

SLOVENIA

The new direction for best Arabian horses

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Slovenia, beautiful country, not even 200 kilometers wide and long but combining Alpine mountains, Mediterranean seacoast and wonderful green pastures excellent for growing and enjoying horse breeding. Not everybody knows that this small country in South-Eastern Europe hides some best conformed and typey Arabian horses – both Straight Egyptian and pure bred. And it can soon be widely heard about them...

Tutto Arabi: What are the Arabian horse breeding traditions in your region?

Gregor Pintar: As you know Slovenia was till 1991 part of ex Yugoslavia. We have long tradition of breeding Arabians horses in the region. There were two state studs, very famous: BORIKE stud in Bosnia and later also second stud was created, VIŠNJICA in Croatia. Both studs were very active in Arabian horse breeding till early nineties of last

century but after war in the region the studs unfortunately doesn't exist anymore. Arabians horses bred in those two studs were not pure bred, because they introduced few Shagya stallions in the past in breeding program. But the phenotype of horses bred in the region, was totally close to purebred Arabians, because the breeding goal was to breed very light Arabian horse with great endurance ability and dark, stone like hooves. They bred those Arabians also to improve local mountain ponies, which were used a lot as working horses in the mountain areas of Bosnia mostly. With those smaller Arabian stallions they add some type to the pony breed, they improve legs, hooves and characters. That is why the goal was to breed smaller Arabians which were in type very close to the early origin of desert bred Arabians of Bedouines.

We still call them Borike Arabians (named after Borike stud in Bosnia). They are really great horses, lighter than modern pure breeds, between 142 and 150 cm tall, with great temperament, big eyes, nice heads, extremely strong

Interview with GREGOR PINTAR



legs and hooves and they have hearts and working will. It is a pity that in last 15 years breeders used a lot of pure breed stallions in breeding and they lost already some of their unique characteristics, but we can still find some very good horses at private breeders mostly in Croatia.

In Slovenia we had some imports of Borike Arabians in Yugoslavia times from other republics, but serious breeding of pure breed Arabians began around 1988 when our first owner and breeder Mr. Jože Zver who was also founder and first president of Slovenian Arabian Horse Breeding Organization, imported one stallion and two mares from Iraq. Those three Straight Crabbet horses were bred in England, first exported to Iraq and then to Slovenia. The stallion named Golden Crown (Hawi in Iraq) died three years ago in the age of 33. From 1993 on we had some other imports, at the beginning mostly from Austria, Germany and quite some from Hungarian state stud Babolna. Breeders started to breed with those horses and nowadays we have around 280 purebred Arabian horses in Slovenia.

TA: And so how the Arabian horse breeding organization looks like nowadays?

GP: Unfortunately at the moment very bad, the current management with president is not active for last two years, we did not have any meeting for almost three years. And you know the small breeders and private owners they are unfortunately lost in the vacuum. They do not have any vision any more, they need organisation, they need the focus again. We don't have any shows organized in the region at the moment but in Croatia they organized last year first national show with two international judges. It was very interesting to see.

TA: Who are the most active breeders in the region nowadays?

GP: Together with us-Arabian Horses Pintar, I have to say that Vrančič family of Wineyard Arabians are very active in



ARABIAN HORSES
PINTAR

Elegance in motion

MURANAS JUMANJI (FS RONALDO - JANA EL BRI)



EL ZILAL MASRIYAH (SE) (CLASSIC MANSOUR - TARISSIA B)

breeding and even showing their horses in international shows. Marko Vrančič is also member of Johanna Ullstrom show crew. Then there are some other smaller owners with very good horses, but currently they do not breed a lot. There are two reasons for that. First is general economical crisis which put also horse market down, and the second is our breeding organisation which currently does not function. The situation in Croatia is very similar at the moment.

TA: Are or were there any Slovenian breeders internationally known for horses they bred or their successes recently?

GP: Yes, they are. In the past we had very successful endurance team, this was Mr. Janko Kolarič and his stallion Farag who won several international endurance races, than already mentioned Mr. Marko Vrančič who was very succesfull at some international shows with his young colts. Than two years ago young Straight Egyptian colt imported

from Australia - Mesaoudi al Saba, won the class at famous Egyptian Event in Lanaken. He is owned by Mr. Sordjan Zoran. Our colt Maximus won the class and Bronze Junior Champion in strong international B show in Porto St.Elpidio. Some of our breeders exported their home bred horses also into Middle East, we as Arabian Horses Pintar exported this year 6 horses to Iran, Macedonia, France and Croatia.

TA: What type of Arabian horse is most popular in your region nowadays?

GP: I think like all over Arabian horses with good type, suitable for shows mostly. Endurance races are getting more and more popular again, so people are asking for horses with great working abilities also. But different people have different taste, so some of them prefer and do not want to hear nothing else than Straight Egyptian horses, some prefer mostly Polish lines, but in general we all like to have



L.A. MAXIMUS
(SHAKLAN IBN BENGALI - L.A. MEDUSA)



PIRUNA
(PIRUET - INTO MY DREAM)

beautiful and typy Arabian horses. It is funny when amateur buyers are coming to look at horses for riding or endurance even, first they talk mostly about movements, good bones, substitution, but at the and they all stop and ask for the horses with most beautiful heads. This is the fact, one of the main characteristics of Arabian horse!

