



Al Ayal^{AA}

AMBASSADOR OF THE HEART

■ *by Tzviah Idan @2019 All Rights Reserved*
photos by Gigi Grasso, Bar Hajaj, Emma Maxwell,
Stuart Vesty, Shira Yegar, Shalomi Nissim, Menashe Cohen, Nawaf,
Irina Filsinger, Kelly Campbell, Laurelle Anderson, Elisa Grassi



Over thirty years ago, when Ariela Arabians co-owner Eitan Wertheimer was first introduced to Arabian horses, he recognized that their beauty, charisma and charming personality made them, in his words, "... living ambassadors for peace between nations, the perfect way to facilitate positive international communication."

This insight and Eitan's inspiring personal vision became the central pillar of Ariela Arabians' core mission.

"Sharing good horses has always been our way of building bridges between good people everywhere," explains Chen Kedar, "and, out of all of our horses, Al Ayal AA has proven to be the physical embodiment of that philosophy."

Dubbed 'a Vision in White' as a play on the name of his famous dam, this stunning straight Egyptian stallion has spent over two-thirds of his lifetime representing Ariela Arabians around the globe. A winner of prestigious show titles and sire of champions on three continents, Al Ayal is a true ambassador, in every sense of the word.





Al Ayal^{AA} as a foal. Photo by Shira Yegar

Not just another beautiful Arabian show horse inspiring worldwide admiration, Al Ayal has been an absolutely transformational catalyst advancing international relations, understanding, and good will across formidable political barriers. He has made history by opening more doors between Israel and her Arab neighbors than any other Arabian horse before him.

Foaled on 7 January 2008, Al Ayal AA was definitely born into royalty. He is a direct son of the legendary black straight Egyptian mare, The Vision HG, bred by Marilyn Geurin of Hot Springs, Arizona, who was purchased and imported to Israel by Ariela as a yearling. The Vision HG was one of the first, and is now considered by far the most influential daughter of world super sire Thee Desperado (The Minstril x AK Amiri Asmaar). Her dam was the highly-regarded bay The Minstril daughter Belle Staar, out of the Egyptian Prince daughter Alia-Aenor, of the influential Zafaarana family, tracing back to the Saqlawi Jedran foundation mare Radia.



Al Ayal^{AA} during his lease to Ajman Stud 2010. Photo by Gigi Grasso



EM

Leaving a lifetime production record of twenty-three foals, The Vision is perhaps best known as the dam of Al Maraam (x Imperial Imdal), and the full brothers Al Lahab, Al Hadiyah AA, Al Raheb AA, and Al Wabah AA, sired by Ariela's homebred sire Laheeb (Imperial Imdal x AK Latifa); all are highly-admired international show horses and sires.

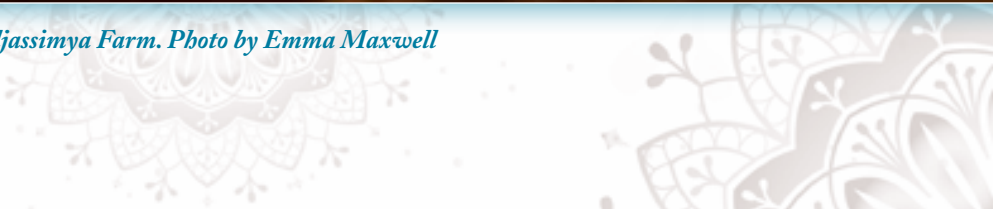
Al Ayal's sire was less well-known: the excellent stallion Al Ayad (Moheeb x Al Mamunah by Maysoun), bred in Germany by Jack Moritz. When Al Ayad first piqued the interest of Chen and Eliko, he was eight years old but had not yet been tried at stud. Following their strong breeders' intuition the two decided to lease him from owner Monika Wenzel with the goal of introducing rare and valuable German foundation blood into the straight Egyptian Ariela herd.





EM

With Bart Van Buggenhout, manager of Aljassimya Farm. Photo by Emma Maxwell





Chen recalls, "If one never tries, one never knows. Al Ayad reminded me of Malik (Hadban Enzabi x Malikah), who sired in Israel during the mid-1980s, and I never forgot the outstanding quality and classic look of Malik's foals. Al Ayad's conformation was better than Malik's, and he was heavily line bred to Malik's sire, the very important Nazeer son, Hadban Enzabi. Al Ayad also brought forward the blood of some rare yet significant German straight Egyptian foundation horses, including the mares Mahameh and Mona III and the influential stallions Machmut, Ibrahim, and Mohamed."

