



SABA ARABIANS
Celebrating the influence of

Thaqib Al Nasser

words by Samantha Mattocks

© Thaqib





Photo: Sally Thompson

1

EIGHT YEARS AGO, THAQIB AL NASSER LANDED ON AUSTRALIAN SOIL. HIS ARRIVAL MARKED THE END OF ALMOST A YEAR OF PATIENCE, PERSISTENCE AND, ABOVE ALL, PRAYER, AND ON THAT SUNNY MARCH DAY IN 2004, IT SEEMED THOSE PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED. A SON OF THE IMMORTAL ANSATA HALIM SHAH, THAQIB AL NASSER MADE SABA ARABIANS HIS HOME AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE HAS GONE ON TO CREATE A DYNASTY OF WORLD-CLASS ARABIANS AT THIS SYDNEY-BASED STUD.

With their roots firmly in Egyptian bloodlines, Saba Arabians is the creation of Louise Cordina and Glenn North. Louise explains that for them, the straight Egyptian Arabian is the closest there is to the classic desert example of the Arabian horse. “This is something we wish to preserve and strive to do so through our breeding program,” she says. “We very much believe in the Egyptian Arabian and whenever we breed a mare, our aim is always to produce a horse that has retained the true attributes of the original desert Arabians in their finest form.”

With such a high standard, it is little wonder that Louise and Glenn worked so tirelessly and patiently on their quest to bring Thaقيب Al Nasser to Saba Arabians. But to understand the significance of Thaقيب Al Nasser’s arrival in Australia, one has to first appreciate his pedigree, which in straight Egyptian terms is simply superlative. Thaقيب Al Nasser is one of an elite handful of Arabians that brilliantly combines the blood of two of the world’s most renowned Egyptian breeding programs, those of Ansata Arabian Stud and Imperial Egyptian Stud. Thaقيب Al Nasser’s sire is Ansata Halim Shah (Ansata

Ibn Halima x Ansata Rosetta by Ansata Shah Zaman out of Ansata Bint Bukra), perhaps one of the most revered and influential of the Ansata stallions, while his dam is Imperial Madanah (Imperial Madheen x Imperial Naffata by Moniet El Nafis out of Imperial Fanniya), who brings the much-admired Imperial Madheen blood to the mix.

Having found Thaقيب Al Nasser at his home in Qatar, where he was owned and bred by Sheikh Nawaf bin Nasser Al-Thani’s Al Nasser Stud, Louise and Glenn knew this lightly-fleabitten grey stallion with black skin, huge eyes, correct conformation, and with the most incredible aura, was just what they were looking for. In spite of not being for sale, Louise and Glenn did not give up hope, knowing that Thaقيب Al Nasser epitomised the essence of the desert Arabian that they had been keenly searching for, and a year later, their patience and persistence was rewarded. Thaقيب Al Nasser came, at last, to Saba Arabians and the dynasty he has created there is clear for all to see.

Main Photo: Suhalia Al Saba.
1: Thaقيب Al Nasser.



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From a list of beautiful foundation mares including MB Madirah (Imperial Madheen x Indirah by Habib out of Isis), Simeon Siboni (Asfour x Simeon Sippora by Imperial Madaar out of Simeon Safanad) and the more recent acquisition of Imperial Orissah (Orashan x Imperial Misteenah by Imperial Madheen out of Ansata Nile Mist), have come an array of spectacular Thaqib Al Nasser sons and daughters, each with big, black liquid eyes and an undeniable look which can only come from their impressive sire.

The 20-year-old black mare, MB Madirah has created an impressive dynasty in her own right through her breathtaking Thaqib Al Nasser progeny. At six years old, Maarena Al Saba is a rich, exotic chestnut with good conformation, a beautiful, chiselled face, powerful movement and a softness of expression. Unique among the Thaqib Al Nasser progeny with her

brilliant chestnut look, Maarena Al Saba has been successfully bred to the late Orashan (Messaoud x Ora by Ibn Shaker I out of Omera), owned by Saba Arabians until his passing last October. Orashan was crossed on many of the Thaqib Al Nasser daughters and his death has left a huge void.

