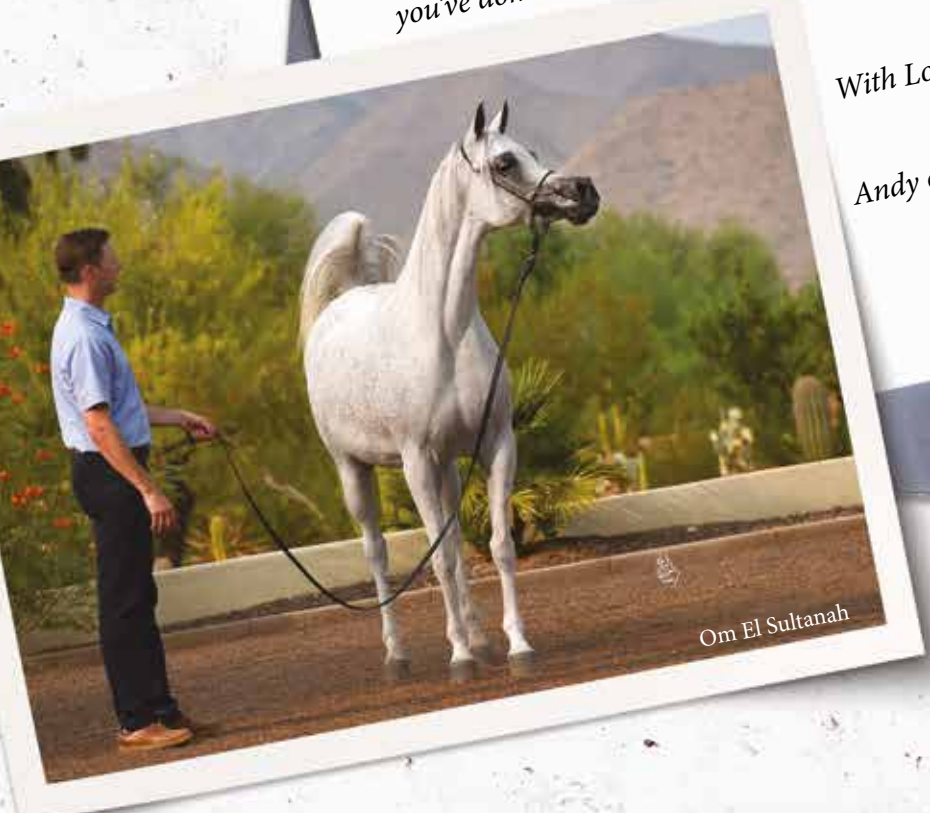
Our friendship with Janina is extremely special to us and on the 50th Anniversary of Om El Arab we honor its contributions to our lives, both personally and professionally.

We have had the privilege of representing several champions bred by Sigi and Janina. The commitment to their breeding vision is consistent and remarkable. In the past 50 years, Om El Arab has made a tremendously important impact on the Arabian gene pool all over the world. We applaud what you've done so far, and look forward to what is yet to come!

Congratulations!

With Love and Gratitude,

Andy & Angie Sellman



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF OM EL ARAB

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY



This year, Om El Arab is celebrating its 50th anniversary – no small feat these days for a privately-owned stud. From their humble beginnings in the Black Forest, Germany, Om El Arab has grown to be a breeding farm of truly global recognition. Founded from the vision of the late Sigi Siller and continuing today with her daughter Janina Merz, these horses remain important and influential in the modern world. From one beautiful Spanish mare has come a lineage like no other and in this special edition of The Arabian Breeders' Magazine, we celebrate the key horses in the remarkable story of Om El Arab.

1970s – WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

ESTOPA (TABAL X UYAIMA) 1965 MARE
"The mare my mother purchased from Spain and the foundation of Om El Arab. With her soulmate, Shaker el Masri, they created a dynasty. Bred by Osuna Escalera, 'The Estopa Influence' can now be found worldwide."



SHAKER EL MASRI (MORAFIC X ZEBEDA) 1963 STALLION
 "This Egyptian stallion over our Spanish Estopa was the original golden cross. We lost him far too soon, but his lines carried on through his progeny. Bred at the EAO in Egypt, this cross created a look that the Arabian horse world had never seen before."



EL SHAKLAN (SHAKER EL MASRI X ESTOPA) 1975 STALLION
 "What is there to say about El Shaklan – the legend himself and the horse who changed the world. Truly a sire of international significance, El Shaklan was champion in the UK, Germany, the US, and Brazil, as well as European Champion Stallion."



ESTASHA (SHAKER EL MASRI X ESTOPA) 1973 MARE
 "The first foal from this golden cross and National Champion Mare in Germany as well as Reserve European Champion Mare. She was the first homebred dam of significance for Om El Arab."



ESTAWA (SHAKER EL MASRI X ESTOPA) 1974 MARE
 "A European Champion Mare, Sigi always felt that Estawa was the best of the full siblings. She passed away far too young, leaving just two daughters. Tragically, neither of these daughters are represented in our modern programme."



IBN ESTOPA (SHAKER EL MASRI X ESTOPA) 1977 STALLION
 "While he may have lived in El Shaklan's shadow, Ibn Estopa was named World Champion Stallion as well as a double Reserve World Champion. He was sold from Om El Arab and became an international sire of note."



BINT SHAKER (SHAKER EL MASRI X ESTASHA) 1977 MARE
 "An early example of Sigi's linebreeding, Estasha was bred back to her sire to produce Bint Shaker. She was unbeaten in the showing, and her legacy lives on at Om El Arab today, notably through her great-great-granddaughter, Om El Sultanah."

EL MASRA (SHAKER EL MASRI X ESTASHA) 1978 MARE
 "A chestnut full sister to the grey Bint Shaker, El Masra was a World Champion as both a junior and senior as well as European Champion. She was sold and remained in Europe where she built her own legacy."



1980s

BINT ESTOPA (EL SHAKLAN X ESTOPA) 1981 MARE
 "More linebreeding, this time sire to dam. This mare remains incredibly relevant at Om El Arab today through her daughters, while her son Om El Abadan (by Carmargue) went to Australia as the foundation sire of Redwood Lodge Arabians. Hugely influential."



SANADIK EL SHAKLAN (EL SHAKLAN X MOHENA) 1983 STALLION
 "Sanadik epitomised the type of Arabian horse we have always looked to breed, combining exotic type, balance and strength with correctness and a kind personality. We felt he was El Shaklan's most lookalike son, and he took over as lead sire El Shaklan was exported. As a weanling, he was World Champion Colt Foal – a star from the beginning."





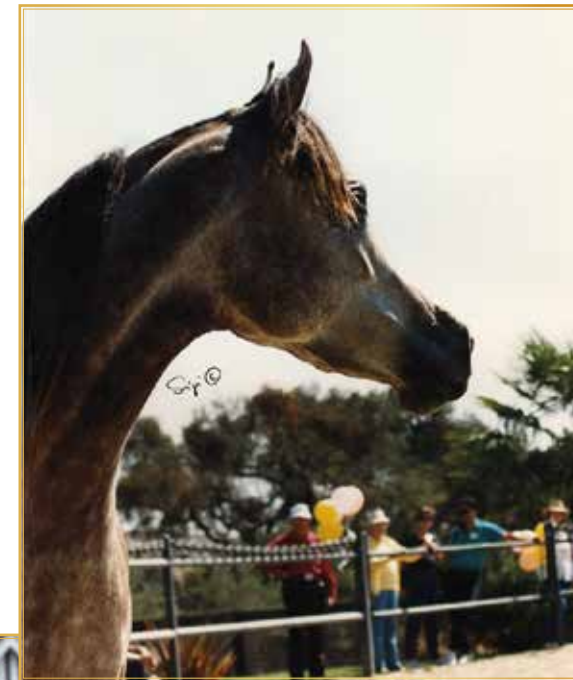
ESTOPASAN (RASTANO X ESTOPA) 1985 STALLION
 "One of Estopa's straight Spanish offspring, Estopasan was an important stallion for Om El Arab. He was a perfect outcross to the El Shaklan lines. Estopasan's daughters remain noteworthy and are still treasured today."

SHAREM EL SHEIKH (EL SHAKLAN X SAMANNA) 1983 STALLION
 "Bred by Dieter and Annelie Kraut of Germany, Sharem El Sheikh was imported to the United States as a two-year old. A champion in halter, including unanimous Scottsdale Supreme Champion Stallion, as well as driving, he was a hugely important sire of broodmares at Om El Arab."

MALIKAH ESTOPA (AN MALIK X ESTOPA) 1988 MARE
 "The only straight Spanish daughter of Estopa, Malukah Estopa joined Om El Abadan in Australia and then their home in France. Together, they produced the farm's lead sire, and Junior Male World Champion, Espano Estopa."



Credit Gigi Grasso



OM EL AMIRA ESTOPA (SANADIK EL SHAKLAN X BINT ESTOPA) 1988 MARE
 "A wonderful mare who we bred to Estopasan many times, Om El Amira Estopa left for Redwood Lodge in Australia, and then to Ses Planes Stud in Mallorca, where she produced Abha Opalina (by WH Justice), now owned by Al Shahania Stud in Qatar."



Credit Sweet Photography

OM EL AZADIK (SANADIK EL SHAKLAN X CH AZHNABA) 1988 STALLION
 "Our very first foal sired by Sanadik El Shaklan, Om El Azadik was sold to the UK where he won everything from Reserve World Champion to European Junior Male Champion. His daughter MA Bint Azadik was out of Om El Sabiya Estopa (Carmargue x Bint Estopa)."

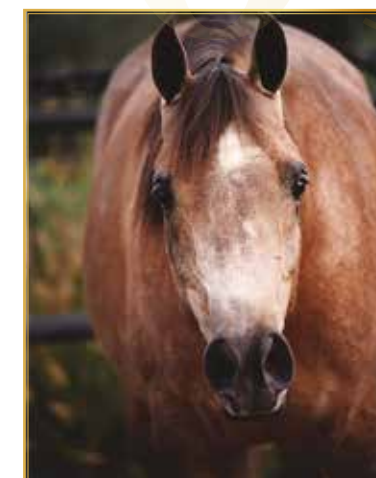


OM EL SHAINA (CARMARGUE X ESTOPA) 1989 MARE
 "We leased the stallion Carmargue (White Lightning x Velvet Shadow) from the UK for two seasons and Om El Shaina was one of his exceptional foals. Om El Shaina was an incredibly important mare of us, with both her sons and daughters being noteworthy."

