

Thee Desperado

The charmed one

■ by Joe Ferriss

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**Photos provided courtesy of Arabians LTD and various owners of Thee Desperado breeding.*

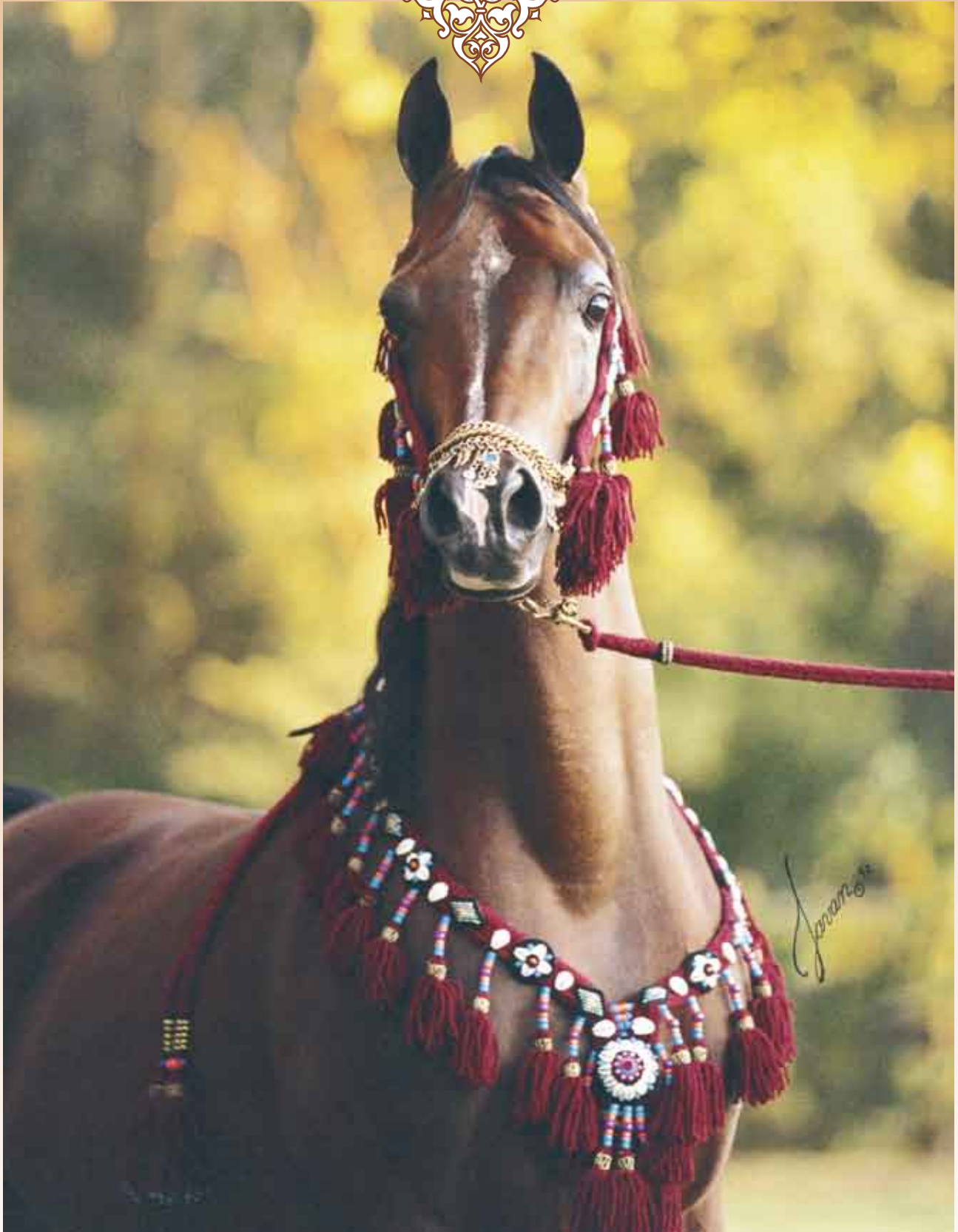
In the movies there seems to be a kind of charm attached to the image of a "Desperado." Even though portrayed as a bold rebel, a "Desperado" seems to have a kind of irresistible magnetism, a free but restless spirit playing by his own rules. The term has been associated with a famous song and album by the Eagles, a heavy metal band named Desperado, a popular film in which Antonio Banderas played the leading role, and even a line of motorcycles – almost anything associated with unbridled but restless freedom seemed to fit the label "Desperado". Is this what inspired the namesake for Thee Desperado? Perhaps, but no matter how one looks at it Thee Desperado's story is uniquely his own.

