

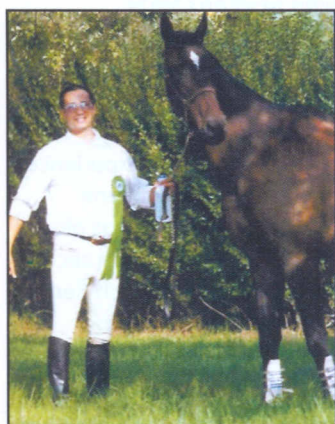
Beyond the Shower

By Karim Habashy

Last summer, when the opportunity of riding at a few CSIs in Europe presented itself, I did not hesitate for one second. With all my respect for local competitions, I've always felt they were the equivalent of exercising your singing talents in the shower! Using horses owned by Khaled El Geraisy & managed by Samir Mahmoud, we went exclusively to shows in France, mainly because of convenience. Having said that, the French probably have the best tour of smaller CSIs. Beautiful locations, excellent grounds, perfect yet flexible organization.

Unfortunately I started my first show only 4 days after the horses arrived in Oostende. This was the CSIC of Reims, the center of Champagne production in France! Needless to say this was a rough start with a happy ending; a 6th place with Ramiro & a bottle of Champagne to celebrate! Next stop was the CSIB of Vichy where things got even more serious. One placing with Haarlem improved the morale but if there was one lesson drawn from that show it was in the Derby class. You just cannot ask our horses to jump them, not without the proper preparation... Deauville was another very glamorous & very tough show where Sakkakini made us very proud by winning the six bars class & making us stand for our own national anthem. Last stop was Le Touquet, a very pleasant & not too difficult CSIA. Here things went quite well & we collected 3 decent placings.

You learn so much from these shows. They need you & your horse to be very fit & very cool. Just doing your warm up in the paddock next to Eric Navet or Michel Robert is an experience in itself. Horses sometimes react so different when they go into an arena with so many billboards, flowers, colors...It certainly takes horse & rider a bit of time to settle & feel at ease but time flies & before u know it, it's back to singing in the shower!



Yafie Osman and his Moonlight

More than a little confidence played into Yafie's decision to leave his native Egypt and move to the United States. Yafie Osman was a member of the Ferosia club showjumping team and represented his club nationally and Egypt internationally throughout his equestrian career in Egypt. Yafie's was fortunate to have the opportunity to be riding with great members of the Egyptian Olympic team as General Elwi Ghazy, General Gamal Hares and General Omar El Hadary. When he first came to the states, Yafie worked as a catch rider in central New Jersey and eventually took a job as a farm manager and rider. In 1996, Yafie and his wife, Anne, bought Moonlight Farm in Estell Manor, New Jersey. The couple compliment each other's skills. Yafie instructs and trains hunters, jumpers

and equitation. Anne specializes in dressage and instructs and competes through second level. Throughout Yafie's stay in the US, he continued to develop and strengthen his riding skills. Yafie has taken clinics with George Morris and Joe Fargis, and now he is working with Bob Allen who comes to his farm to give clinics and lessons. Moonlight farm is on 20 acres. The farm includes a 15 stall barn, a stonedust dressage arena, a jumping field and a cross country course as well as a sand round pen. Overhere in Egypt, we all wish him a great success in his well based establishment. Keep it up Yafie.....