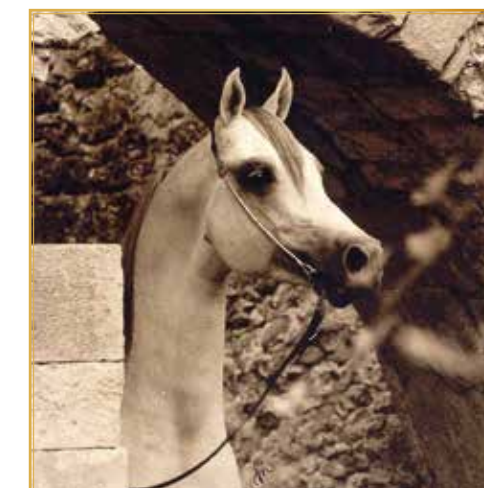
1990s



OM EL SANADIVA (SANADIK EL SHAKLAN X DE LA REINA) 1990 MARE
 "A new bloodline for Om El Arab at the start of a new decade resulted in Om El Sanadiva, dam of FS Bengali (by Kubinec) a champion in both the US and Europe. She was sold to Ralf Heckenbücker of Germany and became World Champion Filly as well as a dam of note."



OM EL JAZIRA (ESTOPASAN X BINT JACIO) 1990 MARE
 "A pure Spanish mare, Om El Jazira was special from the moment she was born. Bred exclusively to Sanadik El Shaklan, both she and her daughters represent the other tail female line imported from Spain alongside Estopa, Niharra (Jaguay x Jabalina II)."



OM EL ABADAN (CARMARGUE X BINT ESTOPA) 1991 STALLION
 "From that lovely cross of Bint Estopa with Carmargue, we sold 50% of Om El Abadan to Redwood Lodge and he became their first big winner at the World Championships when he was named Reserve Champion Stallion. He was a great sire for them."

OM EL BENEERA (SHAREM EL SHEIKH X ESTOPA) 1992 MARE
 "Om El Beneera was Estopa's last foal, our little miracle, who grew to be an amazing dam in her own right. Her family is the largest at Om El Arab, with not only daughters but two sons and two grandsons representing this remarkable mare who had a wonderful personality."





OM EL JIMALA (SANADIK EL SHAKLAN X OM EL JAZIRA) 1997 MARE

"We all love this mare – she truly is a classic Arabian. Twice named US National Reserve Champion Mare, Om El Jimala has been an extraordinary producer and her line is very active at the farm today. She really is the quintessential Arabian."

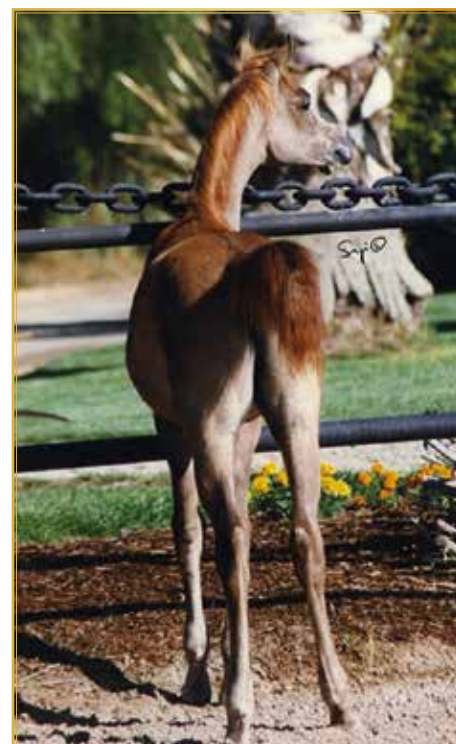


Credit: Kimerlee Curyl

OM EL BINT SHAINA (SHAREM EL SHEIKH X OM EL SHAINA) 1994 MARE
"An amazing mare, Om El Bint Shaina was so like her dam – not just in looks and personality, but also as a producer of exceptional fillies and fantastic colts including the amazing mare Om El Excella, who remains at the farm."



OM EL BENEDICT (SANADIK EL SHAKLAN X OM EL BENEERA) 1996 MARE
"Another of our great mares whose impact as a dam was amazing. She quietly produced the next generation for us, before leaving us far too soon. Her legacy lives on through her sons and daughters, and her influence is especially felt in Poland. More on that later..."



OM EL SHADINA (SANADIK EL SHAKLAN X OM EL SHAINA) 1996 MARE
"One of the early classic crosses of Sanadik over Shaina, Om El Shadina combined beauty, type, and elegance. She was sold to Al Khalediah Stables in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where she won titles and produced champions."



Credit: Elisa Grassi

OM EL SHADIVA (SANADIK EL SHAKLAN X OM EL SHAINA) 1998 MARE
 "We were unable to show Om El Shadiva due to an injury, but she has been an amazing dam. Her foals include our young superstar stallion Om El Sinon, who is following in the great legacy of his heritage as both show horse and sire."



OM EL EXTREEM (SANADIK EL SHAKLAN X OM EL BINT SHAINA) 1998 STALLION
 "Om El Exquisit's full brother, Om El Extreem was sold overseas where he won titles across Europe and the Middle East. He proved to be a good sire over a variety of bloodlines and helped to spread the Estopa influence even further."



OM EL BINT BINT ESTOPA (SANADIK EL SHAKLAN X BINT ESTOPA) 2002 MARE
 "Om El Bint Bint Estopa was the last of the Bint Estopa daughters, and she was a truly beautiful mare, old in style, and so like her granddam. She passed away earlier this year and she has left a hole at the farm."

OMEL BERENICE DREAM (DREAMCATCHER SMF X OM EL BENEERA) 2002 MARE
 "Om El Berenice Dream has been a beautiful producer for Om El Arab. Her daughter, Om El Bellatrix (by Om El Shahmaan) was sold to Al Thumama Stud in Qatar, where she produced Bronze World Champion Filly Belladonna AT (by Wadee Al Shaqab)."



Credit: Kelly Campbell



Credit: Gregor Aymar

2000s

OM EL BAHREYN (CG BALIH EL JAMAAL X OM EL BENEDICT) 2000 STALLION
 "Sold to AV Arabians in the UK, Om El Bahreyn was successful both as a show horse and sire including British National Champion Filly AV Scarlet (ex DA Sandala by Sanadik El Shaklan). Om El Bahreyn was a great representative of the Om El charisma and style."



Credit: Sweet Photography

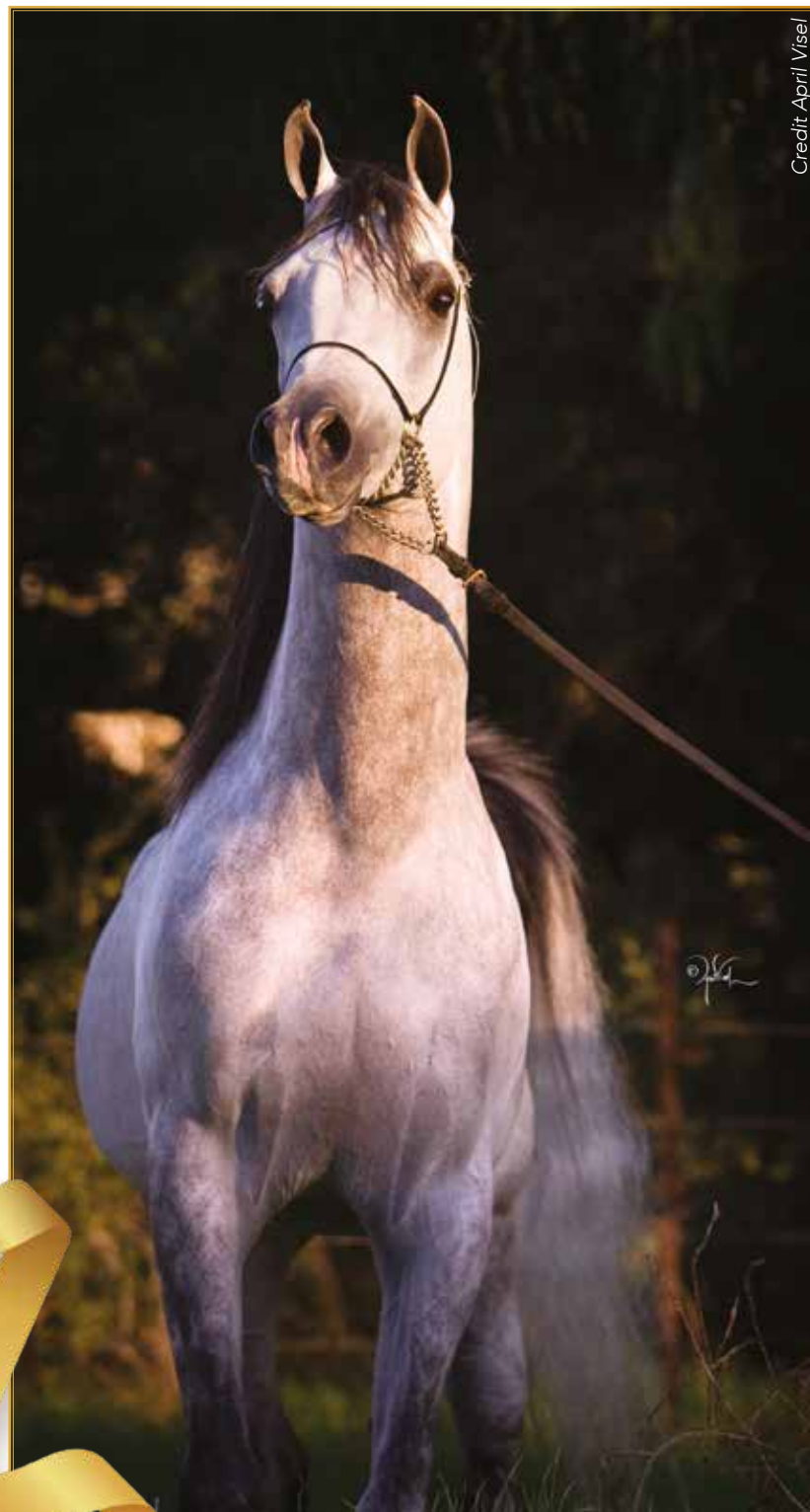
OM EL BERNADETTE (OM EL SHAHMAAN X OM EL BENEDICT) 2005 MARE
 "As a filly, Om El Bernadette was crowned the inaugural World Cup Junior Champion Filly in Las Vegas, winning Om El Arab the Breeder's Cup in the process. She was sold to Al Khalediah Farm where she was regularly top of the line."



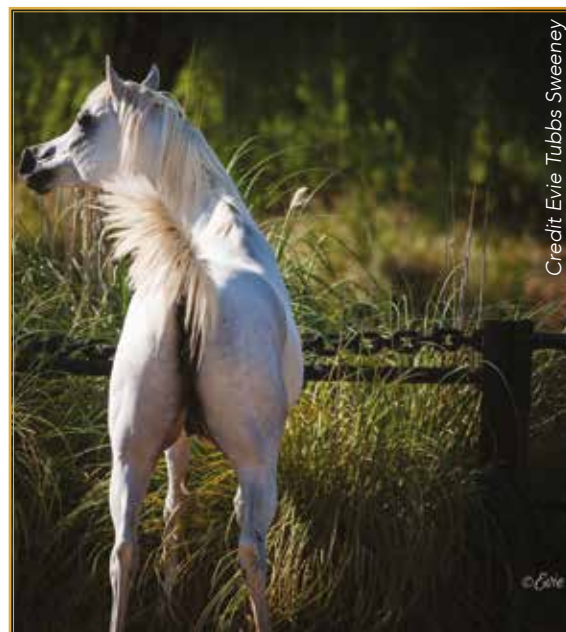
Credit: April Visel

OM EL BELADEENA (AL LAHAB X OM EL BENEDICT) 2006 MARE
 "The first of the superlative cross of Om El Arab lines with Al Lahab (Laheeb x The Vision HG), Om El Beladeena is an amazing mare on every level. She is a dam of distinction, with Om El Shawan and Titan AS (by El Nabila B) among the many champions to her name."

