



bservations

the Arabian horse through the eyes of Gigi Grasso text by Michael Byatt



Photo by Nasser Mare

It is such a privilege to do what I do. I try never to take it for granted. I like to say, "Live life with a conscience", and through that belief I try to see more, care more, and respect more.

This book is about the world that I have been able to document through my camera lens. It is a visual presentation. But, to be truthful, my experience in life is so much richer through observing life with all my senses. Of course sight is important but it is by no means a singular way to appreciate the beauty of our world.

To fully appreciate the horses in my world I like to see, touch, hear, and smell. The next time you are with your horse close your eyes and listen to the crunch of gravel under his hoofs as he ambles back into the paddock or the thunderous sound of your herd of mares as you turn them out for their morning graze. In the evening listen to the munching of their hay as they retire for the day; it is so melodic and peaceful. And observe your sense of smell; draw deep that musky scent of your horse after a long day on the trail. And touch your horse; caress that wonderful summer coat and feel the silkiness under your finger tips.

After your ride walk in your garden and deeply inhale all the aromatic scents that surround you. Gardenias in bloom or the fresh scent as you walk along the beach. No matter, just be in tune. Listen to a river running fast and to the salmon that splashes upon landing. And allow yourself the pleasure of listening to a bird sing and always remember the saying, "it does not matter what the bird is singing about, only that it is singing"! I am sure through the travels I have done I am better for being open to all the senses and all the possibilities that the world allows.

To observe with all your senses is to be fully in touch with the with more abandon!

To observe with all your senses is to be fully in touch with the world around you. I hope you enjoy my observations. And to everyone I hope you will laugh a little louder and dance

(his book is conceived as a homage, dedicated to everyone who worked with me and to all

those who believed in me from the very beginning of my career in photography.



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L don't only look at a bird. L hear a bird. Ptop. look. and listen. In the presence of a great bird of prey. L pause and watch him.

And when the moment of flight comes.

listen - swoooosh, swoooosh - those giant wings engage and he is off.

his eyes are always darting, constantly moving.



























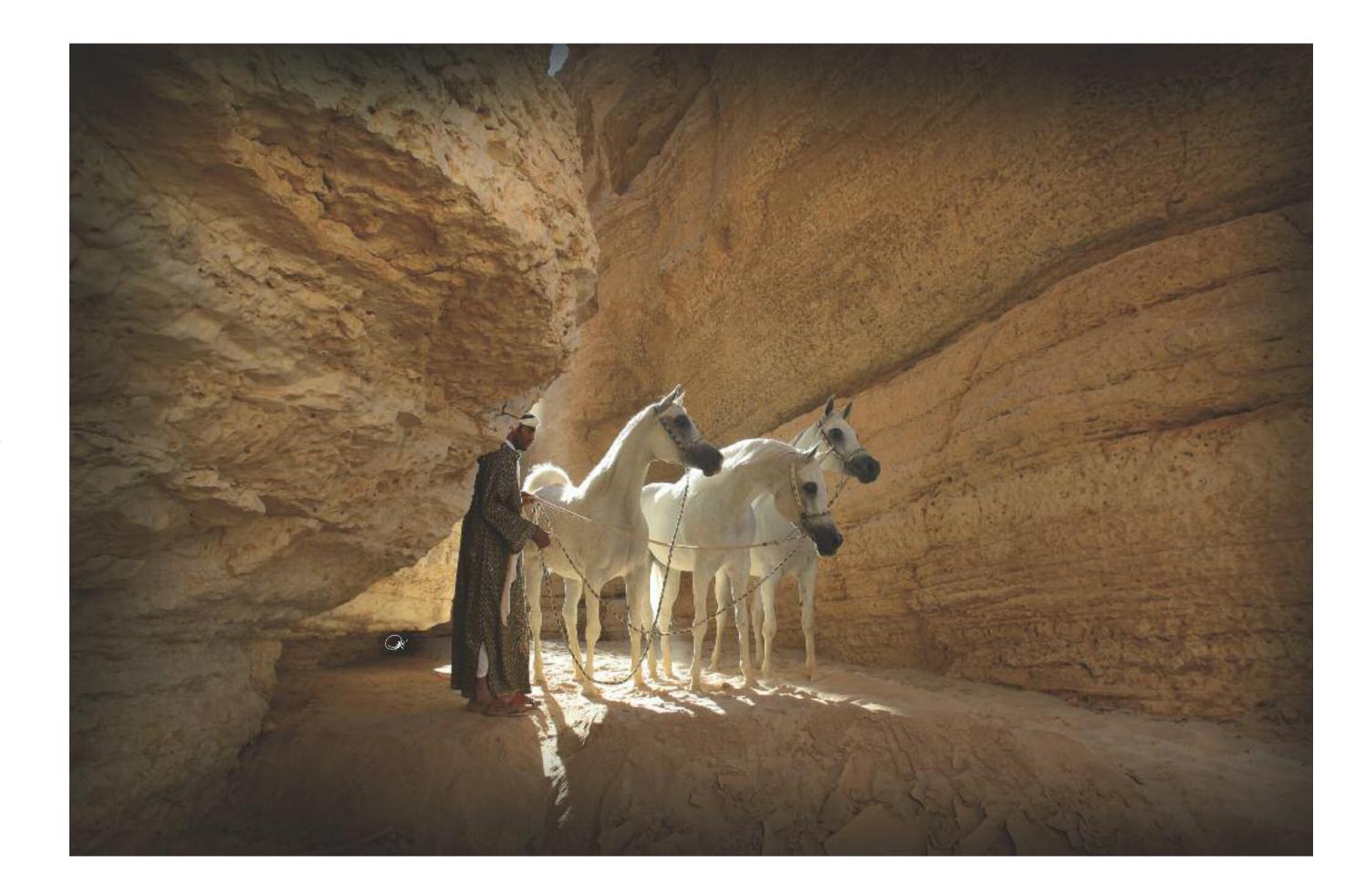


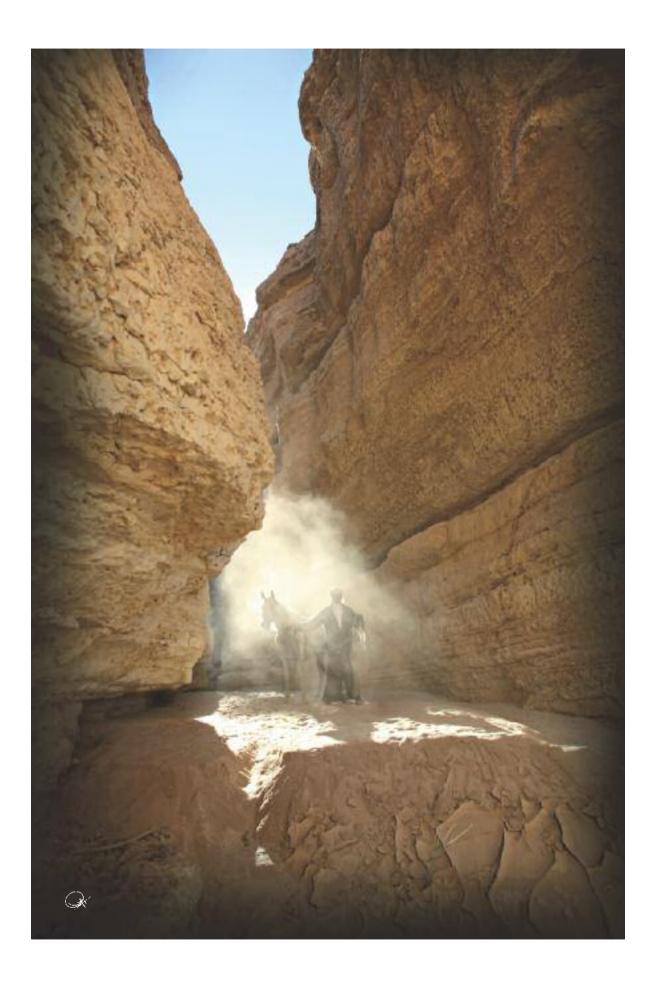
Alfabia Jumeira (Pictured in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - February 2012 - 06:38 a.m. soft morning light) Right page: Alfabia Jumeira (Pictured in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - December 2010 - 11:04 p.m. artificial light)