This famous "Desperado" has long been the pride and joy of Judy and Jim Sirbasku, his proud owners for most of his life.

His beginnings in 1989 seemed to be with great anticipation. His dam AK Amiri Asmarr (TheEgyptianPrince x Asmarr) was owned by Tom and Martha Salome. She was one of the few straight Egyptian daughters of TheEgyptianPrince to be shown competitively since so many of them had a great



Thee Desperado 1989 bay stallion (The Minstril x AK Amiri Asmarr) with western saddle. Despite all the fanfare about him and his long halter-winning career, he enjoys being ridden around the farm. Rik VanLent Jr. photo.



The proud bearing and style of Thee Desperado as well as his overall quality assured him a very successful show career. Javan Schaller photo.



Thee Desperado

1989 bay, stallion

SHAIKH AL BADI AHR*54456 Grey 1969	*MORAFIC AHR*32261 Grey 1956	NAZEER RAS *247 Grey 1934 MABROUKA EAO*12 Chestnut 1951
RUMINAJA ALI AHR*134937 Grey 1976	*BINT MAISA EL SAGHIRA++ AHR*23220 Bay 1958	NAZEER RAS *247 Grey 1934 MAISA EAO*213 Grey 1948
BINT MAGIDAA AHR*62907 Grey 1970	*KHOFO++ AHR*32265 Grey 1965	MORAFIC EAO*29 Grey 1956 NABILAH EAO*166 Grey 1960
THE MINSTRIL AHR*322707 Bay 1984	*MAGIDAA AHR*56075 Chestnut 1964	ALAA EL DIN EAO*352 Chestnut 1956 MAYSA EAO*519 Chestnut 1955
IBN GALAL I GASB*784 Chestnut 1973	IBN GALAL ASBB*90 Chestnut 1966	GALAL EAO*159 Chestnut 1959 MOHGA EAO*131 Black 1956
*BAHILA AHR*265239 Black 1977	11 HANADI ASBB*99 Chestnut 1968	ALAA EL DIN EAO*352 Chestnut 1956 RAHMA EAO*335 Bay 1951
BAKRIA GASB*801 Bay 1973	GHARIB SBWM *172 Black 1965	ANTER IOHB *28 Chestnut 1946 SOUHAIR EAO*107 Bay 1954
*MORAFIC AHR*32261 Grey 1956	*BAHEIA AAS*10 Grey 1968	NASRALLA EAO*128 Grey 1956 HEMMAT EAO*99 Grey 1952
THEEGYPTIANPRINCE AHR*45351 Grey 1967	NAZEER RAS *247 Grey 1934	MANSOUR RAS *111 Grey 1921 BINT SAMIHA RAS*133 Bay 1925
*BINT MONA AHR*30263 Grey 1958	MABROUKA EAO*12 Chestnut 1951	SID ABOUHOM RAS*285 Grey 1936 MONIET EL NEFOUS RAS*441 Chestnut 1946
AK AMIRI ASMARR AHR*332829 Grey 1985	NAZEER RAS *247 Grey 1934	MANSOUR RAS *111 Grey 1921 BINT SAMIHA RAS*133 Bay 1925
*ZAGHLOUL AHR*69609 Grey 1963	MOUNA EAO*22 Chestnut 1954	SID ABOUHOM RAS*285 Grey 1936 MONIET EL NEFOUS RAS*441 Chestnut 1946
ASMARR AHR*188279 Bay 1979	GASSIR RAS*371 Grey 1941	KHEIR RAS *130 Grey 1924 BADIA RAS*253 Bay 1934
NAGLIAH AHR*82769 Bay 1972	GHARBAWIA EAO*426 Grey 1951	HAMDAN IOHB *10 Grey 1936 GHORRA IOHB*128 Grey 1942
	*IBN HAFIZA AHR*61769 Bay 1959	SAMEH IOHB *139 Grey 1945 HAFIZA EAO*516 Bay 1949
	*NABILAHH AHR*32264 Grey 1960	ANTER IOHB *28 Chestnut 1946 FARASHA EAO*90 Grey 1951