OM EL AL AZEEM (AL LAHAB X OM EL BENEERA) 2006 STALLION
 "A stallion of might, Om El Al Azeem loves to show and his many titles reflect this, including Gold Champion Stallion at the US Open in Central Park and Scottsdale, and Reserve US National Champion. His first daughter, Om El Jeania (ex Om El Jimala) was sold to Haras Royal Bouznika, the King of Morocco."



Credit April Visel



Credit Evie Tubbs Sweeney

OM EL JINAAH (AL LAHAB X OM EL JIMALA) 2006 MARE
 "Continuing our precious Om El Jimala line, Om El Jinaah is exotic and ethereal. She is dam of the multiple champion Om El Sanadeed (by Om El Shahmaan), sold to Qatar, and Janeenah (by El Nabila B), owned by Psynergy Equine, who is producing amazing foals."

OM EL BELLISSIMO (OM EL SHAHMAAN X OM EL BENEDICT) 2007 STALLION
 "We could write a book on Om El Bellissimo, who was leased by Janów Podlaski in Poland for two years. He has been an amazing sire and is just a wonderful horse to be around. His progeny can be found the world over, which is very humbling."



Credit Kelly Campbell



Credit April Visel

OM EL EXCELLA (AL LAHAB X OM EL BINT SHAINA) 2007 MARE
 "One of the most amazing mares ever born at Om El Arab – and that is saying something! Om El Excella is a favourite for many and has shone in the show-ring as well as a dam. More on that in a moment!"

OM EL BENEDINE (SANADIK EL SHAKLAN X OM EL BENEERA) 2008 MARE
 "This mare is so precious to us at Om El Arab, being full sister to Om El Benedict who left us too soon. She has more than stepped up, producing beautiful foals for us as well as Atticus ENB (by El Nabila B), Reserve US National Champion Futurity Stallion."



Credit April Visel

OM EL BASHARA ESTOPA (OM EL SHAHMAAN X OM EL BANDEIRA) 2008 MARE
 "A striking chestnut and flaxen mare, Om El Bashara Estopa has a precious pedigree and she preserves that Bint Estopa line. Her progeny has sold to Oman and Europe, with her latest filly, Om El Persephone (by Titan AS) remaining at Om El Arab."





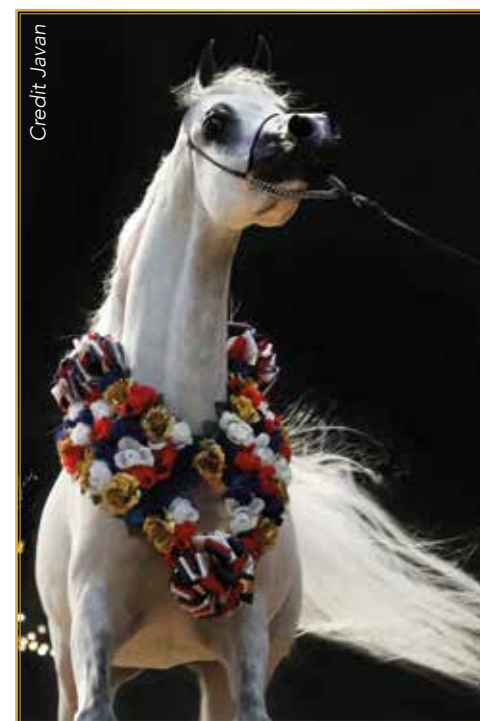
OM EL BENECIA (OM EL SHAHMAAN X OM EL BENEDICT) 2008 MARE
 "Om El Benedict's last daughter and full sister to Om El Bellissimo, Om El Benecia is also very precious to us. She is an amazing producer, including the stallion Om El Benicio, Om El Benecia is a huge part of our Estopa story."

OM EL ALIHA (OM EL AL AZEEM X OM EL SHAINA) 2009 MARE
 "Om El Aliha is the result of the very first embryo transfer I did by myself at home. She is a total miracle and is a World Champion-producing mare, with her first foal being Om El Aisha Al Jassimya – a Silver and Bronze World Champion. We all love Om El Aliha so much."



2010s

OM EL SORAYA (OM EL BELLISSIMO X OM EL SARIYANA) 2011 FILLY
 "Our first foal by Om El Bellissimo, Om El Soraya is a lovely cross of the classic Om El Shaker El Masri sireline with Al Lahab through his dam. Sold to Aljassimya Farm, she then went to Al Shira'aa Arabians where she continues to shine."



OM EL SINON (WH JUSTICE X OM EL SHADIVA) 2013 STALLION
 "Om El Sinon represents everything we hoped of crossing WH Justice (Magnum Psyche x Vona Sher-Renea) on to our bloodlines. Om El Sinon is an exceptional stallion and is the current Supreme Gold World Cup Champion Stallion. Homozygous grey, he is an amazing sire. We love him!"



OM EL JUSTADORABLE (WH JUSTICE X OM EL SHAHMAANDURA) 2013 FILLY
 "From the Om El Jazira line, Om El Justadorable is exactly as her name describes. Beautiful, typey, exotic, and with presence to burn, she wowed us with her first foal, the filly Om El Jesenia (by EKS Alihandro). She represents many of our breeding goals."



OM EL SULTANAH (WH JUSTICE X OM EL SOFIA) | 2013 MARE
 "A mare who represents six generations of our breeding, Om El Sultanah is an exquisite mare. We are excited by her foals, especially her black colt Om El Sultaan (by EKS Alihandro), owned with Psynergy Enterprise and Antheia Arabians."



Credit Nawaf

OM EL AISHA AL JASSIMYA (WH JUSTICE X OM EL ALIHA) 2013 MARE
"When WH Justice was leased to Aljassimya Farm, he stood at Om El Arab, something that was a huge honour for Sigi and I. This amazing mare, Om El Aisha Al Jassimya, is owned by Aljassimya and was Bronze World Champion – Sigi's last Paris before her passing. Two years later, Om El Aisha Al Jassimya took the Silver World title."



Credit April Visel

OM EL BENICIO (WH JUSTICE X OM EL BENEZIA) 2013 STALLION
"A firm Om El Arab favourite, I had a lot of fun showing Om El Benicio to his unanimous 2018 US National Champion AOTH Stallion title. He is now owned by close family friend Diane Brown at Antheia Arabians, where he is siring some beautiful foals."



Credit April Visel

OM EL BENEDITTO (WH JUSTICE X OM EL BENEERA) 2013 STALLION
"Our 'stallion in the stables', Om El Beneditto is our hidden gem. He is the last son of Om El Beneera, and Sigi loved him and believed in him as a sire. He has already had some lovely foals, and we are biding our time with him."

SAHM EL ARAB (WH JUSTICE X OM EL EXCELLA) 2013 STALLION
"The cross of the powerful and showy Om El Excella with the enigmatic WH Justice resulted in Sahn El Arab, owned by Aljassimya Farm. He, too, was leased to the Polish State Studs and his foals won titles at the Polish Nationals when they were shown."



Credit Stuart Vesty

NADEEM EL ARAB (WH JUSTICE X OM EL EUPHORIA) 2014 STALLION
 "Another owned by Aljassimya Farm, Nadeem El Arab was Silver Champion Colt in Las Vegas and he represents that wonderful Bint Shaina line. Bronze World Junior Male Champion, he carries four crosses to Estopa, and we are excited for his future."



Credit Emma Maxwell



Credit Stuart Vesty

OM EL ERODITE (EKS ALIHANDRO X OM EL EXCELLA) 2016 MARE
 "A true beauty, Om El Erodite was the first Om El Arab horse to ever be offered in a public auction, when she sold for a historic \$1.55 million to Patricia Dempsey of Beloveds Farm. With Patricia, she was Bronze Yearling Filly World Champion and Gold Junior Female Champion in Vegas."

OM EL SHAWAN (FA EL SHAWAN X OM EL BELADEENA) 2017 STALLION
 "Om El Beladeena has gifted us the impressive Om El Shawan, the next homebred to stand in the Om El Arab stallion barn. Co-owned with Greg and Nancy Gallún, Om El Shawan is already proving to be a young sire of note."



Credit Stuart Vesty



Credit Darryl Larson

OM EL ALAMINTA (OM EL SINON X ALAMINA) 2018 FILLY
 "Om El Alaminta's dam, Alamina (Om El Bellissimo x Alameda), was the first mare in over 20 years to join the Om El Arab herd and in 2018, she produced this special filly for us. She is everything we hoped that this infusion of a new tail female line would bring."

OM EL BELASINA (OM EL SINON X OM EL BELADEENA) 2019 FILLY
 "Another beauty by Om El Beladeena, this grey filly was special from the moment she was born. Om El Belasina has all the hallmarks of classic Om El Arab type and character. She has six crosses to Estopa, and I hope to be able to keep her here."



Credit Kelly Campbell

OM EL MAXIMUS (MAGIC MAGNIFIQUE X OM EL BINT BENEERA) 2020 BAY COLT
 "We have continued to bring in new sire lines over the years to use over our mares, and this was the first time we had used Magic Magnifique. I am thrilled with Om El Maximus, and I am looking at him with the future in mind."