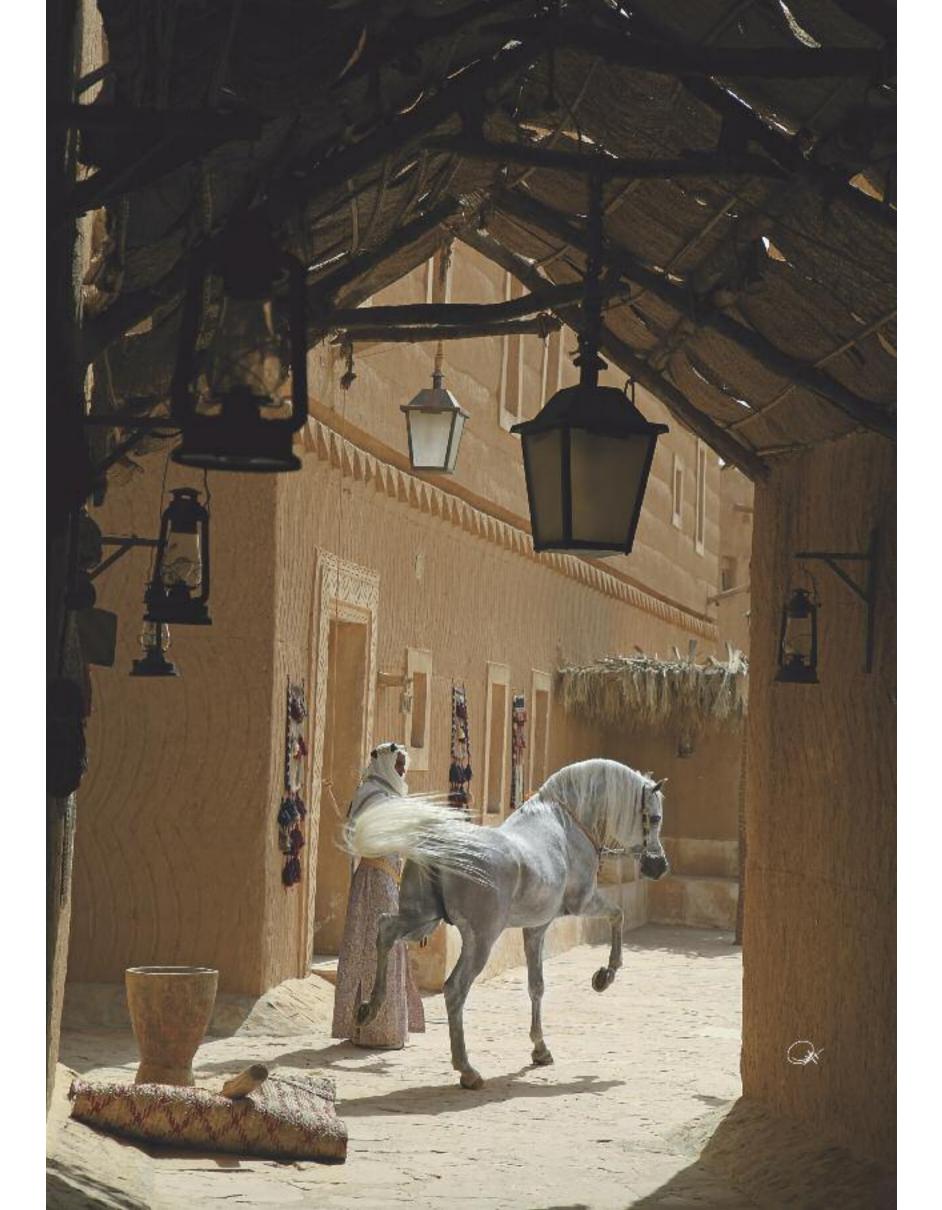
















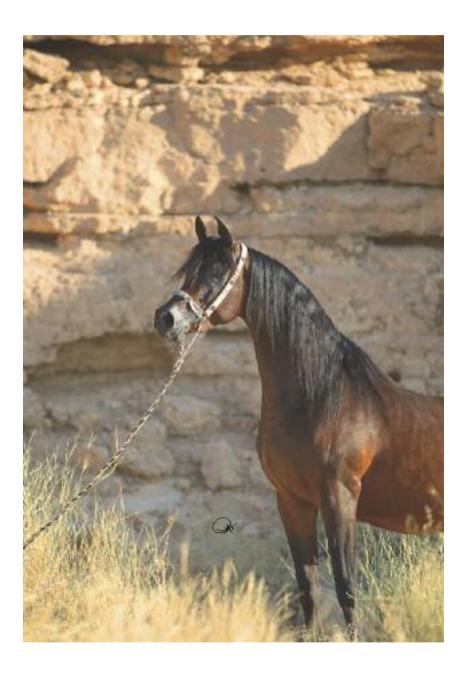




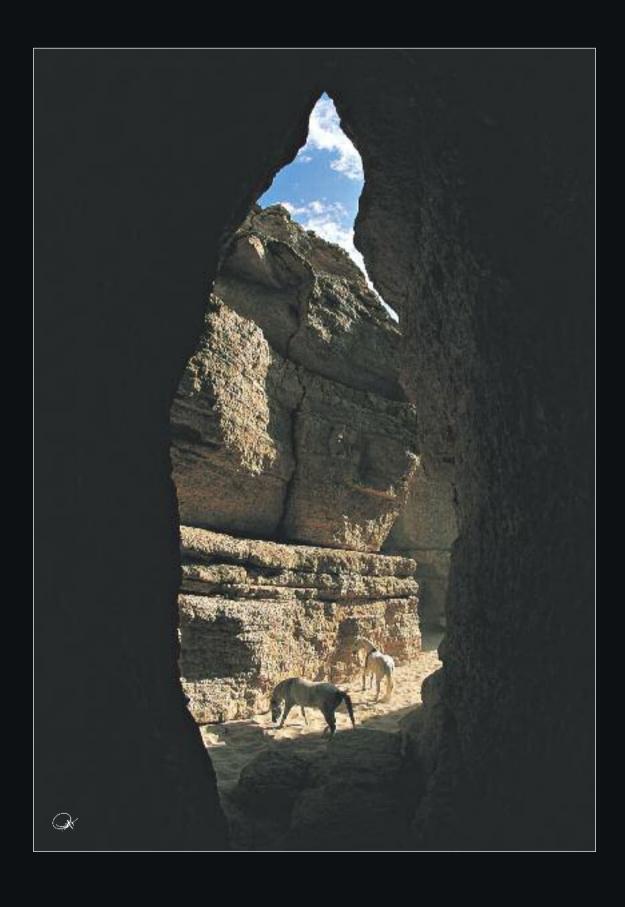








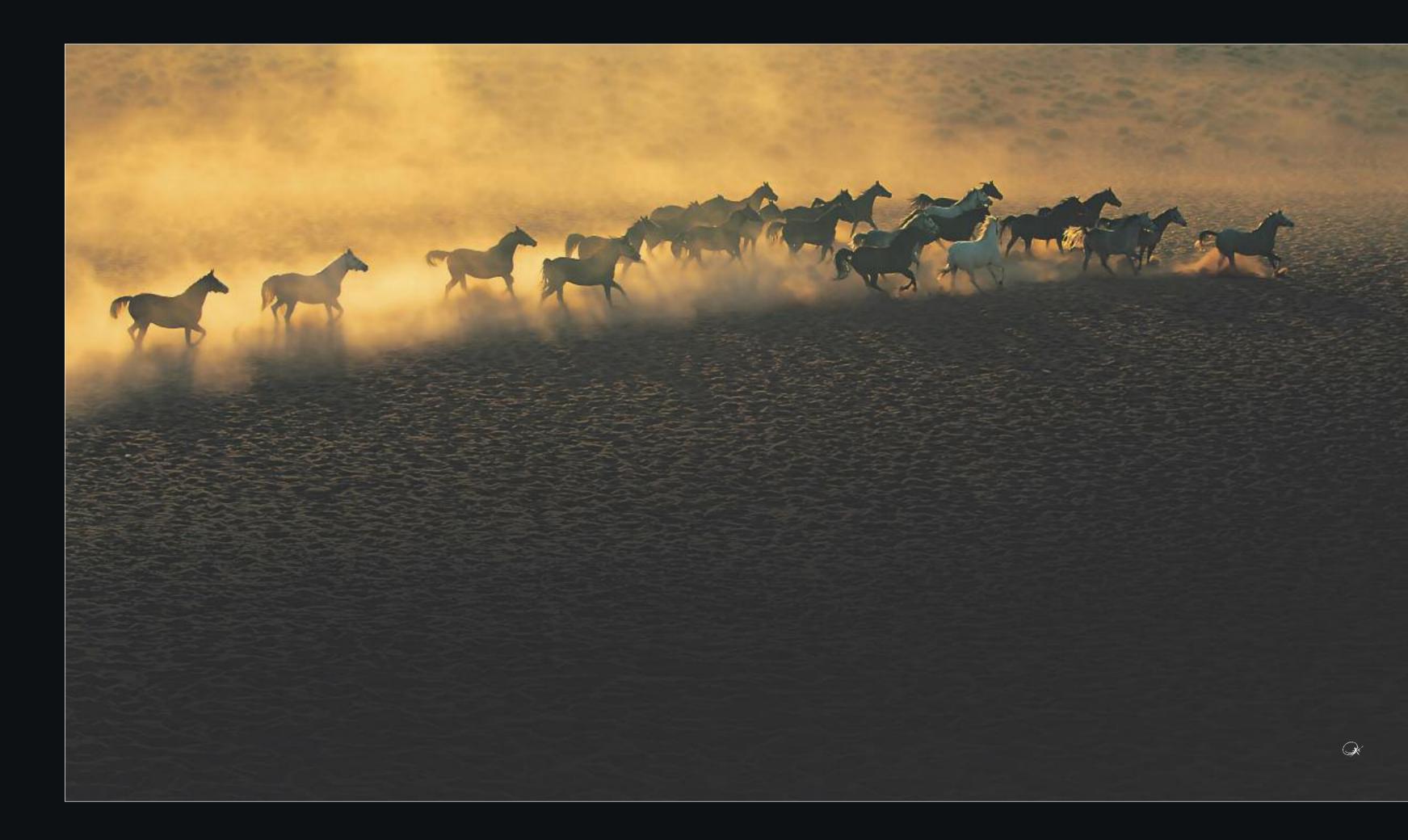


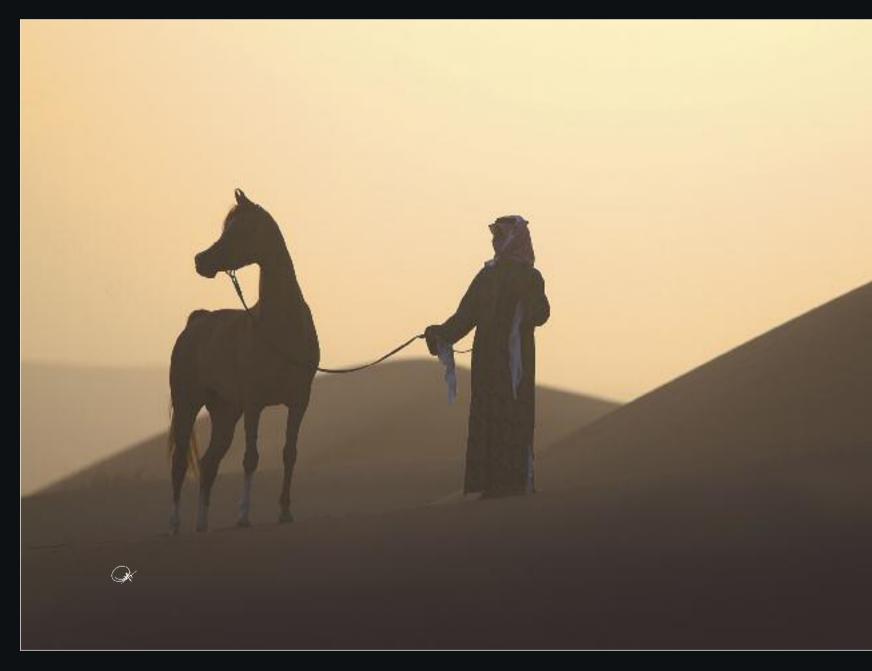


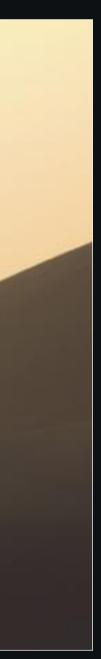
Ave you ever closed your eyes during a piano concert and let the music wash all over you? Ave you let the beautiful music in far enough to completely lose yourself in the moment? As you spend time with your horses allow the same to happen.

et the music of their lives take over. Hear their hoof beats, hear their whinnies, hear them substing with happiness as they run with delight!

Let yourself go and hear their music.











Don't be fooled that a desert is always brown. I love the reds and purples I see in desert cliffs.





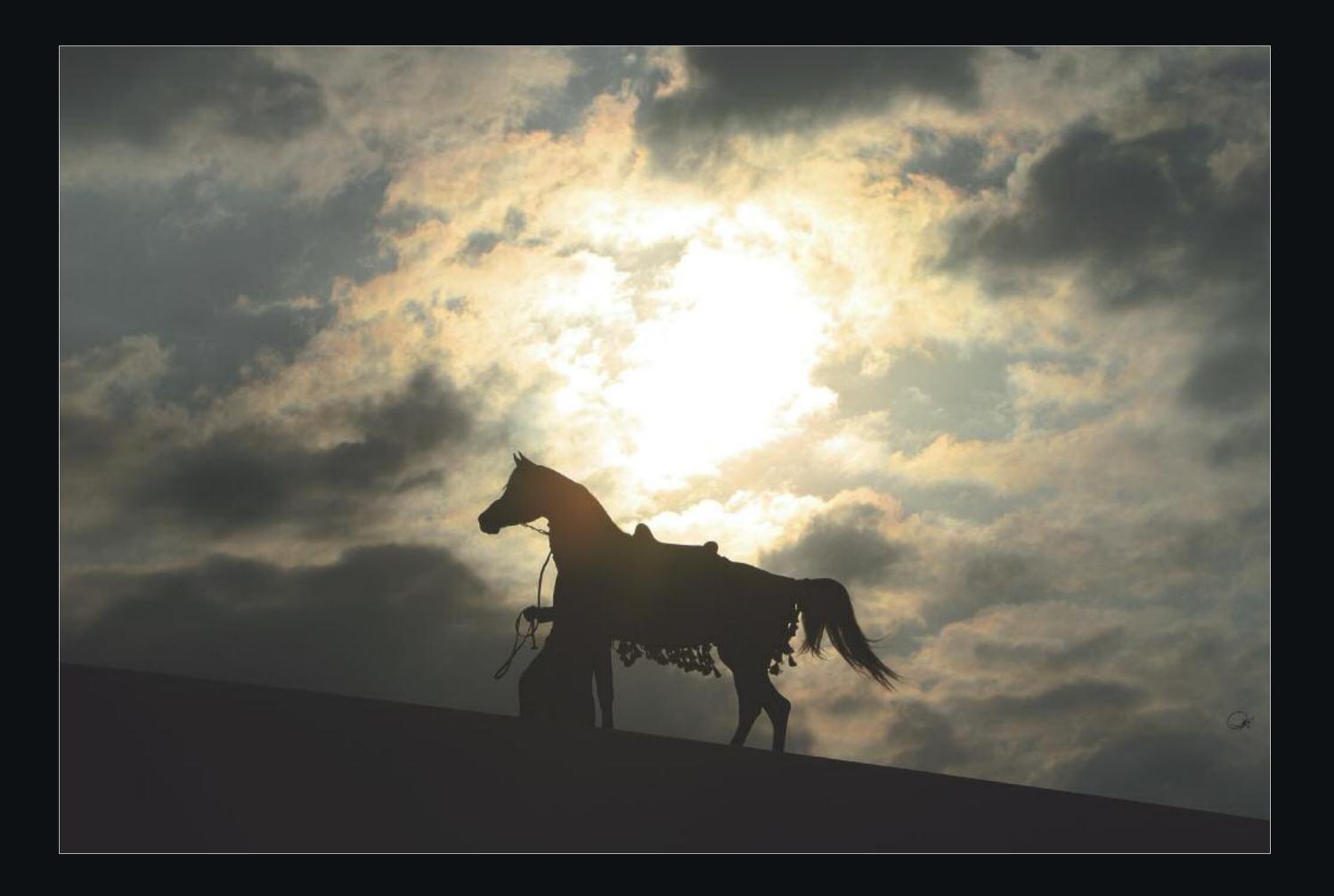
A spectacular sunrise morning in the desert (Pictured in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - December 2009 - 06:28 a.m. gold morning backlight)