TA: What are the future plans for Arabian horse breeding organization and breeding program in Slovenia?

GP: *We agreed now with few ambitious breeders and horse owners to establish new organization, which will gather all small breeders. This is most important, the small owners are really lost, they need to have somebody to stimulate them, to give them the way and vision. And what is most important for all involved, they need to have fun, they have to feel good in the organization, without that there will never be success.*

TA: Arabians Pintar – what was your foundation stock and

most important goals when you was establishing your farm? Do they differ in time?

GP: *This is interesting story! When I bought my first three Arabian mares in Germany, I did not have much experiences with Arabians and just basic ideas. But I had luck with one mare which was in the package, solid typey and correct by world champion Piruet out of Canadian bred Straight Egyptian mother Into My Dream. This mare was Piruna, which is still today one of the best if not the best broodmares in our stables. Later I bought few all over good mares mostly Polish and Russian lines with good pedigrees. Most of them are still with us, not very young anymore but in perfect shape still and very good broodmares. In my opinion, mares being good all over with good pedigrees are the basic of each breeding. Its much easier to add type and nice heads in next generation, than breed out other constitutional weaknesses, like bad legs, weak bodies and especially - bad characters. Last time we add to our mares band two very interesting*



TARISSIA B (SE)
(EMIRATUS B - 214 IBN GALAL I)



JARIBAH
(CORALL - JASMINAH)

Straight Egyptians - Tarissia B by Emiratus B out of famous Babolna mare 214 Ibn Galal I and last year older Madkour I daughter. but still in very good condition with huge black eyes and super body, what is not so easy to find in modern Straight Egyptian horses. We hope for few more foals out of her, because she is very easy breeder and fantastic mother, who enjoy to have foals.

TA: *What are the most important features for you in Arabian horse that your are looking for and that you breed and why?*

GP: *Arabians are like all other breeds and they have first look like very good horses, with good legs, good movements and most important good characters. And for sure there is no good Arabian horse without Arabian type and typey head and tail carriage. But I would like to say just few words about Arabian horse showing in general about which I am little bit confused sometimes. On one hand it s very nice to*

see the shows with all these beautiful Arabians , but sometimes I am very disappointed, sad and almost angry, when I see young horses at the age of one or even less being trapped in the boxes almost all the time, without having chance to be in the group with other horses. Showing is psychologically too stressful for such sensitive and intelligent young animals ar Arabian horses are in that age. I really hate to see yearlings with horse shoes on... In my opinion horses should never be shoed before age of at least three years and young horses should never be shown in hand just free in the movements, without make up and NEVER with horse shoes on.

TA: *Your most important horses – in your life and in your farm nowadays are...*

GP: *Every horse is interesting and special individual but if I have to mention, I would call two mares. First I bought for my wife Sandra and I think she will never leave our stud.*



AS SINANS PACHA
(ANSATA SINAN X SASKIA R.J)
For 2012-2013 on lease from Nordlys Araber, Norway

Her name is Astrovata, a special Russian line, Vatican daughter out of great mare Astronomia. She has everything what a dream Arabian riding mare should have. The sweetest character, great temperament, enormous movements, good size, super type, special taste for her riders and something that only some horses have: charisma which makes her for us so unique.

Second mare is our small Straight Egyptian lady Tarissia B, with her story. She has fantastic pedigree and was sold out of Babolna because she was born with three legs deformed. At the beginning the prognosis were very bad, but she gets better and better those years at Slovenian mountain pastures. And now she is one of the most inquired for mares mostly from Middle East buyers, but she will stay with us, keep galloping with just one proper and three deformed legs. She gave us a gorgeous Classic Mansour filly which will continue her line in the future.

TA: *As we already heard the latest news, you decided to biring one of the most famous show stallions and sires of the past - AS Sinans Pacha back to the show and breeding scene. Why did you choose this stallion for breeding in Slovenia and Croatia region? What impressed you in him the most?*

GP: *Sinans Pacha is one of few worldwide famous stallions who was the top show horse himself as well as great breeding sire. He was already World Reserve Champion and sired World Champion and Champion of Israel as well as he and his offsprings won a number of trophies. I absolutely love his pedigree with sire - famous Ansata Sinan who is probably one of best Straight Egyptian stallions crossing so successfully with other lines and famous champion-maker World and European Champion Mare - Saskia as a mother. When I found out that he can be offered for lease, agreement was soon done.*

TA: *What are the nearest plans for him?*

GP: *We leased him mostly to breed most of our mares with him, but for sure we want to give him and all European breeders another chance to breed another generation of great foals. He will come to Central Europe back from Norway at the end of January. He will make first stop for one month or more in Poland when he will be available to Polish breeders first. He will be standing at Glowacki Arabians very close to Polish capital city of Warsaw. After this stop in Poland he will come to us in Bled to breed our mares and some others from Slovenia and other countries in the region. After breeding season here, we are planning to send him closer to Arabian breeding scene in Belgium... I think this will be enough for him for this year, such a great stallion deserves also some free days enjoying with the mares and foals in the green Slovenian pastures during summer and autumn!*



ASTROVATA
(VATICAN - ASTRONOMIA)



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