



TRE BALZANE Stud in Italy

Everybody who is breeding Arabian horses also takes some collective responsibility for their selection and breeding history.

“If you have seen nothing but the beauty of their body,
then their true beauty is hidden from you.”

Al-Mutanabbi بيطلا وبأ (915 AC) Arab Poet

By **MONIKA SAVIER**

Arabian horses are very special— in their history, their beauty, their proud noblesse, their movements, but also their sweet character and their intelligent reliability. Firmly rooted in the Bedouin culture of the Orient up to today, the breed has been the dream of horse lovers for ages – and as they made their dreams come true, they also made Arabian horses the “citizens of the world” they are nowadays.

Breeding Arabian horses takes time – to be able to learn from one’s own breeding decisions, one needs to take several years into account at least. Good, solid horse breeding is firmly rooted in its rural surroundings and still takes its essence from country and farming traditions, from the love for nature, from lots of manual work, and from the greatest possible amount of free running for the horses, as this is the basis for their mental and physical health. Reproduction management, youngstock rearing, and training under saddle are challenging fields of work for qualified, dedicated people. Today, however, we go through the dictatorship of economics, which has invaded horse breeding just as it has every other aspect of life. Everywhere, the focus is on optimizing reproduction, enhancing efficiency, and getting breeding results more quickly. It is almost impossible to keep certain strategies away from the area of horse breeding: the reproductive technologies which are used in farm animal breeding, to name one, or the so-called achievements of the pharmaceutical industry.

It takes time, however, to achieve quality. This is why at TRE BALZANE stud, horse breeding has been carried out in time-proven family farm style for almost 30 years now. Breeding Arabian horses usually begins as a hobby, with people becoming professional breeders by and by, slowly learning what it takes to perform the art of interpreting genetic clues as well as the language and signs horses use to communicate with us. To be able to breed strategically and to have success is not just an accidental skill. It is not enough to have knowledge, to be able to read a pedigree and to work at improving mere looks. It takes responsibility, respect, and love for your horses – and they will return all the favors, as a contentedly happy horse is a beautiful horse.





Water is Best at the Source



TRE BALZANE stud in Umbria, Central Italy, started in the mid-1980ies. The foundation stock of the breeding operation were six Thoroughbred mares for Anglo-Arabian breeding, with the asil stallion for them leased from Iran. This was *Ibn Insiatur*, bred by Mary Gharagozlou, a stallion who left a long-lasting impression through his willingness to perform and his superior character. It might be said that he opened our hearts for Purebred Arabian breeding. Towards the end of the 1980ies, a lot of Russian and Polish Arabians were imported to Italy, so there was also a handful of purebred mares taking up residence in the barns of Tre Balzane stud. However, they did not quite meet the ideal of Arabian horses from the Orient as depicted in historic paintings from the 19th century, so we began our search for a noble stallion for refining our tail lines. This is how we found *Melek* (Ibrahim x Moheba II), a small-framed, noble Dahman Shahwan stallion of

straight Egyptian bloodlines. It was only after visiting several Arabian studs in Germany early in the 1990ies that we became aware of *Melek's* importance for breeding. During a visit in Katharinenhof stud, we saw Dr. Nagel's original imports from the Egyptian state stud of El Zahraa: *Hanan* (Alaa El Din x Mona), *Mahiba* (Alaa El Din x Mouna), and *Lotfeia* (Alaa El Din x Bint Kamla), as well as a number of their offspring, such as the colt *Salaa El Dine*. These were impressive moments, and from them the idea was born to breed straight Egyptian purebred Arabians, horses from the countries of origin of the Arabian horse.

Dr. Nagel's horses were not for sale, but some time later, we were able to purchase the filly *Sulifah* out of Hans Nagel's breeding lines from the German breeder Siegfried Manz. She was a granddaughter of *Marah* (Galal x Maysa), a noble Obayan Om Grees mare whom Dr. Nagel had imported to Europe from Cairo, together with *Hanan*, *Mahiba*, *Tamria*, and *Lotfeia*.

“The next mare I chose was *Marah* by Galal, out of Maysa from the Obayan strain. She was a half sister to the stallion Ibn Galal who was imported to Babolna in Hungary. *Marah* was well built, her chestnut color a bright red, and she was the best mover within the selected group. (...) With *Jamil*, she produced two beautiful fillies, *Matala Bint Marah* and later a bay, *Bushra*. The first-mentioned stayed in Germany and produced quite a number of offspring, one of them being a noble filly, *Sulifah*. The offspring of these mares can be found in German and particularly in Italian studs even today.” (Hans J. Nagel, *The Arabian Horse*, 2013).