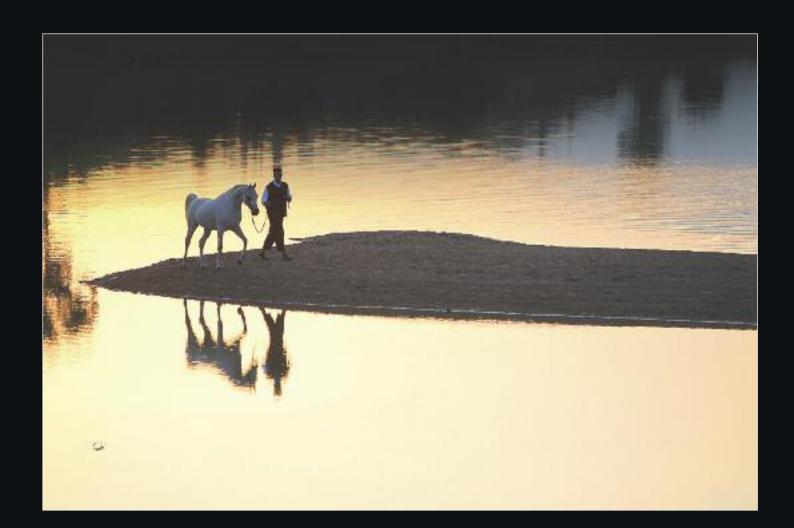














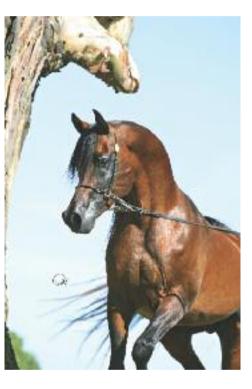








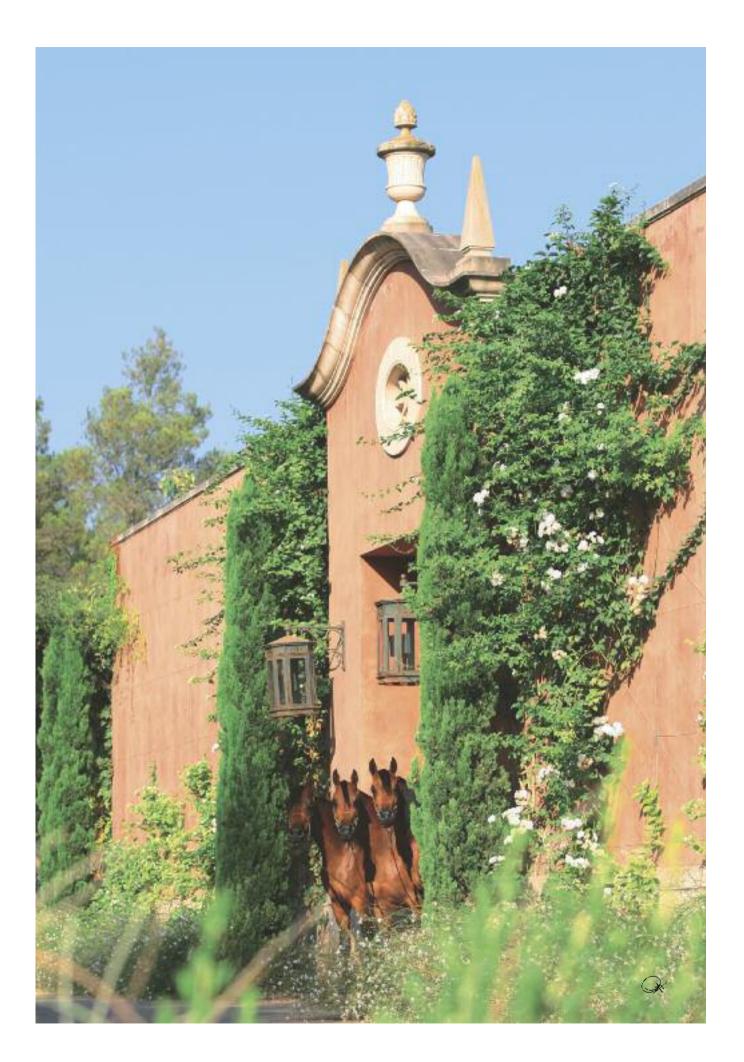




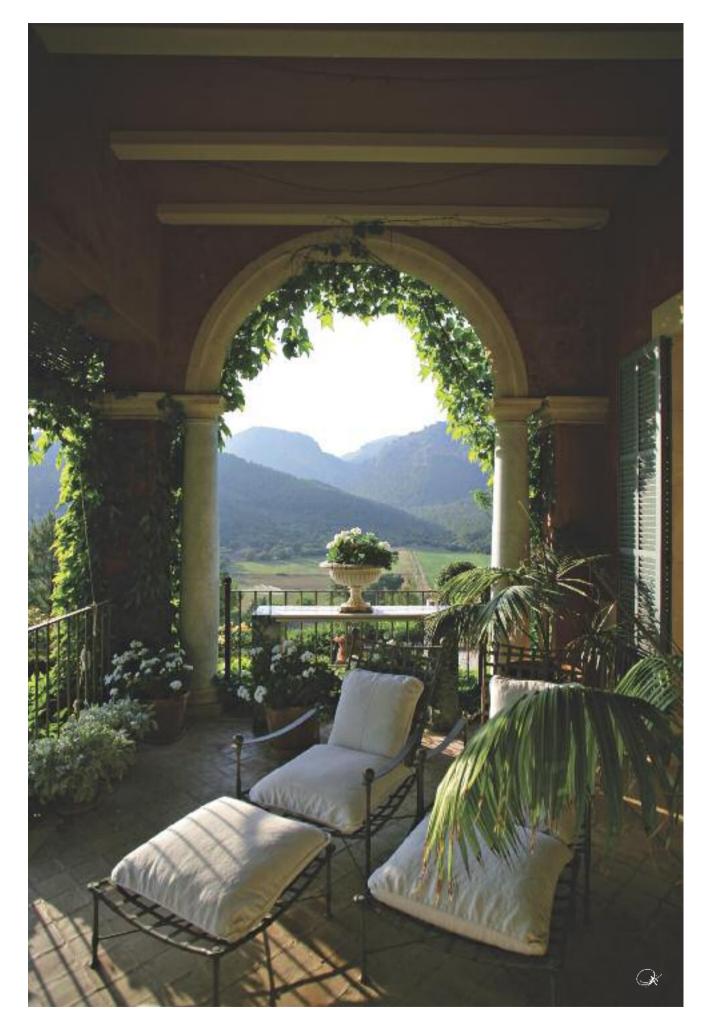








The entrance of the house of Marieta Salas in Palma De Mallorca with three bay mares (Pictured in Spain - July 2006 - 08:45 a.m. morning light) Left pages: Ses Planes valley with its pastures (Pictured in Spain - May 2006 - 09:20 a.m. morning light)

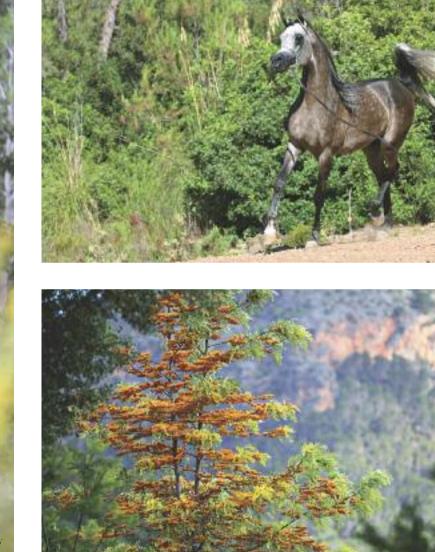


Arcade overlooking the valley of the house of Marieta Salas in Palma De Mallorca (Pictured in Spain - April 2006 - 08:30 a.m. morning light)









Above right side: Alfabia Damascus (Pictured in Spain - July 2007 - 08:10 a.m. morning light) Above left side: Alfabia Al Bustan (Pictured in Spain - October 2010 - 08:50 a.m. morning light) Left page: Abha Mahdi (Pictured in Spain - October 2009 - 08:24 a.m. morning light)











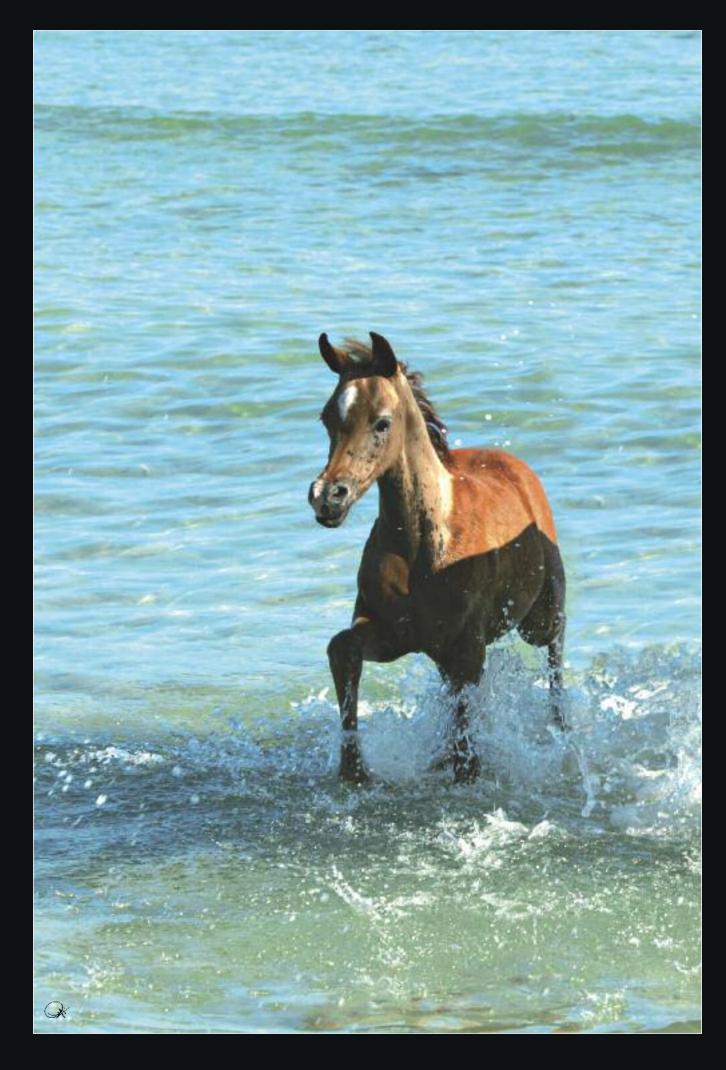


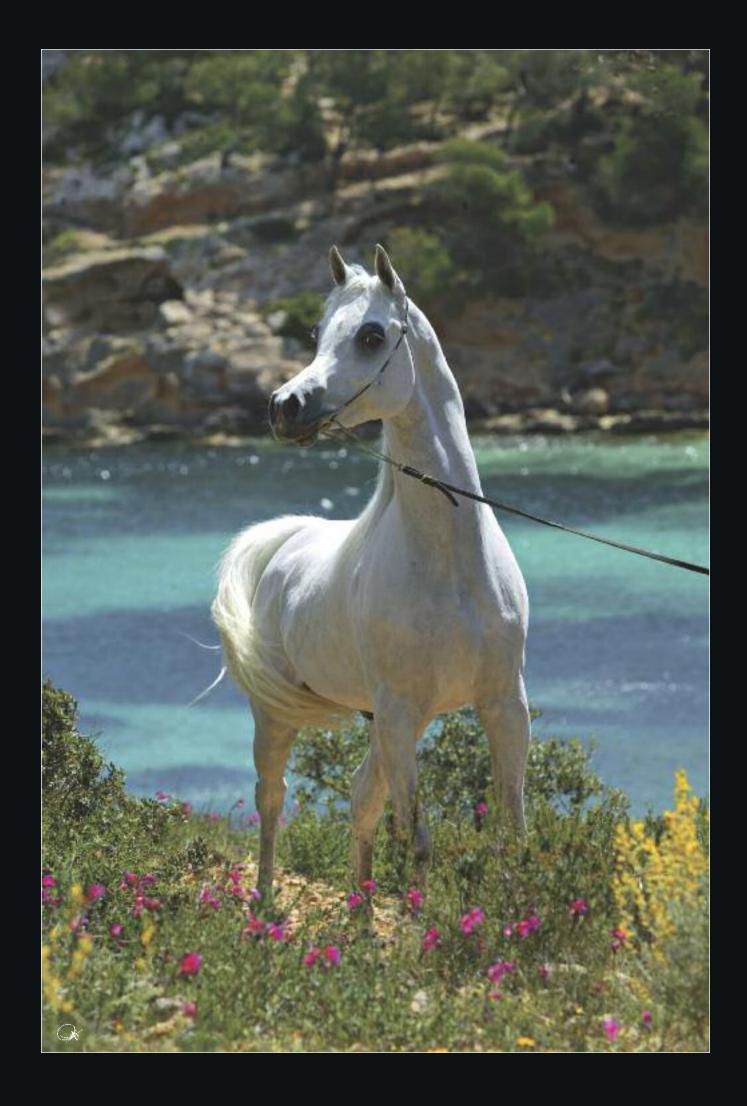
Views of the beautiful garden of the house of Marieta Salas. Marieta Salas with Fifi one of her favorite dogs. (Pictured in Spain - July 2006)









