



## ARABIAN TRAINING CENTER CA' DI GIANNI

# A story worth

by Simone Leo ■ photos by Nicoletta Abelli, Erwin Escher, Irina Filsinger, Gigi Grasso

**T**he story of Ca' di Gianni is certainly worth telling, because it probably is one of a kind. It all started from a group of young people from different walks of life and various professional backgrounds, who had one thing in common: the love for the Purebred Arabian. They decided to join forces and create a service center for their horses but open to all Arabian horse owners. The soul of this initiative is a very resourceful former employee of the Italian Ministry of the Interior, now retired, Giampaolo Gubbiotti (known by his friends as Woody), who soon realized that if you want to give a proper service you need to set up a professional organization. After a few attempts, his attention was caught by Paolo Capecchi, a young university undergraduate who distinguished himself at amateur shows. Despite the resistance from Woody's family, it did not take too much effort to involve Paolo in the initiative.

To everyone's surprise, Ca' di Gianni started immediately to "sparkle" at Italian shows, catching the eye of Italy's most selective breeders, given also the youthfulness and enthusiasm of its environment. With great courage and a certain dose of recklessness, the centre started taking part in the great international events obtaining results well above the expectations. In the meantime, the organization of Ca' di Gianni was being perfected. Its facilities were equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Woody, with his indefatigable enthusiasm, created a network of worldwide friendships and working relationships, gaining unique experience in this sector. Paolo surrounded himself with excellent staff and he himself became one of the most in-demand handlers in the show circuit in Europe and Middle East, with frequent travels to the USA. The trust bestowed on him by Italian and international breeders was continuing to grow, and they turned to Paolo for advice, assistance, care and preparation of their horses. To-

day at Ca' di Gianni you can come across horses from the most prestigious studs around the world, whose wellbeing is obvious from the first instant. The horses are taken care of accurately and competently, and you can always rely on suggestions which reflect professional correctness combined with a very thorough knowledge of what is happening in the world of the Arabian horse. Despite being capacious and functional, the facilities at Ca' di Gianni were starting to feel too small. It was maybe a small miracle, which shows that if you want to develop any venture, it is necessary to have passion combined with integrity and professionalism – but probably, when you deal with horses, you need mostly passion.

### PEOPLE

In order to get to know the main characters of this story, we thought we would ask those who know them best: Woody about Paolo and Paolo about Woody. These might be biased opinions, but certainly well informed. "Paolo – Woody told us – made a life choice with us, a choice dictated by his boundless passion for horses. We started almost as a game, and when he realized that this commitment was becoming very absorbing, he decided to let go of other study and work opportunities, which would have certainly been less time-consuming, not to mention the monetary factor. He has a solid background in equestrianism and classic riding, mainly thanks to the mentoring of a great professional such as Steve Dady, perhaps the most European of all the American handlers. His natural gift is the ability to understand and communicate with the horse. He is one of the few handlers who is happy to train also in front of spectators. This is probably because he never uses a forceful approach and knows how to get the horse to listen to him without resorting to violence. We have a customer who is training a colt using the mild training technique.

# telling

*The colt has already appeared in shows with us and his owner continues to be surprised by the mellow and serene nature of the horse.*

*Paolo has also a special ability to foresee the potential in a horse. He is rarely wrong in this judgment, and it is thanks to him that we were able to discover totally unknown horses that later became true legends. Besides, apart from being the favorite handler of the Dubai Stud, he is in constant demand from the most prestigious studs from the Middle East such as Khalid Al Nughaimesh, Ronen Braver, Nasr Marei, El Farida, Prince Saud of Al Mamlkah, El Gabry Stud, Rabab Stud, Dr. Nasr. Marei of the Albadeia Stud, Majed A A H Alturkait, Mr. Saqer, A S S Almaousherji. This strengthens the relationship between these centers and Ca' di Gianni, and obviously makes us all very proud".*