Marah was a daughter of the Anter get *Maysa*, while her sire was the Nazeer son *Galal*, a typey chestnut colt who passed on the black color gene. *Marah's* sibling *Magidaa*, also out of Maysa, founded a dynasty of her own in the USA, with the three famous full siblings *Alidaar*, *Ruminaja Bahjat*, and *Ruminaja Ali* all bred from that line later on.

Sulifah's dam was *Matala Bint Marah* (*Jamil* x *Marah*), and her sire was the bay *Alaa Al Din* (*Salaa El Dine* x *Ashraff* out of *Hanan*).

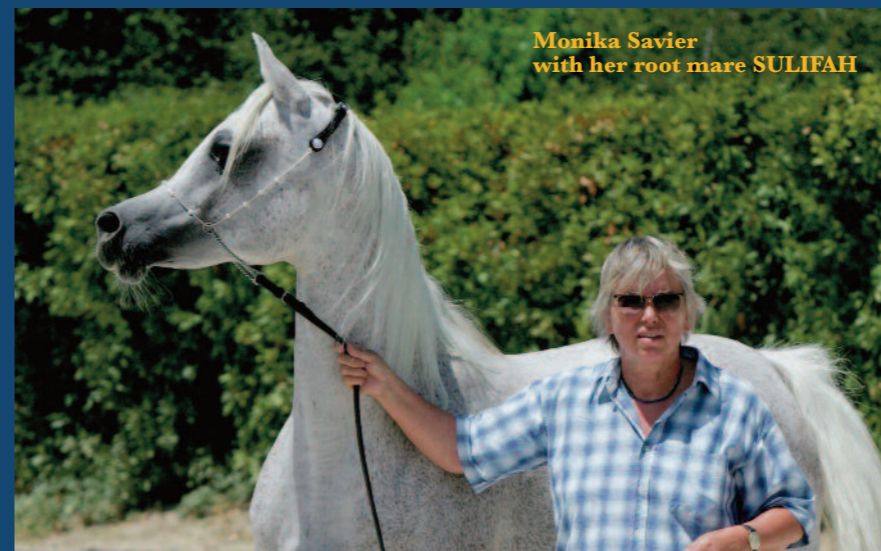
The Obayan Strain: *Sulifah* was of extraordinary quality. In many respects, she resembled her grandsire, *Jamil*. With her class and her charisma, she became the first

foundation mare of Tre Balzane stud. Her mother instinct and fertility were impressive, and this was something she passed on to her offspring. At the moment, there are 4th and 5th generation offspring of this successful, gentle broodmare living at the farm, which usually are the most beautiful and sought-after foals in the stud. When *Sulifah* died in the autumn of 2014, she had graced us with five fillies and six colts.

Sulifah's Daughters: Her first daughter, the bay mare *TB Hasna*, was kept for the stud and went on to become the next foundation mare after her dam passed away. Her sire was the noble chestnut stallion *Ken Mahbub*, bred by Sylvie and Wolfgang Eberhardt from Germany. His dam *Bint Bint Mahiba* was the product of mating *Ansata Halim Shah* and *Kis Mahiba*, a mare of Dr. Nagel's Katharinenhof stud who was a daughter of his foundation mare *Mahiba*, a Siglawi strain descendant.

Sulifah's daughter *TB Qadifa*, by the US stallion *Bayfyrre*, became a successful foundation mare of Khattab & Tahani in Cairo.

The sire of her daughter *TB Jumaana* was *Ramses* (Adnan x *Ansata Rebecca*). *TB Jumaana* went on to become a successful foundation mare of Shahada Farm stud of Youcef and Lise Laghzal in Morocco.



Monika Savier
with her root mare SULIFAH



TB HASNA
with TB HABIB EL NIL

Her fourth daughter was *TB Johara*, whose sire was *Al Whaid El Dine*, a son of *Salaa el Dine*. She was imported to Cairo and is another successful broodmare now.

Sulifah's last daughter was *TB Sabah El Nil*, whose sire was *Ibn El Nil*, an extremely typey Dahman Shahwan stallion who reached Tre Balzane stud from Cairo. *TB Sabah* was the product of an ideal pairing, combining fire and a gentle disposition. At the age of three years, she was yet another horse to leave the stud for Cairo, where she took up residence as a foundation mare with Mr Ahmad Esam.