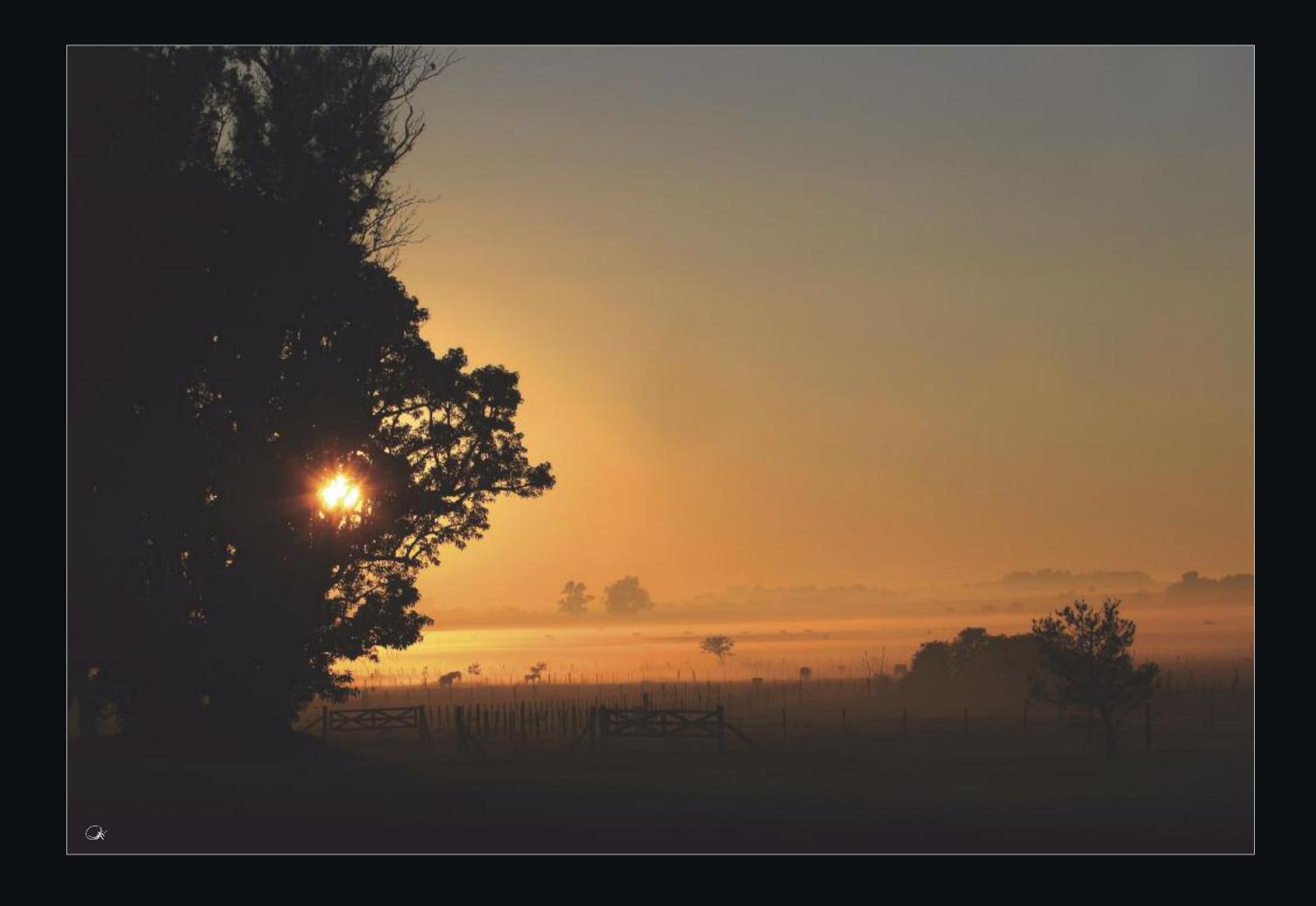




























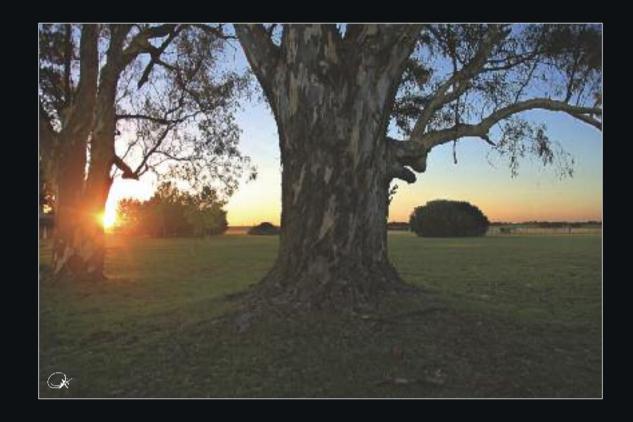












Eucalyptus trees at sunset in Zichy-Thyssen Farm (Pictured in Argentina - January 2012 - 08:02 p.m. sunset light) Right page: ZT Marwteyn (Pictured in Argentina - October 2011 - 06:22 a.m. morning backlight)







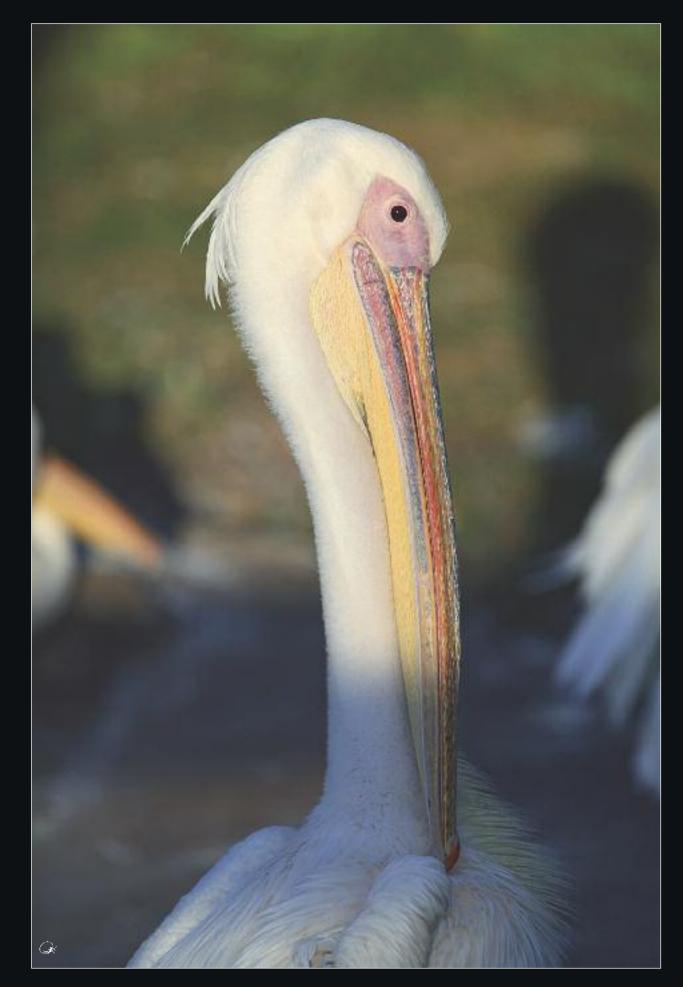








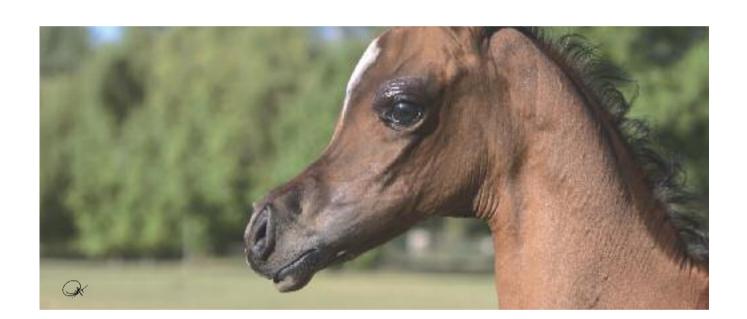
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Pelican (Pictured in Argentina - May 2009 - 06:32 p.m. afternoon light) Right page: Fiery clouds at sunset (Pictured in Argentina - May 2009 - 06:01 p.m. sunset backlight)

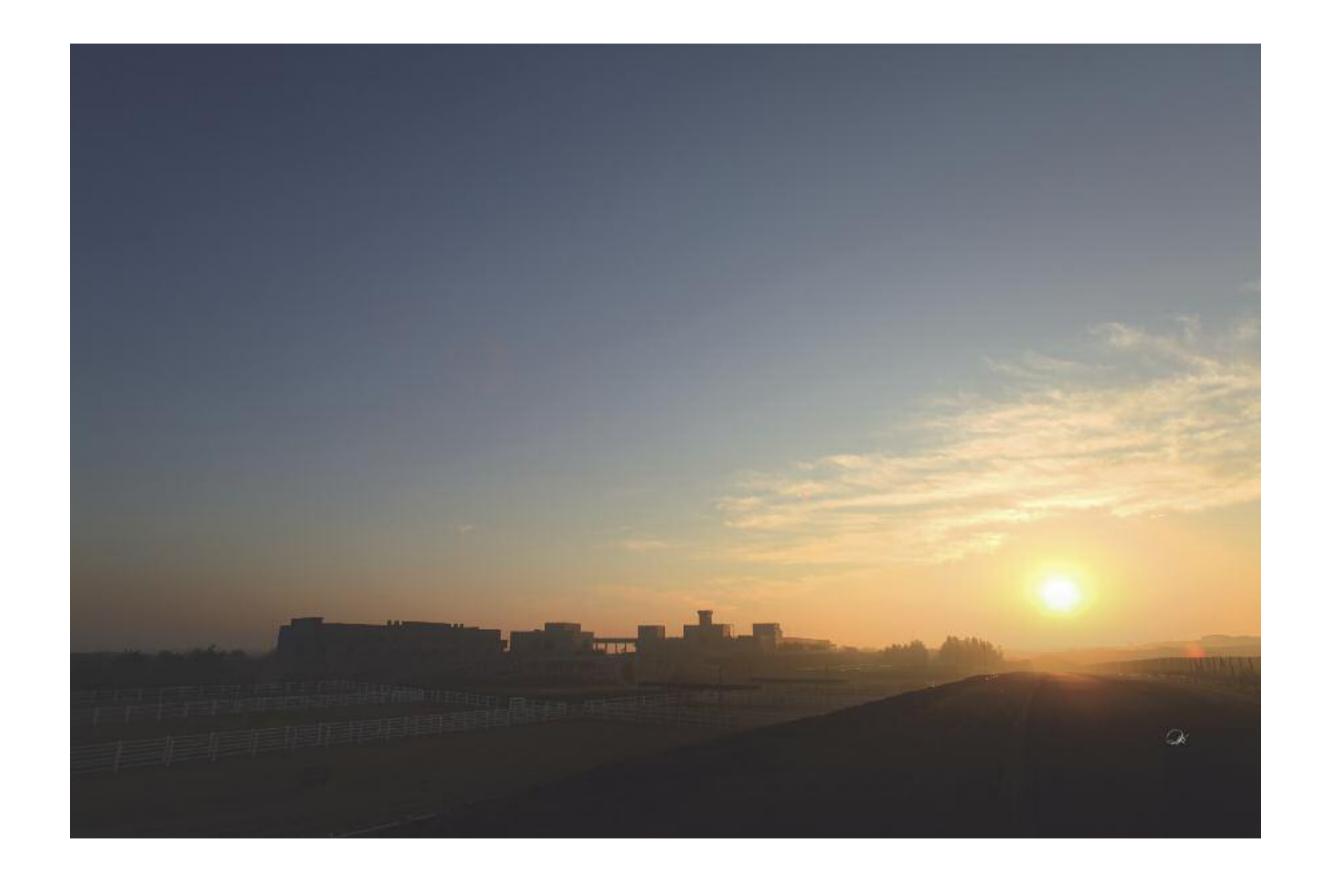


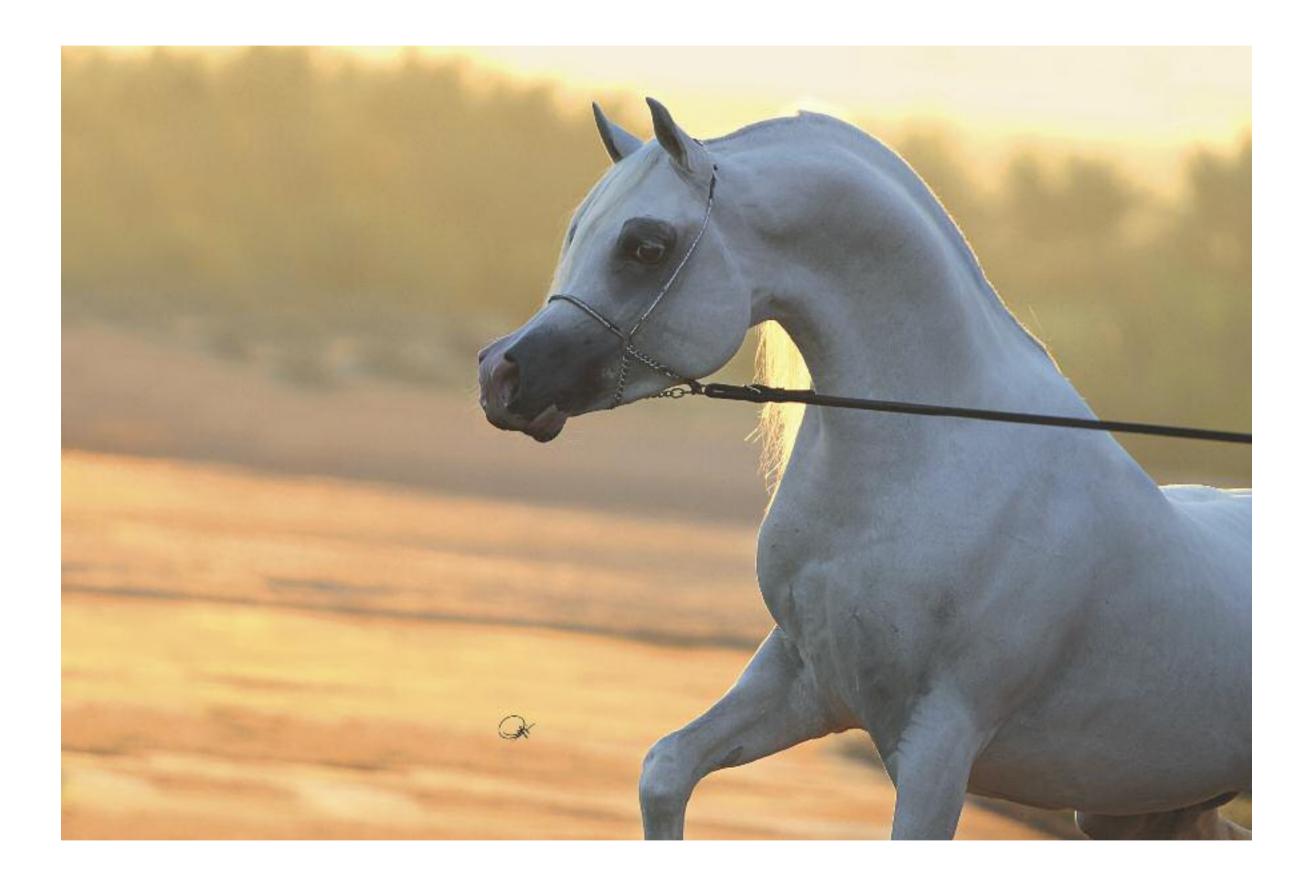




















Left side: Kwestura (Pictured in United Arab Emirates - January 2010 - 07:20 a.m. gold morning light) Right side: Alma Al Tiglio (Pictured in United Arab Emirates - January 2010 - 09:12 a.m. morning light) Right page: Entrance of the mares barn at Ajman Stud (Pictured in United Arab Emirates - January 2010 - 07:20 a.m. soft morning light)













