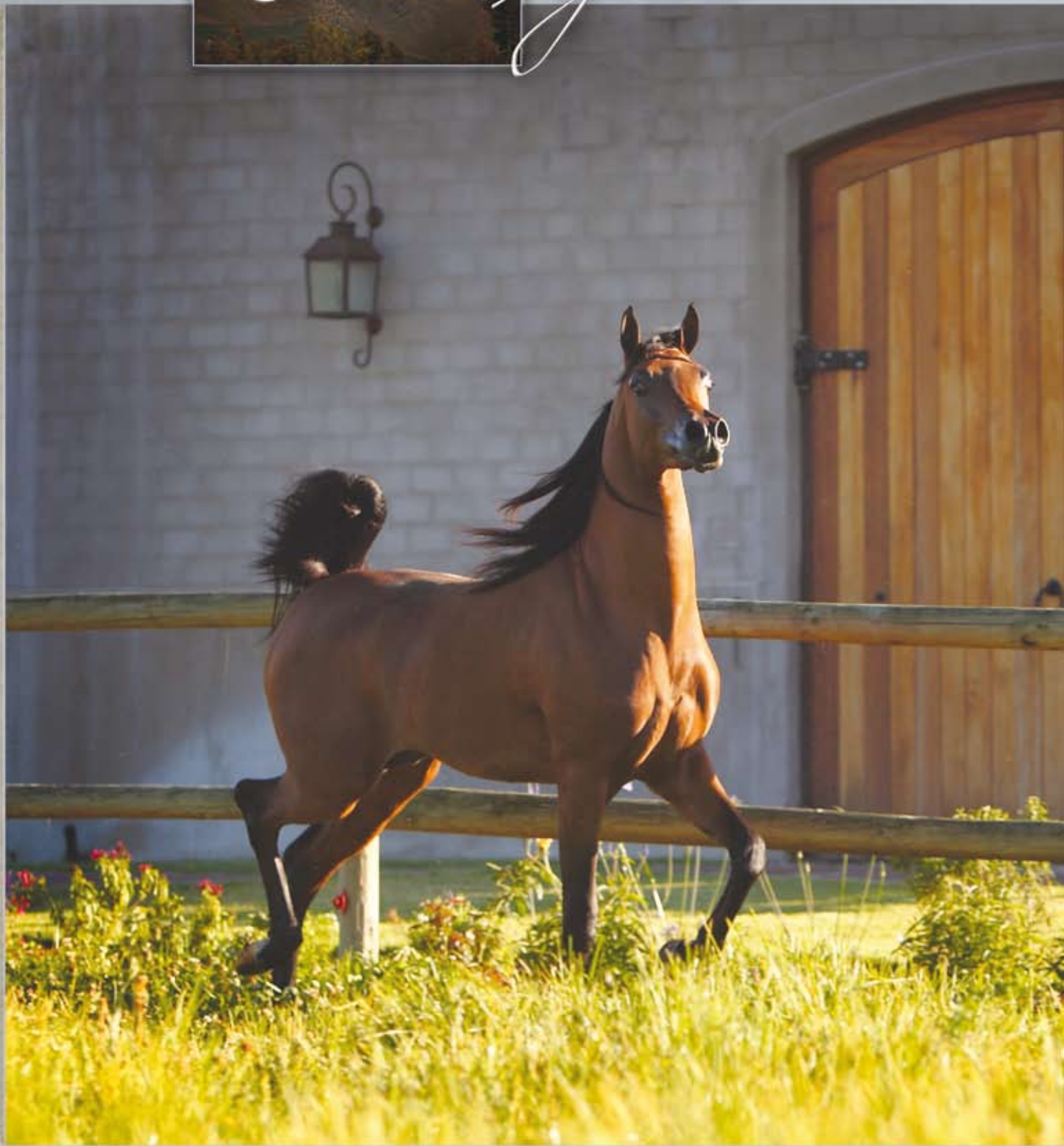


STUD

*A journey to*  
*South Africa*



**EKS ALIHANDRO (MARWAN AL SHAQAB X OFW PSYLHOUE),  
2011 SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL CHAMPION COLT & BEST IN SHOW.**