Credit Evie Tubbs Sweeney



THE golden cross OM EM ARAB & *EL NABILA B

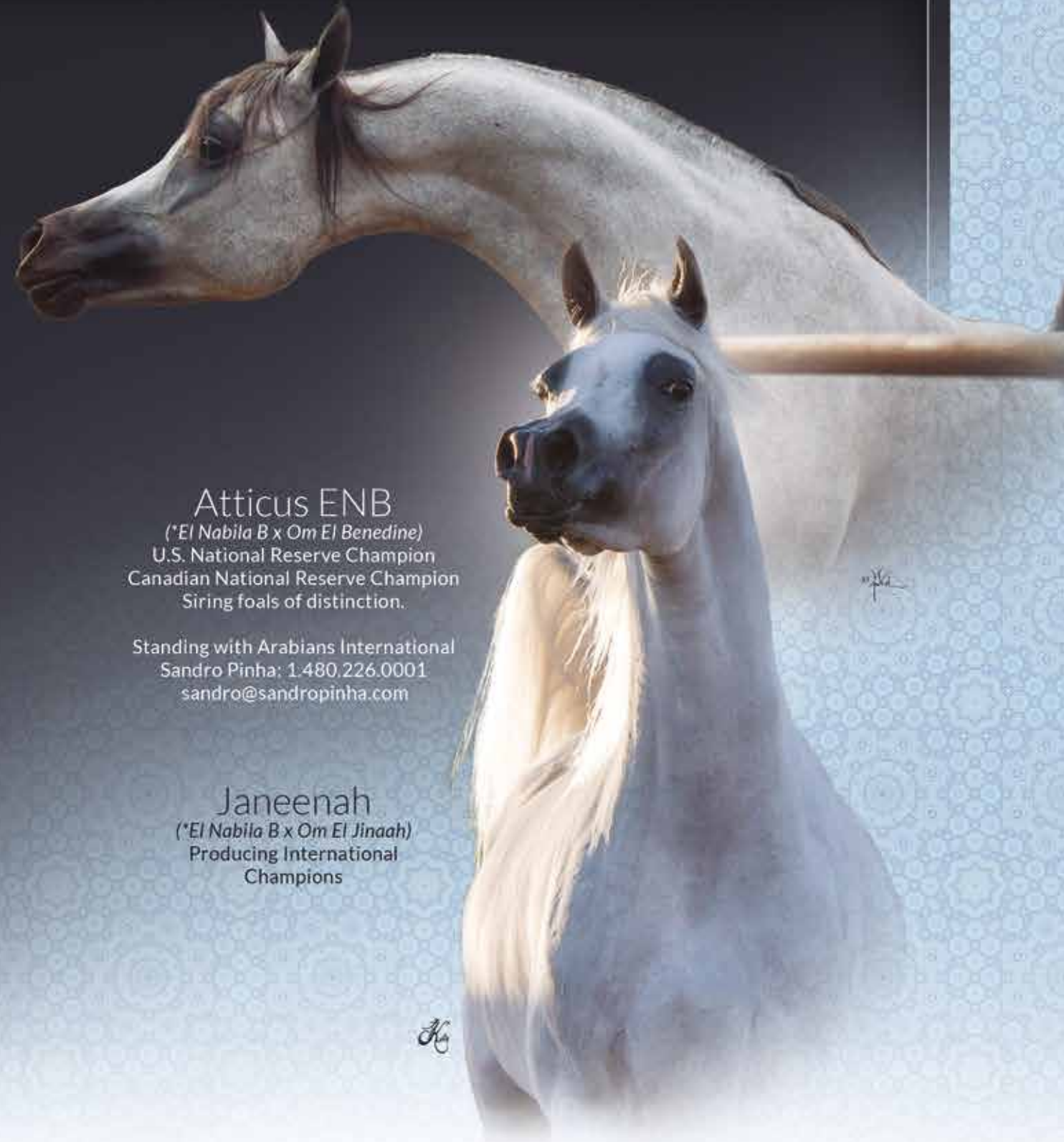


*Psynergy Equine has found the "golden cross", breeding Om El lines to the legendary *El Nabila B and the results speak for themselves.*

With each generation the type and substance are refining and improving creating incredible strong and elegant individuals capable of achieving the highest show honors.

This golden cross is also proving to be a force in the breeding barn, producing exceptional horses with each successive generation.

*El Nabila B



Atticus ENB

*(*El Nabila B x Om El Benedine)*
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OM EL ARAB

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Bint Estopa with Om El Sabiya



Estopa foaling Om El Shaina
(by Carmargue)



Estopa

Janina with Om El Erodite just before
the auction



Estopa with a young Janina and Benny



Sigi with El Shaklan
in 1983



Estopa and friends



Benni and his wife Kim, Sigi, Janina with Luca, Sophia on
Om El Shahmaan, Bryon, and Angie the dog



Janina and Sigi

Credit Erwin Escher



Janina with Om El Shahmaan

Credit Darryl Larson



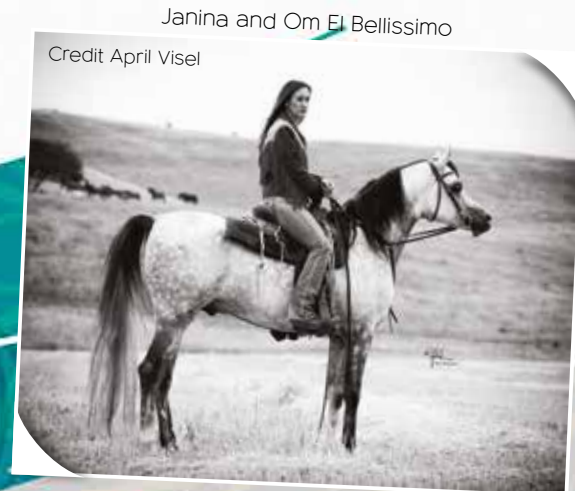
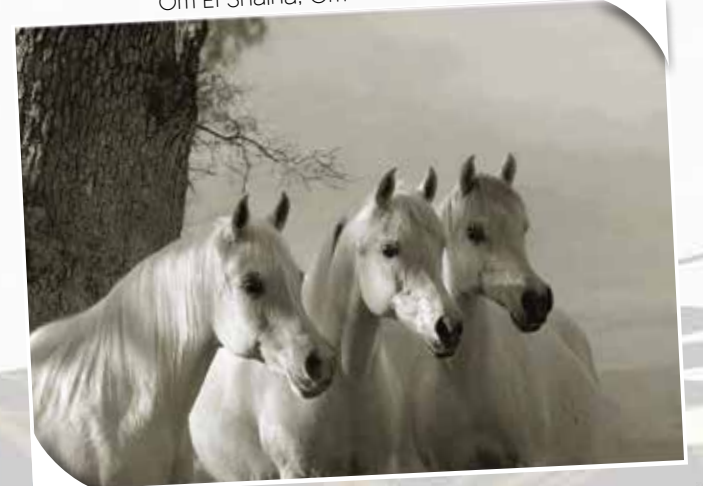
Om El Arab has won the Arabian
Breeders' World Cup three times.
Sigi and Janina are pictured here,
with Sigi's dog, Brodie, in 2013.



Om El Excella with Om El Erodite

Credit Kelly Campbell

Om El Shaina, Om El Jimala, and Om El Beneera



Janina and Om El Bellissimo
Credit April Visel



Credit Darryl Larson

Sigi with Om El Beneera (left) and Om El Shaina



Sigi and Janina in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with Om El Bernadette



Credit Anette Mattsson

Sigi and Janina with the Sanadik El Shaklan daughter, El Dorada.

Sigi with Om El Shahmaan



The Estopa family - Om El Beneera, Om El Shaina, Om El Bint Estopa, Om El Jazira and Bint Shaker



Shaker El Masri in Egypt



Credit Diane Brown

OM EL AISHA ALJASSIMYA



Design: Dyanne Keenon/Aljassimya Farm Photography: Dyanne Keenon/Aljassimya Farm

One of the stellar Estopa descendants making a difference at Aljassimya Farm.



ALJASSIMYA FARM
Since 1979

By WH Justice ex Om El Aliha by Om El Al Azeem.
www.aljassimya.com | info@aljassimya.com

Om El Badra & AJS Sigi's Belle

From the World-famous Om El Arab breeding program came Om El Badra, a young mare that Jaidah hopes will become an integral part of the Al Jood legacy. A daughter of Om El Shahmaan and the Sanadik El Shaklan mare Om El Benedine making her a full-sister to Om El Belissimo that foaled in 2012, she has given the Al Jood Stud already an exceptional daughter born in 2017.

By straight Egyptian sire Marajh KA, AJS Sigi's Belle, was named in honor of the late Sigi Siller, the founder of Om El Arab.

Sigi's Belle was shown through the regional shows and prestigious Egyptian event multiple times alongside her caretaker and trainer Mike Wilson, enchanting the crowds and being crowned the Champion.



AJS Sigi's Belle show results;

- 2019 US Egyptian Event Unanimous Gold Champion Egyptian sired female
- 2019 US East Coast Championships Champion 2yr old filly.
- 2019 US East Coast Egyptian Heritage Reserve Champion 2yr old filly.- 2019 US Region 12 Champion Egyptian Heritage junior mare.- 2018 US Egyptian Event Gold Champion Egyptian Sired Females.- 2018 US Region 12 Silver Champion Yearling Fillies.

Suzanne



AJS Shakira El Malik

Lastly another precious mare of the Om El Arab breeding program that could not be denied is Om El Shadiva, a Sanadik El Shaklan daughter out of Om El Shaina by Carmargue and Estopa. When seeing this exceptional mare and what she has produced, Jaidah knew he had to incorporate this precious lineage into his program.

So than it was decided and through an embryo right she was bred to Malik El Jamaal, a Ludjin El Jamaal son out of Pinga.

The result, AJS Shakira El Malik, a 2018 born filly with tremendous show attitude, showcasing why her pedigree is so loved around the globe.

She was shown by Mike Wilson in 2019 during only a handful of shows and won the titles of 2019 East Coast World Class Champion yearling filly, East Coast Championships Champion yearling filly & Region 12 Champion World class yearling filly.

Only the beginning of the Al Jood Stud & Om El Arab journey.

AJS Bint Bandeira

The same year that Badra was being bred another mare from the Om El Arab herd was selected to be incorporated into the Al Jood program through an embryo acquisition. The lineage of the 1993 born mare Om El Bandeira sparked that light and an idea! Om El Bandeira being a daughter Sharem El Sheikh and the El Shaklan daughter Bint Estopa.

The straight Egyptian sire Al Ayal AA was chosen for this special mating, AJS Bint Bandeira is the result!

A marvelous mare showcasing the desired traits of both her sire and dam, she was only briefly shown in the USA alongside Mike Wilson to the title of 2018 Region 12 Bronze Champion Yearling Filly.

Shortly after she traveled to her current home in the Al Jood Stud, Qatar.