reputation as exceptional producers, thus bypassing a show ring career. The Salomes were impressed with the young stallion The Minstril and his U.S. Top Ten Futurity win so thought he was a good choice for their excellent Egyptian Prince daughter. The Minstril was already making already himself a legend as a sire with a long line

up of mare owners hoping for a perfect The Minstril foal. While it was only The Minstril's third season at stud, this mating was also to be AK Amiri Asmarr's very first foal being a maiden mare. On April 5, 1989 she produced a beautiful bay colt with the most uniformly perfect markings, balanced proportions and overall excellent



The Minstril (Ruminaja Ali x Bahila)
1984 bay stallion, U.S. Top Ten stallion
and sire of Thee Desperado. The
Minstril has sired 586 get thus far and
is a leading sire of champions on five
continents.
Javan Schaller photo.



**Ruminaja Ali 1976 grey stallion (Shaikh Al Badi
x Bint Magidaa by Khofo)** Multi U.S. National
championship winner and an international patriarch
in Arabian breeding. He is the paternal grandsire of
Thee Desperado. Polly Knoll photo.



**AK Amiri Asmarr 1985 grey mare (The Egyptian-
Prince x Asmarr),** dam of Thee Desperado. She
is a class A Show winner and dam of champions
Thee Desperado and La Marsala [full sister to Thee
Desperado]. Javan Schaller photo.



The Egyptian Prince 1967 grey stallion (Morafic x Bint Mona) another legend in Egyptian breeding, he is the maternal grandsire of Thee Desperado. Johnny Johnston photo.

quality. But that did not impress AK Amiri Asmarr one bit because she wanted nothing to do with motherhood and did not want this little bay colt anywhere near her. However the boldness of this youngster was to foretell of a "Desperado" who would make a name for himself no matter what his mother thought.

His lifelong trainer, handler and friend, Shawn Crews tells how they all took turns helping out around the clock to make mother and son gradually become a family and within two weeks they were settled in together. By the time he was five weeks old the Salomes sold 60 percent ownership in the little colt to Gardner Bloodstock, famed for their success in promoting Ruminaja Ali and his son The Minstril. A week later eight breeders bought lifetime breedings to him. Then trouble struck several months after Thee Desperado was weaned. He developed severe colic requiring emergency surgery at Texas A & M. Shawn recalls rushing over to see him shortly afterward and from the moment he jumped up he was as strong as if nothing had happened. Despite the early challenges and set backs, Thee Desperado would let nothing stand in the way of the destiny he seemed to sense inside.



Zaghloul 1963 grey stallion (Gassir x Gharbawia) imported to the U.S. in 1970, he one of the outcross elements in Thee Desperado's pedigree being without Nazeer or Moniet El Nefous breeding. Shown here in old age at Gleannloch. Polly Knoll photo.



Nagliah 1972 bay mare (Ibn Hafiza x Nabilahh). She was a lovely mare with large dark eyes. She is another outcross element in the pedigree of Thee Desperado also having no Nazeer or Moniet El Nefous breeding. She is the tail female line of Thee Desperado and he shows much of her facial character and rich mahogany bay color. Bob Dressler photo.



His show career began as a two year old and in his early years he won championships regionally and became Junior Champion at the Egyptian Event. Each year things got better and better in the show ring. Shawn points out that he caught the attention of trainer Bob Boggs who really liked the colt and wanted to become involved in giving him some top opportunities. Under the direction and guidance of Shawn Crews, who was not only Thee Desperado's trainer but also his friend, Thee Desperado was allowed to become a star on his own terms. With such a seasoned team behind him Thee Desperado went on to win U.S. National Top Ten and Canadian Top Ten stallion in 1993 at the same time his sire The Minstril won the same honors, a father and son feat still unequalled.