*Talking about Woody, Paolo told us: "We have been working together for at least 10 years, an exception in our environment". Paolo told us about his first Arabian horse bought from Woody in the early 1990s, when he came for a visit with his dad Angelo and the entire Capecchi clan. "Maybe it is because we are so different in terms of personality, temperament and background, but that is precisely how we find ways to strengthen our friendship, by discussing and bouncing ideas off each other. Woody is a special person when it comes to energy and ability to work, but what I appreciate the most is his humanity and fairness: he is a volcano that is capable of finding moderation and generosity. I really think that the Arabian horse has become his purpose in life. He is always ready to help and constantly out and about, beyond any commercial consideration, to see horses, to share judgments and emotions with breeders and to bring breeders together. To do that, he has sacrificed his own job and, I believe, also part of his private life. I think Italian horse breeding owes him a lot. He*



*Paolo and Woody*

*has been able to establish relations thanks to which many small breeders were able to gain experience and skills and improve their breeding programs by leaps and bounds. He has always been pivotal in promoting horses that stayed at the center, taking advantage of every opportunity to promote them and ensure that their pedigree and potential are fully appreciated. "It might be just a chance, but thanks to Ca' di Gianni, the knowledge, success and appreciation of the Arabian horse in Italy has grown internationally". Ca' di Gianni can boast also a staff of truly exceptional experience, professionalism and specific competences.*

*There are at least three pillars among the staff. Let us start from women, out of chivalry. The veterinarian Dr. Carola Pareto of the SBS Italia team is one of the most qualified obstetricians, with a specific specialization in the embryo-transfer technique. She also takes care of the paperwork. Carola lives 24 hours a day at the Center and is an absolute guarantee, considering the support she can provide. Susi Gurschler is Paolo's wife. She looks after the finishing of the horses and is in charge of the overall management*



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*Royal Colours*  
Gold Medal Stallions  
World Championship Paris 2006

*HDB Sir Ibn Massai*  
Bronze Medal Colts  
European Championship Verona 2009



of the center. Austrian by birth, she comes from a family of great breeders: her love and sensitivity for animals is combined with unique industriousness and commitment. Taoder Jacoban is the pillar behind the center in its everyday life. He looks after and oversees the animal care and the basic preparation. He arrived at the center at a very young age and has virtually experienced this endeavor throughout its evolution. Taoder's reliability, integrity and skillfulness have made him a trustworthy man for Paolo and Woody. Stefano Bonini, Michele Simonetti and Massimo Colombo are unforgettable and important people during the shows.

The center has also a team of veterinarians and specialists. In addition to Carola (obstetrics and neonatology), there is Fabrizio Venturi (sports medicine, emergency care and traumatology).

Toader works with six permanent trainers – Daniel Jusca, Marius Farcas, Rose Helwig, Stalin Ciuraru, Claudio Jusca and Davide Orlati – and other temporary ones, who live in the cozy apartments of the center, constantly in close contact with the horses. One of the distinguishing traits of Ca' di Gianni is the almost constant presence of apprentices from all over Europe and also America. Attracted by the reputation the Center earned on the international scene, young people from Spain, Poland, Netherlands, Britain, Brazil, France and obviously Italy come to the Center for one or more seasons, working side by side with the staff and learning how to manage horses down to the tiniest details. This often leads to or, better, enhances their experience with shows. Real talents have come out of these apprenticeships, people who have gone on to manage their own centers or centers of important breeders.

*Juwanda OS*  
Gold Medal Fillies  
European Championship  
Verona 2009



*FT Shaella*  
Gold Medal Fillies  
World Championship Paris 2010

*HVP Laman*  
Middle East Champion Stallions  
with Paolo

**THE CENTER'S FRIENDS**

*In keeping with the spirit that has characterized this center since day one, horse owner have never felt like customers or counterparts of just a mere commercial agreement. They have always been treated as friends and like-minded people, sharing the same passion. They have all lived the same anxieties, tensions, expectations, hopes and, very often, the indescribable joys of a sports success. The boys at Ca' di Gianni feel gratitude towards some of them for the opportunities that have allowed them to grow. Paolo has always fond memories of Beverly, who decided*