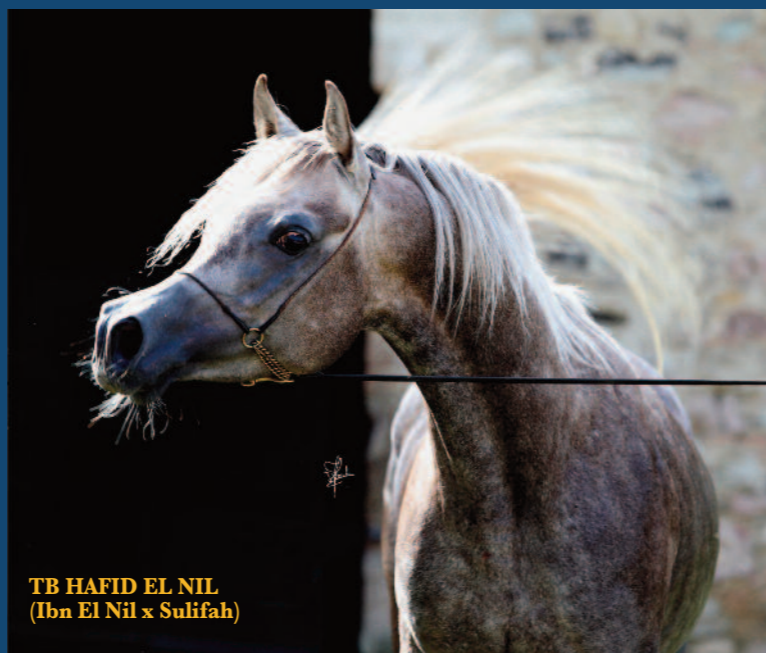
Sulifah's Sons: For this mare, we had a saying: "Sulifah will forgive us any stallion." And indeed, all of her colts were of high quality, with some of them even extraordinary in their phenotype as well as in their character and making successful inheritors, as different from each other as they may be.

Among them, her black son *TB Yasir* by *Salaa El Dine* and the noble *TB Hafid El Nil* by *Ibn El Nil* certainly are her most prominent ones. In Europe, *TB Yasir* was extensively used as a sire, with some of his offspring successful show participants up to Gold Champion titles. Later on, he was bought by Reza Tawakoli from Tabritz in Iran, where he is now improving the asil and Egyptian Arabians there.

TB Hafid El Nil is bound to take a plane to Cairo to take up residence in Aljazzar stud of Dr. Mahmoud Aljazzar. He is a type inheritor who combines superior type with a very good conformation and an extreme willingness to perform. At Tre Balzane stud, he left highly impressive offspring such as his two daughters *TB Hadara* (out of *Habiba* by *Messaoud*) and *TB Muneera* (out of *Mia Mouna* by *Salaa El Dine*), as well as his son *TB Habib El Nil* out of *TB Hasna*. Then there is *TB Sahem*, an impressive *Al Whaid El Dine* son, who is also in Cairo, passing on his beautiful type and elegant conformation in



TB YASIR
(Salaa El Dine x Sulifah)



TB HAFID EL NIL
(Ibn El Nil x Sulifah)



TB HAYTHAM
(NK Mudeer x TB Hejaziya)

Photo: Monika Savier

Rhabab stud of Sheikh Khalid Bin Laden. Sulifah's last two sons, who are *TB Munir* by *NK Mudeer* (NK Nadeer x Ansata Ken Rania) owned by Marliese Day and Regina Schweikert in Germany, and *TB Suhayl* by *Teymur B* (Assad x 214 Ibn Galal), are still young and not yet used for breeding, but they are just as highly promising as their siblings.

The Daughters of TB Hasna: Of Sulifah's daughter *TB Hasna*, there are three beautiful daughters living in Tre Balzane stud by now, already calling attention to themselves as broodmares. They complete the mare band of the Obayan strain.

TB Hejaziya, a daughter of *Ramses* (Adnan x Ansata Rebecca) has produced several impressive foals up to now, among them the black colt *TB Haytham* by *NK Mudeer* (NK Nadeer x Ansata Ken Rania), who is going to be used as a sire from next year on. This year, she produced the typey filly *TB Horeya* by *Nil Del Guado*, the second Ibn El Nil son in the stud.

