

Open House at Lorenzo Bulgherini Arabians

Show Training in the Wellness Oasis for Arabian Horses in Siena, Italy

by Monika Savier



The Tuscany region is a pearl of Italy, and Siena is one of the pearls of Tuscany. Seeing the city sitting atop the hill, one can hardly help feeling like going there, to explore the historic quarters, and of course to visit the famed piazza in the center of the town where the „palio“ is held, and to drink a cup of cappuccino in one of the innumerable street cafés.

Siena is known world-wide for her „palio“ event from medieval times, a horse race ridden without saddles and at breakneck speed for three laps. Two times a year, 50,000 people turn the piazza into a seething stadium for this competition where the horses and their jockeys represent the 17 historic districts of the city of Siena. It's been more than 400 years now that those on whom the hopes of the population are pinned have challenged each other here for the first time. By now it's racehorse country all around Siena.



Anybody passing the city to go on into the next valley, however, will encounter lots of studs and facilities for equestrian sports on his way to the Via Del Lago where he will find himself in front of the gates of Lorenzo Bulgherini's spacious stud. The time-honored buildings of natural stone on the premises used to be home to an operation breeding Thoroughbreds. Today, the 35 big box stalls of 4x4m (12x12 ft) each house an Arabian horse being show-trained. After the morning work on the treadmill and in hand, the horses are turned out on pastures, as the 22 hectares surrounding the stud are subdivided into spacious paddocks intended to keep the horses healthy and happy. 31-year-old Lorenzo works the stud with two grooms and the support of his Spanish wife and the whole family. He took over here two years ago.





Monika: „How did it all start?“

Lorenzo: „That passion has been in the family for a long time, as even my grandparents and my parents used to keep riding horses. As to myself, I realized I was not really fond of professional riding after some endurance training, and I developed a fascination for show training. I learned the trade in the USA with Michael Byatt for four years, with some interruptions. After that, I felt attracted to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for two years. Al Dannat Farm in Al Wafra, Kuwait, was another stage in my work as a show trainer and handler. Eventually, I wanted to start a project of my own, and voila – this here is it.“

Monika: „Is there a special feature of your training center as compared to many others in Europe?“

Lorenzo: „For me, the emphasis is on keeping the horses well and healthy, housing them in big box stalls and paddocks. So the wellness aspect is foremost. One part of that is training methods that are appropriate for horses, even if they take more time.“

Monika: “I see a lot of Straight Egyptians here, are they your target group in particular?“

Lorenzo: „No, the horses here are half Straight Egyptians, and half are show horses of mixed blood lines. However, there are not many breeders of Straight Egyptians who attend shows. Most of them wish to make sure that their horses will have a good life even during show training, so they bring them to us.“



Halypa Al Azhar, during the WS in Milan.



Maisha Allah, owned by Raffaele Leone.

Monika: „How do you see the quality of Arabian horses in Italy today?“

Lorenzo: „The quality is much improved. It’s because the two or three big international training stables in Italy have been able to import top quality stallions from the Middle East. These horses have been much in demand, and the successes of their offspring are unmistakable. As far as that goes, it’s in my best interest if there are good inheritors offered to the breeders at a fair price. If we are able to keep up with the competition from the Gulf states, then show training makes sense.“





Hendricks, yearling Champion, owner Prisco Arabians



In the area of Siena, the more than 30 purebred Arabians in show training and in the mating facilities are considered fairly exotic. Purebred Arabians are citizens of the world, however, and the visitors are not only from the surroundings, but are mostly international guests. At the beginning of October, the „Board of Trustees“ of the Kuwaiti state stud of Bait Al Arab paid a visit to Lorenzo’s training center. Friends and customers were there to lend a hand in arranging the Open Day event. People knew each other from Kuwait, and the atmosphere was cordial. Critically observed by some of the visitors, the horses were presented in-hand and running free. There were debates as well as applause, particular horses were inspected in detail, then hunger set in. The typical Siena lunch buffet, with an Arabian touch to it, was one more highlight of the day.



NK Anwar, owner Luca Ciaffarafa



Mahmoud Al Zubaid and Abdullah Nayef Albraihi.



Nadeer Al Rashediah, Gold Champion, colt, owner Abdulrahman Al Jasmi.



TB Jamil



Board members of Bait Al Arab- Mahmood Al Zubaid, Mohammed Al Marzouq, Abdullah Nayef Albraihi, Khaled Al Enezi, Mohammed Al Mubarak and Lorenzo Bulgherini.

What are private shows good for, basically? To create and to maintain friendships and, after all, stud presentations without winners and without losers are a win-win-situation for everybody, the horses included.



Maurizio della Bianca, Domenico Tocchi,
Lorenzo Bulgherini.



Sabine Lens and Luitgaard from Belgium,
Elisabeth Auer, Italy, Heithold Family USA.



Danny and Carol Heithold,
Misty Valley Arabians, USA.

