

Jamil Al Rayyan

a Milestone in Straight Egyptian Breeding

By **Monika Savier**

Photos: Gregor Aymar, April Visel, Gigi Grasso, Joanna Jonientz. Lay-out: Mario Brunetti

Among the straight Egyptian sires available to breeders today, Jamil Al Rayyan is one of the world's best. Far more than a hundred offspring all over the world testify to his brilliant qualities as a sire and inheritor. Their combined showring successes far outshine his own international successes as a show competitor. He is not an extraordinary show champion also serving as a sire, but a sire in great demand all over the world who is a role model of noblesse and charisma. In his offspring, their Arabian type does not quickly fade during their first years of life, but it will improve and refine in the course of time – as can be seen with many mature show champions sired by him. And in combination with mares from a different gene pool, he will often dominate the match in the best sense.



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Mr. Gerard Paty,
Stud manager with
Jamil Al Rayyan





This stallion did not just appear out of thin air, as the result of a genetic accident – he is a product of one of the most successful breeding concepts of the last 30 years, developed in Al Rayyan Farm in Qatar. The farm founder, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani, had a clear-cut vision about how to put his ideas on maintaining and improving the noble Arabian horses from the Nejd – Abbas Pasha’s horses, who had been brought to Egypt from the Arabian peninsula – into reality. Until a few years ago, his band of Straight Egyptian broodmares, assembled from the most famous breeding farms, was unique in the world of Arabian horse breeding. I saw Jamil Al Rayyan as a two-year-old colt on his farm in Qatar. His charisma was so impressive, he was absolutely not for sale, as with his genotype and phenotype, he represented all of that successful concept of his breeder. Years later, the long-term stud manager of Al Rayyan, Bart van Buggenhout, answered my question of what he remembers of Jamil Al Rayyan:

„Jamil Al Rayyan was that type of Ansata Hejazi sons born at Rayyan, out of a very well-balanced Alidaar daughter named Dana. She was out of the Jamil daughter Ansata Samarra... probably the most big-eyed and most typey Samantha daughter ever.

Jamil’s pedigree is really one of high class, I don’t think many SEs today can pride themselves of such fabulous breeding. Jamil possesses charisma, attitude, and type. From what I have been able to follow about him, he has produced some fabulous foals, and that’s not a surprise for me. When Sheikh Abdul Aziz decided to sell him, that was not to my liking, as I foresaw a great future for him. On the other hand, Al Rayyan farm was packed with his blood and an outcross was needed... I wish Jamil the best of luck, he is a genetic treasure to behold.”

Via his dam Dana Al Rayyan, an Alidaar daughter, this “genetic treasure” also referred to his granddam Ansata Samaria, a daughter of Jamil (Madkour I x Hanan). His female tail is to Bint Bukra of the Daman Shahwan strain, the world-famous foundation mare of Ansata Stud. His sire Ansata Hejazi, owned by Mr Mohammed Al Marzouq, was one of the most influential sires in the Gulf Region. For many years, he stood his ground solid as a rock there, as there were numerous stallions coming and going in this booming region of Egyptian Arabian horse breeding. How-ever, Ansata Hejazi had made such a name for himself as an inheritor that Egyptian breeding can’t be imagined without him anymore.

Jamil Al Rayyan



From left: Giacomo Capacci, Naseem Al Rashediah, Gerard Paty, Rashid Al Jasmi, Abdul Rahman Al Jasmi (Photographer Jan Kan)



This is another thing that's not just by chance, as he is one of the best sons of that stallion of the century, Ansata Halim Shah. About him, his lady breeder Judith Forbis wrote:

"It is rare to call an Arabian horse a hero, but Ansata Hejazi had

well earned this title before he passed away on October 28, 2015. While he did not march into battle and earn a medal of honor, he trotted into the war-torn country of Kuwait that was just dragging itself out of the Gulf War devastation. Its Arabian Horse Center and private breeding programs had been decimated and the Kuwaiti tradition of breeding fine Arabian horses was in jeopardy. It was at this time Ansata Hejazi arrived on the scene with his patriotic new owner, Mohammed Jassim Al Marzouk. Hejazi had that indefinable "star quality." He was a horse to look up to and admire because of his nobility, charisma and kind nature. People loved him - and he returned their admiration by producing an incredible legacy of outstanding mares and stallions. Soon his bloodlines were spreading across the Gulf and furthering the renaissance of the Arabian horse in the Arab world. Among Kuwaiti breeders he became affectionately known as "the King of Kuwait." I know of no Arabian horse in my lifetime that almost single-handedly inspired and rejuvenated a country's breeding programs. Such a unique horse deserves to someday have a special book written about him and the people who shared his life as well as the incredible influence of his progeny. Jamil Al Rayyan is one of those important sons who has already proven himself as an important international sire." Both sires – Ansata Hejazi as well as Jamil Al

Rayyan – have doubtlessly contributed to the „return and renaissance“ of Arabian horse breeding in the Arabian countries, which did not only work out to be successful, but has furthermore taken its prominent place world-wide once more. However, it was a long way to go for Jamil Al Rayyan. He was sold to Egypt when he was still a colt: the two successful Cairo studs of El Gabry Stud (owned by Mr Mohssen El Gabry) and Al Baydaa Stud Farm (owned by Mr Ahmed El Talawy) had joined forces to purchase the young sire. Both of these studs have impressive broodmare bands at their disposal, and they were meant for Jamil Al Rayyan. When both studs reaped an ever increasing number of show successes in the years that followed, this was proof that their breeding decision had been the perfect one. On the Al Baydaa Farm website, their information on Jamil al Rayyan was this:

