





MOROCCO

SIMPLY MAGIC

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem

FOR THE FOURTH YEAR RUNNING, SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA TOOK PLACE FROM OCTOBER 19 TO 23 IN THE CITY OF EL JADIDA, MOROCCO, AT HRH PRINCESS LALLA MALIKA'S RACE ARENA. THE SALON, ORGANISED UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HM KING MOHAMMED VI IS ANNUALLY HELD IN THIS COASTAL AND AGRICULTURAL CITY ABOUT 96 KM FROM CASABLANCA.

EL JADIDA:

Formerly known under the names 'Al Brija Al Mahdouma Mazagan' and then El Jadida, the city is located at the centre of Morocco and on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. The name El Jadida (the new), was awarded by Sultan Moulay Mohamed bin Abdellah and was built by the Portuguese between 1510 and 1520. Its port 'Jorf L'asfar' is the first ore port and the largest one in Africa. One of the most famous tribes of the country, the 'Doukkala', were highly feared warriors in Moroccan history known to have raised beautiful horse breeds

greatly renowned for their endurance and submissiveness. Besides its natural and historical artefacts, the city also hosts one of the most stunning and luxurious hotels in the world, Mazagan Beach Resort – the winner of the 2011 World Travel Awards and also famously known for being the filming location for the Hollywood movie, 'Sex and the City 2'.

MOROCCO:

Morocco is a majestic, exotic and colourful country. For my third year visiting, there was never a dull moment when I was there as I took



▲ Crowds gather everyday during Salon du Cheval to watch Tbourida races

the chance to stay in Casablanca then take the train to Marrakech and stay in a traditional Moroccan house, known as a 'Riad'. The food, hospitality, genuine people's warmth and love of life swept me off my feet. With 12 centuries of the country's existence, one can only imagine how much culture Moroccans, truly Arabs, have accumulated over these long years. They present a richness that simply urges you to travel

from one city to another to learn more, over and over again.

SALON DU CHEVAL:

This year I had the chance to interview the Commissioner of the Salon, Dr. El Habib Marzak, who gave me his reflections on the fourth edition of the international event.

He explained that HM the King,

an avid rider himself, aims to reintroduce breeding of Barb horses in Morocco as well as to create a new stand platform for modern equestrian sport. "With his efforts and the administrative assistance we get from the Ministry of Agriculture, HM has succeeded in fulfilling these objectives. The Salon attracts thousands of visitors and unites the traditional with the modern. In the largest outdoor field, Tbourida



▲ The Arabian horse competitions attracted more crowds & international competitors, contrary to 2010



▲ *Tbourida horseman in action*



▲ *Abdslam Bennani Smires, one of Morocco's youngest show jumpers, Arabian horse breeders & owner of Haras Selman Arabians, handles his horses during competitions*

displays occur daily, and in the indoor arena, this year we held a World Cup qualifier 3* show jumping competition with participants from Morocco, Switzerland, Germany, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, France, Belgium, and more. In addition, the setting for the international Arabian horse competitions this year proved to be more successful as we had participants from Qatar and Saudi Arabia's Alkhalediah. Moreover, national Barb and Arabian-Barb horse competitions presented the most agile and attractive horses from Morocco. Conferences on breeding and maintaining the gene pool of Barb and Arabian horses gave a glimpse of the efforts which are made to keep this breed pure. Also, the Royal Guard and the Mounted

Police had booths, like every year, at which they inform visitors about their horses and the work they do".

Dr. Marzak continued, "On the cultural side, saddle makers displayed their handicrafts, and there were also displays showing the making of stirrups in Damascene style (metalwork decorated with wavy patterns of inlay or etching). The Salon opens a big, wide door to Moroccan culture and conversely, it is an important location for worldwide equestrian companies to visit Morocco in order to market their products. The Salon also covers modern stabling and exercise systems, feed supplements for sport horses, a very big market for race horses, and pony rides are available

for small children. And finally, the international horse spectacle which is presented every evening of the Salon, presented performers from France's Republican Guard, presentations for freestyle dressage, stunt riding and traditional Moroccan displays".