Inside view of the mares barn of Ajman Stud (Pictured in United Arab Emirates - January 2010 - 08:45 p.m. artificial light) Right page: Deska Hje (Pictured in United Arab Emirates - January 2009 - 07:55 a.m. soft morning light)







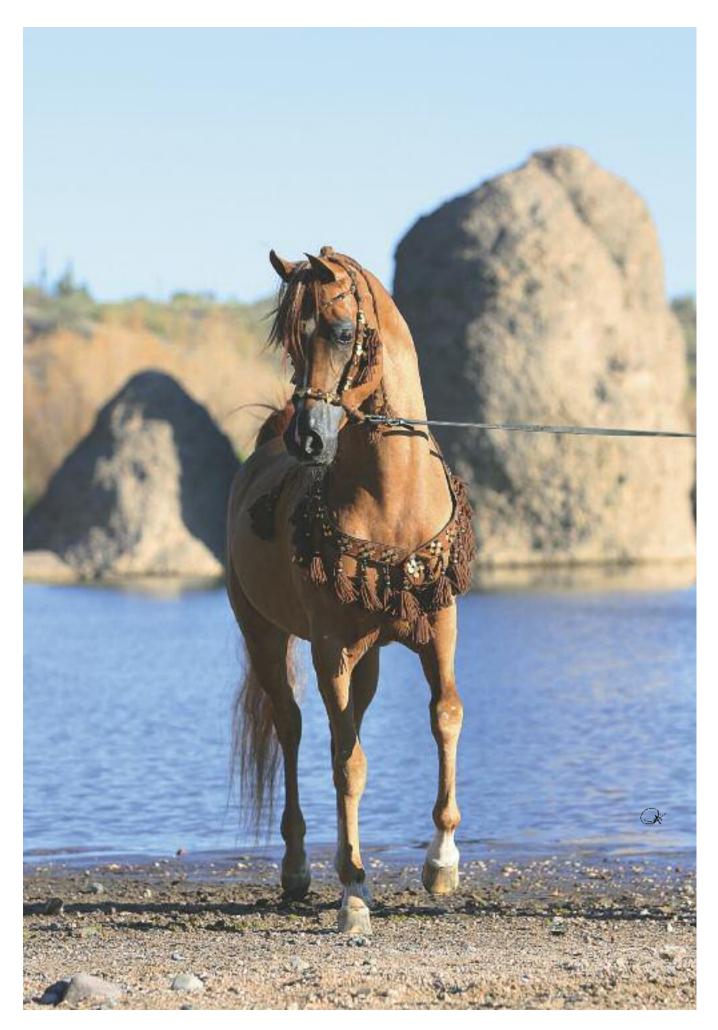




View of the lake in front of the stable at the sunset (Pictured in United Arab Emirates - January 2010 - 05:48 p.m. sunset gold backlight) Left page: Panarea By Palawan (Pictured in United Arab Emirates - January 2010 - 07:41 a.m. soft morning light)







Ames Charisma (Pictured in Arizona - January 2007 - 08:31 a.m. soft morning light) Left page: Amir Jamal (Pictured in Arizona - January 2007 - 08:03 a.m. soft morning light)

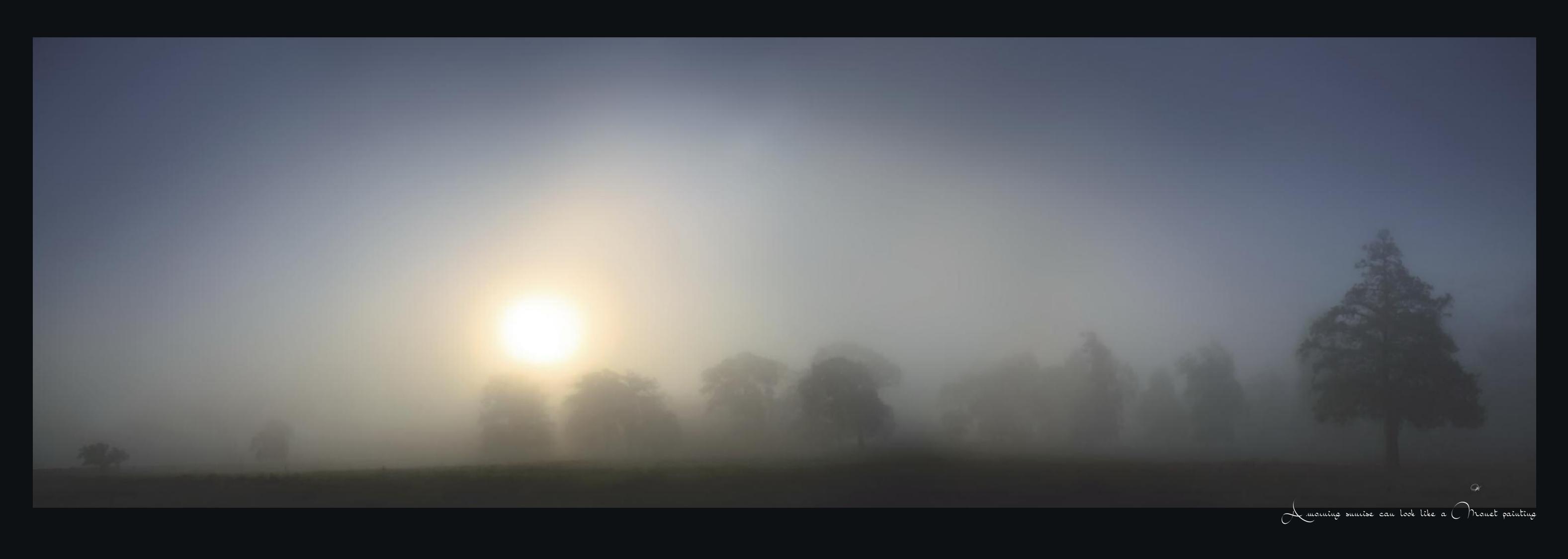


Left side: Three fillies of Athala Arabians (Pictured in Arizona - January 2007 - 08:38 a.m. morning light) Right side: Raisin Thee Cane (Pictured in Arizona - January 2007 - 08:50 a.m. morning light) Right page: Dominga El Justice (Pictured in Austria - September 2012 - 09:58 a.m. morning light)













Left and centre side: CR Jasmeenah (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 07:52 a.m. soft morning backlight) Right side: Lake on the Michael Byatt Farm (Pictured in Texas - May 2008 - 06:59 a.m. morning backlight) Left page: CR Jasmeenah (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 07:52 a.m. soft morning backlight)



Mare and her foal in one of the pastures of Michael Byatt Farm (Pictured in Texas - April 2011 - 07:32 p.m. soft afternoon light) Right page: A happy goose in Michael Byatt's lake (Pictured in Texas - April 2011 - 09:02 a.m. soft morning backlight)















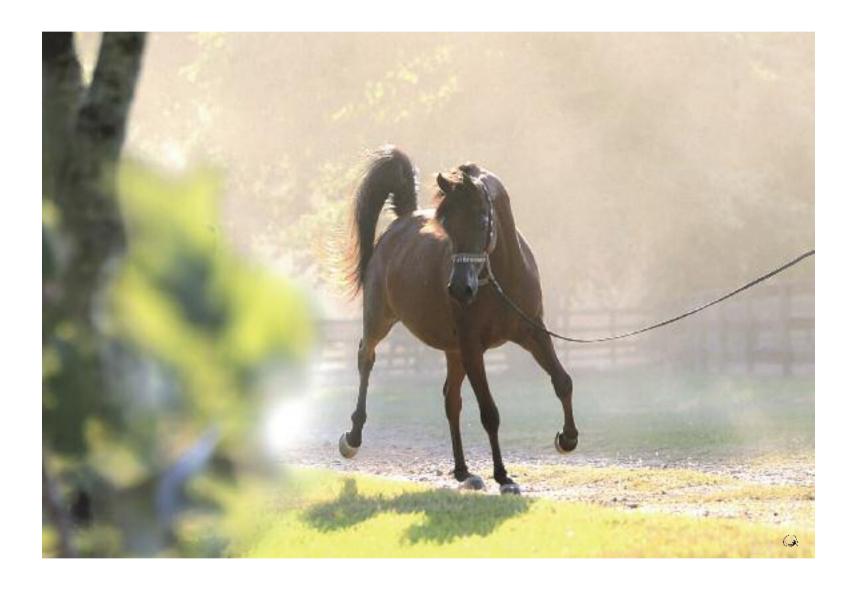
Left side: Om El Sanadeed (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 07:20 p.m. afternoon light) Right side: Om El Sanadeed (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 08:17 a.m. morning light) Left page: Peacock (Pavo muticus) (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 08:02 p.m. gold afternoon light)



Left side: Abha Qalams (Pictured in Texas - April 2009 - 08:30 a.m. morning light) Right side: ZT Faakalba (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 07:02 a.m. morning light) Right page: ZT Faakalba (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 06:58 a.m. soft morning light)









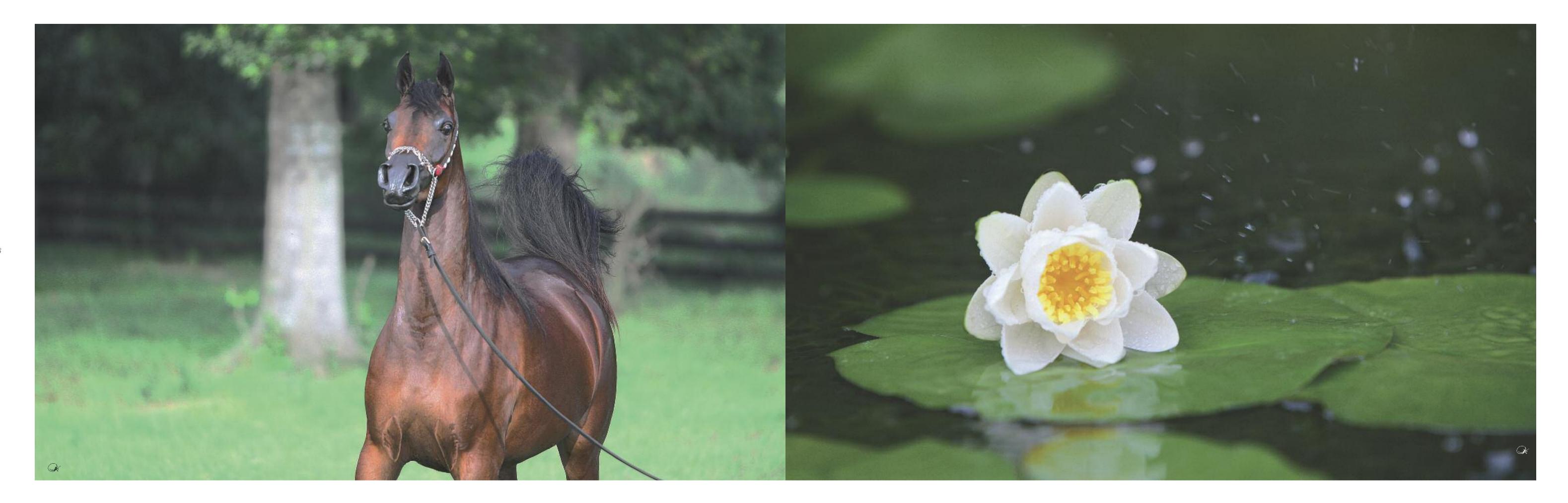






(he possibilities never end. It is so much more than just a bee.