"Although by no means perfect, where Al Ayad was good, he was excellent. We especially loved his tremendous refinement, his wonderful shoulder, and the way he always carried himself. His show attitude and tail carriage were exceptional."

Al Ayad and the Ariela mares, which traced mainly to foundation animals imported from America, proved an excellent match. He sired eleven foals for the Ariela program including the highly-acclaimed international halter stars Nashwah AA (x Insha Sha Latifah) and Baha AA (x Baraaqa AA), and left a total of thirty purebred foals in Israel before his return to Europe and tragic early death.





Al Ayal, photo by Shalomi Nissim



The Vision HG



Al Ayad

Al Ayal^{AA}

SE Saklawi Jedran Stallion
Foaled 2008
Bred & owned
by Ariela Arabians, Israel

THE VISION HG

THREE DESPERADO

AL MAMUNAH

MOHEEB

AL AYAD

ALLA-AENOR

THE MINSTRIL

AK AMIRI ASMARR

THE MINSTRIL

AMINAH BINT AQABA

MAYSOUN

MAHAMEH

EL SHAHWAN

HASNA ALBADEIA

THEEGYPTIANPRINCE

BAHILA

RUMINAJA ALI

ASMARR

THEEGYPTIANPRINCE

BAHILA

RUMINAJA ALI

AQABA

MAHOMED

MAYSOUNA

ANSATA HALIM SHAH

MONA III

IBRAHIM

SAEMAH

MACHMUT

KAYED
EL AMEERA

MORAFIC
BINT MONA

IBN GALAL I
BAKRIA

SHAIKH AL BADI
BINT MAGIDAA

ZAGHLOUL
NAGLIAH

MORAFIC
BINT MONA

IBN GALAL I
BAKRIA

SHAIKH AL BADI
BINT MAGIDAA

SAWLAGAN
AFIFA

HADBAN ENZAH
MALIKAH

IBN GALAL
KIS MAHIBA

ANSATA IBN HALIMA
ANSATA ROSETTA

HADBAN ENZAH
MOHEBA II

MAHOMED
MAHIBA

MADKOUR I
EL SAMRAA

IBRAHIM
MOLESTA



Al Ayad, photo by Shira Yegar

Right from the start it was Al Ayal AA, the younger of two Al Ayad colts out of The Vision, that was the most outstanding of an excellent group of foals. From a very young age Al Ayal appeared to be almost an archetype of the ideal modern show colt, portraying exquisite quality, great charisma, and extraordinary type. Perfectly in balance and extremely refined, he raised the standard for what was seen as perfection in a straight Egyptian show colt.

As a weanling he swept the Futurity Foal Colt class at the Israeli National Championships to capture the prestigious Gold Medal. That same year, visiting judge Manfred Neubacher also awarded him the coveted Gold Medal Foal Colt honors at Israel's Egyptian Event. Directly following the Event Judge Neubacher predicted that the precocious youngster would one day become a world champion.

To those following the Ariela program it was obvious that Al Ayal was Ariela's newest rising star and given the farm's competitiveness on the international show scene, the young colt received a tremendous amount of intense scrutiny from the entire industry.



The Vision HG, photo by Shira Yegar

Eventually, before he was even a year old, *Al Ayal* left Israel as an emissary to represent *Ariela* abroad and soon began making history. A shared passion for Arabian horses makes for strange bedfellows and the colt was leased for three years on behalf of the Ajman Stud in the United Arab Emirates, this despite the fact that, even today, ten years later, Ajman and Israel have yet to establish formal diplomatic relations.

This lease was accomplished with the help and ingenuity of Arabian industry leaders Frank Sponle and Elisa Grassi who were responsible for putting together and managing what became known as the 'Al Ayal Leasing Group'. Expectations were high on all sides and the colt not only fulfilled but exceeded the expectations of all involved.

First the colt was campaigned in Europe where he won five important championships. Following this he competed throughout the Arabian Gulf where he was first Junior Champion Colt at the Egyptian Event of Sharjah and then went on to win several championships at some of the

region's most important shows on behalf of the Ajman Stud. This included the 2011 International Gold Champion Colt title at the region's most important title show, the celebrated Dubai Championships.

During those three years abroad *Al Ayal* also sired his first foals; those that were shown proved highly competitive in the show rings of both Europe and the Gulf.