1993 was also the year that Judy and Jim Sirbasku purchased the majority interest in Thee Desperado. The following year in 1994 Thee Desperado won Scottsdale Champion Stallion, a very challenging feat, Canadian National Top Ten stallion and finally U.S. Reserve National Champion. Thee Desperado had finally achieved top recognition and Judy and Jim Sirbasku could no longer be content with part ownership so they became full owners of Thee Desperado, the horse of their dreams. And to this day Thee Desperado lives a pampered and comfortable life at Arabians LTD.

What is so interesting about the pedigree of Thee Desperado? If you study it closely and review his ancestry you discover that he is a unique amalgam of both related and outcross elements blended into one individual who is uniquely his own identity. A good analogy for such a pedigree is like the recipe for the most unforgettable dish. Attend any fine restaurant that is famed for one particular dish of the most sought after bouquet of flavors that you remember forever, and the secret is found in their recipe. A good recipe finds a unique way to blend strong flavors that would stand on their own into a new and memorable flavor.

Certainly a strong flavor in the recipe of many Egyptian pedigrees today is the immortal stallion Morafic. He is the sire line of Thee Desperado but also is present three times in the pedigree. Morafic's effect is strong for generations, imparting nobility, elevated carriage and style of movement. He also imparts very fine skin and clean flat bone. Much of this of course comes also from



Thee Desperado, the charmer.
Javan Schaller photo.

his sire Nazeer who is a key ingredient. The strain of Hadban Enzahi is highly desirable in Egyptian breeding and is not only the strain of Nazeer himself but also of the lovely Anter daughter Nabilahh (x Farasha). Her grandmother Yosreia produced the legendary Aswan (x Nazeer) in Russian and Polish bloodlines. Nabilahh is the tail female line of Thee Desperado, but she is also the dam of Khofo, the beautiful and athletic son of Morafic. And how is Khofo introduced into this recipe? He is the sire of the absolutely magnificent mare and champion producer, Bint Magidaa, dam of Ruminaja Ali, who has two lines to Morafic. Where else does the Hadban Enzahi strain appear in the recipe for Thee Desperado? From the beautifully proportioned Ibn Galal, who traces



to Yosreia on both sides of his pedigree, and from the mare Bakria who is a Hadban Enzahi on both sides of her pedigree. The careful weaving of Morafic in the pedigree also introduces each time his immortal grand dam Moniet El Nefous, the undisputed queen of Egypt and a very strong source of classic beauty in the recipe. Her blood is intensified when Morafic was bred to his full sister in blood Bint Mona producing the legendary sire The Egyptian Prince, sire of Thee Desperado's dam. Yet for all the careful blending by line breeding these strong elements in the recipe, the female lines of both the sire and dam of Thee Desperado are relatively outcross having no

lines to Nazeer in their pedigree. This is represented by the non-Nazeer mares Bakria, grand dam of The Minstril, and Asmarr grand dam of Thee Desperado. In each of these mares are multiple lines to the Rabdan El Azrak blood, noted for producing intelligent, athletic horses with long graceful necks and powerful shoulders and also a source of the dark bay and black color. Asmarr carries ten crosses to Ibn Rabdan noted for excellent bodies and long shapely necks. Thus the recipe for Thee Desperado is an amalgam of classic nobility and proud carriage with clean flat bone, fine skin, great beauty, beautifully balanced body, athletic talent from the Rabdan blood, all in a rich



BJ Thee Mustafa 1993 bay stallion (x Khalili El Bahar) Javan Schaller photo.



BB Thee Renegade 1994 bay stallion (x PH Safina) Gigi Grasso photo.

deep Mahogany bay color. However the soul is in the eyes and Thee Desperado has this in great measure from his magnificent great grandmother, Nagliab, a splendid mare who you can see much of in his face. I saw her years ago and was charmed by her lovely eyes and beautiful facial proportions.