TB Hasna's second daughter is *TB Helwa* by *Ibn El Nil* (Montasir x Nile Allure by Ansata Halim Shah). She will have her second foal this year, out of her breeding to *Al Adeed Al Shaqab*.

TB Heba is a daughter of *NK Sharaf El Dine* (Salaa El Dine x NK Aziza). She is another magnificent mare and it's hard to imagine the stud without her. Within the next months, she will have a foal by *NK Hafid Jamil*.

Yet another outstanding daughter of *TB Hasna* is *TB Hilal* by *Nil Del Guado*. She was bought by Danny Goshn from Lebanon who will present her at shows this year.



TB HELWA
(Ibn El Nil x TB Hasna)



TB HEBBA
(NK Sharaf El Dine x TB Hasna)



Joanna Jonientz
from Germany has been our successful stud photographer for many years.
email: Jonientz@web.de

The Mare Band of the Dahman Shahwan

Strain: The history of the Dahman Shahwan mares of the stud is not yet as long as that of the Sulifah family, even if for many years now, the stallions used for the mares of the Obayan family line were almost exclusively Dahman Shawan stallions. Now and then, mares from these lines were bought and later re-sold, as they were not really a match for the other mares as far as quality was concerned. One of the mares who made a place for themselves in Dahman Shawan family breeding is *Habiba by Messaoud* (Messaoud x Ione by Ruminaja Ali). Paternally as well as maternally, she is a member of the DS family that tails, via Farida, back to *El Dahma* (born in 1880), the famous mare owned by Abbas Pasha I, the regent of Egypt.

We hope that her beautiful daughter *TB Hadara* by *TB Hafid El Nil* will grow up to become a foundation mare for the stud.

TB Jaleelah is a daughter of our sire *Nil Del Guado* and out of *Jasline* (Rafahag x Neter Anhare). Her dam was sold to Qatar, but we plan to keep her daughter for the stud if possible. On the dam's side, she tails back to *Bint Bukra* (Nazeer x Bukra), the famous foundation mare of Ansata Stud who was imported to the US from El Zahraa. *Bint Bukra* is another mare who tails, via the Sabah family, back to Abba Pasha's mare *El Dahma*.

From Neter Stud in the vicinity of TRE BALZANE in Umbria came the filly *Neter Mansoura* (Hamad x Mansoura El Halima by Royal Jalliel of Imperial Stud in the US). She also tails back to *El Dahma*, but via *Tamria* of the Sabah family. Via her sire *Hamad* with his *Teymur B* ancestry, she is closely related to our Obayan families. *Neter Mansura* was served by our upcoming sire *NK Mahir* (Safir Al Rayyan x Serene Bint Carima by Ibn Nejdy).

Bint Mashahana Al Qusar is bred by Robert Schlereth and arrived in our stud as a filly. We have been connected in friendship to Al Qusar stud in Germany for more than 15 years, and this nice mare will continue to remind us of that. Her sire,



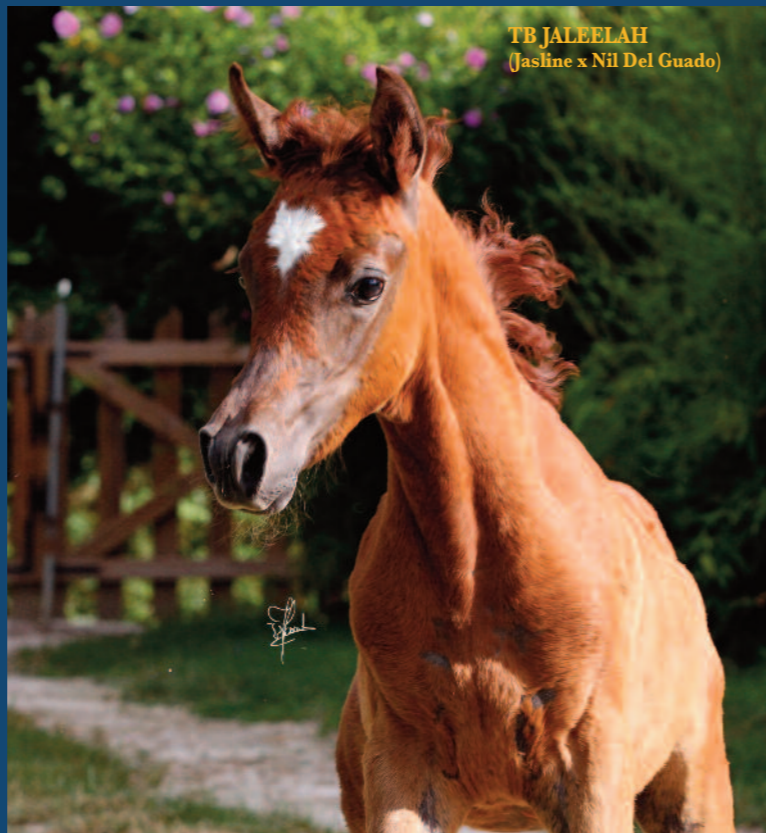
HABIBA BY MESSAOUD (Messaoud x Ione)