When his lease ended *Al Ayal* returned to Israel to stand at stud for two seasons. His book quickly filled both years and he sired over one hundred foals for *Ariela* and their many clients. The resulting foals and their progeny still dominate local Israeli show rings today and several have made their marks on the international halter scene.

Four of *Al Ayal*'s early homebred foals were of such outstanding quality that they became farm ambassadors as well and were leased by international farms to campaign at major shows in various parts of the world. These include *Shabeen AA* (x *Saniyyah RCA*) and *Turkiz AA* (x *JPJ Talasha*) both of which were leased by the *Al Baydaa Stud* in



Arraab Aljassimya (Al Ayal^{AA} x Om El Aisha Aljassmya). Photo by Emma Maxwell



Arraab Aljassimya. Photo by Gigi Grasso



Qutuz AlJassimya (Al Ayal^{AA} x Minwah). Photo by Nawaf

Egypt, and the full sisters Sofiya AA (x Saniyyah RCA) and Soraya AA (x Saniyyah RCA), leased to Aria International in the USA and Hanaya Stud in Switzerland respectively.

The next generation is proving up to par as Shaheen AA's first foals have arrived over the past two months and look exceptionally good, and Sofiya AA's first colt, Aria Impressive by Aria Impressario, was just named 2019 Scottsdale Unanimous Junior Champion Egyptian Heritage Colt.

Following his breeding furlough in Israel, Al Ayal soon returned to his vocation of traveling abroad because his foals on the ground simply made him a sire of extraordinary demand. The extremely gifted and intuitive international breeder, His Excellency Sheikh Jassim Bin Khalifa Al Thani, owner of the influential Aljassimya Farm of Doha, Qatar was one of those who closely followed Al Ayal's early career. His Excellency Sheikh Jassim recognized how Al Ayal could potentially contribute to the Aljassimya program and eventually leased Al Ayal to serve as guest herd sire at his California facility on two separate occasions.



*Qutuz AlJassimya.
Photo by Emma Maxwell*



Shabeen^{AA} (Al Ayal^{AA} x Saniyyah RCA). Photo by Bar Hajaj



Shabeen's first foals - 2019





Sofiya^{AA} (Al Ayal^{AA} x Saniyyah RCA)

Aljassimya farm manager Bart von Buggenhout became a great fan of the young stallion and the two developed a very special bond. When Al Ayal first arrived at the farm Bart observed, "Al Ayal AA is unmistakably an Arabian in the mould of the Carl Vernet engravings and for this reason he was an obvious choice for the Aljassimya Farm program to assist in our goal of breeding the true Arabian; the type of Arabian that has held the attention of horse lovers since the first Arabians came from the desert and which will never go out of fashion because it is, quite simply, the classic version."

He makes light of the significant political barriers that were surmounted to arrange this lease, commenting, "I have been asked about the political complications around this lease. It is very simple: There were and are none, and there should be none. Politics need to be handled by politicians, we are horse people and we need to stay clear of politics by only keeping our eye on our job — breeding — to improve and promote beautiful and functional Arabian horses. This Al Ayal has done for us and we have been most glad about this lease. The opportunity of this lease and Ariela's trust in us made it a win-win situation for both parties."

Al Ayal served as prestigious guest herd sire at Aljassimya's major facility in Santa Ynez, California for the 2015 and 2016 breeding seasons. As Israel and Qatar have no formal diplomatic ties, even until today, once again this celebrated stallion fulfilled the farm vision of promoting understanding and bringing people together by acting as an ambassador for Israel within the Arab world.

During his stay in California Al Ayal was shown only once, at the prestigious 2016 Scottsdale International Egyptian Breeder's Classic, where he became the judges' unanimous choice for Senior Straight Egyptian Champion Stallion. Al Ayal's paternal half-brother, Baha AA (Al Ayad x Al Baraaqa AA) was the Reserve Champion behind him. The Al Ayal daughter, Sofiya AA (Saniyyah RCA), was at that time on lease to Aria International and also competed at Scottsdale, winning the Unanimous Gold Champion Filly title. Following the Egyptian Breeder's Classic Al Ayal's stud fee was publicly auctioned during Scottsdale Week and eventually sold for one of the highest prices ever recorded in the Arabian industry. The entire industry, once again, was paying attention.

Al Ayal's travels once again brought him home to Ariela for a very short stay but he soon departed for international judge Ferdinand Heumer's famous Al Movida Stud in Austria where he stood for the 2017 breeding season.

