

There will always be a market
when the product you produce is of the
utmost quality ...

TED CARSON

at Butler Farms Training Center

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Ted with SF Veraz (Gazal Al Shaqab x Veronica GA)

Tutto Arabi being spread and active all over the world looks for uniting the important people in Arabian horse industry introducing different communities to each other. Below in the talk by Urszula Leczycka with Ted Carson representing Butler Farms, over 550 acres in North Carolina we follow on presenting significant personalities from US Arabian horse world.

Tutto Arabi: *What is your function at Butler Farms and can you tell us about the start and development of your story with this horse operation called “a heaven on earth”?*

Ted Carson: *I am co-owner and manager of Butler Farms Training Center. I met the owners of the farm, Cecil and Frances Butler, about 14 years ago. At that time, they were considering getting out of the horse business completely; I, likewise, had come to a crossroads in my personal life. On our initial meeting, we instantly hit it off. They decided to give the Arabian horse one more chance: we established a partnership which they turned completely over to me to “see where it would lead”. Since then, we have grown into a full service facility that offers breeding, marketing, and training services to Arabian horse enthusiasts from around the world.*

My function at the farm is all inclusive: from training the riding and halter horses to advising clients on breeding decisions to evaluating client horses for show purposes to basic farm maintenance, I am fully involved with my clients, staff, and horses.

I believe Butler Farms is as close to “heaven on earth” as a horse can get. The farm encompasses approximately 550 acres of green rolling pastures and plantation fields. We normally house 70 to 80 horses composed of breeding stallions, broodmares, and training horses. The main barn, a 66 stall full service barn, is virtually indestructible, made of brick and masonry in Southern colonial style. Surrounding the main barn is a quarantine paddock with a four stall barn, two riding arenas, a schooling hall for training the halter horses with an undercover treadmill, and a full service stallion station approved for semen shipment worldwide. Additionally, the second floor of the main barn boasts a beautiful apartment that accommodates guests from around the world. There are multiple indoor and outdoor entertainment areas that have been utilized for client parties as well as government fundraisers. Aside from the structural components of the farm, we have an incredibly talented staff that is composed of individuals who are very passionate about these horses and the people who entrust us with them.



An afternoon ride on the farm with daughter Michaiah.
(Ted riding Mostlys Love Song (by ML Mostly Padron) and Michaiah riding her Half-Arabian pony, M S Keylona)

Butler Farms is an incredibly unique place, from the serene facility to the incredible horses to the genuine Southern hospitality offered to the guests who visit.

TA: *And your own “legend horses: you have had a chance to work in your career so far were...*

TC: *We put our hearts into all of the horses that we are given the opportunity to represent. By “legend horse” I am sure you are referring to those that are most recognized. By that standard, ML Mostly Padron is a stallion I have represented who is recognized worldwide. Mostly captured my heart at two days old the first time I saw him. We syndicated him when he was six months old; he is now 11 years. He was Unanimous Jr. Champion Colt at Scottsdale, beating hundreds of colts that year. He went on to win numerous championships, including Reserve National Champion and Arabian Breeders World Cup Supreme Champion in Vegas, beating many World and National Champions from around the globe. For me, he has been a legend in the sense that he is not only a*

magnificent animal, but he has also taught me many life lessons that I would not have experienced without him.

I have had the opportunity to handle many incredible animals: SF Veraz, Maraysia, HL Infactuation, Brass Prince, Donatella, Suzanna MPA, MPA Giovanni, MC Psynammon... However, I have learned that a “legend horse” is that because someone perceives it as so. My daughter’s Half-Arabian pony has faithfully carried her around since my daughter was 2 years old. That pony alone has converted numerous young people to this Arabian industry, each one believing that pony was the most amazing horse they had ever seen.

TA: *You are a trainer, breeder and judge, is any of those roles your favorite and why?*

TC: *I have devoted my life to this industry and appreciate each role I have in it. There are two roles not mentioned above that are among my favorites. The first is simply having the opportunity to experience the beauty of an incredible Arabian horse, whether as the trainer, breeder, owner, judge, or spectator of the animal. The second is*



Gevalia CA (ML Mostly Padron x Denalia), a hidden treasure from our mare band

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having the opportunity to have a positive influence on people's lives, whether they are my clients, employees, colleagues, or other.

As a trainer, I have had a number of amazing opportunities. I have met many wonderful people, traveled the world and handled incredible horses. However, no matter where I am or who I am with, to have a beautiful Arabian horse on the end of my lead that is at the top of his game is a thrill that is difficult to match in my opinion.

My love of this breed drives my dream of breeding the next generation of Arabian horses. Through breeding my own horses and assisting in our clients' breeding decisions, I have acquired a greater respect and appreciation to the breeders in our industry. The time, effort, and emotion that is put into deciding how to breed each horse, getting a healthy baby on the ground, and finally determining whether the foal is what you had hoped it would be is a process that does not allow itself to be rushed and doesn't always turn out how you envisioned, despite your best efforts. Even so, when a beautiful face peaks up at me from the straw in those first precious moments of life, the hope that is sparked inspires me to continue with my dream.