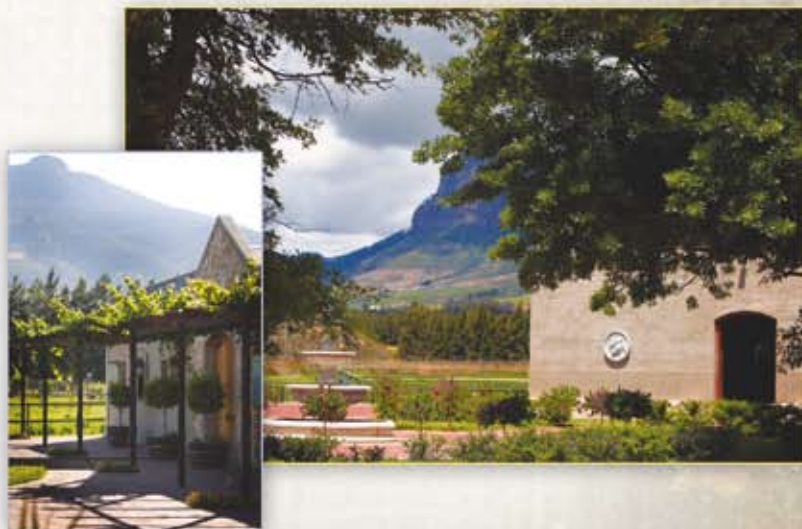


# Elkasun Arabians

STORY BY FRANCES ATKINSON  
PHOTOS & DESIGN BY GLENN JACOBS

## *The Setting*

Leaving the bustle of Cape Town behind and taking a leisurely drive through the fabulous scenery of the Winelands, we stopped at the foot of the glorious Simondsberg Mountains. A crimson sunset, (the type one thinks of as slightly unbelievable on canvass!) warms us and there, located at the end of a long gravel drive, behind ornate electronic gates is one of South Africa's top Arabian Stud Farms. Merely 30-minutes drive from the airport, nestled at the foot of the second-largest granite outcrop in the world, you will find Elkasun Arabians.



Located between the boutique town of Franschhoek (the gourmet capital of South Africa) and the vineyards of the famous Paarl Wine Route, (also called the 'Red Route' for its legendary red wines), the magnificent Elkasun Arabians paints a dazzling picture on a balmy summer's night, in one of the most beautiful places in South Africa. In this truly stunning location, with the most modern, carefully designed facilities, it's seems perfectly fitting to discover a herd of beautiful Arabian horses.





TOP LEFT & PICTURED OPPOSITE PAGE: **EKS SHAKIRA** (SHAKIR EL MARWAN X POETICA B)  
ABOVE: **EKS ANTIGUA** (WN STAR OF ANTIGUA X BINT STARBRIGHT BEY)  
BOTTOM LEFT: **PHAEDDRA** (MARWAN AL SHAQAB X PATRINAS DE PARIS)



*The People*

The owners of Elkasun Arabians, the Brown family, started an Arabian horse breeding program over fifteen years ago. Willie Brown has been passionate about horses for most of his life and had been into 3 & 5 gaited Saddlebreds for some time, having attained good show results over the years. Father Francois steered Willie towards Arabians in 1996, because he felt that there was more of a market within the mainline Arabian Industry. Ever since Francois has supported the operation in practical, fiscal and emotional terms and he remains the primary source of wisdom and good advice to his son.

Willie, who directs operations, manages the stud and has been a professional horseman for over ten years, during which time he has garnered a huge collection of National & Regional titles, not to mention the show-ring impact his homebred horses have made on the international showing scene. This is no mean feat, for Willie works "like stink," full time on the family's Elkana Farms, which exports plums all over the world and he is also involved in the homebred Chicken, Sheep and Cattle breeding operations – all of which take place before he has even had time to think about training, conditioning, showing, breeding, backing or talking to his horses! He admits he is lucky to have had the help of the excellent Head Groom, Ralph Eland for the past 14 years, though Willie still undertakes all the foaling, AI & breeding duties himself.



In a world that often appears to me to have many people within it who can be somewhat insincere – Willie is one of those people who tells it like it is – there is no shilly-shallying with this young man! He is vital and energetic, eats, sleeps and breathes Arabian horses and talks faster than a Dodge Viper on a rally track! Passionate about the Arabian breed, no sooner has he bred and produced the latest big winner, he is already finalizing plans as to how he might produce the next in his line of champions!

Willie and Francois can never be described as being "Barn Blind" – they are humble about their horses and seek to better even the smallest flaw. With judicious use of some of the greatest sires in the world and with a superb, but small collection of mares, fillies, colts and two stallions totalling less than 20 horses – this stud has surely become one to be reckoned with worldwide and it justifiably receives many international guests. The Brown family's hospitality has become legendary!





## South Africa

### *The Beginning & Jack Maritz*

The story starts in 1996 when Willie visited the great Jack Maritz' Sidi Arabian Stud, situated on the edge of the Kalahari Desert. From Jack he purchased a number of mainly Egyptian related mares, who were all by his highly successful stallions Maistro, and Thee Cyclone, as well as offspring of the well known Prizm, all of whom were American bred. Great success followed but Willie had been bitten by the international bug and he began to broaden his horizons.



**MONTSERRAT RTA, 2009 COLT**  
(BESSON CAROL X JAMAICA JULLYEN PGA)



### *The Story of Elkasun*

In 1998 Willie travelled to the USA, visiting most of the major breeding farms and trainers. He loved the scope, length of leg and stretch of the horses he saw and eventually he settled on an excellent stallion "ROMANZA AA (Shaman AA X Crystal Rose), who he acquired through Michael Byatt. Willie used this stallion over his Sidi mares and he was rewarded with a foal crop, almost all of which went on to become good show winners, including several Top 5's at the SA Nationals and SA National Champion Colt and Filly.

