



2016 Aljassimya Amateur Halter and Performance Challenge ticket winners to the Salon du Cheval show.

The shows also offers Trail In-Hand and Trail Ridden, plus three more Ridden classes, Western Pleasure, Classic Pleasure and Hunter Pleasure. Fifteen riders plus guests will also come to Paris. Winning three of these sections was Robina Romani, who will be joined by her younger sister Canisia in Paris this year. The sisters bought their first Arabian—a rescue case 4 years ago—and have not looked back. Neither sister has been to Paris before as Robina explains, “When I participated at the first show in Lille during the European Amateur Cup, I never thought I would be able to even have a small chance to win such a ticket. In the end, my younger sister and I both got tickets to go see the most beautiful Arabian horses of the World in Paris! Oh yes, we are both excited!”

Not everyone has to own a horse to take part, a problem which Johanna Ullström has neatly sidestepped by starting a series of training sessions at her barn that pulls in new faces. She accompanied 25 aspiring new handlers to the show. She explains that, “Some have their own horses that they prepare and train themselves, with our support and guidance. Others, who don’t have a horse to show, or feel their horses are not yet ready for it, may borrow a horse from us. We try to give a chance to everyone who wants to show.”

The Aljassimya Farm team look forward to meeting this new group of Arabian horse enthusiasts at the Salon du Cheval this winter! ■



Above: 2015 California Prize Draw winners and guests of the 2016 Santa Ynez Valley Summer Tour, left to right: host Michelle Kelly, Monica van Duyvenbode, Jannes Prins, host Bart Van Buggenhout, Bart Beckers, Liesbet D’Joos, Teresa Van Nes, Michele Boelen, Lieve Van Den Broeck and Lore Beckers.



Aljassimya farm pasture visit.



Lore Beckers with her mare Jaryda

I was only 13 years old when I first competed in the European Amateur Show in Lille. I was very nervous at the time, because I only handled my horse at home and I didn’t know what to expect. But the atmosphere at the show was so relaxed, people helping out each other, and yes, making me feel more relaxed. It made me feel like it was no competition, but just having fun with your horse. It was the perfect way to have a little taste of what is happening in the ring, and I loved it! And I think my mare did too.

The trip to California was, in one word ... AMAZING! As a 14 year old Arabian horse enthusiast, it was a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ adventure, and I am really grateful to Aljassimya Farm and Sheik Jassim Bin Khalifa Al Thani to have this opportunity.

Monica Van Duyvenbode with her sister, Jolanda Van Dyvenbode, who won a Paris ticket in 2016

“I think it’s a great initiative! It gives amateurs a chance to show their own horse, and earn points with the ridden classes for classic, hunter and western. I’m glad they are bringing attention to the fact that the Arab is a versatile horse! My boyfriend Jannes and I have enjoyed every moment of the stunning guest freedom and fun of AJF and all of the other farms we visited, learning about their visions and breeding programs.



Michele Boelen

When I won the trip to California I was so happy. As we have only had Arabian horses since January 2012, being able to visit the Aljassimya Farm, as well as the other famous farms around the area was such a marvelous gift. What a dream it was to see all these wonderful horses and meet the great people working at these farms.

We bought our first Arabian gelding in January 2012 and immediately fell in love with this breed. After taking start halter lessons at Johanna Ullström’s stables, and thanks to her great teaching skills, I was able to participate at some amateur shows and won my ticket to Paris in 2015. Since our story with Arabians horses started, we have met great people and had lots of enjoyable moments with these fabulous horses. And this will continue for us, as we are expecting our first foal in May 2016.



Liesbet D’Joos

After going with Juan Murillo and Ilse Verbruggen to shows several times, I was hit by “Arabitis”! I love these Arabians for their character and their way of being a powerful and respectful, beautiful horse. I like to ride and work with them.

The trip to California was a “once-in-a-lifetime” opportunity from Ajassimya Farm, something I will never forget. Everything we did was fantastic, visiting the farms where they were all so friendly and hospitable, leading us around their farms and meeting some wonderful horses. The dinners we had in the evening were also great, being together with the group and talking and laughing about we had done that day.



A Look At A Few Challenge Cup Winners



Koen Hennekens with Dorsenia.



Tjery Den Hartog with Primeval Kossak.



Michele Boelen with Sahara Khipsyche.



Isaac Duran with GAA Millenia.



Koen Hennekens with Esfahan.



Rebekah Ugedahl with Manresa.



Joyce Rosowski with Marakech J.



Priscilla De La Ruelle with MP Jawa Aljassimya.



Maja Bonde with Psencio.



Robina Romani with Chalitchandra Blue Moon.