When I look at what is being presented to me, or what I have been asked to photograph. I try and see everything around the space. I not only look at the bee that nourishes itself on a flower. I see the flower, and in turn I do not look at only the color of the flower. I look at its shape. And then I expand my view to see the stem, and the plants around the flower. And then I think of what that bee will do when it pollinates the next flower.

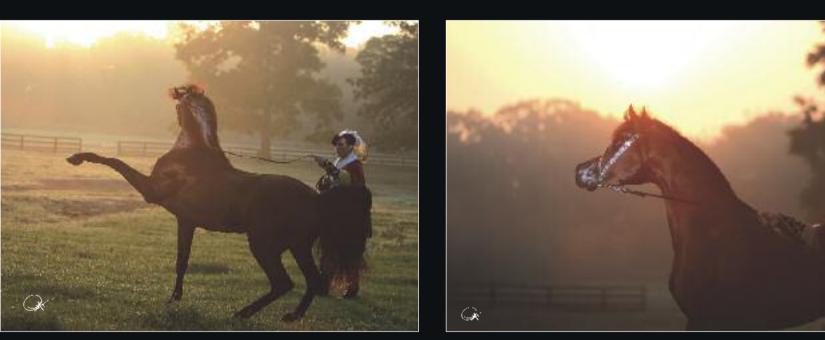
























Left and center side: ZT Marwteyn (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 06:34 a.m. soft morning light) Right side: ZT Marwteyn (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 07:24 a.m. afternoon backlight) Left page: ZT Marwteyn (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 07:53 a.m. gold afternoon backlight)







Farhoud Al Shaqab (Pictured in Texas - April 2011 - 07:44 p.m. gold backlight)



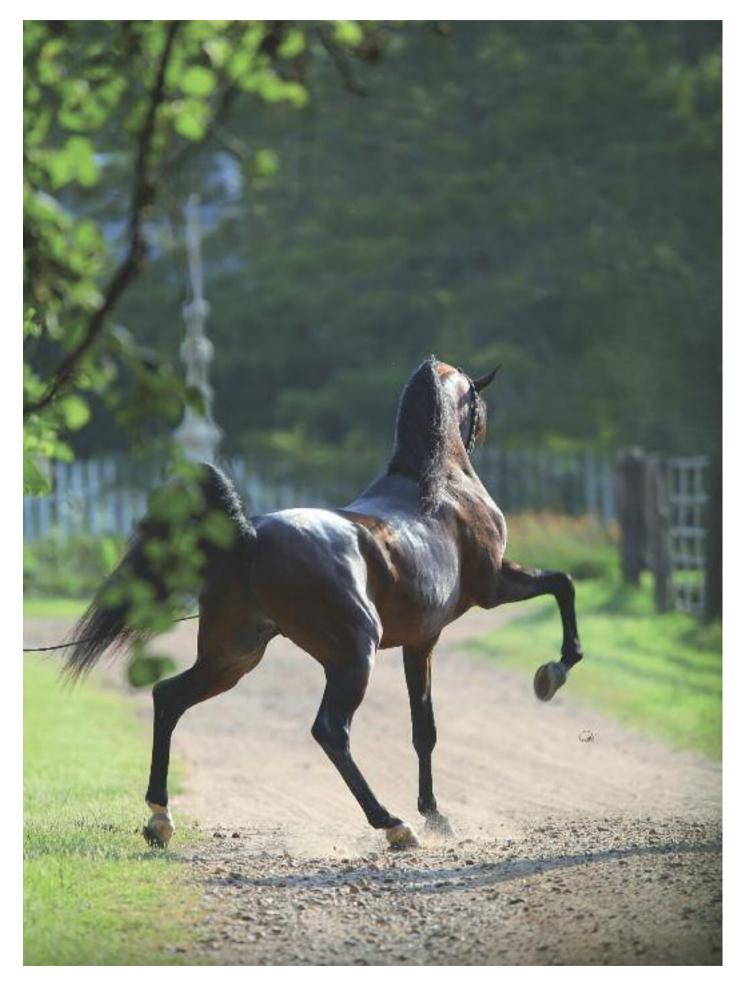




Left and right page: Gazal Al Shaqab (Pictured in Texas - October 2007 - 07:38 a.m. morning light)







Aria Impresario (Pictured in Texas - April 2009 - 05:33 p.m. afternoon light) Right page: Hariry Al Shaqab (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 06:36 p.m. afternoon light)

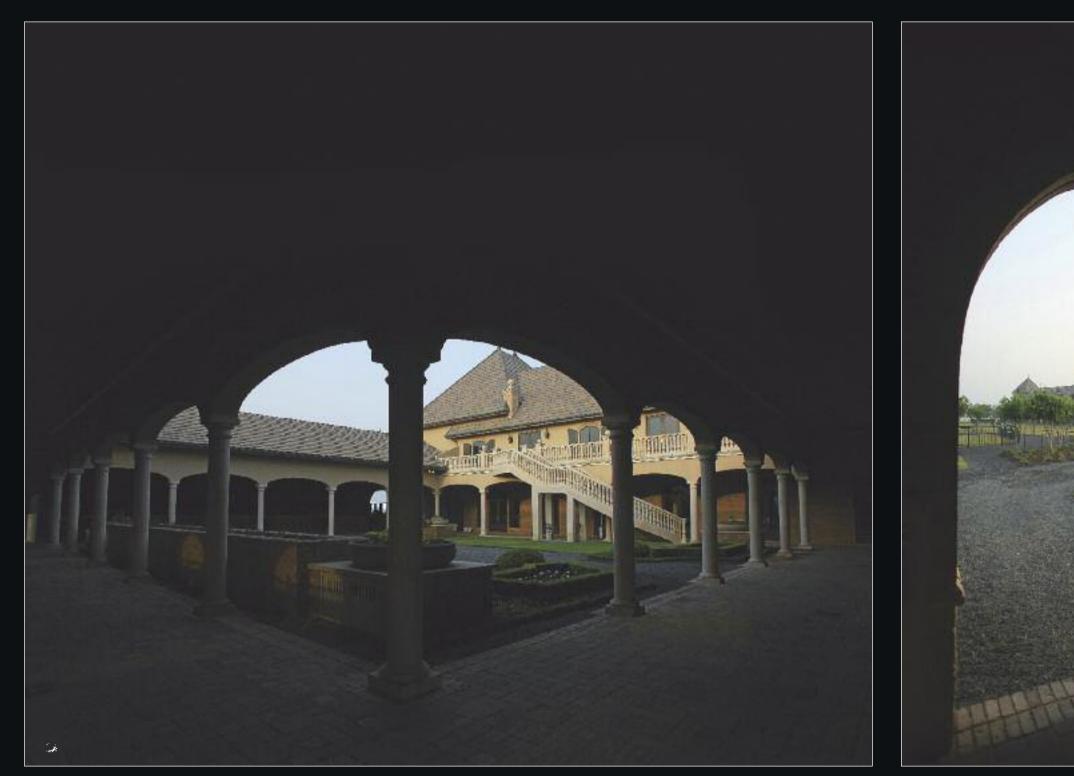






(here are some that run without sound you cannot hear only see.) atch for the little puffs of sand beneath the feet.

You can see the speed and movement but you cannot hear.







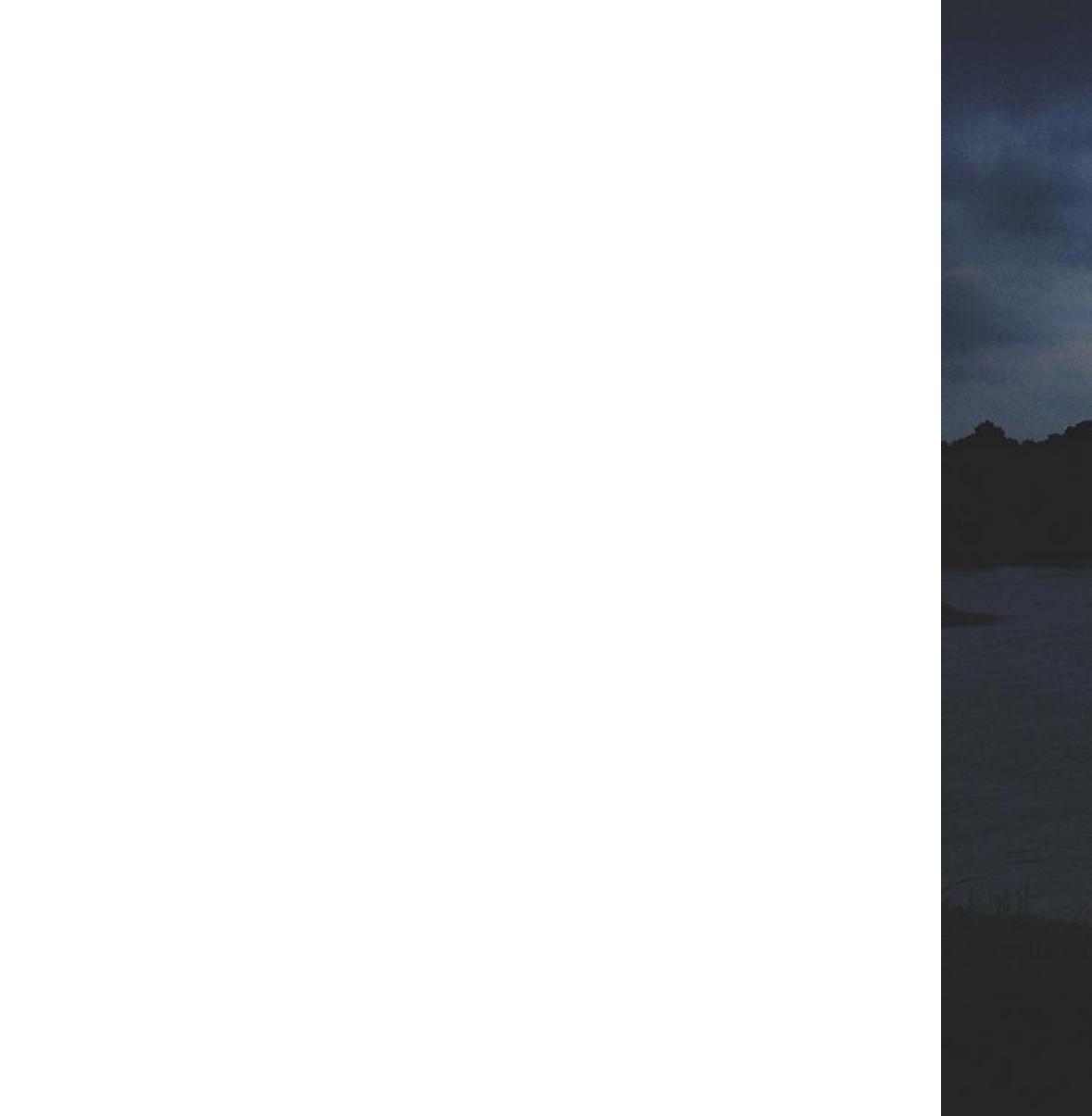








Group of mares running through the pastures of DeShazer Arabians (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 06:38 a.m. gold morning light) Right page: Laheeb AI Nasser (Pictured in Texas - April 2011 - 06:42 a.m. before sunrise artificial backlight)