Madanah Al Saba is another from the MB Madirah family, a three-year-old grey filly with the same smoothness as her sister. She was joined in 2010 by her full younger sister, Madaleena Al Saba. With her freedom of movement, refinement and type, Madaleena is an exciting filly and she also has the unique quality of being the only black Thaqib Al Nasser filly in the world. Madaleena Al Saba is undoubtedly a future show-ring star and she represents a beautiful combination of both sire and dam. Both Madaleena and Madanah will be perpetuating the Thaqib legacy in

the USA. Madanah was chosen by Jamie Zissis for her program and was exported during 2010. She was later followed by Madaleena, who was selected by Carol Rice for her long established straight Egyptian program.

Continuing this dam line is J'Adore Madinah (by El Arab Nizik by Anaza El Nizr out of Rianda's Rafik), an MB Madirah daughter who is owned by Fernleigh Stud but has stayed on at Saba to be part of the program. Madinah has produced two Thaqib Al Nasser progeny – the 2007 colt Nefu Al Saba and the 2008 filly Ghazala Al Saba. Ghazala Al Saba has the same look as her three-quarter sisters, including a smooth and level back and chiselled face that all the Thaqib Al Nasser x MB Madirah family appear to have. Nefu Al Saba, owned by Westfield Park Arabians, is one of a string of show winning Thaqib sons from the Saba program. Having been



shown twice, he's been champion on both occasions, including being awarded Western Australian State Champion Colt. Interestingly, this award has been won two years running by a son of Thaqib, with Mescal Al Saba winning the same title the previous year for his owner, Bawtry Park Arabians.

The mare La Moniette (Prince Fa Moniet x Selilah by Al Karim Sirhalima out of Zelidah) represents one of the two Egyptian-related families at Saba Arabians and she has foaled five Thaqib Al Nasser progeny to date. The showy and correct Marcella Al Saba was born in 2006. This mare shows the potency of Thaqib Al Nasser over Egyptian-related lines, for such is the strength of this stallion's influence, that all his foals are truly stamped with a look that is undeniably his. The 2007 foal Shaheen Al Saba, is the first of two sons from this cross and was awarded

New Zealand National Champion Colt at his very first show outing for his owners Desert Horse Stud. He has recently been awarded 2012 New Zealand National Champion Stallion, making him twice National Champion from two attempts. The second colt from this cross is the 2009 foal, Marius Al Saba, who, once more, has free movement and good limbs as well as classic Egyptian type.

Marius Al Saba is from the same foal crop as Emirati Al Saba (ex Jaytee Egyptian Empress by MB Mayal x Jaytee Enchant) and it is when you see these two colts together, out of unrelated dams, that you can fully appreciate the full potency of their sire, Thaqib Al Nasser. As you watch them trot and play in the sun, it is as if these colts are linked by an invisible thread so alike are they in the way they move, look and act. Jaytee Egyptian Empress produced a full sister to Emirati Al Saba

in 2010, Anastasia Al Saba. "Anastasia Al Saba is a really special filly," Louise tells me. "We have high hopes for both her and Emirati Al Saba. Jaytee Egyptian Empress's foals with Thaqib Al Nasser are certainly proving to be all we had hoped for from the cross, and more."

The mare Al Asail Meshina (ex G Messa Basima by Messaoud out of Bint Bint Basima), who has since been exported to Saudi Arabia, is by Imperial Madheen (Messaoud x Madinah by Ibn Galal out of

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- 1: The 2011 colt sired by Thaqib Al Nasser from Suhalia Al Saba.
 - 2: Messaoudi Al Saba exp BE.
 - 3: Messaoudi Al Saba at the Egyptian Event Europe.
 - 4: Shaheen Al Saba exp NZ. at the New Zealand National Championships.
 - 5: Qatahn Al Saba exp BE.



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Mona II), a sire line that Louise and Glenn are particularly passionate about. Her 2009 foal by Thaqib Al Nasser, Messaoudi Al Saba, is a flamboyant colt with three crosses to Messaoud in his pedigree, hence his name. Messaoudi Al Saba was sold to AshAanon Arabians in Slovenia, where he was shown to a class win at the 2010 Egyptian Event Europe.