"The king at Al Baydaa Stud is the impressive Jamil Al Rayyan, one of the most beautiful sons of Ansata Hejazi. Through his dam Dana Al Rayyan, two stallions admired world-wide can be found in his pedigree, Alidaar and Jamil, two Obbeyan stallions of extreme type, with long legs and lots of elegance. The damline of Jamil Al Rayyan goes back, via Dana Al Rayyan's dam Ansata Samaria, to Ansata Samantha, one of the most admired mares worldwide. Jamil Al Rayyan's children are to be found at many breeding farms around the world. His famous homebred son Kais AlBaydaa was 2013 World Champion Straight Egyptian Colt in Rome and 2012 Egyptian Event Junior Champion. Kais's full siblings Kenz AlBaydaa and Kamla AlBaydaa where exported to the well-known Hanaya Stud and won also many titles in 2013. He passes on his exotic type, pretty faces, long necks, good confirmation and excellent movements..."

During his time in Cairo, a whole number of studs brought him their mares for servicing, and his merits as a sire became well known and loved all over show-happy Egypt in no time. Nevertheless,



The extremely exotic **Sherifa Al Gabry** (Jamil Al Rayyan x Al Muntaha Shareefa)



TB Fayza (Jamil Al Rayyan x TB Helwa)

the "stallion carousel" kept on turning even for Jamil Al Rayyan, who was sold on.

In an interview for the *Arabian Horse Times* magazine, Jeff Wallace asked his former owners: "What has Jamil Al Rayyan done for your program, in both good and bad ways"?

Mr. Mohsen El Gabry: "Jamil Al Rayyan made it very easy for me to shape the head as he gave me exotic heads. With him it is easy to get alluring dished heads in one's breeding program. This stallion taught me that anything is possible in breeding improvement. I used to be very picky in what to breed with him but my expectations never failed. He not only served me, but also a great number of other Egyptian breeders, by giving his touch of an exotic head and arched neck. Jamil Al Rayyan was a milestone to some great farms in Egypt. The worst part is that he has left us and we never had enough of him".

His next owner, Mr. Abdulrahman Al Jasmi, sent the stallion to Italy, into Giacomo Capacci's stallion barn. This is where I met him again, and I did not lose any time to have him cover one of my best mares who had, however, not produced any outstanding foals for me yet. But when I saw that filly by Jamil Al Rayyan being born, I knew that Mohsen El Gabry was right: this stallion is a milestone in the history of Straight Egyptian sires. I need to agree with Mohsen El Gabry once more, as



his statement „The worst part is that he has left us and we never had enough of him” is now true for the whole of Italy and even of Europe – as Jamil Al Rayyan is now back on the Gulf where he was born. His new home is the island of Bahrain, a small country with a

history of 3,000 years which is an ancient site of breeding Arabian desert horses.

Al Rashediah Stud was founded no earlier than 2008, but nevertheless, for insiders it’s among the

Top Ten of the most beautiful studs in the Gulf area. When they brought Jamil Al Rayyan to Al Rashediah, this was not out of some instant passion for that horse, but because the sire is a vital element in his owner’s breeding concept. Mr Al Jasmi has loved horses since he was a small boy, so today, as a successful businessman, he combines his joy of horses with a well-founded strategy and a clear-cut goal. He wishes to breed Straight Egyptians who will be able to win important international shows. To achieve that, he analyzed his stock of mares with a critical eye and bought the sire ZT Faa’iq (Anaza El Farid x ZT Jamdusah) for improving the structure of his broodmare stock – knowing very well what to expect from ZT Faa’iq. After that, it was Jamil Al Rayyan’s turn. In an interview given to Jeffrey



Wintersteen Mr. Jasmi put his cards on the table:

“We were hoping that Jamil Al Rayyan would put that beautiful head on the great structure of the Faa’iq daughters. The head... the face, it is a beautiful head on this horse! Jamil will be considered one of the great Egyptian breeding sires! It comes from the great blood of Jamil’s dam Dana Al Rayyan and her sire Alidaar. This is not Ansata blood and is very valuable as an outcross. The use of Jamil will give us the first proof of our philosophy. Jamil Al Rayyan has just started his breeding career here, but most of his offspring have been champions so far. This is the gift of Jamil”.

Seen from the strategic point of view of Mr Al Jasmi, things look as if Jamil Al Rayyan is needed in his home stud of Al Rashediah for finishing an important job, so breeders from other parts of the world will have to resort to using frozen semen right now if they want to use him in their breeding programs. But according to the latest information from his owner, however, there is a good chance that he will come back to Italy after the breeding season, to be again available for service at Giacomo Capacci (www.giacomocapacciarabians.com) in Tuscany, Italy. That would be really good news. If you wish to meet this famous stallion, along with a



number of his offspring, in person, you will have a very good opportunity during this year’s WAHO Conference hosted in Bahrain in February. Al Rashediah Farm is a much anticipated one among the items on the agenda of the Post Conference Tours offered to conference participants and WAHO members. It’s definitely worth the trip!