*to entrust her highest achievement in life and in the legendary history of the Imperial Stud (Imperial Baarez) to him when he was just a young novice. Beverly had given Paolo that horse, which she had never allowed out of the States, after seeing him work with Steve Dady and - she says - having appreciated his respect towards the horse and the rapport he was able to create with it. There is a particularly strong bond between Ca' di Gianni and Dubai. Supported by a skilled and rational organization and a considerable cultural background in Arabian horse breeding, this city decided to start its extraordinary experien-*



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ce in the show circuit with this Center. The relationship with Fontanella Magic Arabian is a more recent one, but already successful and rewarding. And one cannot forget the thrilling experience of working with breeders like Scipioni Angelo, Tripodi Franco and Fabiano, La Frasera, Arabian Valley Stud of the Sanchi Brothers, Fontanella Giuseppe, Pier Groenen, Mario Magi, Giovanni Pietrrelli, Antonio Stefano, Morelli Mauro ed Emanuele, Andrioli Giorgio, Bernabei Elisa, Domenico and Giovanni D'Onza, Rota Pierluigi, Tommasoni Gino, La Porta Filippo, Cartabia, Filippi Gianluca, Daniele Grossi, Dal Reno Franco, Biagio de Innocentis and Tropiano Cono, Flavio Mauri, Simonetti Michele, Ciro Scola, Ciacci and Sensi, Rosario Cassarino, Francesco Gallo, Massimiliano, Andrea Alessi, Corrado and Maria Ferraroni, Daniele Ravaioli, Marcello Alessandrini, Sauro Baruffi, Roberto Chiezzzi, Fausto Scanzi, Cellini Giuseppe, Chiarella Luigi, Beppe Esposito, Titty Gagliani, Ivano Lizzambri, Mr.

Cancemi, Giuseppe Palumbo, Sophie Roevens, Gramegna Fabrizio, Ruth Wenzel, Eros Oraziotti, Silvano Pecorari, Cattabriga Matteo, Mauro Ranieri, Mario Matt, Pierluigi Grassi, Pau Santamaria, Pau Romero, Jaime Pinheiro, Simone Leo, Luciano Cury, Federico Castellani, Ann Norden, Kathleen Olsson, Marta Napiora, Giancarlo Buzzi, Boscarino Michele, Tomas Tarczinski, Stefano Galber, Darius Arabians, Gigi Redondi, Magic Arabians, Santino Campagna, Antonio Barbaro, Alain Bandolin, Bettina von Kameke, Rocco Moliterno, Osterhof Stud, Falborek Arabians, Teobaldelli Giampaolo, Walter Betti, Roberto Ceccaroni, Andrea Lanari, Emilio Manzi, Rocchino Massimiliano, Manuela Lucini, Damiano, Mystic Arabians, Abdelslam Selman, Haris, Achille Ferraioli, Angelika Fareski, Irina Stigler, Falleri Massimiliano, Carlesi Giacomo, Bernhard van de Putte, Farhang Fazelii, Monrad and Reza, Pompili Anchise, Colatruglio and Goschenhof Arabians. □

### Imperial Baarez

Silver Medal Stallions

World Championship Paris 2008

Ca' di Gianni Team





*St Petrovka*  
Gold Medal Mares Menton 2004  
with the owner Angelo Scipioni



*Mahala*  
Gold Medal Mares Frankfurt Egyptian Cup 2008  
owner: Rabab Stud (Egypt)

*Magic Mon Amour*  
Gold Medal Mares  
Italian National Show Città di Castello 2009

*MA Shadov El Sher*  
Gold Medal Stallions  
European Championship Moorseele 2010





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## *Frasera Mashar*

Gold Medal Stallions

Egyptian Event TravagliatoCavalli 2010

owner: La Frasera



## Some of the (many) successes in 2010

### **MALPENSA National "C"**

- Champion Colt Versus Magic

### **GIARDINI NAXOS International "C"**

- Champion Mare Millenia
- Reserve Champion Filly PSE Rasheekah
- Bronze Medal Colt Jumanci OS

### **GIARDINI NAXOS EE**

- Champion Filly PSE Rasheekah
- Bronze Medal Filly Whayla del Guado
- Champion Colt Cayenne T
- Champion Mare EE Bella Lucia
- Champion Stallion Hals Moonshadow