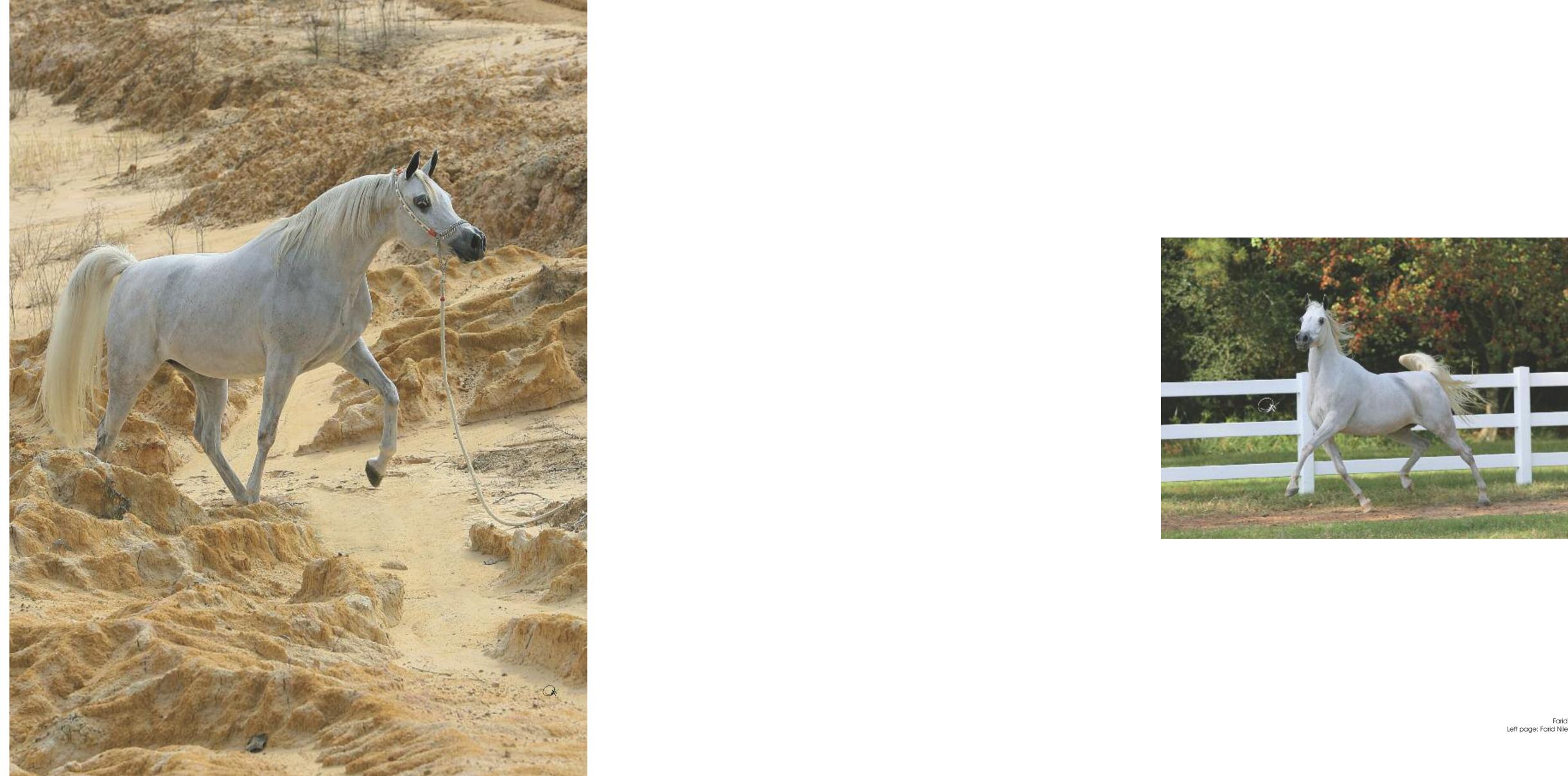


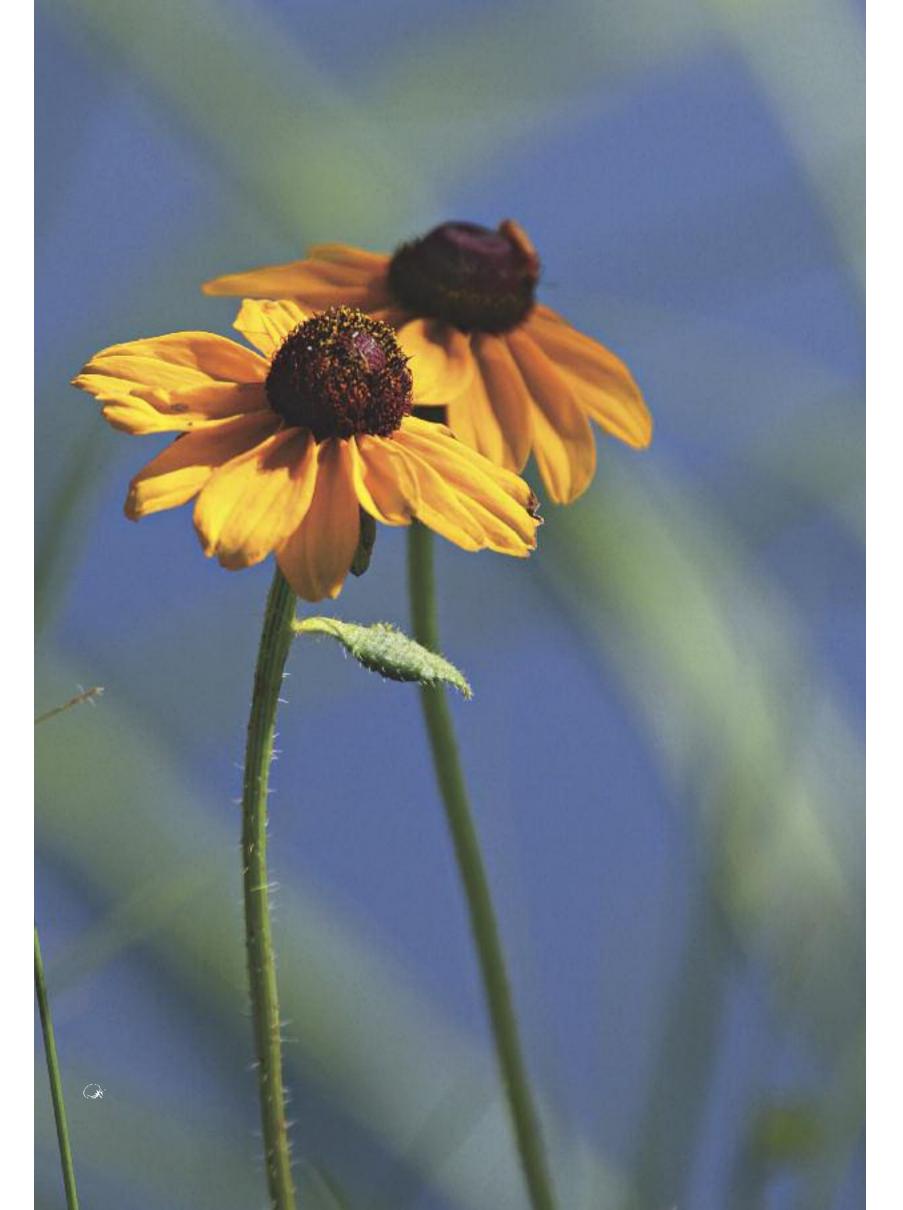


Group of mares running through the pastures of DeShazer Arabians (Pictured in Texas - May 2012 - 06:45 a.m. gold morning backlight) Left page: Dragonfly on top of a flower (Pictured in Texas - April 2009 - 08:40 a.m. morning light)









(Pictured in Texas - May 2009 - 10:17 a.m. morning light)





Left side: Black-Bellied Whistling Ducks (Dendrocygna autumnalis) (Pictured in Texas - May 2009 - 09:30 a.m. morning light) Center side: Black-Necked Swan (Cygnus Melancoryphus) (Pictured in Texas - May 2009 - 06:42 a.m. gold morning backlight) Right side: Black Ibis (Pseudibis Papillosa) (Pictured in Texas - December 2006 - 05:23 p.m. gold sunset backlight)







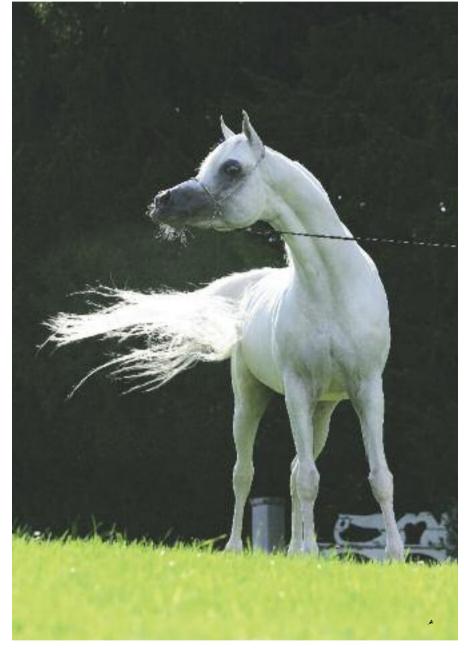














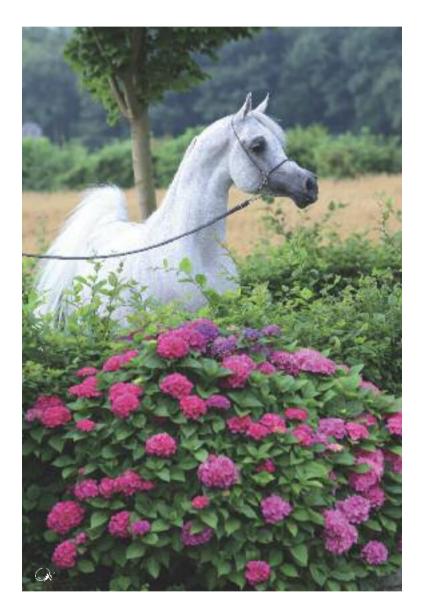
Left side: CH EI Brillo (Pictured in Austria - August 2003 - 09:40 a.m. morning light) Center side: Eternity Ibn Navarrone-D (Pictured in Belgium - August 2004 - 07:43 a.m. morning backlight) Right side: TS Apolo (Pictured in Italy - July 2008 - 08:36 a.m. morning backlight)









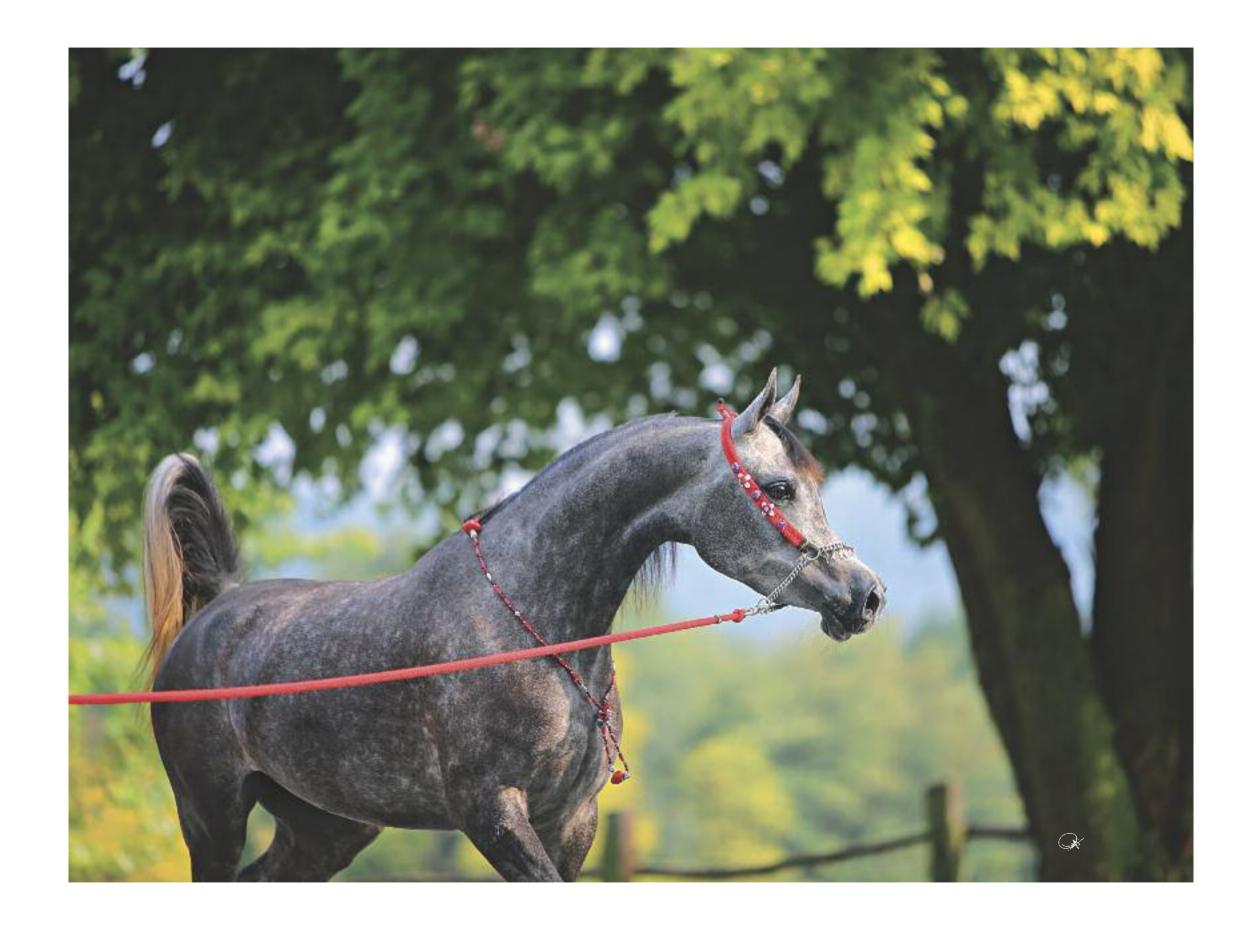


Om El Extreem (Pictured in Germany - July 2008 - 09:11 a.m. morning light) Right page: Frasera Mashara (Pictured in Italy - October 2007 - 09:17 a.m. morning light)































Left side: Serene Ciai Dii (Pictured in Italy - April 2011 - 07:46 a.m. morning light) Right side: Serene Camilla (Pictured in Italy - April 2011 - 08:15 a.m. morning light) Right page: Phaaros (Pictured in Italy - October 2009 - 05:25 p.m. afternoon light)











Above left side: Clematis (Pictured in Italy - April 2011 - 08:17 a.m. morning light) Above right side: Maxximus Alfabia (Pictured in Italy - September 2012 - 07:37 a.m. morning light) Bottom left side: Leilany Le Soleil (Pictured in Italy - September 2012 - 04:23 p.m. afternoon light) Bottom right side and left page: Alfabia Sheib (Pictured in Italy - September 2010 - 07:25 a.m. morning light)





