This amalgam produced a very handsome kind of horse that is the total package for many admirers of the Arabian horse and obviously he has attracted a lot of attention. To see him in person, even now at age 20 there is a quality about him like a fine sculpture in which all lines flow into the next regardless in which position you are standing, and all of this in his rich mahogany color.

A brief review of some numbers and details indicates how popular he has become as a sire. Thee Desperado is the sire of 848 foals so far and he is only twenty years old this year. He has the distinction of being the sire of the most get of any straight Egyptian stallion ever. Of those 848 less than 12 percent are geldings so that means that an exceptionally high percentage of his get are of breeding potential. For eleven years in a row Thee Desperado was



BG Maasai 1994 bay stallion (x DM Mimosa) Doug Shiflet photo.



the leading sire of winners at the U.S. Egyptian Event. Even though he has been promoted heavily within the straight Egyptian community, he also attracted Arabian mares of other bloodlines. Aside from his many get in the U.S. and Canada, his get are now found worldwide with exports to the following countries: England, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, France, Germany, Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, The Emirates, Venezuela and Ecuador.

With those astounding statistics, it would be impossible within this space to give proper attention to all of his prominent get so I can only offer a sampling of some of them. A sampling of a few of the many well known sons of Thee Desperado include:

BJ Thee Mustafa 1993 bay stallion (x Khalili El Bahar) All Nations Cup Champion, European Champion, and Paris World Champion. He is the sire of numerous champions.

Thee Gambler 1993 chestnut stallion (x Aliadaarra) Class A champion and Region Top Five Champion, U.S. National Top Ten AAO Champion, Canadian National Reserve AAO Champion, U.S. Egyptian Event Reserve



Pimlico RCA 1996 bay stallion (x Bint Bint Jamil) Suzanne Sturgill photo.

The Infidel 1995 bay stallion (x Bint Magidaa) Jean Pierre photo.



Senior Champion.

CN Jericho 1993 chestnut stallion (x Jubilllee) Class A Champion and performance winner and sire of U.S. Egyptian Event champions. Full brother to Insignia DeSha.

BB Thee Renegade 1994 bay stallion (x PH Safina) Class A Champion, U.S. Top Ten Futurity Colt, U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Stallion, and sire of U.S. Egyptian Event winners.

BG Maasai 1994 bay stallion (x DM Mimosa) U.S. Egyptian Event Extended Specialty Champion, U.S. Egyptian Event Hunter Pleasure and Dressage Champion, East Coast Top Five Dressage Championship, Region 15 Top Five Dressage Championship.

Al Baraki 1995 black stallion (x Alijamila) internationally renowned sire. He is the sire of the beautiful mare Mmecca (x Imperial Maysama) Ajman and UAE National Champion Mare owned by Al Zobair



Windsprees Mirage 1996 black stallion
(x GL Lady Mirage) Gigi Grasso photo.

SA Thee Moon Dancer 1997 grey stallion
(x AK Shalina) photo courtesy of Sharon Kettwich collection.

Stud.

The Infidel 1995 bay stallion (x Bint Magidaa) U.S. National Top Ten Futurity Colt, U.S. Egyptian Event Breeders Challenge Champion and Reserve Junior Champion Colt and sire of U.S. Egyptian Event champions.

Pimlico RCA 1996 bay stallion (x Bint Bint Jamil) U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Stallion, Scottsdale Top Ten Stallion and Region 9 Top Five Stallion.

Windsprees Mirage 1996 black stallion (x GL Lady Mirage) Italian National Champion Stallion and popular sire of numerous champions in Europe.

SA TheeMoonDancer 1997 grey stallion (x AK Shalina) U.S. Sport Horse Nationals Reserve Champion Arabian Jumper, Top Ten Open Jumper Champion, Region 8 Working Hunter Jumper and Jumper Champion, Class A Champion Sport Horse in Hand.

Thee Asil 1997 chestnut stallion (x Alia Barakaa) U.S.



Egyptian Event Champion 3 year old Colt, twice Region 9 Reserve Champion.