With Messaoudi becoming yet another winning Thaqib son, it's interesting to note that every single one of the Saba bred Thaqib progeny that have been shown, have won. Both within Australia and internationally, be it fillies or colts out of a whole array of different mare families, that's a 100% success rate, which is pretty impressive however you look at it.

The next group of mares crossed with Thaqib Al Nasser are Asfour (Malik x Hanan by Alaa El Din out of Mona)

daughters, with Qatahn Al Saba being a 2009 representative of this cross. This exceptional colt is out of Simeon Silpa (Asfour x Maardassa by El Halimaar out of Hadassa) and he has it all: a lovely large eye and a wonderful shape to his face, good limbs, a smooth body, a well-set tail and, above all, a powerful, elevated trot. Certainly Qatahn Al Saba has all the makings to be the next step in the Saba Arabians breeding program.

Simeon Silpa's paternal half-sister, Simeon Siboni (since deceased), was a mare that has perhaps had the most influence on the stud to date. Her daughter by Thaqib Al Nasser, Suhalia Al Saba, has taken Saba Arabians to global recognition and appreciation and cemented their place among the great Egyptian breeding programs in the world.

In 2010 Simeon Siboni was proudly shown at home between the East Coast

Championships and Australian National Championships with her newest colt foal by Thaqib Al Nasser, Sharif Al Saba. A very well put-together colt, Sharif is the youngest member of an impressive family. Sharif Al Saba's older brother is Khalifah Al Saba, a five-year-old stallion and heir in waiting to Thaqib Al Nasser's crown. Masculine, beautiful, and statuesque, Khalifah Al Saba is more than capable of stepping into his sire's shoes and his first foals are already on the ground. Out of J'Adore Madinah, Kareem Al Saba is a black colt and has exceeded the expectations of Louise and Glenn for Khalifah Al Saba's first foal crop.

It was in 2006 that Simeon Siboni produced the exceptional grey filly, Suhalia Al Saba. Now six years old, this very regal mare has won a multitude of titles in two continents, counting Australian National Champion Filly and Egyptian Event



Europe Bronze Champion Mare amongst her many titles. Suhalia Al Saba is a truly spellbinding mare: free moving, full of snort and blow, naturally showy and full of a self-awareness that is magical to see. Her beauty is evident, with her sculptured face, huge eye and correct conformation. She is a combination of youthful flamboyance and a wise desert mare. Like her brother Khalifah Al Saba, Suhalia also has her first foals on the ground. Her first was Sangreal Al Saba, an impressive Orashan son since exported to the USA. And in 2011, Suhalia Al Saba has produced a second colt, sired by her sire, Thaqib Al Nasser. “He is absolutely exquisite,” says Louise. “He looks exactly like an even more exotic version of his dam. Breeding Suhalia to Thaqib Al Nasser was something of an experimental step for us and was not a decision we took lightly. We are, however, thrilled with the result and wanted to do

this mating as a test of Thaqib’s ability to breed closely for the purpose of cementing positive traits.”

The final step of this circle is Imperial Orissah, the Orashan daughter who, in the 2010/2011 season had two foals by Thaqib Al Nasser, one via embryo transfer and one naturally. “Desert-Dawn Al Saba and Desert Eve Al Saba are two beautiful fillies and they embody the Thaqib Al Nasser x Orashan cross. We always knew this would be a special combination, bringing the very best of these two great stallions’ lines together, and certainly these two fillies confirm our feelings. Sangreal Al Saba was an early indicator of the quality of this cross and Imperial Orissah’s fillies have firmly taken the next step for us here at Saba,” says Louise.

Following their success with Suhalia Al Saba and Messaoudi Al Saba at the 2010

Egyptian Event Europe, Saba Arabians were named Best World Breeder at that show.

Looking at the history Thaqib Al Nasser has already created at Saba Arabians, it is clear to see that Louise and Glenn’s firm belief in this stallion back in 2003 has been well rewarded. Their philosophy is clear: breed the best that you can to the best that you can, and with the right pedigree, a sense of history and a tail wind, the stars can truly be reached. 🐾

1&2: Suhalia Al Saba exp BE.

3: Khalifah Al Saba.

4: Imperial Orissah.

5: Sedona Al Saba.