Ferdinand was pleased to explain his reasons for leasing Al Ayal: "The Vision is, in my humble opinion, one of the most influential mares in Arabian horse breeding history," he relates. "The combination of the highly talented breeding skills of Chen and Eliko on one side - and the spectacular genetic power of The Vision on the other side - has given our breeding community an impact which is nearly unreal."

"I already liked Al Ayal AA very much as a young horse when he spent his first time in Europe. But his value is much higher than 'only' being a successful show stallion. In breeding you don't always get what you see in beauty and quality of the stallion himself, but Al Ayal is one of those very very rare stallions who, through his offspring, is able to lift the level of a mare in a way for which you normally need several generations."

After completing his breeding obligations in Austria Al Ayal returned to Israel in October 2017 for a stay of just several weeks. That same month he was awarded the prestigious WAHO Cup at the Israeli Arabian National Championship Show. By December, his bags were once again packed, and he was flying back to Aljassimya in California; once again to serve as guest sire, this time for the 2018 breeding season. This second invitation was based squarely on the superior qualities of the foals he had sired during his first stay.

Bart shares their reasoning: "Bringing Al Ayal AA back to California to use and breed him for another round on the Aljassimya mares after he was used already for two seasons previously is a clear recognition of his abilities as a sire. From



Turkiz^{AA} (Al Ayal^{AA} x JPJ Talsasha)



Sajida^{AA} (Al Ayal^{AA} x Safiyyah^{AA})

the beginning Sheikh Jassim knew and recognized that Al Ayal AA was the right stallion to breed a layer of foundation mares for Aljassimya. The oldest of this layer are now three years old, some are two year olds, and there is a full crop of babies expected in 2019, with some exceptional results born to date. As with most Straight Egyptian horses, these will need time to grow into themselves but we are convinced that it will become a fine collection and are looking forward to continue breeding them on. A sire is not judged by his one off product, but by his ability to provide for future generations to come. We believe wholeheartedly that Al Ayal AA is such an incredible provider and Aljassimya Farms future is made brighter by it."

Horse breeding is not meant for the faint of heart and while Al Ayal wooed the mares at Aljassimya, the year 2018 gradually unfolded as a particularly difficult one for Ariela, in that Chen and Eliko had to absorb one tough blow after another. First and foremost was the loss of their irreplaceable premiere broodmare, the legendary The Vision HG, Al Ayal's dam, which naturally left a gigantic hole. Few may remember that they tragically lost The Vision's lovely daughter Nile Farah AA by Ansata Nile Pharaoh as well. To add insult to injury the 2018 black filly Al Sharoura AA (Nader Al Shamal AA x The Vision HG) was disfigured in a serious accident, and finally, Al Ayal's maternal half-brother and The Vision's very first foal, the universally loved Al Maraam (x Imperial Imdal), went on to greener pastures at just 20 years old, only weeks before the Paris World Championships. The mood at the farm was melancholy to say the least when the final decision had to be taken whether to show Al Ayal at the Stallions Championship in Paris.

"We were literally numb when, after much deliberation, we finally decided to just put one foot in front of the other and follow our vision, which meant to go ahead and show Al Ayal. We were so shaken that we were on auto-pilot and simply allowed the Aljassimya and Giacomo Cappaci teams to handle everything in their usual highly professional manner," Chen recalls. We are grateful that we had the best people ever behind our horse; two of the industry's best teams cooperating together on Al Ayal's behalf. So many wonderful people took part in bringing out the best in our horse and they did it in the best possible way."

Chen recalls that they faced quite a dilemma because "...we were aware that as a mature horse Al Ayal is much more a breeding stallion than a show stallion and has a different look than most of the halter stallions competing at that level. We were really concerned that he might be less appreciated by the Paris judges because of this, but despite these doubts, we were also unable to just walk away and not even try."

As the entire Arabian horse industry is now aware, the decision to show Al Ayal was the correct one and he, as well as two of his colts, acquitted themselves beautifully in Paris. Two Al Ayal yearling sons from the Aljassimya program were



shown: Qutuz Aljassimya (Minwah), who placed Second in his age class with very high scores and his half-brother, Arraab Aljassimya (Om El Aisha Aljassimya) who placed First in his class and eventually won the title of Silver World Champion Yearling Colt.

The ten-year-old *Al Ayal* made an unforgettable appearance, brilliantly handled by Giacomo Cappaci, and placed Third in an extremely competitive class. In his Championship class *Al Ayal* tied in points with the Silver World Champion and ultimately captured the title of Bronze World Champion Stallion. He was awarded the prizes for the Best Straight Egyptian Male in the Show and the Best Male Head. And most significantly, *Al Ayal* was the only horse competing at the World Championships to be unanimously awarded perfect scores of 20 for Type from all of the judges.

