

# BIENVENUE AU MAROC! THE 8<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE MOROCCAN ROYAL TOUR

*TAKES US ON AN EQUESTRIAN JOURNEY TO  
THE DAZZLING COASTS OF MOROCCO*

By Menna Loutfy

IN OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR, OUR HT TEAM GEARS UP FOR ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE EVENTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CALENDAR WHICH IS "THE MOROCCAN ROYAL TOUR". ORGANIZED BY THE ROYAL GUARD, THE ROYAL MOROCCAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION AND THE ASSOCIATION OF THE SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA, THIS YEAR'S EDITION WAS DEFINITELY A LEAP FORWARD!







## TÉTOUAN – LE GARDE ROYALE:

After landing in Morocco's largest city Casablanca, or Casa as the locals call it, it was time to fly to the Mediterranean gateway of the country that hosted the first leg of the tour. It was a brilliant kick-off that gathered many great names of international showjumping in addition to a unique setting for top-level competition. Fourteen competitions were on the program for 4 consecutive days to end with **the Tryon - WEG 2018 Qualifier Grand Prix** that everyone waited for with great expectation.

*Results of CSI 3\* W Tétouan - Grand Prix de S.A.R the Prince Moulay EL HASSAN*

1. PETER STEINER Nadja & SAURA DE FONDCOMBE (SUI)
2. HENDRICKX Dominique & COLINA PIJNVENHOFFZ (BEL)
3. ELZOGHBY Karim & CAVEMAN DH Z (EGY)
4. PAILLOT Alexandra & LUMINA (FRA)
5. BIANCHI Emanuele Massimiliano & VADETTA VH METTENHOF (ITA)
6. AL THANI Sheikh Ali & CAROLINA 31 (QAT)

Overwhelmed after the prize giving, Nadja gave credit to her mare Saura de Fondcombe:

*"She is incredible, she just made a wonderful season; we did the European Championship where we won the **bronze medal**, she made Aachen, but until then she had never been in the speed. Today is the first time she jumps such a class, she played a game she didn't know and she did well. We have never been as fast as today and now, I will be able to jump the Grands Prix to come."*



Charif Moulay Abdallah Alaoui



Riders walking the course



Nadja Peter Steiner and Saura De Fondcombe



Dominique Hendrickx



Press Officer Nabila



# RABAT – DAR ES SALAM:

After the success of Tetouan, Morocco Royal Tour continued its journey and took us the following Thursday to the Moroccan capital that rests along the shores of the Bouregreg River and the Atlantic Ocean. The city of Rabat hosted the Tour's Nations Cup.

After a fierce competition that continued for 2 rounds between the 8 teams competing for the Nations Cup title, Switzerland dominated and this was the Final Ranking.

1. SWITZERLAND

2. FRANCE

3. ITALY

4. BELGIUM

5. SYRIA

6. EGYPT

7. KSA

8. MOROCCO

Andy Kistler, the Swiss team chief, said: “A well-balanced team with a young rider, Aurélia Loser, who participates for the first in a Nations Cup, alongside experienced Pius Schwizer and two riders who love the Moroccan shows like Nadja Peter Steiner and Alain Jufer, has made a successful mix at the end.”

The following Sunday was time for the **Grand Prix of HRH Princess Lalla Amina** that held an amazing surprise for the Jordanians.

Results of CSI 3\* W Rabat – Grand Prix SAR la Princesse Lalla Amina

1. HANI BISHARAT Ibrahim & CHACTINO (JOR)

2. JUFER Alain & CASALL (SUI)

3. GUERY Jérôme & JUPITER VG (BEL)

4. PETER STEINER Nadja & SAURA DE FONDCOMBE (SUI)

5. ALSHARBATLY Abdullah & CITIZENTOSCAM DE SAINTE HERMELLE (KSA)

6. COLMAN Samy & SIMARA ALIA (MAR)



Team Morocco at the entrance parade



Team Egypt



Ibrahim Hany Bisharat - Jordan



Team KSA



Team France at the nations cup



The Swiss winning team at the nations cup





## EL-JADIDA

After two exciting weeks of the tour, it was time for one final stop at the port city on the Atlantic coast of the country, El-Jadida. Indoor showjumping competitions started alongside the Salon Du Cheval D'El Jadida with its variety of equestrian disciplines.

