

■ introduction by **Cynthia Culbertson**
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A peninsula within a peninsula, Qatar is almost an island. Only the barest sliver of land, just 60 kilometers wide, anchors it to the larger landmass of Arabia. Humans have inhabited this desert country for thousands of years and its written name first appears on a map drawn almost 2,000 years ago by the great scientist and geographer, Ptolemy. With the turquoise waters of the Arabian Gulf embracing over 500 kilometers of coastline, it is not surprising that fishing and pearling were important to Qatar for centuries. Trade throughout the Gulf and Indian Ocean ensured that Qataris experienced the sounds of many languages, and while the peninsula often enjoyed autonomy, it also endured centuries of domination by the Ottoman and British empires. In September of 1971, Qatar became an independent state known primarily for its vast natural gas and oil reserves.

Today Qatar is blazing like a shooting star across the horizon. This dynamic country, known for its progressive outlook as much as for its fossil fuels, is garnering attention in countless news journals, travel magazines and television programs. From its towering new skyscrapers, the vast Education City, an exciting bid for the 2016 Olympics, the Doha

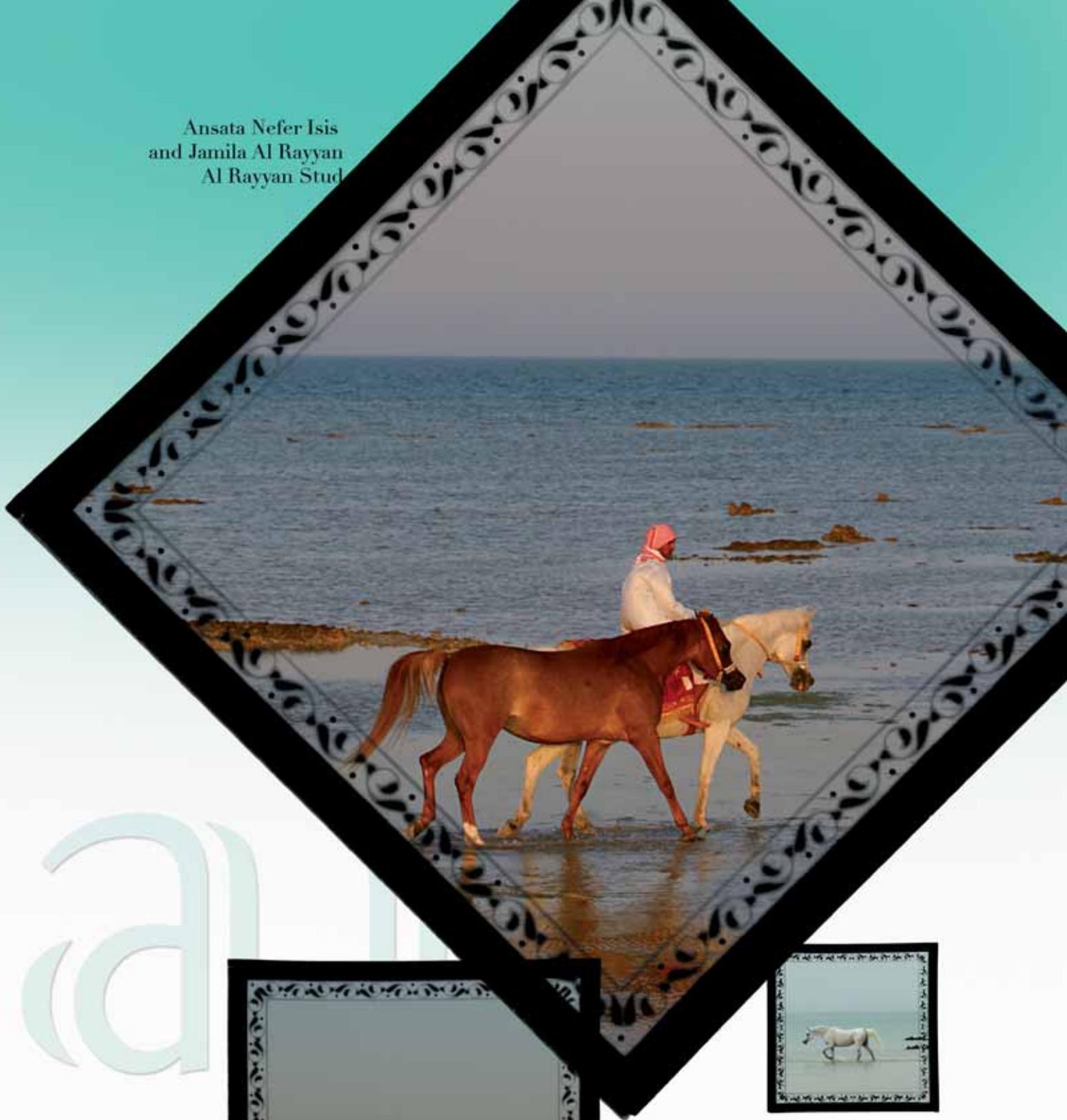


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Debates and a spectacular new Islamic Museum designed by I.M. Pei, there is a wealth of reasons to take notice of what is happening in Qatar.