"To make things even sweeter," Chen recalls, "Ariela Arabians was awarded The Best Breeder/Owner of the 2018 World Championships."

Certainly Chen and Eliko were very gratified by these results, but to hear them tell it, even more gratifying was the presence of hundreds of fans and supporters who came to Paris from Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and all over the world to offer support and cheer *Al Ayal* on. Once again their exceptional horse was a catalyst for bringing people together to celebrate the universality and sheer beauty of the Arabian breed.



Al Ayal^{AA} during his lease to Ajman Stud, 2010



"As a result of all the heartache we experienced over those past few months we were feeling a bit low when we arrived in Paris," remarked Eliko, "and then we suddenly found ourselves surrounded and totally overwhelmed by the love and support of so many wonderful people. It is hard to imagine how grateful and lucky we felt to receive such tremendous support. With sincere and special gratitude we would like to recognize and say thank you to all of you who came to cheer and encourage Al Ayal. It was exceptionally heartwarming for us to see it and to be there with all of you. This is exactly what horse shows should be about. We simply could not have done it without your support."

Some time has passed and the great fanfare surrounding Paris has now been eclipsed by the arrival of a new breeding and foaling season at Ariela. Al Ayal is presently standing in Italy with Giacomo Cappaci until the end of May. According to current Michalow stud manager, Monika Stowik, and previous stud manager, Jerzy Bialobok, plans are in the works to use Al Ayal on a large number of mares at the Michalow State Stud in Poland later this year.

What the rest of the future holds for Al Ayal and where his own personal travel itinerary might take him is still largely a matter for speculation, but at just eleven years old we can only hope to hear much more good news about this extraordinarily refined and talented international Arabian sire.

For the present, with the memories of Paris not yet faded, Bronze World Champion Stallion Al Ayal AA has surely emerged as the industry's 'Ambassador of the Heart.' □







SHOW RECORD

- 2008** Gold Medal Foal Colt at the Israeli National Championship Show, Israel
Gold Medal Foal Colt at the Israeli Egyptian Event, Israel
- 2009** Reserve Junior Champion at the International B Show Orientalica, Germany
Reserve Junior Champion at the Egyptian Europe Cup, Orientalica, Germany
Reserve Champion at the Lowland Arabian Cup, The Netherlands
Bronze Medal Champion at the International B Show at Strohen, Germany
Arabesque Egyptian Cup Junior Champion Colt, Germany
Reserve Junior Champion at the Kauber-Platte International Show, Germany
Junior Champion Colt at the Egyptian Event of Sharjah, UAE
- 2010** 2nd Place at the Dubai International Show
Junior Champion Colt at the Egyptian Event of Sharjah, UAE
- 2011** Gold Champion Colt at the Sharjah International Show, UAE
Most Classic Head Award at Sharjah International Show, UAE
International Gold Champion Colt at Dubai, UAE
Gold Champion Colt (unanimous) at Egyptian Event Europe, Lanaken (Belgium)
- 2013** Silver Champion Stallion at the Israeli National Championship Show, Israel
Silver Champion Stallion at the Israeli Egyptian Event, Israel
- 2016** Gold Champion Stallion (unanimous) at the International Egyptian Breeders Classic, Scottsdale (USA)
- 2017** WAHO Cup Winner, Israeli National Championship Show, Israel
- 2018** Bronze World Champion Stallion, World Championships, Paris
Best Straight Egyptian Male in the Show, World Championships, Paris
Best Male Head, World Championships, Paris



Al Ayal ^{AA} - Weanling Colt Gold Championship at the 2008 Israeli Nationals, photo by Menashe Cohen



Al Ayal ^{AA} as a yearling during the Baden Baden show in Germany. Photo by Elisa Grassi



Al Ayal ^{AA} - Dubai 2011. Photo by Irina Filsinger

Al Ayal ^{AA} - Getting the WAHO Cup in Israel 2017





Al Ayal ^{AA} - Scottsdale 2016. Photo by Laurelle Anderson

Al Ayal ^{AA} - World Championship Paris 2018. Photo by Emma Maxwell









Al Ayal ^{AA} World Championship Paris 2018







Ariela Arabians

Moshav HaYogev - 1923200 Israel - Ph. 00972 523399175
E-mail: ariela.arabians@gmail.com - www.ariela-arabians.co.il