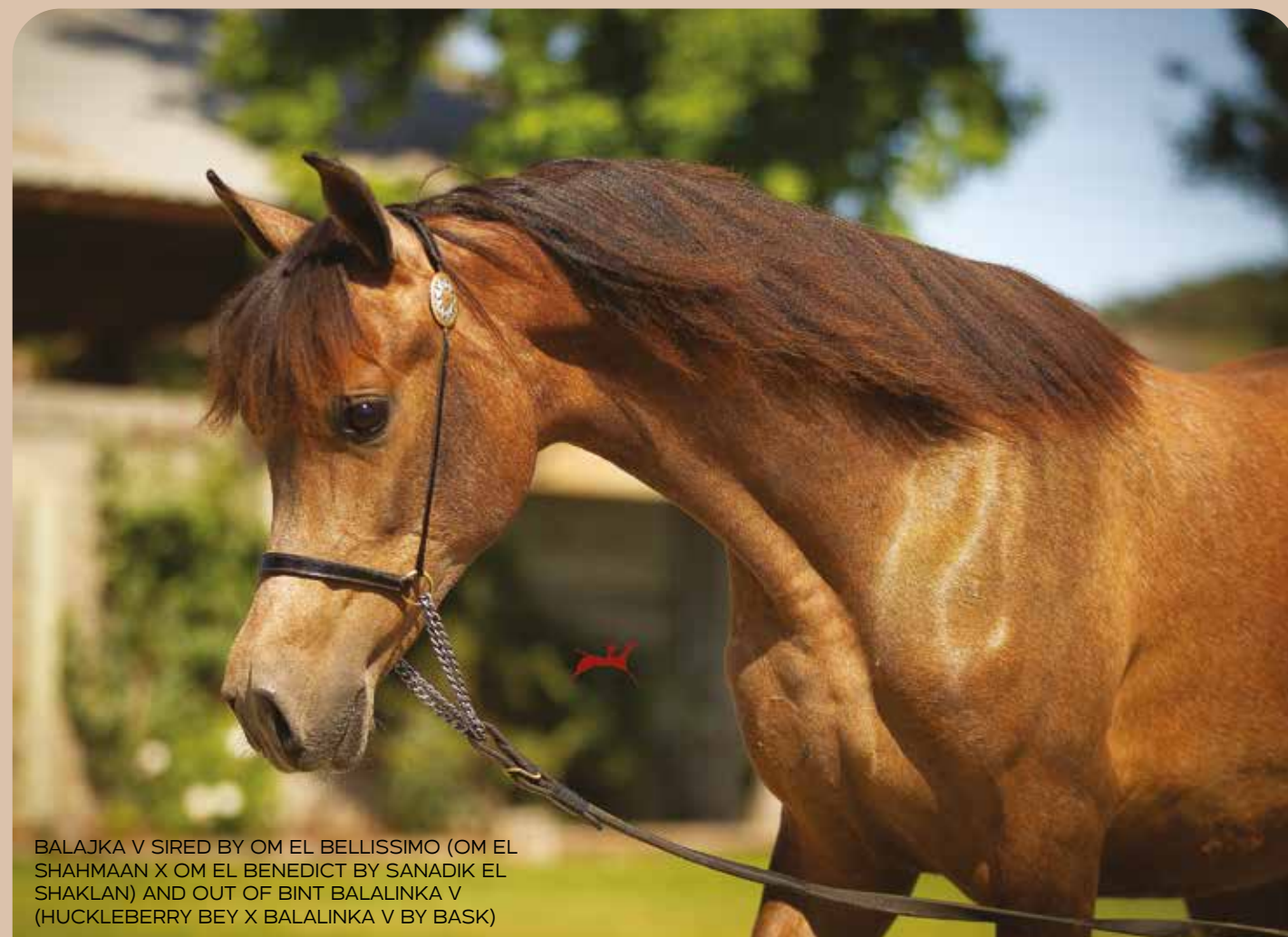


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مركز الجود
Al Jood Stud
GATEWAY TO THE STARS

Ghandi once said,
"In a gentle way, you can shake the world."



BALAJKA V Sired by OM EL BELLISSIMO (OM EL SHAHMAAN X OM EL BENEDICT BY SANADIK EL SHAKLAN) AND OUT OF BINT BALALINKA V (HUCKLEBERRY BEY X BALALINKA V BY BASK)

For five decades, Om El Arab has paved new paths on behalf of the Arabian horse. Thank you, Sigi, for courageously leading. You were gentle, but fierce. And thank you, Janina, for embodying the same steadfast vision Sigi knowingly passed to you. It is a privilege to use Om El Arab stallions that are the result of 50 years of dedicated and resolute breeding.

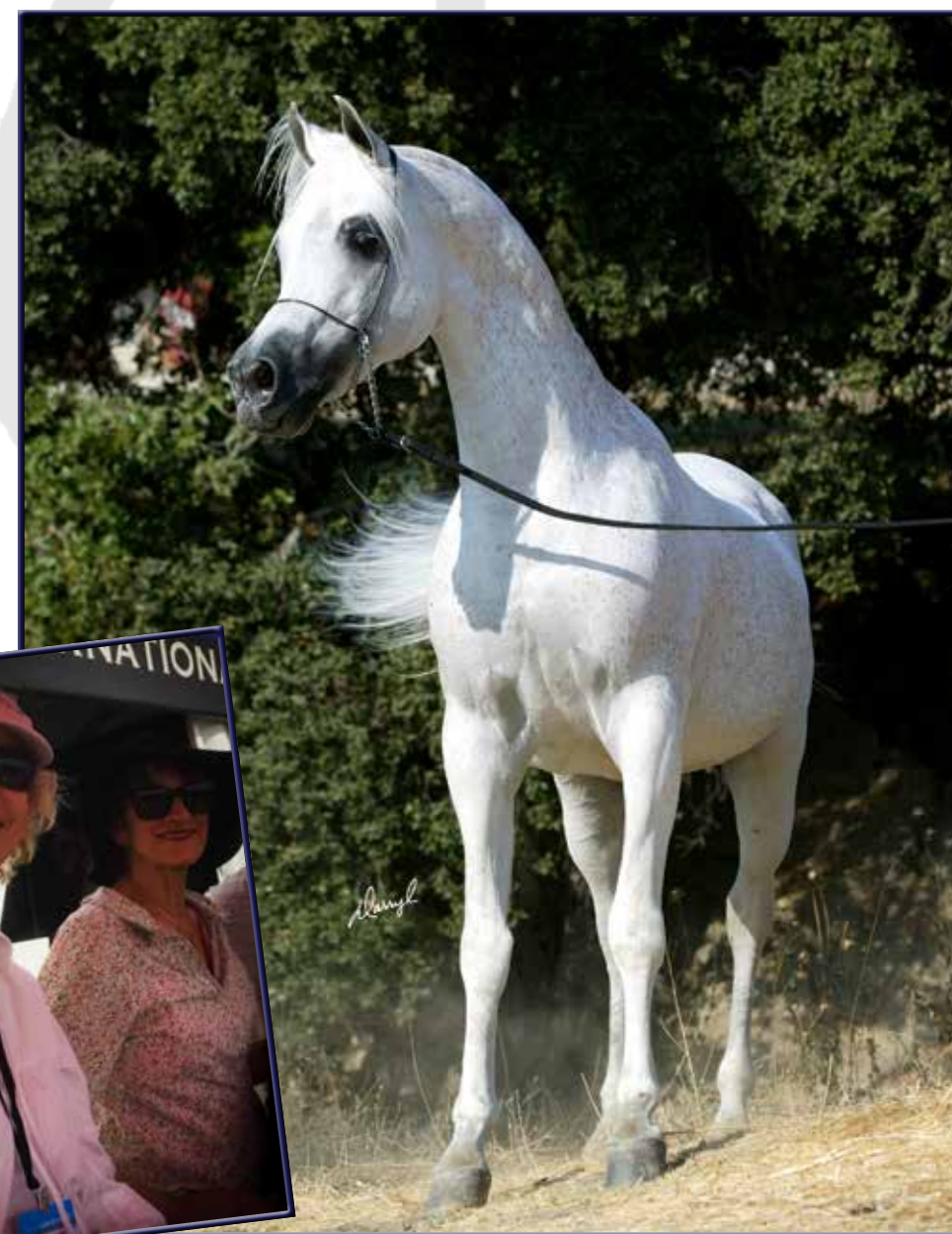
Balajka V was bred in consultation with Sheila Varian and Sigi Siller. She fulfilled every corner of my big dream, and more. Janina, I feel fortunate to call you both an advisor and a friend, for now and many years to come.

Thank you Om El Arab for gently shaking our world for five decades.

Sherry Conrads · +1 203-326-1280 · sherry@sherryconrads.com

Design by The Arabian Magazine

VARIAN ARABIANS HONORS OM EL ARAB'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY



*Sanadik El Shaklan (El Shaklan x Mohena)



Sigi and Sheila

"Sigi and Sheila... these two incredible women were courageous trailblazers, boulder-movers, and ceiling-breakers, each in their own ways. But they shared one important commonality: a deep, abiding passion for the Arabian horse. Sheila chose her stallions carefully and wisely. Very few outside stallions made their way into Varian Arabians in those early days. However, one did: *Sanadik El Shaklan. Sheila and Sigi co-owned this magnificent stallion for a chapter, and he, in turn, gifted Varian Arabians some of its most important broodmares, even to this day. It is not far-fetched to believe that Sheila chose him not only for his profound quality and type, but also out of deep respect for his owner/breeder, Sigi Siller. Varian Arabians is proud to honor the incredible legacy of Om El Arab, and we wish Janina another five decades of success in continuing the tradition her mother, Sigi, started so long ago."

~ ANGELA ALVAREZ, VARIAN ARABIANS GENERAL MANAGER



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Design by The Arabian Magazine

Celebrating 50 years of Om El Arab *by friends, with love*

"I do not need to be remembered as part of the fabric of the Arabian breed. However, I hope that the Om El Arab horses have contributed to the improvement and advancement of our beloved breed. It is ever evolving and changing, and I have tried to stay true to what I feel is the original Arabian type, quality, and disposition. I have always tried to produce horses for my own taste and liking. It is very fortunate, and of course, very rewarding, that they stayed competitive for five decades."

Sigi Siller



"Sigi was one of the most determined breeders I knew, and Janina has that same determination..."

"My profound respect for Om El Arab is driven by the consistency that they have maintained for so many years! The Om El Arab look is known around the world and that look has maintained and will undoubtedly maintain for many years to come. The commitment to staying true to their ideal has enabled this to happen.

Sigi was one of the most determined breeders I knew, and we all know that Janina has that same determination and has carried the flag perfectly. Nancy and I are proud to have been witness to their great contributions to the breed."

Greg Gallún, trainer – USA



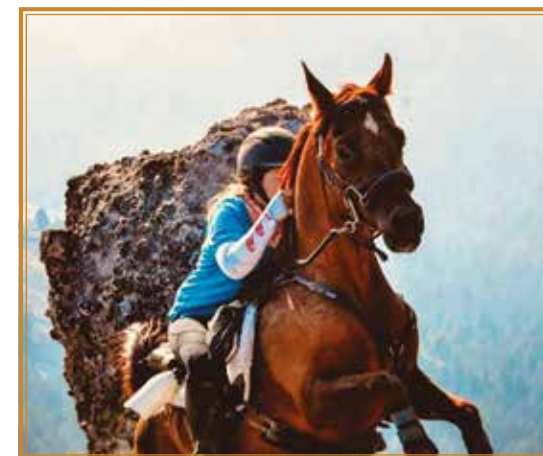
"When I first saw a photograph of El Shaklan in 1978, the Om El Arab breeding programme captivated my imagination..."

"When I first saw a photograph of El Shaklan in 1978, the Om El Arab breeding programme captivated my imagination. It literally stopped me in my tracks by changing and shaping the direction of my life forever.

Om El Arab ignited a passion in me to breed Arabian horses. My life's journey initiated by Sigi and her amazing breeding programme profoundly enhanced my life by filling it with such a rewarding purpose, joy and inspiration. Many of my dearest friends have been encountered along the way, filling my life with hope and excitement.

Om El Arab is also directly responsible for some of my most treasured memories. Most of all, the friendship with Sigi and Janina was instrumental in leading me to my soul mate, and our two amazing sons. Om El Arab has truly helped to fulfil all of my 'Silver Dreams'."

Allan Preston, breeder and judge – Australia



"Om El Bernini Dream is my heart horse and a natural athlete..."