Even before these visionary new endeavors, however, the Qataris were pioneers in another arena – creating a renewal of interest in the Arabian horse in their desert homelands. Aware of the cultural legacy of the breed and its importance to the history and traditions of their country, the Qatari breeders chose their foundation stock wisely and their decisions have forever changed the world of Arabian horses. The names of many of the most important show and breeding horses of our time bear the suffix of four historic Qatari studs – Al Shaqab, Al Rayyan, Al Naif and Al Nasser – and a relatively new fifth stud, Al Waab, is one that we will doubtless hear more about in the near future.

Ansata Nefer Isis
and Jamila Al Rayyan
Al Rayyan Stud



G. Shafaria
Al Rayyan Stud



Al Adeed Al Shaqab-Al Shaqab Stud



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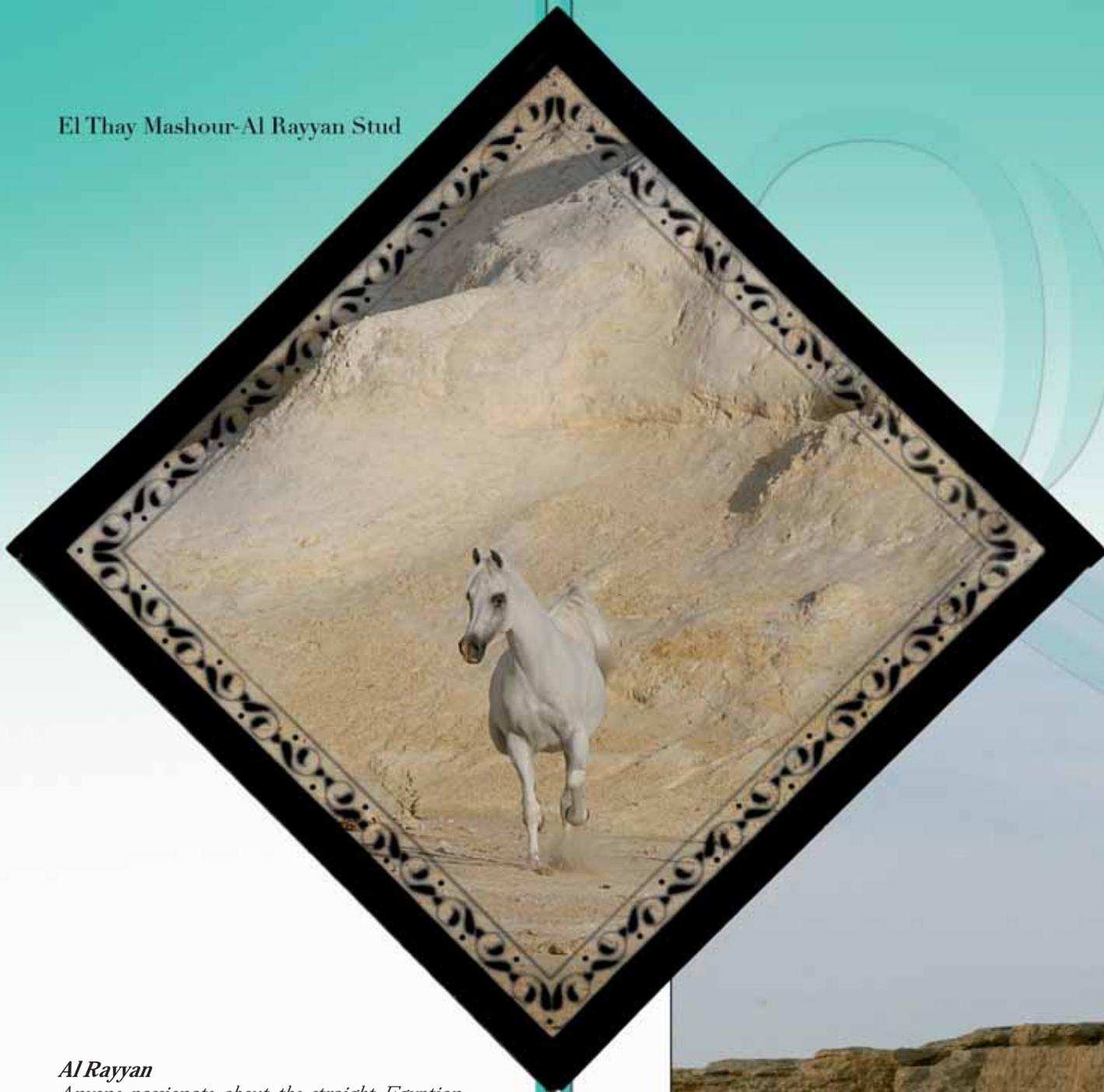
Al Shaqab

