

All About NABEEL AL KHALED

*The Story of a Stallion
from Saudi Arabia*



Signature

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Nabeel Al Khaled was born in Saudi Arabia in 2010. His dam Ansata Nile Pearl, one of the most beautiful Arabian mares at present times, had her foaling stall with Sheikh Khaled Bin Ahmed Bin Baker Bagedo in Al Khaled Stud. Ansata Nile Pearl, famous daughter of Ansata Hejazi, is one of the noble mares of the Dahman Shahwan strain who tail back to Bint Sabah. It was her as well as her sisters and half sisters from this particular Dahman Shahwan family who assured the legendary status of Ansata Stud. Ansata Nile Pearl, who is a full sibling to Ansata Nile Echo, was exported from the US to Egypt. A few years later, however, she made her new home in Al Khalediah stud and later on in Al Khaled Stud in the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia (KSA).

Ten years ago, there was an outstanding Straight Egyptian sire in Saudi Arabia who was the first choice as a sire to be mated to Ansata Nile Pearl: F Shamaal, a stallion of extraordinary type from the Saklawi Jedran strain. The Friedmann family of Germany had home-bred him. His sire, in turn, is the Ansata Halim Shah son Maysoun, out of Maysouna bred by Dr. Nagel. He was one of the most successful Ansata Halim Shah sons

of all time, producing countless Straight Egyptians who triumphed in shows and sports events. His offspring is to be found all over the world and is very much in demand even now. The Friedmann family had imported F Shamaal's dam from the US. She was an impressive chestnut, a mare descended from the best ancient Egyptian lines. There was not only her son F Shamaal who went on to become one of the most successful show stallions in Egyptian Arabian breeding, there was also his sister, F Samirah, who became a Junior and a few years later a Senior Gold Champion Mare on the occasion of the Egyptian Event Europe (EEE), as well as „Best SE Arabian of the Year“.

F Shamaal was lucky enough to spend the first years of his life in Southern Germany on the vast green pastures of the Friedmann family's stud, in a way that's properly appropriate for horses. This was a positive influence for him for his whole life to come. He was a gentle and likeable stallion, one who was loved by everybody and who was easy to handle – which made it even more hard for the Friedmanns to eventually sell the young stallion, who had first won himself the gold ribbon



F Shamaal



Ansata Nile Pearl

as winner of the stallion licence test in Aachen, then more Gold during the ANC in Aachen, and shortly afterwards the Silver Champion title for the Paris World Championships. After these two latter open shows, he went to his new owner HRH Prince Khaled Al Saud of Saudi Arabia where, in his new home Al Khaledia Stud, he convinced people not only with his Arabian noblesse, but just as much with his friendly and trusting nature. He transferred both to his more than 100 offspring. Two years ago this outstanding stallion passed away in his home in KSA.

Genetically speaking, his son Nabeel Al Khaled embodies a perfect symbiosis of time-tested German Egyptian lines: on the sire's side, these tail back to Dr. Nagels imports from El Zahraa which became



Ansata Nile Echo



important the world over, and on the dam's side, they are connected in an unbroken line to the breeding strategy of Ansata Stud in the USA, a stud that had fundamental influence on Egyptian Arabian breeding all over the world.

From his dam Ansate Nile Pearl, Nabeel Al Khaled inherited his nice flea-bitten gray color. On top of that, it's impossible not to note his Ansata Look which is, most probably, also to be tailed back to Ansata Halim Shah, the grandsire of both of Nabeel's parents. His gentle and trustworthy character is also contributed by his sire's genes, and is among the things that make him such an enjoyable Chief Sire in the barns of Tre Balzane stud.