It was a royal finale with the presence of **His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Morocco, Moulay Hassan**, who arrived to attend the Grand Prix.

*Results of CSI3\*W El Jadida - Grand Prix Majesty the King Mohammed VI*

1. THONON Virginie & HIGH TECH VY DE SEPTON (BEL)
2. SCHWIZER Pius & BALOU RUBIN R (SUI)
3. MOHAMMED Bassem & ARGELITH SQUID (QAT)
4. DELESTRE Simon & GAIN LINE (FRA)
5. HILLEREAU Severin & RADJA D'ARTEMIS (FRA)
6. KAMAL RAJI BSHARAT & BROWN SUGAR (JOR)



## Quotes from the MRT 2017



**Cimon Delestre – FRA** “It’s my first time here and it has been excellent! Everything is so well organized , even for the horses’ trip from Europe it only took us one hour to cross the border”



**Badre Fakir – General Director of The Royal Moroccan Equestrian Federation** “I officially announce that next year we will be holding 4\* competitions in Rabat and El-Jadida”



**Karim El-Zoghby – EGY** “Hats off for the MRT, this is the best show in the Middle East and it’s even better than many shows in Europe!”



**Nadia Chahbi – MRT Competitions Manager** “ This year we had 70 foreign riders, around 30 local riders for the 3\* and 45 riders for 1\* competitions”





**Dalma Malhas – KSA** “Being one of the few Saudi women in sports doesn’t limit me but motivates me to always do the best I can”



**Aisha El-Kaoud – FEI** “The Tour in general was amazing, it’s so intense and the presence of 3 weekends gives you time to develop and perform better”



**Mohamed Taher Zeyada – EGY** “This is my second participation in the MRT; the show has really developed so much! I believe the presence of such a show in Morocco has made a powerful impact on the level of the Moroccan team itself”



**Wael Mahgary – EGY** “ The best thing I found in this show is that it’s addressing and attracting the Moroccan public with its diverse segments and levels”



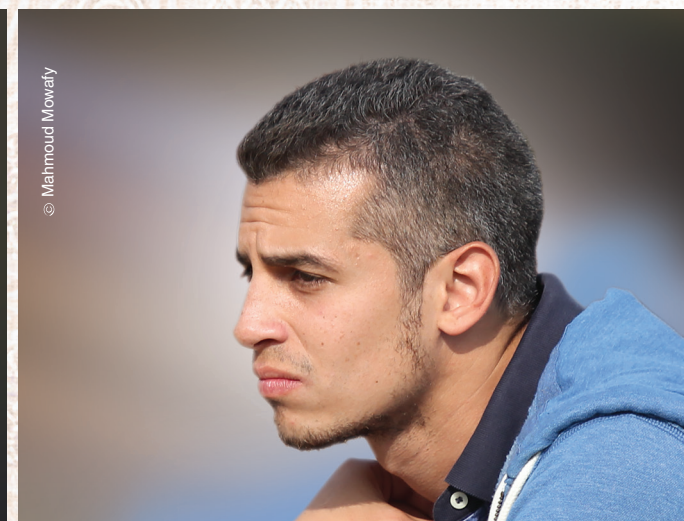
**Abdulrahman El-Rajhi – KSA** “This is my fourth time to compete in the Tour even though it’s a long way from home. The facilities are amazing and the effort made by the organizers is showing year after year”



**Saad El-Ajmi – KSA** “I just won the gold medal in the Asian Indoor Games and this is my first time here in Morocco .I was thrilled by the presence of top-level riders like Puis Schwizer, Simon Delestre and Abdullah Al-Sharbatly”



**Mohamed Nadim – EGY** “We have a very solid team; we have been going to several shows together. This is nearly our 7th or 8th show together this year and it has been absolutely amazing.”



**Mohamed Medhat Sadek-EGY** “The participation of some of the top riders in the world this year raised the bar of competition ; and that definitely made it a better show.”



**Hany Bisharat – JOR**“ My son \_Ibrahim Bisharat\_ encouraged me to compete this year in Morocco and I am really glad I did .For me, riding is Oxygen; I can only breath when I am on a horse “

After all of the events and prize-giving, it was time to say goodbye to this wonderful event and beautiful country Morocco. As the riders, their teams, and their mounts packed up they took with them wonderful memories of one of the best annual events. HT did, too.”