### **MARINA DI PIETRASANTA**

#### **International "C"**

- Bronze Medal Versus Magic

### **TRAVAGLIATO International "B"**

- Champion Colt Magic Magnifique
- Reserve Champion Stallion Sandhiran
- Bronze Medal Lance Lord OS

### **TRAVAGLIATO EE**

- Champion Filly PSE Rasheekah
- Champion Colt Cayenne T
- Champion Mare Tarnimah Albadeia
- Champion Stallion Frasera Mashar

### **PORTO SANTELPIDIO**

#### **International "B"**

- Reserve Champion Filly L Farahdiba
- Champion Colt Magic Magnifique
- Reserve Champion Mare Millenia
- Champion Stallion Sandhiran

### **VALLE DEI TEMPLI AKRAGAS**

#### **International "C"**

- Champion Colt Lance Lord OS
- Reserve Champion Mare SA Moresca
- Reserve Champion Stallion Lazaal

### **MANERBIO International "B"**

- Champion Filly L Farahdiba
- Bronze Medal Filly AV Dalia
- Champion Mare Col Cora

- Champion Stallion Sandhiran
- Reserve Champion Colt Kalif OS
- Bronze Medal Colt D Maraksh

### **MENTON International "A"**

- Reserve Champion Filly FT Shaella
- Bronze Medal Mare Lady Veronika

### **AACHEN International**

- Champion Filly FT Sahella
- Bronze Medal Mare Lady Veronika

### **AACHEN National**

- Reserve Champion Colt Lance Lord OS
- Bronze Medal Colt Jumanci OS

### **CITTA' DI CASTELLO National**

- Top five fillies Lulua Al Bayt
- Unanimous Champion Colt Magic Magnifique
- Champion Mare CF Shamila
- Reserve Champion Mare MA Scarlet
- Top five mares IM Ipnothic Cathare
- Top five stallions AB Jamil La Piana



**ARABIAN TRAINING CENTER CA' DI GIANNI**  
**The Arabian Horse for Passion**

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**CITTA' DI CASTELLO EE**

- Bronze Medal Filly Sharm DS
- Champion Colt Frasera Dubai
- Champion Mare Gioia APS
- Champion Stallion Or IBN Halim

**PRAGUE International "B"**

- Champion filly D Deemah
- Bronze Medal Filly Abbiatt El Shams
- Reserve Champion Colt Lance Lord OS
- Bronze Medal Colt Jumanci OS
- Champion Mare Col Cora
- Champion Stallion Ma Shadow El Sher
- Bronze Medal Stallion Or IBN Halim
- Best score MA Shadow El Sher
- Best in show, Egyptian Event  
OR IBN Halim

**MOORSELE European  
Championship**

- Champion Stallion Ma Shadow El Sher

**VERONA Italian Cup**

- Reserve Champion Filly AV Dalia
- Reserve Champion Mare Ag Samsarah
- Reserve Champion Stallion  
AB Jamil La Piana
- Bronze Medal Colt Frasera Dubai

**VERONA International "B"**

- Reserve Champion Filly CS Amay
- Reserve Champion Mare CF Shamila

**PARIS**

- Champion Filly, best head and best  
score FT Shaella
- Bronze Medal Mare Lady Veronika
- Best Egyptian CF Shamila

**And to start 2011  
in style...**

**RomaCavalli**

- Champion Colt Magic Mon Ami
- Champion Filly AV Dalia
- Champion Mare and best in show Magic Mon Amour
- Champion Stallion Lucky Dream

**Giardini Naxos**

- Champion Filly Petra
- Reserve Champion Filly Etiopia El Aziz
- Champion Colt Magic Magnifique
- Bronze Medal Mare Gracj
- Champion Stallion and Best in show Mosalli
- Reserve Champion Stallion Jumanci OS

**Koksijde, Belgium**

- Reserve Champion Filly Amay
- Reserve Champion Colt Lance Lord
- Reserve Champion Mare Shownel
- Bronze Medal Shamila