Originally the stud of HH the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Al Shaqab is now part of the Qatar Foundation and is currently undergoing an amazing expansion expected to be completed in 2009. While the new Al Shaqab is dedicated to educational endeavors involving a broad range of equestrian activities, the breeding and showing of Arabian horses remains a primary focus. Al Shaqab's program is world famous, having produced influential champions since its inception, and their newly-designed logo pays tribute to the three World Champion stallions of the stud. Gazal Al Shaqab, Marwan Al Shaqab and Al Adeed Al Shaqab all descend from the sire line of Ruminaja Ali and have produced countless world and international champions. Al Adeed, an important sire for the stud's straight Egyptian program, recently took time off from his breeding duties to come home to Qatar and be named Champion Stallion at the 2008 Qatari International Show, just one of many winners that earned Al Shaqab the title of Leading Stud of the show.



الشاخاب

El Thay Mashour-Al Rayyan Stud



Al Rayyan

Anyone passionate about the straight Egyptian Arabian must include a visit to Al Rayyan at the top of their lifetime "to-do" list. When the exquisite beauties of this renowned stud are presented one feels transported back in time to the fabled stables of centuries past, as horse after horse reflects the classic type lauded by the finest poets and artists. Owner Sheikh Abdulaziz Bin Khaled Al-Thani





NK Hadiyah-Al Rayyan Stud



Ashhal Al Rayyan-Al Rayyan-Stud



Maida Bint Mohssen-Al Rayyan Stud

تراث الصحراء



began as a dedicated student of the straight Egyptian and is now a breeder of world-renown who is a respected mentor to breeders throughout the Arabian Gulf and Near East. With a foundation strong in the bloodlines of Ansata and Katharinenhof, Al Rayyan is rich in the Dahmah blood of Bukra through the legendary Ansata Halim Shah, often artfully blended with the celebrated Abbeyah mare Hanan. Storybook mares such as Ansata Sharifa and RN Farida share the stables with such distinguished sires as Alidaar and Ashhal Al Rayyan, and are just a few of the many treasures that reside at Al Rayyan.

Alidaar
owned by Al Shaqab, residing at Al Rayyan Stud





Ansata Nile Echo -Al Naif Stud

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Al Naif

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasir Al Ahmed Al-Thani is passionate about both showing and racing and his Al Naif Stud boasts superb Arabians in both categories. Established in 1996, the show bloodlines of the farm are founded on the straight Egyptian Arabian and have a strong focus on Ansata bloodlines. The stallions Ansata Shalim and Ansata Nile Echo are senior sires at Al Naif. A consistent winner in Get-of-Sire classes, the offspring of Ansata Shalim include Junior World Champion Johara Al Naif, and Qatar National Champion Stallion and international winner, Jandeh Al Naif. Ansata Nile Echo is also a multiple champion known especially for his dazzling trot, and both he and Jandeh Al Naif are in Europe this year, an exciting opportunity for many breeders. The broodmare band at Al Naif features many wonderful mares, including daughters of Ansata Halim Shah, Ansata Hejazi, Prince Fa Moniet, Anaza Bay Shahh and Jamill and with this year's marvelous 100% filly foal crop the future is especially bright at Al Naif.