TB HADARA
(TB Hafid El Nil x Habiba by Messaoud)



BINT MASHAHANA AL QUSAR
(Ahmady Al Qusar x Mashahana Al Qusar)



TB JALEELAH
(Jasline x Nil Del Guado)

Ahmady Al Qusar by *Ashhal Al Rayyan* out of *KP Bint Mohssen*, tails back to *El Dahma* via the DS line of *Farida*, just as her dam *Mashahana Al Qusar* does. This *Mashahana al Qusar*, by the way, is the daughter of *Teymur B* and *Maida Bint Bint Mohssen*, who is an extremely typey root mare for Al Rayyan Farm in Qatar.

The Stallions of TRE BALZANE: Within our two mare families, there is a desirable amount of inbreeding consolidated, as this fact improves the predictability of type and character. When choosing stallions, on the other hand, we usually opted for partial outcross stallions in order to maintain a wider and sound genetic basis. Among the stallions we used, there were representatives of Ansata/Nagel lines such as *Ramses* (Adnan x Ansata Rebecca) or *Teymur B* (Nagel x Babolna). It was a corner stone in our breeding when we bought the stallion *Ibn El Nil* (Montasir x Nile

Allure) from the Ansata Nile line, who came to us from Cairo. He was a show champion who had also made successful appearances on the racetrack in Cairo. With his overwhelming Arabian charm and noblesse, he introduced some new aspects into our Obayan mare group. Our group had never been lacking in type, but even so, they were not above profiting from his extremely good legs, his toughness, and his readiness to perform when ridden.

Nil Del Guado is a son of *Ibn El Nil* out of *Fasyla* by *El Fasar*. We bought him as a young colt. He is from an outcross dam who tails back, among others, to former imports to Babolna from Cairo. While she was alive, she was a successful show and breeding mare passing on lots of type. From the combination with *Ibn El Nil*, a lot of Arabian flair and refined noblesse were added to that basis. His beautiful offspring is living confirmation for this concept.

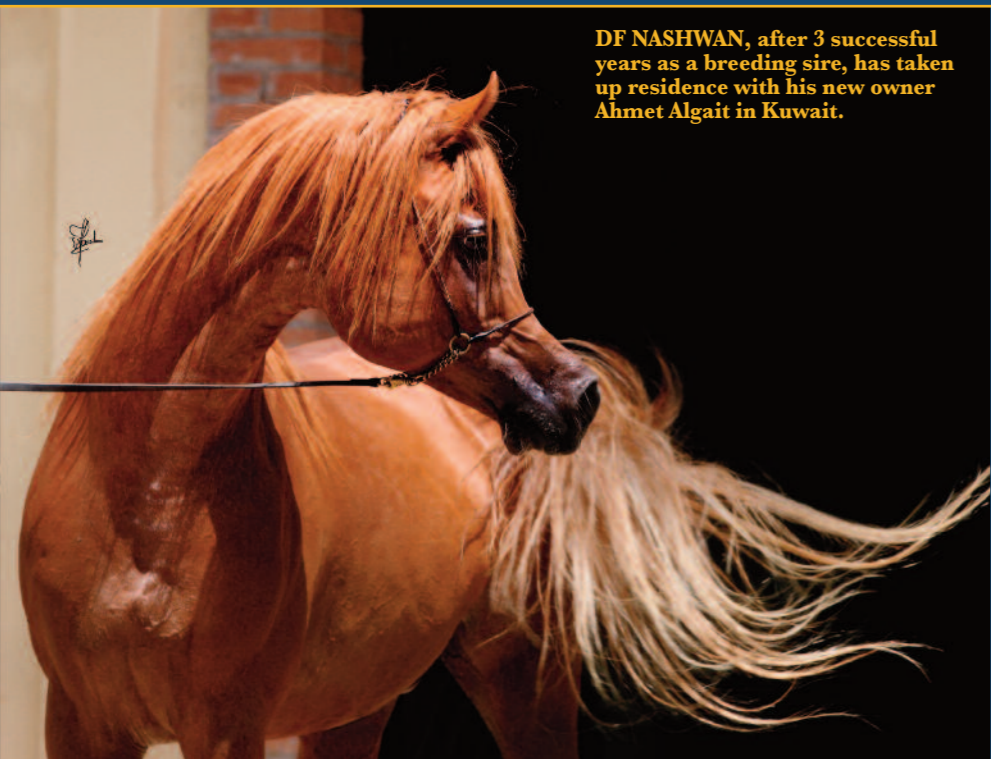
NK Mahir (Safir Al Rayyan x Serene Bint Carima) is a young Siglawy Jedran stallion who can tail his descent back to the collection of Egyptian horses owned by Abbas Pasha I. He was bred by Dr. Nagel and also represents the lines of the Arabian breeder Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani, founder of Al Rayyan Stud in Doha. In this horse, the damline as well as the sireline are harmonious combinations



