

# INA EL KOBIA



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A selection of high class equestrian sport accompanied by a vivid composition of Eastern & Western Lifestyle:

The International Riders Festival Horses & Dreams at the Kasselmann Estate in Hagen opened Germany's outdoor riding season with delights of the finest Arabian tradition and culture highlighted by the Royal Cavalry of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman. In preparation of the World Equestrian Games in Aachen later this year, the Horses & Dreams Festival hosted Endurance Racing, Germany's National Dressage Championships, the European Nations' Cup of the Young Riders, and the JP Morgan Grand Prix Jumping with the world's top riders: Christian Ahlmann, Otto Becker, Ludger Beerbaum, Luciana Diniz, Marco Kutscher, and Franke Sloothak.

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**Ullrich Kasselmann**  
the festival's wonderful host



**German Henrike Konzag**  
European Nation's Cup



**Insa Hansen**, from Kasselmann Stables

At a time when Europe debates about cultural integration and the world treats the threat of terror, sports proves itself as an indispensable motor of goodwill and understanding. Equestrianism is an integral and vital part of both Arabia's and Europe's rich heritage.

At Kasselmann's beautiful estate it all came together: 40.000 visitors, 350 riders from 35 nations, 550 horses of the finest Arabian and European breeds joining and participating in endurance racing, dressage and jumping. The Festival was accompanied on each of the five days by the most spectacular shows of the Royal Cavalry of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos of Oman on the finest Arabian Horses. For 30 years the international horseman Ullrich Kasselmann has worked and been associated with the Sultanate of Oman and has had the honour of a distinct friendship with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. It was only last year that Ullrich Kasselmann and his partner Paul Schockemoehle were appointed by His Majesty to organise the New Year's Equestrian & Camel Festival in Muscat with an amazing number of 1200 horses, 600 camels and 1530 musicians. For the first time ever this year, International Riders Festival Horses & Dreams presented endurance racing, a part of equestrianism in which the Arab World holds a very noble lead. The riders started from the Kasselmann Estate in Hagen on a 160 km path between the two sisters' cities of Osnabrueck and Muenster passing the heights of the 'Teutoburger Forest'. Amongst the participating riders was H.R.H. Sayed Loay bin Ghalib Al Saeed of Oman who took the lead, but was edged out with only a few seconds at the very end by Germany's best female endurance rider Ulrike Pottrick on her twelve year old gelding 'Encantader'. Egypt's acknowledged Gen. Samy Negm El Din was a member of the international committee of judges at the endurance racing event.

Another highlight of the five day Festival in Hagen was the renowned Nations' Cup in jumping for both the Junior (CSIOJ) and the Young Riders (CSIOY). The two competitions witnessed an exciting battle between Europe's strongest teams: The Netherlands and Germany. The qualified teams from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands had to overcome 15 efforts on a 1.40m/1.45 level. The Junior Nations Cup was won by the German team, whereas the Dutch Team won the Nations Cup of the Young Riders ahead of the German team. As for the individual rankings, Germany won both, the Individual Junior Riders Nations Cup with its best rider Tobias Meyer on 'Loriot S' and the Individual Young Riders Nation Cup with the winning rider Philipp Weishaupt on 'Conterno-Grande'.

Moreover, the JP Morgan 3 stars Grand Prix at the Horses & Dreams Festival witnessed a series of rides of top world class jumping riders. Whereby, Christian Ahlmann, member of the German Olympic team in Athens and double European champion, was the best of the best! He won the Grand Prix after a tie break and two clear rounds on his 9 year old gelding 'Perry Lee' ahead of German Felix Hassmann and Franke Sloothak. Marco Kutscher came in 5<sup>th</sup> place and Ludger Beerbaum ended with the 7<sup>th</sup> place. The best foreign rider was Dutch Gerald Geessink, who came in



National Dressage Championships for professionals in Hagen

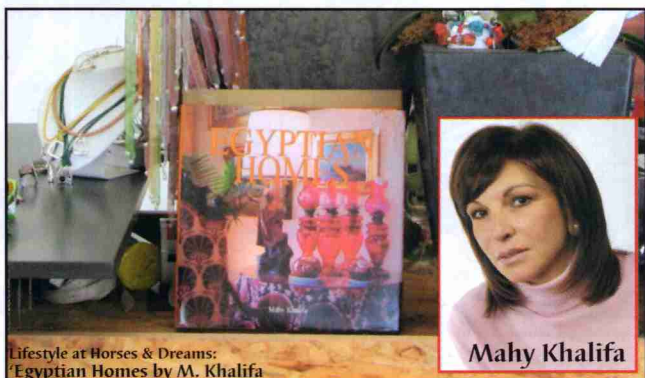
fourth. Amongst the participating riders were also the members of the Korean Olympic jumping team. Last year's show jumping stars in Hagen: the world's no.1 Marcus Ehning and the local matador Heinrich-Hermann Engemann were excused this time; both were competing at that time in the World Cup in Kuala Lumpur with the final outcome of happy Marcus Ehning being the winner of the world cup and Engemann was placed within the top ten!

The German Dressage Championships for Professionals is one of the most challenging and most elegant competitions at the Festival in Hagen. The rules for the championships start with two qualification rounds on Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special level. The best three competitors are permitted for the final round with the most difficult challenge of changing horses. The Championships end with two prizes, one for the best dressage rider and one for the best horse. This time the German Dressage Championships were won by Falk Rosenbauer and the best horse was also Rosenbauer's horse 'Jamiro Rosso', the eleven year old Holstein gelding.

Horses & Dreams has been developed and created as a concept that combines elite riding sport with equally elite lifestyle. Each year, a very well elaborated and exclusively arranged lifestyle exhibition forms part of the Festival. The lifestyle exhibition is all about finest garden architecture, latest trends for all around riding & hunting, a composition of Italian haute couture fashion trends from Prada to Cavalli and Ferragamo in addition to art exhibitions and an exquisite selection of interior decoration. Now for the first time ever a wonderful book named 'Egyptian Homes' by one of Egypt's leading interior designers 'Mahy Khalifa-Nosseir' was presented at this year's Horses & Dreams Festival. Mahy, whom I had the pleasure to meet earlier in December last year in Cairo, made this book a labour of love. Interior design has been her passion since her early youth and she has been one of the very few who ventured into the business of making furniture. Mahy who is herself a member of Egypt's most prominent society opened with her book the doors to Egypt's most exclusive homes. A very elegant series of breathtaking photography accompanied by a fine descriptive text allows the holder of this book to enjoy the unique richness of cultural styles that exist in Egyptian homes. A distinct example is Mahy Khalifa's & her husband Mohamed Nosseir's own new residence that Mahy oversaw herself which gives way to all the elegance and beauty you could find in Egypt. 'Egyptian Homes' by Mahy Khalifa-Nosseir was truly a wonderful ambassador of Egypt at the Horses & Dreams Festival! ■



The Royal Cavary of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed of Oman at the Horses & Dreams Festival 2006



Lifestyle at Horses & Dreams: 'Egyptian Homes' by M. Khalifa

Mahy Khalifa