Jandeh Al Naif* -Al Naif Stud





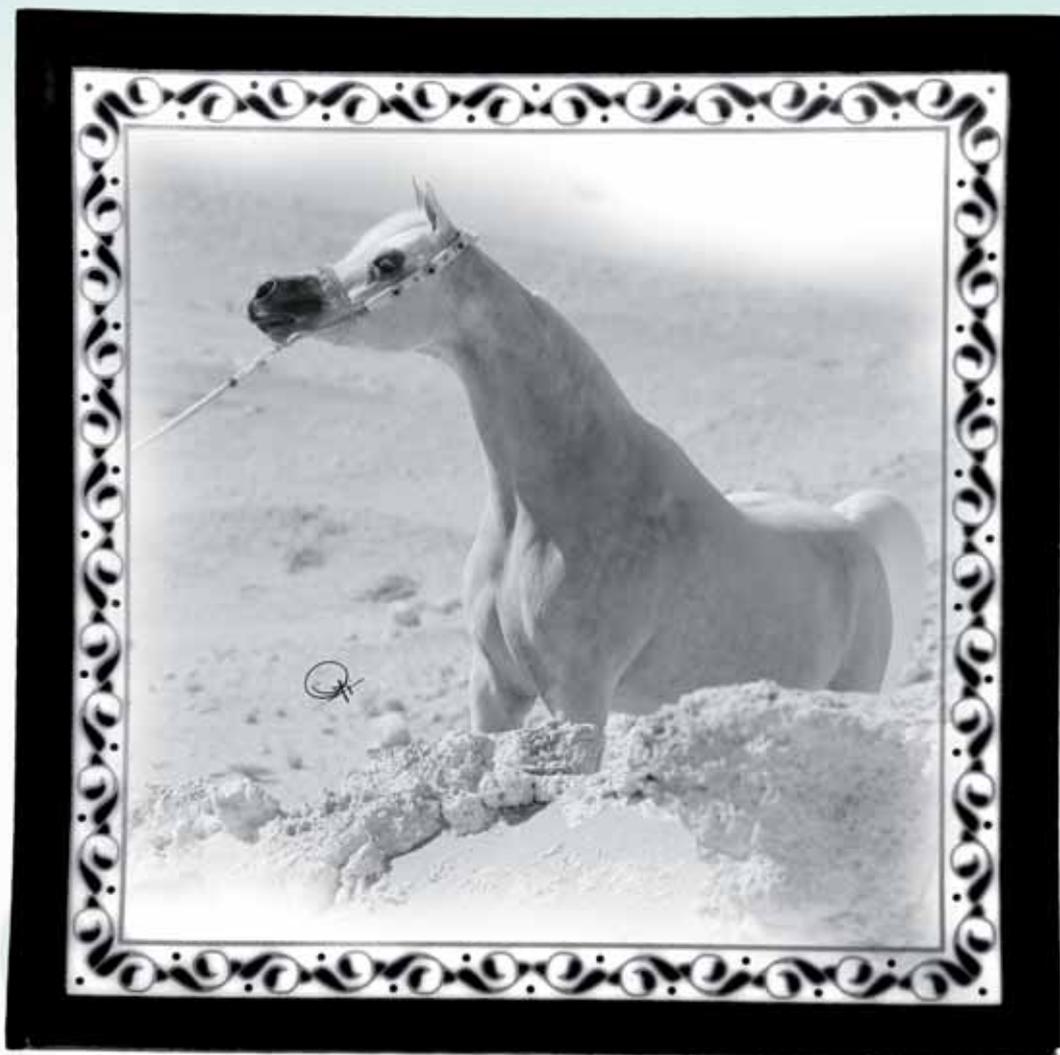
Shagran al Nasser - Al Nasser Stud

تراث الصحراء

Al Nasser

Qatar's vital role in re-energizing the breeding of Arabian horses in the Arabian Gulf was largely due to the enthusiasm of the core group of original breeders. One of these was Sheikh Nawaf Bin Nasser Al-Thani of Al Nasser Stud, who traveled the world in search of his foundation stock and has created his own highly-successful breeding program. Arabian enthusiasts are quite familiar with the Al Nasser name and the many champions and winners that hail from this stud. One of the most famous examples is the extraordinary mare Bint Saida Al Nasser: A World Reserve Champion in addition to her many other titles, she is sired by Imperial Mahzeer, an impressive stallion who also resides at Al Nasser. Bint Saida, always a pleasure to behold, is the dam of Laheeb Al Nasser, now in the United States, as well as the winning filly Shahira Al Nasser. The Ansata Halim Shah son, Thaqib Al Nasser is another champion stallion bred by the farm that currently resides in Australia. Numerous show winners have been bred by Al Nasser, including the multiple international champion Sundos Al Nasser, a beautiful mare representing the quality of Al Nasser's program of out-crossing its Egyptian blood.

Bint Saida Al Nasser - Al Nasser Stud



Al Waab

A visit to Al Waab, owned by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khaled Al-Thani, is a fascinating journey into a desert paradise populated by oryx, gazelle, zebras and assorted waterfowl swimming in pools of cool water in an oasis of greenery. The

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farm also features a large herd of dromedary camels of many differing types and kennels filled with elegant Saluki hounds. Straight Egyptian Arabians are the focus of the stud, and the senior stallions include Qatar Reserve National Champion Ansata Selman and the snow-white May-







soun son, Authentic Dahman. To begin his new stud, Sheikh Abdul-lah selected an impressive group of mares that include daughters of PVA Kariim, Ansata Sinan and Shahin, among others. The first foal crops have already arrived and with the quality of bloodlines featured at the farm, Al Waab will surely be an important addition to the tradition of superb studs found in Qatar. □

Authentic Dahman- Al Waab Stud

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NK Hashmahan - Al Waab Stud

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