The organisation of the 2011 Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida proved to be impeccable. The Tbourida displays, due to the sport's high perfectionism, were accident-free and the skies above the large parade area were radiated with gun powder smoke on a daily basis. Like every year, the best riders from all 18 jahawiya (region) came to participate in honour of Morocco's horse heritage. 🏆

MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR CSI3*W INDOOR GRAND PRIX RESULTS:

Day 3 - 2 rounds - 145cm

RIDER	HORSE	COUNTRY	FAULTS/TIME ROUND 1	FAULTS/TIME ROUND 2	PRIZE
Francois Mathy JR.	Polinska des isles	Belgium	0.00/65.42	0.00/39.09	€ 10,330
Armin Himmelreich	Lopez	Germany	0.00/64.47	0.00/39.92	€ 8,270
Khalid Al Eid	Vanhoeve	KSA	0.00/65.72	0.00/40.53	€ 6,200
Fabienne Lange	Reinefee des hazalles	Belgium	0.00/67.07	0.00/40.98	€ 4,130
Kevin Gielen	Quintus	Belgium	4.00/65.91	4.00/40.56	€ 2,900

INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW (B) RESULTS:

CLASS/TYPE	AGE	NAME	LINE	STUD	COUNTRY
1/Fillies	1	Salman Al Khalediah	F Shamaal/The Evening Star	Alkhalediah	KSA
2/ Fillies	2	Om El Jeania	Om Al Azeem/Om El Jimala	Haras Royal de Bouznika	Morocco
2/Fillies	2	Satwat Al Khalediah	F Shamaal/Psyches Kyss	Alkhalediah	KSA
4/Females	4-6	Hartmattan Reyhanna	Magnum Psyche/Hamy De Gargassan	Haras Selman Arabians	Morocco
5/Females	7-12	Lana Al Khalediah	Aja Sangali/The Evening Star	Prince Khaled Al Saud	KSA
6/Foals	1	Zahabi Al Khalediah	F Shamaal/Zahbat Al Khalediah	Prince Khaled Al Saud	KSA
7/Foals	2	Fakhr Al Khalediah	Marquis/Barah Al Khalediah	Alkhalediah	KSA
8/Foals	3	Nijm Jaafar	Hakim Jaafar/Starzddab	Haras Royal de Bouznika	Morocco
9/Males	4-6	Jareer Al Khalediah	Padrons Immage/ Barah Al Khalediah	Prince Khaled Al Saud	KSA
10/Males	7-12	TS Apolo	Ts Don Brave 1994/Fairness FHP 1992	Haras Royal de Bouznika	
11/Males	13-up	Sandhiran	Sanadik El Shaklan/China Moon	Haras Selman Arabians	Morocco
Jr. Champ. Females		Om El Jeania	Om Al Azeem/Om El Jimala	Haras Royal de Bouznika	Morocco
Jr. Champ. Males		Fakhr Al Khalediah	Marquis/Barah Al Khalediah	Alkhalediah	KSA
Sr. Champ. Females		Lana Al Khalediah	Aja Sangali/The Evening Star	Prince Khaled Al Saud	KSA
Sr. Champ. Males		TS Apolo	Ts Don Brave 1994/Fairness FHP 1992	Haras Royal de Bouznika	Morocco



▲ *The Barb horse of Morocco are well bred and well groomed stallions whose bodies are complete muscle*

▶▶ *Moroccan Tbourida saddles are real masterpieces of traditional North African craftsmanship. All parts are covered with rich decoration, in most cases embroidery. These embroideries are often made of metal threads, and the possibilities of finding rare antique saddles with real gold embroidery or silver threads is not far-fetched. The ornaments show a great variety of art; in most cases, they are abstract (floral or geometrical patterns). They are perfect and unique gifts to*