"The breath-taking mare Om El Benedict (Sanadik El Shaklan x Om El Beneera) was a matriarch for the Om El Arab breeding programme, producing many famous offspring that are all named with 'B' in her honour - an integral part of the Estopa legacy. Om El Benedict was bred to the exotic black stallion Dreamcatcher SMF (BB Thee Renegade x Shaia) and delivered my heart horse, Om El Bernini Dream, a natural athlete.

Bernini has completed the coveted Tevis Cup 100 Mile, the AERC National Championship 100 Mile, won the prestigious AHA National Championship Best Condition, as well as winning multiple 50 Mile Competitions and Best Conditions. Best Condition is a highly converted award as it is the horse who is deemed the fittest in the competition by the veterinarian in charge of the event.

Bernini has also won lead-line classes with a four-year old aboard and has been shown at halter. The beauty, charisma and versatility of the Arabian horse is truly awe inspiring!"

Shannon Richardson née Constanti, multiple champion endurance rider – USA

"I have spent countless times with Sigi and Janina over the years, both at their farm, and all over the world! Riding across the mountains on lovely Sanadik sons and daughters, strolling through pastures, picking out jewels, evenings in the living room, discussing horses until late, freezing like mad on chilly mornings in the lovely little barn apartment before the sun warmed up my limbs..."

I have always, always been welcome. No fuss, just warmth. Dogs surrounding us, Sigi's herbs – she dewormed me several times – and she introduced me to yoga. Never would I think I had parts of me being so stiff!

Then there was kayaking with Janina, seeing wild dolphins. Photo shoots holding stallions inside the mare pasture, with the sound of cantering hooves all around, and the dust making us blind while from the photographer's view, a breath-taking stallion was rearing, surrounded by stunning mares storming by.

So many laughs, and so many memories – and this is Om El Arab. With Sigi and Janina, you are instantly one of the family members!

We were also lucky enough to keep some of your stallions at our farm, Om El Extrem, Om El Exquisit and Om El Shahmaan, together with some fantastic mares bred by Om El Arab.

You influenced me in many ways, and I am so thankful for all that I have had the chance to experience, together with you ladies!"

Johanna Ullström, trainer – France



"With Sigi and Janina, you are instantly one of the family members..."



"I was lucky enough to have Sigi as a friend as well as a mentor..."

"I am proud to say that every one of my horses traces back to the inimitable Om El Arab breeding programme.

Unarguably the most successful private Arabian stud spanning 50 years, still now the majority of horses in the medals at the World Championships have Om El Arab lineage.

I was lucky enough to have Sigi as a friend as well as a mentor, and my only regret is not spending more time in her company. She put so much passion into her horses it was impossible for her to fail. It is fantastic to see Janina continuing its illustrious heritage of type and temperament so successfully."

Caroline Reid, breeder and judge – UK



"I remember Shaker El Masri as a very lovely stallion, refined and dry-looking in the typical Egyptian manner..."

"EARLY DAYS

Om El Arab and I got started with Arabians at the same time, in the early 1970s, and as the result of reading the same book: Erika Schiele's Arabians in Europe. It introduced people in Germany, and beyond, to the Arabian breed and infected them with a new virus called 'Arabitis'. As opposed to the present situation, that particular virus is totally benign and the worst effect it can have is that it makes people buy horses. Among those that did were Sigi Merz and her first husband, who went and "purchased an entire stud in Spain", as Erika Schiele, architect of all these activities, wrote in her monthly Arabian column in a popular German equestrian magazine. Others, like myself, read those magazines and avidly followed the newly developing breeding programmes. Those were exciting years, with Arabian stud farms springing up right, left, and centre.

Om El Arab was special from the start, not just in being the only farm that imported most of its foundation stock from Spain. I remember their ads in that same magazine – Arabian magazines did not yet exist – that were different from all others. They included photos of their Egyptian stallion Shaker El Masri posed in a very distinctive way, with his topline flattened and his neck stretched out, looking stylised and almost unreal. Nowadays, such images are commonplace, but back then, this was something completely new. Om El Arab was ahead of its time, the first Arabian stud to use PR and marketing strategies as well as the first to show their horses in the American style.

In 1973, just after finishing school, I treated myself to my first stud tour in Germany, and of course Om El Arab was on the agenda. The owners were not home at the time of my first visit. Sigi's father was there, along with some girl grooms who showed me around and told me who was who. All the horses were outside in their pastures during the day, so I spent most of the day hanging around the fields and shooting photos over the fences. Among the many mares was one that was all white, with

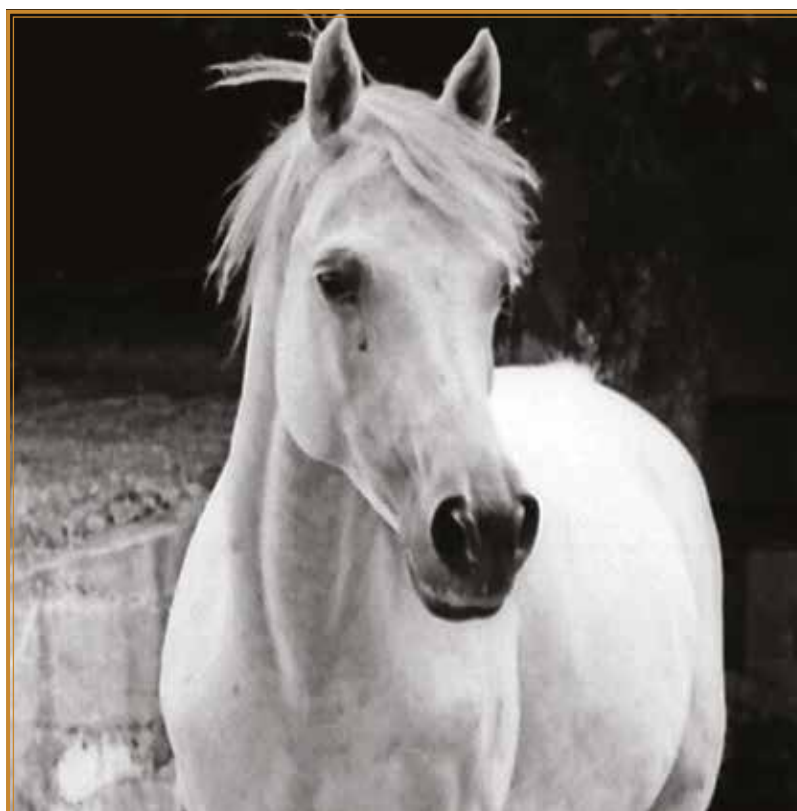
huge black eyes. "That's our most beautiful mare," one of the girls told me, "Estopa".

Of course I had no idea that I was standing on the threshold of Arabian horse history. Nobody knew Estopa in 1973. She was just a white mare in a pasture full of mares, even if she may well have been the most beautiful one of the lot. She was eight-years old and had her first foal at foot, a filly by Shaker El Masri who would be named Estasha. It would be another two years until the birth of El Shaklan and the beginning of Om El Arab's rise to global prominence.

Shaker El Masri was out in another field. Of course he was not as glamorous as in those carefully posed, hyper-real photographs, and without the posing it was rather more apparent that he was a bit thin; this was a problem throughout his life, because he tended to run around a lot and it was difficult to

get weight on him. But I remember him as a very lovely stallion, refined and dry-looking in the typical Egyptian manner, and a bit stand-offish. He had the most beautiful head. All the foals in the mare pasture were sired by him. In retrospect, I believe that as a breeding horse, he was not in a league with Estopa. He sired a great many foals from a broad variety of mares, and the results were very mixed. Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't; it depended very much on the mare.

"The Estopa family is an enduring success story and definitely here to stay..."



"The Om El Arab experience taught me so very much through the lens and in life..."

Estopa, on the other hand, was a true foundation mare, the kind you can breed to any stallion and get an excellent result. You couldn't really go wrong. Occasionally, I wonder what might have happened if things had gone as they had been planned originally and she had been bred to one of the leading sires of her day, Hadban Enzahi or Ghazal. One can but dream... But in any case, the nick with Shaker El Masri worked a treat and resulted in some of the most successful and influential Arabians the world has ever seen. All of them were excellent breeding horses, although El Shaklan, of course, stands head and shoulders even above his full siblings, which is saying something. He is also the only member of the family I never saw in the flesh, something I regret to this day. We never managed to be in the same place at the same time. But I am happy to have been there when it all began, and watching the story unfold from then until today – and from time to time accompanying it with my writing – has been a treat. The Estopa family is an enduring success story and definitely here to stay. I look forward to seeing it continue!"

Betty Finke, photographer and writer – Germany

"My introduction to Sigi, Janina, and the Om El Arab breeding programme was a reveal of an effervescent commitment to their goal, with hearts full of love and arms wide open to extraordinary possibilities in life – all while fervently sharing their passion for breeding the most beautiful of Arabian horses.

By creating generation after generation of exceptional horses, Sigi and Janina prove that Om El Arab is a continuum for breeding excellence.

But, for me the influence of Om El Arab in bloodlines translates to something far beyond the predictably of a pedigree – there is an essence within both the stallions and the mares that translates to something more than the extraordinary physical beauty they offer. They connect, they truly connect with those they choose, on a spiritual level.

Giddy as could be, when asked to shoot my first horse at Om El Arab – more than 17 years ago – I found myself in a dimension that changed how I approached a photograph/video session, for I found if I let the horses dictate and celebrate, while encouraging their inherent joy, truly their inner essence would sparkle through.

The Om El Arab experience taught me so very much through the lens and in life – including believing in your passion and the quest to search for extraordinary possibilities!"

Darryl Larson, photographer – USA



CREDIT DARYLL LARSON

"There are a small handful of people that I consider 'Master Breeders' – Sigi and Janina are in that number...."

never stops learning – the river of knowledge is broad and swift. If it is stopped, it becomes stagnant. Sigi and Janina always supported the quest for knowledge so when Janina raised the idea of having a clinic on conformation evaluation at the farm, I was honoured to be a part of the ongoing commitment to education that is Om El Arab. Janina opened her farm to this pursuit, allowing participants to have a real 'hands on' judging experience – by judging Om El Arab horses. Allowing her horses to be publicly evaluated for learning purposes is a gift that Janina has given the participants because of her unwavering commitment to education. Not many breeders are as brave. However, it helps when you have such a pool of quality horses to utilise!

For me, as well as the participants, the highlight of the weekend is the presentation of the family groups. To see seven generations of a family is a doctorate degree in breeding, conformation, and pedigree analysis. Om El Arab's dedication to learning by offering their farm and horses each year for the Conformation Clinic only helps the Arabian horse, by increasing the knowledge base for all who attend the event.

A high tide raises all ships and Janina and everyone at Om El Arab are extremely generous in sharing over 50 years of knowledge and breeding experience with all of us!"

Cindy Reich, judge – USA



CREDIT ANETTE MATTHESSON

"We all owe an immense debt of gratitude to Om El Arab, and to the two legendary women who have brilliantly guided its success..."