True Colours 1997 chestnut stallion (x Dabeda) Paris World Champion Most Classic Senior Stallions and World Top Five Elite Stallion, U.S. Egyptian Event Reserve Supreme Champion Stallion, Scottsdale Reserve Champion Stallion. He is the sire of Royal Colours (x Xtreme Wonder, a Thee Desperado grand daughter)



Thee Asil 1997 chestnut stallion (x Alia Barakaa) Stuart Vesty photo.



Royal Colours is Egyptian Event Europe Champion Colt, Egyptian Event Italy Champion Colt, Paris World Champion Colt, Reserve Champion All Nations Cup, and twice International B Champion, Italy.

Botswana 1998 bay stallion (x The Minuet) U.S. Egyptian Event Champion Futurity Colt, Region 9 Top Five Colt, Scottsdale Top Ten, and a leading sire of champions internationally. Botswana has get in New Zealand, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Canada and Israel.

Insignia DeSha 2000 bay stallion (x Jubilllee) U.S. Egyptian Event Futurity Champion Colt, Junior Champion Colt and Reserve Supreme Champion Stallion, and sire of Egyptian Event champions.

Entebbe CA 2000 grey stallion (x Shaamisa Mystique) U.S. Egyptian Event Reserve Junior Champion and Reserve Futurity Champion, Israeli Reserve National Champion Stallion.

The Sequel RCA 2001 bay stallion (x La Marsala) U.S. Egyptian Event Reserve Supreme Champion Stallion. He is the result of breeding Thee Desperado to his full sister La Marsala.

The above sampling represents a diversity of both straight Egyptian and Egyptian-related sons of Thee Desperado garnering international wins in both halter and performance as well as siring numerous winners. A number of these stallions have sired over 100 get each.

The Daughters of Thee Desperado are also prized as champion producers and found in a variety of prestigious studs internationally. A sampling of these include:

The Vision HG 1994 black mare (x Belle Staar). Dam of international champion Al Maraam (x Imperial Imdal) Top Ten Paris World Champion, All Nations Cup Reserve Champion and sire of international champions. Thee Vision HG is also dam of the famous stallion Al Lahab (x Laabeeb) Asil Cup World Champion, All Nations Cup Reserve Junior Champion, European Junior Champion, European Egyptian Event Champion, U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion and sire of international champions. Thee Vision HG also produced the 2008 Israeli champion colt, Al Ayal AA.

Rhapsody In Black 1994 black mare (x Aliashahm RA) dam of numerous champions including Bellagio RCA (x



True Colours 1997 chestnut stallion (x Daheda) Stuart Vesty photo.



Botswana 1998 bay stallion (x The Minuet)
Suzanne Sturgill photo.

Insignia DeSha 2000 bay stallion (x Jubilllee)
Gigi Grasso photo.



The Sequel RCA 2001 bay stallion (x La Marsala)
Stuart Vesty photo.



The celebrated stallion Royal Colours. He is double Thee Desperado being sired by True Colours, a son of Thee Desperado and out of Xtreme Wonder, a grand daughter of Thee Desperado. Stuart Vesty photo.



The Vision HG 1994 black mare (x Belle Staar) Shira Yegar photo.

Alixir) 2005 U.S. Egyptian Event Junior Champion and Scottsdale Top Ten, and Mirajh RCA (x Alixir) 2007 Champion colt at the Sakkara Nationals in Egypt.

Thee Cappuccino 1994 bay mare (x Jubilllee) multiple U.S. Egyptian Event Futurity champion and dam of champions. She is a full sister to CN Jericho and Insignia DeSha.

LS Thee Desire 1994 chestnut mare (x AK Rafia) dam of U.S. Egyptian Event Reserve Senior Champion mare EE Bella Lucia, exported to Italy.

Deserree 1994 grey mare (x PH Maroufina) U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Mare, and Abu Dhabi Senior mare.

My Silk Stocking 1995 chestnut mare (x Anastaziaa) UAE Junior champion mare in the Al Zobair Stud, Sharjah.

Queen Sheeba 1996 black mare (x Minstrils Gabriella) dam of Farreesa CA a U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion mare.