In 2003 the urge to go "Shopping in the USA" again hit hard and Willie set off for Michael's Houston based Stud Farm. He purchased the glorious chestnut daughter MSA VERONIQA (Versace x Magnifique)- now a 4 times South African National Champion and also STARBRIGHT BEY (Gazal al Shaqab x Starlite C).

OPPOSITE PAGE BACKGROUND:  
**EKS PHATEENA (WN STAR**  
**OF ANTIGUA X PHAEDRA)**



STARBRIGHT BEY made history in South Africa since she was the dam of the Scottsdale Champion Colt EKS BEY AL GAZAL, bred at Elkasun – the first South African-bred Arabian to achieve this accolade.

Starbright Bey also produced EKS BINT STARBRIGHT BEY a homebred 3 times SA National Champion mare by Besson Carol, who at the present time has a very promising colt by WN Star of Antigua.



EKS BINT STARBRIGHT BEY  
(ABHA QEBEC x MSA VERONICA)

Willie purchased on another trip the excellent sire PATRICIAN B (Besson Carol x Palatrina), LA DAUPHINE (FS Bengali x La Duquesa) and the simply glorious PHAEDDRA (Marwan al Shaqab x Patrina de Parys). PHAEDDRA looks as if she attended the Michalow Finishing School for Gorgeous Grey Seglawi Mares! Flea bitten, dry and refined with an elegant, curled neck, superb front and an excellent mover, this is surely another headed for national and international championship glory – she is also proving herself as a top class broodmare, with an excellent two year old filly, a distinct copy of herself, sired by WN Star of Antigua.

One of the resident stallions at the stud is the recently imported MONSERRAT RTA (Besson Carol x Jamaica Julleyn PGA) a youngster who epitomizes in his physical appearance all that his royal bloodlines suggest on paper. Refined, elegant and smooth, great things are expected of Monserratt in the show-ring and as a future sire.

The lovely grey colt ABHA QEBEC has been well used at stud in South Africa and in Namibia. In addition to this he has garnered a series of big halter championship wins including Res. National Junior Champion Stallion 2010. His biddable temperament, beautiful paces and soft mouth suggest that Willie is quite right to expect him to make a serious ridden show horse. Qebec perfectly illustrates that Willie's horses may be exceedingly typey but they are also required to prove their good temperament and athletic ability.



PHAEDDRA  
BY MARWAN AL SHAQAB



Probably the next wonder horse to hit Europe is soon to be exported EKS ALIHANDRO (Marwan Al Shaqab x OFW Psyhouette by Padrans Psyche.) This bay colt is tall, elegant and refined. He has a superbly sprung neck, a wonderful shoulder, good legs – he moves like a train and has tail carriage in abundance. Coupled with big eyes, a supremely dished face and a slightly feminine quality which guarantees that he will always retain his incredible refinement, this young colt is certainly a class act.



**EKS ALIHANDRO**  
(MARWAN AL SHAQAB X OFW PSYLOUETTE)

When judging potential stars, I suppose it helps if you have produced and shown World, European, and Nations Cup Champions – I realized that my husband Paul (who has shown a number of horses to these titles) was, (for once!) rendered speechless when this colt appeared! When he had recovered, he pronounced Alihandro to be the best weanling colt he had ever seen.

One of Brazil's best known trainers, Rudolpho Guzzo has expressed serious interest in purchasing Alihandro but at least for the time being, the Brown family are not selling. Another experienced person to be enthralled by his charm was Judge William Oppen (who spent many years at Qatar's Al Shaqab Stud), who awarded ALIHANDRO the Colt Foal Championship. Mr Oppen said simply during his presentation at the end of the Western Cape Gala Evening event in January that ALIHANDRO is "Simply the best Marwan Al Shaqab offspring I have ever seen" and that "South Africa should be proud to have bred him."

Fielding large offers from the Middle East, Willie and Francois, as I write, are in the process of sending ALIHANDRO to Italy to be presented for them by Giacomo Capacci. We sincerely wish him all the luck in the world – for he certainly deserves it. We shall follow his progress with extreme interest, but suffice to say we have already booked several breedings to him!





**EKS LATHINA**  
(WN STAR OF ANTIGUA X KAR HADI)



So there we have it. No account of any visit to such a stud farm as Elkasun can be truly all encompassing and I suspect that I have made some terrible omissions!

The Arabians are glorious and they continue to prove themselves time and time again, as superb breeding horses. When looking at the young-stock, (notwithstanding the intense quality of the adult horses), it is obvious that almost unbelievably, the following generations are even better. If you are able to beat a path to Elkasun in South Africa, I would strongly advise you to do so. Any time spent with the Brown family is equally as rewarding as it is fun and you will be warmly welcomed. If you cannot visit, try not to miss their youngest star on the horizon, Alihandro!

VISIT ELKASUN ARABIANS ONLINE AT  
[WWW.ELKASUNARABIANS.COM](http://WWW.ELKASUNARABIANS.COM)