"There are few people whom I have encountered in my five-plus decades of existence that have had more of a positive and profound impact on my life than Sigi Siller. It seems just like yesterday when she walked up to introduce herself and Janina at the WAHO Conference in Poland in 2004. Little did I realise then, just how much richer and more rewarding my life would become with both of these extraordinary women as essential members of my family.

While I had always appreciated the vast influence of both Estopa and El Shaklan within the Arabian breed worldwide, I have been fortunate to experience the evolution of the Om El Arab breeding programme in the new millennium from the inside, bearing witness to each ingenious step along the journey of creating excellence in each new generation.

Sigi and Janina are at the very core of their beings – Breeders with a capital B – gifted with inspiring insight, courage and creativity, and fuelled by an unwavering passion for and dedication to their horses. Their indomitable and eternally optimistic spirit is evident in everything they did, and still continue to do.

We all owe an immense debt of gratitude to Om El Arab, and to the two legendary women who have brilliantly guided its success for half a century. May its inimitable influence continue to enrich our lives and the Arabian breed for centuries yet to come."

Scott Benjamin, judge and consultant – Australia

"There are a small handful of people – really the number on one hand or so – that I consider 'Master Breeders'. Sigi and now Janina are in that number.

This has nothing to do with wins in a show-ring, although Om El Arab has truckloads. It has to do with having a vision and producing a horse that consistently reflects that vision. I have judged all over the world and can instantly recognise an Om El Arab horse whether I am in Africa or Australia or anywhere in between.

I think a Master Breeder must have equal parts passion, knowledge, hard work, education and above all, the ability to be objective. One



CREDIT EMMA MAXWELL

"Om El Aisha Aljassimya was Bronze World Champion Filly and everyone was proud to welcome Sigi into the ring for this prizegiving...."

"Sheikh Jassim Bin Khalifa Al Thani's Aljassimya Farm has been a 'neighbour' to Om El Arab in the glorious Santa Ynez Valley since 2012, when his breeding programme was set up under the care of 100 Oaks Ranch LLC, just a couple of miles away on Happy Canyon Road. WH Justice was leased for three seasons to Sheikh Jassim and stood at Om El Arab, watched over by the careful eye of Janina, for the first year while the 100 Oaks facility was being updated. That collaboration resulted in Aljassimya Farm being able to choose one of the 2013 Om El Arab Justice babies – the result of which has been a cornerstone of the farm, the famous Om El Aisha Aljassimya (ex Om El Aliha).

AA), who was Silver Champion Yearling Colt in Paris alongside his mother and is destined for great things.

Also from this branch of the family is the stallion Sahn El Arab (WH Justice x Om El Excella), bred at Om El Arab and belonging to Aljassimya Farm. Sahn is siring the most beautiful eyes and overall type and has made an impact as a young sire, producing Polish National Champions while on lease to Michałow Stud in Poland. It is for sure that he will keep adding the strengths of the Om El Arab bloodlines to our breeding programme and others in years to come."

Emma Maxwell, breeder, writer, trainer, judge – UK



"Being introduced to Sigi and El Shaklan as a foal reinforced my whole idea of what an Arabian horse should look like...."

"Being introduced to Sigi and El Shaklan as a foal reinforced my whole idea of what an Arabian horse should look like. Seeing El Shaklan again as a yearling confirmed my ideas, and as a result, I searched for a mare I thought suitable to breed to El Shaklan.

At the Marbach Stud in Germany I found Sascha. She was sired by the Gazal son Saher, and I purchased her specifically to breed to El Shaklan when he turned two-years of age. The mating to El Shaklan was consummated at the British National Championships, and the result was our wonderful, multiple Supreme Champion stallion Amir El Shaklan, born in 1979.

Amir El Shaklan is still the leading sire in Australia with 402 registered purebred Arabian progeny and many Arabian derivative progeny. His extended family is unparalleled in Australia. Sixteen of his sons and daughters have been awarded the title of Australian National Champion or Reserve, and many more Australian National Championship winners are grandget of Amir El Shaklan.

Amir's son, our homebred Fairview Klassique, was judged Australian National Champion Stallion in 1993 before being exported to the USA in 1997, where he was judged US National Champion Stallion. Amir El Shaklan was an exceptional sire, imparting correctness and wonderful Arabian type.

In addition to Amir, we imported the outstanding stallion SK Shakla Khan by Sanadik El Shaklan. Shakla Khan was recommended to us by Sigi, and he proved to be a most amazing sire and a great show horse here in Australia.

The Paris World Champion Stallion Estasan Ibn Estopa was also owned by our Fairview Arabian Stud. Bred by Sigi, he was the sire of my double Australian National Champion at halter and Reserve National Champion Stallion under saddle Ghazal Ibn Estopa. Ghazal is out of Windella Silver Sequin (SK Shaklan Khan x Silver Glint by El Shaklan).

For over thirty years, and until my wife Vivienne passed in 2010, our stud concentrated on line breeding to the El Shaklan family with great success. We have exported horses of these bloodlines all around the world and horses bred by us and tracing to El Shaklan are included in many of the world's leading Arabian studs.

As a direct result of my love for the El Shaklan-related Arabian horses, I have met my best lifelong friends and I am forever grateful for this. Amir El Shaklan and SK Shakla Khan have enabled a complete lifestyle and now retirement for me, and I will forever be grateful to Sigi and El Shaklan for this."

Peter Hall, breeder – Australia



"I am forever grateful and indebted to Om El Arab's generosity and love for the arts..."

"Summer 2004. I am just beginning my path as an Arabian horse photographer, living in Ventura, California, just 45 minutes south of Santa Ynez. I had been driving through the Santa Ynez Valley searching for all the Arabian horse farms I had found on Google.

I got to the gates of Om El Arab and I was too scared to drive down the big hill. It seemed too beautiful and secluded in this incredible valley to allow unannounced visitors. I chicken out and leave feeling like a wimp!

Now skip ahead to 2005 to a shoot arranged at Om El Arab by the Enzo Ltd team. I'm being allowed to come and shoot behind Riyan Holte, was who videoing a new Enzo baby. I couldn't believe that I was finally getting into this gorgeous farm! Everyone who visits Om El Arab knows how it feels to drive down the that curved dirt road to the valley floor where the amazing European barn is located. It is cosy, beautifully landscaped, and bustling with horses. It was a dream, I felt instantly moved and totally inspired artistically.

Then I met Janina and Sigi... They were so wonderfully European, so hospitable and so welcoming to me coming as an aspiring photographer. Of course, later I came to understand just how many interns and young aspiring horse people they have educated, encouraged, and shared their facility with.

The horses were gorgeous and there was light everywhere. I was invited back to practice whenever I wanted. That moment turned into a wonderful relationship with Om El Arab that continues to this day.

Some of my most cherished, artistic images came from the freedom to be creative with the horses and the locations and times of day they allowed me to be there. Always helping me arrange the shoots and supporting my wild ideas. Janina is such an open and free

spirit, while Sigi loved anything beautiful of her beloved horses and farm.

Skip ahead to Spring of 2009... I am looking for a way to get more Arabians into my workshops. I propose the idea to Janina. "May we come into the big pastures and just shoot the mares running around? It will be around 20 photographers!" I ask.

"Yes! We will also put some special horses in the side pasture to shoot as well. Our team will be happy to help!" she replies. It was a huge success!

10 years later and Om El Arab has been a massive part of my workshops. They provide horses, locations, share their team of helpers, and they let us borrow the incomparable Yvonne Stipholt to assist us.

The last few years we even host a champagne brunch after our morning shoot with their very best horses frolicking in the presentation ring, while we hear live piano music and sit sipping champagne, all to the heavenly smell of cooking bacon and quiche. It's amazing!

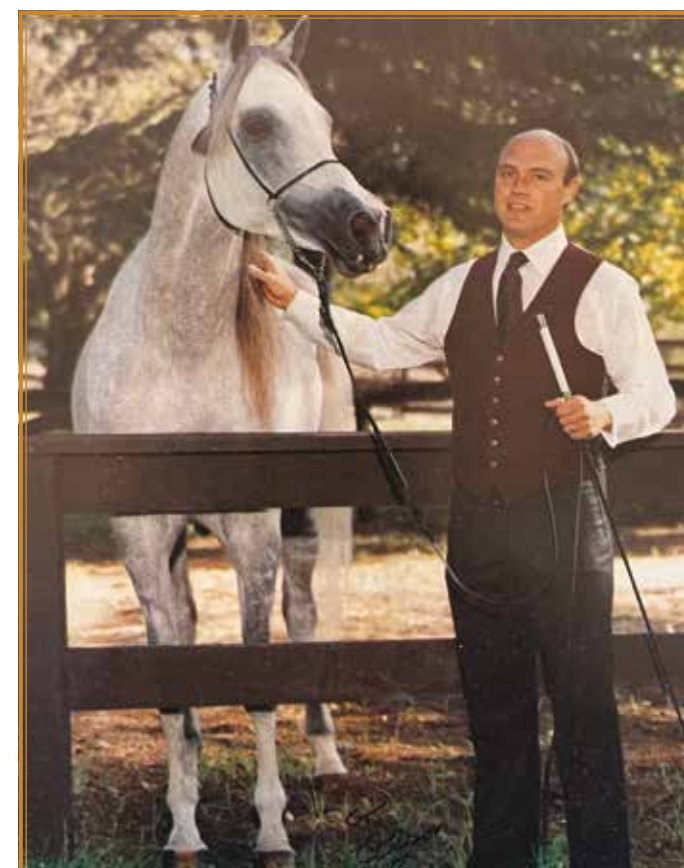
These days of the shoot have become the highlight of the workshops, allowing so many photographers just like me to venture down that driveway into the amazing valley and photograph literally some of the world's most beautiful Arabians – something that they may not have otherwise ever been able to do.

Janina and Sigi's philosophy on sharing the Arabian horses with the world is one of the most influential and progressive mindsets in the industry today.

Janina and Yvonne have become some of my favourite humans and a cornerstone of my photography business.

I am forever grateful and indebted to their generosity and love for the arts."

April Visel, photographer – USA



"Under Janina's stewardship, Om El Arab passes its 50th year and continues to flourish..."

"I have a unique and I am sure singular vantage point of Om El Arab as I first visited the farm in 1974 in the Black Forest of Germany 46 years ago. Established by Heinz and Sigi Metz, the Arabians Athens farm were the straight Egyptian Stallion Shaker El Masri, the Spanish mare Estopa, her daughters Estasha and Estawa and several Spanish mares and a few straight Egyptian mares. Janina and El Shaklan were both in utero.

El Shaklan was born in 1975 and at three took over breeding duties as Shaker El Masri died. Already a Junior Champion in England, Shaklan became not only the chief sire but a multiple champion show horse.

In 1981 I travelled again to Om El Arab and saw the magnificent El Shaklan for the first time. He was so unique! Tall, beautiful type, tail carriage, presence, powerful trot, and a lovely personality. He had a different look that was so Arabian yet his own. I was dazzled and excited to say the least.