Azadeh Ellena++ 1997 bay mare (x Eskada Ellena)



Rhapsody In Black 1994 black mare (x Aliashahm RA) Suzanne Sturgill photo.



**Thee Cappuccino 1994 bay mare (x Jubilllee)
Gigi Grasso photo.**



Deserree 1994 grey mare (x PH Maroufina) Randi Clark photo.



Queen Sheeba 1996 black mare (x MinstrilsGabriella) Jeff Little photo.

Legion of Merit Winner, many times Sport Horse in Hand winner and champion and Regional Top 3 Dressage winner.

Savannah CC 1997 grey mare (x Miss Maggie Mae) dam of Israeli Reserve National Champion Stallion, Nader Al Jamal (x Ansata Sinan).

Bint Bint Justina 1997 bay mare (x Alijamila) dam of U.S. Egyptian Event Junior Champion Colt Justynn. She is a full sister to Al Baraki.

BJ Thee Arabella 1998 bay mare (x Lilly Langtree HG)

U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Mare. She is a full sister in blood to The Vision HG.

Sweet Eloise 1998 chestnut mare (x Kuhaylah Nitaya). U.S. National Top Ten Futurity Filly and Junior Mare, Region 9 Champion Mare, U.S. Egyptian Event Reserve Supreme Champion Mare.

Min Mins Magnolia 1998 grey mare (x Amal Ali) U.S. class A show winner and dam of Nouf (x Farres) 1st place winner First Arabian Horse Championship, Jeddah Saudi Arabia.



Sweet Eloise 1998 chestnut mare (x Kuhaylah Nitaya)
Suzanne Sturgill photo.

PR Desert Rose+ 1998 bay mare (x AK Nadara) Legion of Honor winner in both halter and performance, U.S. National AAO Champion Mare and Canadian National Top Ten Futurity and AAO Top Ten Mare as well as Class A champion.

MVA Thee Love Affair 2002 chestnut mare (x Padron Sarasue) U.S. Egyptian Event Junior Champion Filly and Top Ten Paris World Champion.

As can be seen Thee Desperado has clearly made a name for himself as a sire internationally through both sons and daughters and through their produce. His daughters grace various stud farms globally. Three daughters of Thee Desperado are a part of Al Mohamadia Arabian Horse Stud in Saudi Arabia: LF Starsafire 2003 chestnut mare (x Princess Tammen), Min Mins Magnolia 1998 grey mare (x Amal Ali) and Thee Scheherezade (x Schzarad Zabrina) 2000 bay mare and all three of these mares



PR Desert Rose+ 1998 bay mare (x AK Nadara) Jeff Little photo.



looking back over his 20 years, Thee Desperado has certainly made a name for himself. Suzanne Sturgill photo.



The look continues: Bella Asila RCA, 2008 filly (The Sequel RCA x Asila RCA). Randi Clark photo.

had successful show careers prior to their exportation. My Silk Stocking (x Anastaziaa) is in the broodmare band of Al Zobair Stud in Sharjah, UAE. Deserree is owned by Shaikh Sultan Bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah. Of course, through the immense popularity of her impressive sons Al Lahab and Al Maraam, The Vision HG (Thee Desperado x Belle Staar) is a popular broodmare the stud of Arieli Arabians in Israel.

I recently attended the 20th birthday party for Thee Desperado and it was a very enjoyable celebration. Clearly the love and enthusiasm for this great horse was apparent. He looked great and appeared younger than his 20 years, strutting his style and telling all younger stallions that he still is the one and only "Desperado". Few stallions of any bloodline could look back over two decades and see the enormous international impact they have already had on Arabian horse breeding, and knowing

that there is more yet to come. Generation after generation of his get, grand get and great grand get were presented during the birthday celebration. I couldn't help but notice the great level of continuity that any breeder of Arabians would hope to achieve. And for all the horses presented at the celebration there seemed to be a consistent look in the eye. Perhaps it is, after all this time, those deep dark soulful eyes of Nagliab, the lovely bay mare who claims the matriarchy of Thee Desperado's lineage, radiating a special soulful look that has charmed thousands of Arabian horse lovers and continues to sparkle in the generations to come. □