Even in extreme situations, he displays how cooperative and responsive he is with humans. He is a horse to rely on. When he arrived in the Umbria region of Italy, early in August in 2020, two weeks later he was just plucked from his pasture and shown on the occasion of the



International Montefalco C show. Easy to see in the live stream video, his handler Giuseppe Baragiani fell while in a full run around the first bend, with the stallion displaying his trot movements alongside him. Instead of wrenching free, however, Nabeel stopped immediately and waited for his handler to pick himself up from the ground – only then would he resume his spectacular trotting alongside his handler. He won the show and also demonstrated once more that stallions who are trauma-free and have a positive attitude towards humans can be the best of partners for shows, in recreation, and for sports. So maybe those ancient legends about the Arabian horses of the Bedouin tribes are true, those that tell the tales of the outstanding level of their cooperation with their riders? After all, grave doubts may have cropped up in recent years if you believe in the great number of videos presenting scenes of violence involving stallions, and add to that your own observations during shows. Horses are flight animals, however if they can't flee – such as because during shows a thin gold chain bites into their skin behind their ears as soon as they try to step back from the whip during Stand-up – then stallions in particular may quickly mutate into fighters. It's something they are afraid of, mind you, and their handlers are, too – which is why moments like these are notoriously difficult to handle, especially if the pressure is high, and things will not always turn out well. When the Bedouins were searching for a good horse, looking at a mount's legs was only the second thing they did, as a horse's character was the most important thing for them, being the key to a horse's soul. Historical tradition has it that they would first look into a horse's eyes.

"If you have seen nothing but the beauty of their bodies, then their true beauty is hidden from you", the Arabian poet Al-Mutanabbi wrote in 915 AC.

How did it come about that Nabeel Al Khaled left Saudi Arabia for Europe? Here's the story: When Nabeel was almost two years old, a young woman from Brandenburg near Berlin, Germany, discovered him and went to quite some trouble to finally purchase him. At home in his new center of life, in Kerstin Thomas's Classic Touch stud, he grew up and was trained for shows by her. As

a two-year-old, he won a white ribbon at the Stallion License Test in Aachen. During the next two years, he participated in various shows. For some time, he was stabled in Al Qusar stud, being presented on German shows by Robert Schlereth. Nabeel's results during this time were promising:



Nabeel Al Khaled as young stallion at shows with Kerstin Thomas and his handler Robert Schlereth

In 2012 he was the Silver Champion of the Desert Cup on the Kauber Platte show.

In 2013, on the Straight Egyptian Horse Show in Berlin, he achieved Bronze.

In 2015 during the "Sachsen-Arabschau" he won his class and went on to become Gold Champion.

In 2015 he won his class again, on the Arabian Shown in Salzkotten, also becoming Gold Champion.

In smaller German studs, up to today mating is mainly achieved via natural breeding. So this is how Classic Touch Arabians does it. Nabeel served the stud's mares while running free in the herd, which meant that as far as publicity is concerned, he vanished from the public screen for a few years. It was a good thing for his



development. In a herd situation, “female choice” is the word – the free-running mares make their own decision about who is allowed to cover them. A stallion learns not to take risks about his health and waits politely until the follicle is well developed and the hormone situation directs the mare to clearly demonstrate her interest in being covered. This is an important phase in stallion education, one that is usually absent today, negatively influencing many stallions’ behavior.

For stallions today, it is impossible to win a herd of mares according to the biological concept of evolution, where the fittest will win, cover, and transfer his genes. They depend on their owners, managers or breeders for their opportunity to develop naturally, to be allowed to run free with a herd or to be castrated, or to have their fates sealed as servers of phantoms.

Nabeel Al Khaled was lucky, there in Brandenburg. He had a peaceful life in a run-in shed, being friends with two very old mares who would not allow him to cover them, but who made him feel like “the master in his own house”.



In 2018, there was a short interruption in this idyllic situation when Tomasz Rombauer took the stallion to Babolna stud in Hungary for a breeding season. And sometime during last spring 2020, his lady owner decided to greatly reduce the number of her horses; as experience has shown, the stallions are usually the first ones to have to leave the farms. I went to Brandenburg to have a look at him. He reminded me of my former sire Ibn El Nil Rahim who tails from the same dam line. His type and his functionality were in perfect balance. His enormous charisma and his movements convinced me immediately. Everything fits together really well, reminding me of historical paintings and engravings from the Arabian Peninsula. Teaming up with Robert Schlereth, I bought the stallion. When he arrived in Italy, discovering he would be able to gallop across the 2 hectares of his pasture in Tre Balzane stud, trying to impress the mares, his intense joy was easy to see even from far away. There will be a lot of foals by him in the near future. We are eager to see them! □