We solidified an arrangement for Naharra, a yearling filly already named European Champion, to come to the US as a warm up for Shaklan coming after he competed in the World and European Championships in Paris in 1982. As a yearling and two-year old, Naharra was undefeated in the Pacific Northwest including winning Region 5 Champion Mare – unheard of!

El Shaklan came to me in Santa Ynez in December 1982, and the expansion of Om El Arab as a worldwide force began. While with me, El Shaklan bred over 200, mares – 97 the first year and 107, the second year, all on the premises and able to use artificial insemination. At the same time, he was a show horse and was

named 1983 US Top Ten Stallion in one of the most competitive classes on record. In 1985, El Shaklan went to his new home here in Santa Ynez, the official new home of Om El Arab.

The next years brought triumph and then loss. In 1986, El Shaklan was sold to South America by decree of divorce. It was a near death blow to the programme as several of the mares went to Heinz Merz also. But there was another young stallion waiting in the wings. Sanadik El Shaklan, then co-owned with Sheila Varian. Sanadik, only a four-year old, ably stepped up.

The next phase of now Om El Arab International found Sigi rebuilding her mare herd and leasing the first of several outstanding and accomplished stallions that fit with and contributed to the Om El Arab type. The first of these was the World Champion Stallion Carmargue. Among several females, he produced Om El Shaina out of Estopa. There was also Sharem El Sheikh, a Scottsdale Champion Stallion by El Shaklan. He sired Estopa's last foal, her daughter Om El Beneera. At the turn of the century, the straight Egyptian stallion and future World Champion Al Lahab was leased and besides several beautiful daughters, he produced the multiple-champion Stallion Om El Azeem.

During these times, Sanadik El Shaklan was producing national and international champions including his illustrious son Om El Shahmaan as well as his grandson Om El Bellissimo. Sanadik went to green pastures in 2008.

Around 2012 Sigi and Janina saw WH Justice and knew he was essential for their programme. The leasing of Justice by Aljassimya Farm was hugely successful and is still being expanded. Justice is adept at producing both mares and stallions and he has left both from his stay at Om El Arab. Currently in the national arena bearing the Om El Arab prefix are Om El Sinon, Om El Benicio, and Om El Sultanah.

Sigi's incredible dedication, passion and raw determination saw her through two difficult divorces – she had to buy the farm three times – and the loss of special horses, as well as illness, the cancer that ultimately took her from us.

Along with all this, and I've known them their whole lives, Sigi raised two amazing children, Janina and Benni. First, Ben is a guy who has carved out a huge business managing vineyards in the Santa Ynez Valley and surrounding area as well as at Om El Arab.

As for Janina... Om El Arab could simply not be the entity it is today without Janina being her mother's partner for over the past 20 years. Janina is as gifted as her mother and wears even more hats in the business. An able and astute student of everything about the Arabian horse, Janina manages the breeding operation including breeding, foaling, ultrasound, AI, freezing, and use of frozen semen and embryo transfer.

Under Janina's stewardship, Om El Arab passes its 50th year and continues to flourish.

We all miss Sigi, but I can hear her laughter anytime I want!"

Doug Dahmen, trainer, breeder and judge – USA

"For nearly a decade I have been part of the Om El Arab family, longer if you count the time I spent during my first internship on the farm in 2007. Janina and Sigi made it possible for me to move out here, and become a permanent resident of the United States, something I will always be grateful for. When I came here as an intern, I fell in love with Arabians and with this farm. From the very start Om El Arab felt like home, something that hadn't happened with the other farms I had worked for.

As everyone who visits the farm knows, Om El Al Azeem is my special boy. He was a yearling the first time I came here, and he clowned his way into my heart! I don't think a lot of farms would let an intern back their young show stallion to ride, but Janina allowed me to work him and ride him. Riding him in the photography workshops April Visel runs is always something I look forward to.

One of my most utterly favourite memories is when Om El Al Azeem showed at the inaugural US Open Show in Central Park, New York. I flew out to New York the morning of the show and Sigi, Janina, Bryon, Luca, Diane Brown and I all did a bunch of sight-seeing. I spent most of the show in the grooming area with my favourite boy and walked with him to the show-ring – I definitely regretted wearing my high heels at that moment! I still

remember my heart pounding when I watched him trot into the ring in Central Park. It was an amazing day topped off by Azeem winning top honours and becoming Gold Champion Stallion. I cried with joy when they called him out as the winner! This was the first show I actually got to see my boy show in person, and I'm forever grateful to have been there since it was his last show entry.

Of course, the birth of Om El Erodite is a standout moment too. When Om El Excella started foaling and I saw that little face pop out, I didn't even care if it was a filly or a colt. Obviously I was ecstatic to be able to tell Janina it was a filly! Erodite most certainly gave us the feeling that Sigi was watching over us and blessed us with this extraordinary girl.

There are too many special memories with the horses to mention, but also outside the horses, Om El Arab is family. I remember dancing away on the dance floor with Sigi, laughing and singing – maybe off key, maybe not – for Christmas celebrations, breakfast after cleaning stalls, and many, many wonderful family dinners.

I am proud to be a small part of the Om El Arab legacy, and watching Janina take the farm to the next level with her vision and passion for the horses!"

Yvonne Stipholt, part of Om El Arab – USA

"I am proud to be a small part of the Om El Arab legacy..."



CREDIT DIANE BROWN

"It is hard to believe that it's 20 years ago since I first drove down that idyllic winding road leading to the bucolic Arabian horse heaven of the legendary Om El Arab breeding programme. Sheltered in its protected valley, surrounded by mountains, timeless and enchanting, Om El Arab sits serenely, full of treasures, celebrating its glorious 50th year Anniversary. The Golden Anniversary of the Golden Cross.

It was nearly 20 years prior to that visit when I first became aware of Om El Arab, when a young El Shaklan and his progeny ignited my passion for Arabian horses. El Shaklan was spoken about in such reverent tones that it was impossible not to feel that we were about to witness the beginning of unimaginable greatness. Sure enough, over a decade later in 1994, Emma Maxwell wrote a two page article in the Arab Horse Society News, A Quantum Leap – El Shaklan, confirming that something quite incredible was taking place, and on a global scale. Indeed the numerous World Champions and National Champions that were flowing from the golden cross of Estopa and Shaker El Masri, and their subsequent descendants, in that short space of time was nothing short of staggering. If El Shaklan was a Quantum Leap, Estopa was clearly the Big Bang.

In Emma's article, El Shaklan is noted as being Paris Reserve World Champion in 1982. 36 years later, in 2018, a horse bred by Om El Arab, Om El Aisha Aljassimya, won a coveted World Championship title in Paris with Om El Erodite also bred by Om El Arab taking home a World Championship title in 2017. What an incredible and unrivalled feat for a private breeding farm to have stayed so relevant and at the very top of the field, having produced so many world champions over so many decades.

Like a stone thrown into water, the ripples Estopa and her family cast reverberated around the globe. Out of curiosity I started looking where Om El Arab descended horses, 50 years later, were winning. What I found was quite staggering. Clearly there was going to be a significant number of horses winning major titles in-hand, but what I wasn't prepared for was the enormity of it with regards to various other disciplines – western, English, pleasure, racing, endurance, polo – you name it, I kept finding Om El Arab horses that had bred on to greatness in a great many disciplines in all countries where Arabian horses are bred. As if to underline this versatility, on the page adjacent to Emma's 1994 article, is a section on the 1993 Ferishal Trophy for Endurance Riding, the top ten horses are all mentioned. Listed here is Dacoit, a grandson of El Shaklan.

Estopa in the hands of an incomparable breeder, Sigi Siller, created a phenomenal and formidable legacy over five decades. Time spent with Sigi on her farm, in her element, in her slice of heaven looking at her treasured horses with her, was one of the greatest joys of my life. Steadfast and unswayed by other peoples' opinions, Sigi bred with resolute determination and unequalled tenacity to her vision of the Arabian horse. A beautiful, true to Arabian type, a complete, correct, functional horse with a sound trainable mind and people-loving personality – that is the hallmark of Om El Arab. A beautiful, versatile Arabian, an Arabian that can turn its hoof to anything asked of it. Sigi would call when a special baby was born and tell me I needed to come over immediately, such was her excitement. If I could, I would race over, and she would proudly present her latest stunning masterpiece. The love Sigi had for her horses



"The love Sigi had for her horses was profound and all encompassing..."

was profound and all encompassing. We would sit for hours discussing them, their ancestors, or driving round observing and evaluating them. Sigi's gifts to me are among my most cherished. The wonderful worldwide friendships I have developed simply due to El Shaklan are innumerable.

The only thing better than having a true breeder in charge of a herd of national treasures is having a daughter equally as capable, equally as passionate, and equally determined to continue its legacy. And that, is the extremely fortunate position Om El Arab thankfully finds itself in. Janina, having lived her whole life immersed in such a vast depth of knowledge has, almost through osmosis, inherited a breeder's eye so finely and expertly tuned that it is staggering to witness. Knowing each horse in the pedigree personally, stretching back seven generations in some cases, is an envious position ill afforded to most breeders, but that is Janina's gift, and she uses it with dexterous expertise. Janina herself is as versatile as the horses she breeds. Expertly turning her hand in a moment to whatever is required of her on the farm, whether ultra-sounding, breeding, horse husbandry and healthcare, nutritional needs, training, exercise, farm running and maintenance, she takes it all in her stride. With the incredibly talented Yvonne Stipholt by her side managing the farm, this dynamic team are quite simply a powerhouse.

There is simply nothing better than being with Janina, watching the next generation of Om El Arab superstars, bred by her, take flight and talking to her about her horses. The Om El Arab breeding programme just couldn't be in more competent or capable hands. And, with her hands firmly on the wheel, and her foot on the gas, Janina is steadfastly steering her programme into the next 50 years, just as her mum did 50 years ago.

Three cheers to the golden cross! Three cheers to Sigi and Janina! Three cheers to the next 50 years of Om El Arab, Estopa and all her descendants!"

Diane Brown, breeder and friend – USA



BERLIN MP
(S.M.A. Magic One x Baraka MP)

In Honor of Sigi Siller



“Sigi Siller was not only one of my great mentors in breeding Arabian horses, she was also one of my dearest friends. Her legacy in this breed has had one of the strongest global influences of any breeding program in the world and will remain indefinitely. I am so fortunate to have a piece of this legacy in my program.”

~Mindy Peters



AL AYANNA MP
(Al Ayal AA x Om El Elegance)



BARAKA MP
(Alfabia Ajib x Om El Belinda Estopa)



MINDY PETERS ARABIANS

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Credit Javan

Some moments in time stay with us forever.

Some moments dazzle us when we look back on them.

I will never forget the joy of showing Om El Sinon (WH Justice x Om El Shadiva) to Supreme Gold Senior Male Champion in Las Vegas in 2019. It created a moment that every trainer, every horse lover, dreams of.

I have been honoured to work with Om El Arab many times in my life, and it has been even more of an honour to become friends with them.

Thank you Janina, Sigi, and the whole team for giving me such amazing memories.

Sandro Pinha.

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