NIL DEL GUADO
(Ibn El Nil x Fasyla)



NK MAHIR
(Safir Al Rayyan
x Serene Bint Carima)



DF NASHWAN, after 3 successful years as a breeding sire, has taken up residence with his new owner **Ahmet Algait** in Kuwait.



Photo: Monika Savier

Ibn El Nil (Montasir x Nile Allure) and **Elisabeth Auer** from Austria. She has been the successful stud manager at Tre Balzane for ten years now.



Photo: Massimo Menghini

which Sheikh Abdul Aziz succeeded in obtaining from horses such as *Ashhal Al Rayyan*, *RN Farida*, and the *Ansata Halim Shah* daughter *RN Dananeer* who in her turn tails back to a Nagel original import, the mare *Mahiba* from the *Moniet el Nefous* line. The influence of Dr. Nagel's breeding is also apparent through horses such as Ashhal's sire *Safir* by *Salaa El Dine* out of *Aisha*, or *Ibn Nejdy* (Nejdy x Ghazala) who is *NK Mahir's* grandsire.

On Shows and Showing: We are frequently asked why we won't attend shows with our horses. Let me quote P. Paraskevas to give that answer for me, as put down in his book „The Egyptian Alternative“: “We are insistently told that we have to concede that appearance is now what horses must be judged by. (...) Attitude and the seminal founding inner qualities of courage, friendliness to man and the paramount Arabian trait of inherent nobility are shockingly overlooked, for they cannot be quantified nor demonstrated in the show rings. Because they cannot readily be shown, advertised and given a monetary value, the intangibles that were at the very source of the Arabian greatness are today widely ignored in the shows.” I am tempted to amend this quote, stating that with most horses, the show ring takes away that natural trust in people which we, the breeders, painstakingly built up in our foals with empathy, sensitivity, conditions of rearing that are appropriate for horses, and education. So we resist the dictations of the show business, focusing our efforts on breeding straight Egyptian Arabians instead, Arabians who suit today's media age *despite* their natural beauty and whom we

OPEN HOUSE AT TRE BALZANE STUD FARM



Photo: Massimo Menghini

INSHA SHABILAH (Nabeel x Simeon Sarice) with Robert Schlereth



F SHAKIRAH (Maysoun x Flabys Shamoniet)

Photo: Monika Savier



TB MUNEEERA (TB Hafid El Nil x Mia Mouna)

TB Horeya (Nil Del Guado x TB Hejaziyah) and **Madri Louw** from South Africa. She frequently drops in to do some work around the stud and with the horses.



Photo: Monika Savier



Photo: Massimo Menghini

present to all friends and interested persons once a year, during our Open House where the atmosphere of competition is pleasantly absent. Judith Forbis once sent me the following lines: “After 50 years in this Arabian community, I have seen valleys, plateaus, and the peaks in the breed. The straight Egyptian Arabian is holding its own, but it is in need of serious leadership and breeder education worldwide, as well as some non-competitive activities that can bring people together. The show ring isn't everything; winning isn't everything. The relationships between people are everything! Without people who get along and are like-minded, the breed cannot prosper.” Well, let's suppose people are, at root, herd animals just as horses are. As such, they are ever searching for fresh nourishment to be shared with friends – and that's a good thing, after all.