I have judged Arabian horses around the world and in the U.S. Judging has broadened my perspectives as a horseman, trainer and breeder.

TA: What were your favorite or most important shows you have been judging so far and why? Are there any shows that you haven't been to that you would like to go to judge and why you take them as important for yourself?

TC: Each time I judge, I see something new and realize another element to the process. The most important show I have judged in terms of titles has been Canadian Nationals. The overall quality, preparation and acuteness of training of the horses was exceptional. However, I have found that the smaller shows allow for a more personal interaction with the exhibitors where I can offer feedback, which I enjoy.

I have judged in a few different countries and have been asked to go to a number of other countries that my schedule or other elements did not allow at the time. There are many great shows that I would love to judge throughout the Middle East and Europe, Brazil, Argentina, and South Africa, to name a few.

The recent ECAHO ruling that handlers are not allowed to judge has



Babies playing happily in their paddock.



The front entrance of the barn on a beautiful morning



taken a couple of opportunities away from me and many other judges who I believe could be a benefit to the breed. In my opinion, when it comes to being a moral and knowledgeable judge there is not a line that says one group of people is more competent or ethical as a judge than another based on their job description.

TA: You are known for your passion to bring the new people into the industry. It seems to be rather difficult in many parts of the world in the times of global crisis. What is your way to get them interested, involved and for which positions/types of activity you educate them?

TC: To bring new people into the industry I believe we must all do our part to be good ambassadors to our breed. For example, my daughter, Michaiiah, is 7 years old and loves horses more than anything. She has inspired a number of first time Arabian horse owners due to her conviction and outspoken love of the horse. I am very passionate about the things I choose to be involved in, most of which revolve around the Arabian horse.

When a new person is interested in becoming involved with Arabian horses, I advise them to

do it because they love it and to do what they can afford. I help them define their goals, whether it be aimed towards riding or halter or breeding, and then accomplish those goals.

TA: Is there anything in any of our industry branches that you would still like to get more knowledge about-yourself?

TC: There isn't a day that goes by that I do not learn. When you're involved as deeply as I am, it is important to continue to be open to gaining more knowledge.

TA: As a breeder- what kind of market is your goal when you plan your program? Is this goal changing and developing in time and how?

TC: My goal as a breeder is to produce a typey, correct Arabian that possesses beauty, carriage and charisma. In my experience, there has always been a market for top caliber Arabians. The Market is continually changing in terms of the top sought after stallion and his offspring. I advise breeders to breed for the elements that you love about the Arabian horse, taking into account their horse's faults. If you love beautiful heads, then breed for that; if you love pleasure riding horses, then breed for it. I personally love type, tail carriage and movement. There will



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always be a market if the product you produce is utmost quality.

TA: *In your barns there are some horses of famous and not only US marketable pedigrees, both in mares and in breeding stallions section. What are your relationships and activities outside USA nowadays?*

TC: *I show, judge, and market Arabians internationally. I have met many people who have become close friends. I feel I have earned the respect of breeders, trainers and owners from around the world. They can call me and know I will give them a straight answer about horses or anything else. Many people, when traveling to the U.S., go to the west side of our country. I would like to invite all who come to the U.S. to stop by the east coast to spend a day or two at this great farm.*

TA: *Lets talk about the chief sires you are offering this season... Who are they and are they offered for USA or you may also recommend and distribute them overseas as well?*

TC: *We are currently representing 3 very active stallions, along with several young stallions. SF Veraz is an amazing stallion. He is by Gazal Al Shaqab and out of U.S. National Champion Mare Veronica GA. He has been shown to Scottsdale Champion Stallion, Regional Champion Stallion, and Arabian Breeders World Cup Reserve Champion Stallion*

honors. He is the total package: a beautiful head, long legs, impeccable pedigree, and incredible carriage. With only a couple of foal crops on the ground, he has already produced the 2012 Scottsdale Unanimous International Jr. Champion filly and the 2011 U.S. Juvenile National Champion Gelding. There is frozen semen available at this time in Europe.

I am proud to be the US Representative of Shanghai EA from Spain. I was immediately taken by Shanghai's beauty when I saw him shown in Paris as a yearling. Since then, he has only grown more extreme. I believe he will have a tremendous impact on our breed, and am excited to get the first mares in foal to him here in the US this year. I feel he has much to offer to breeders worldwide. There is currently frozen semen available in Europe as well.

The up and coming stallion El Maroc is the youngest stallion in the group currently. He is by Shakir El Marwan, and out of international champion mare, Maraysia. His first foal was just born recently, and has the makings of a show filly already.

And then there is Mostly Padron, who I previously commented on. There is also frozen semen available from Mostly in Europe.

TA: *We wish you good luck then in reaching your next goals!*



Ted with his wife, Brandi, and Albert Sorroca, the owner and breeder of Shanghai EA