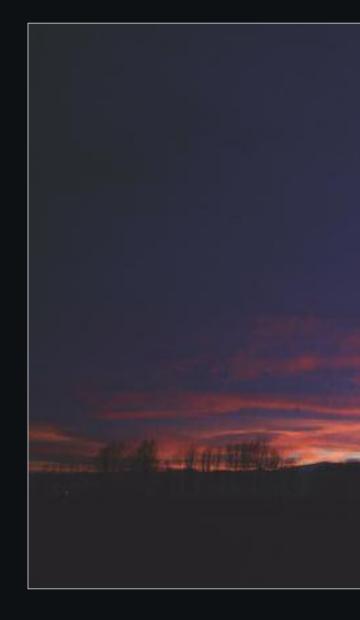


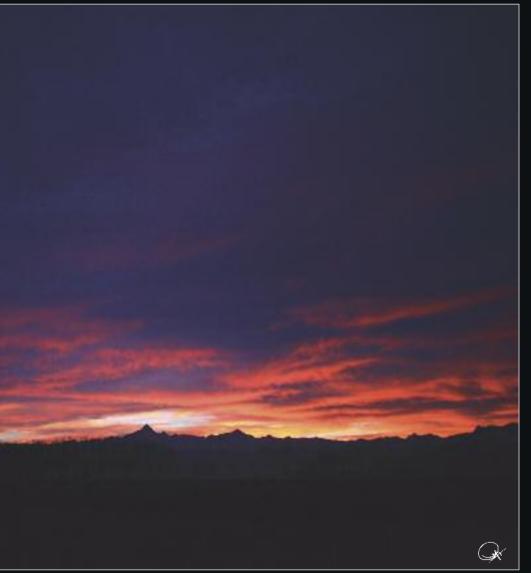


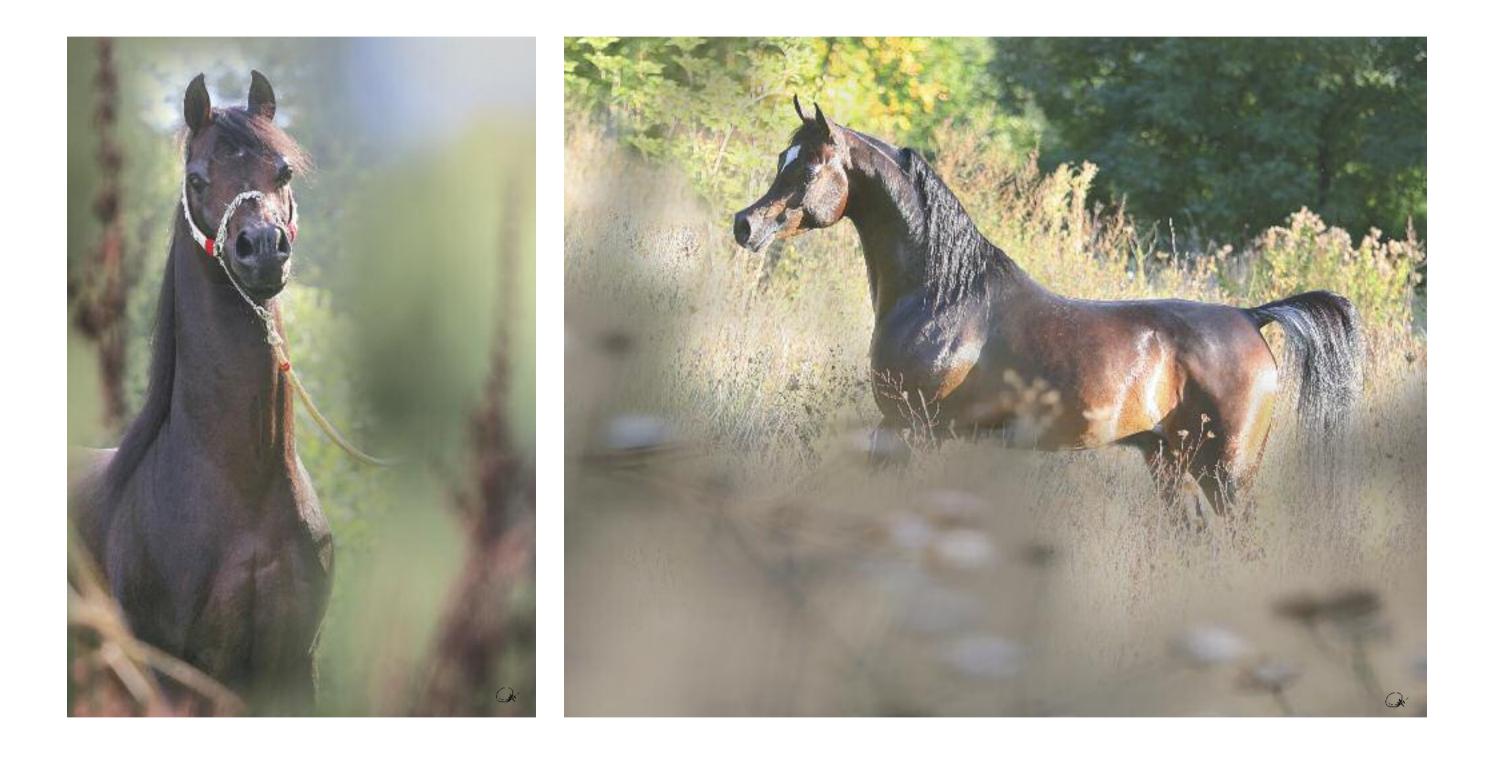






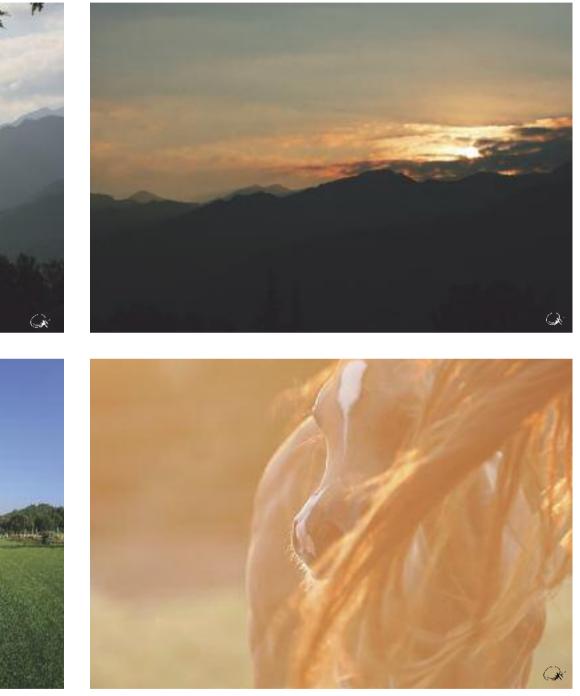


















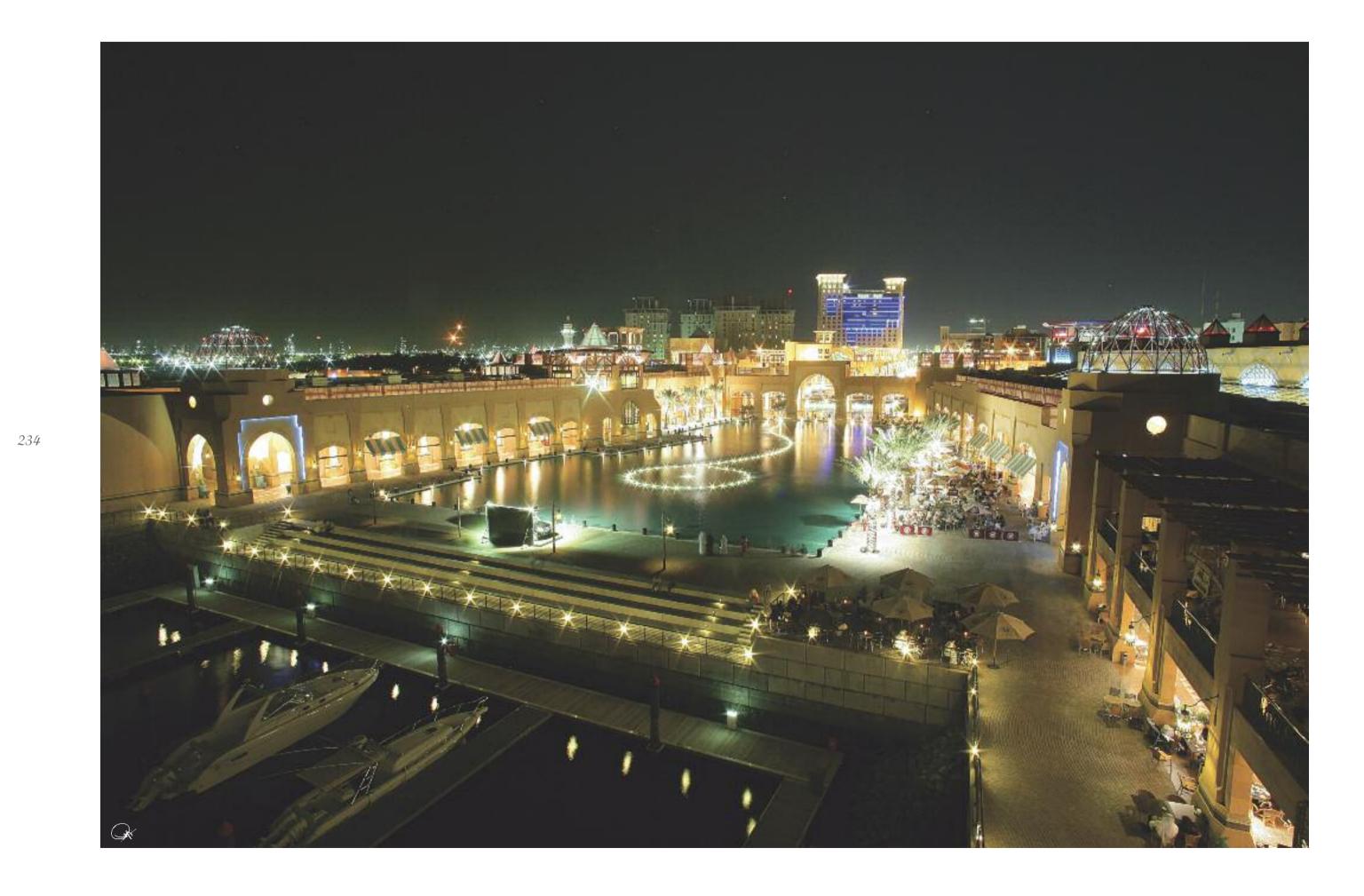


View of Gaughof-Arabians (Pictured in Italy - June 2007 - 09:01 a.m. morning light)





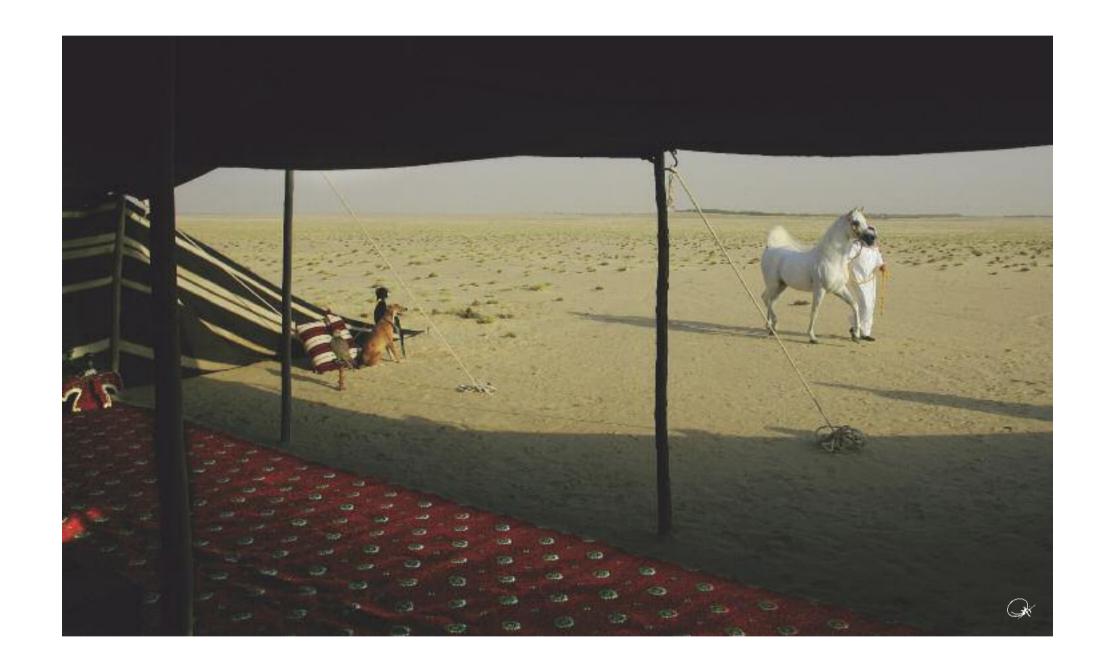






View of Ajmal Stud (Pictured in Kuwait - March 2003 - 06:05 a.m. soft morning light)







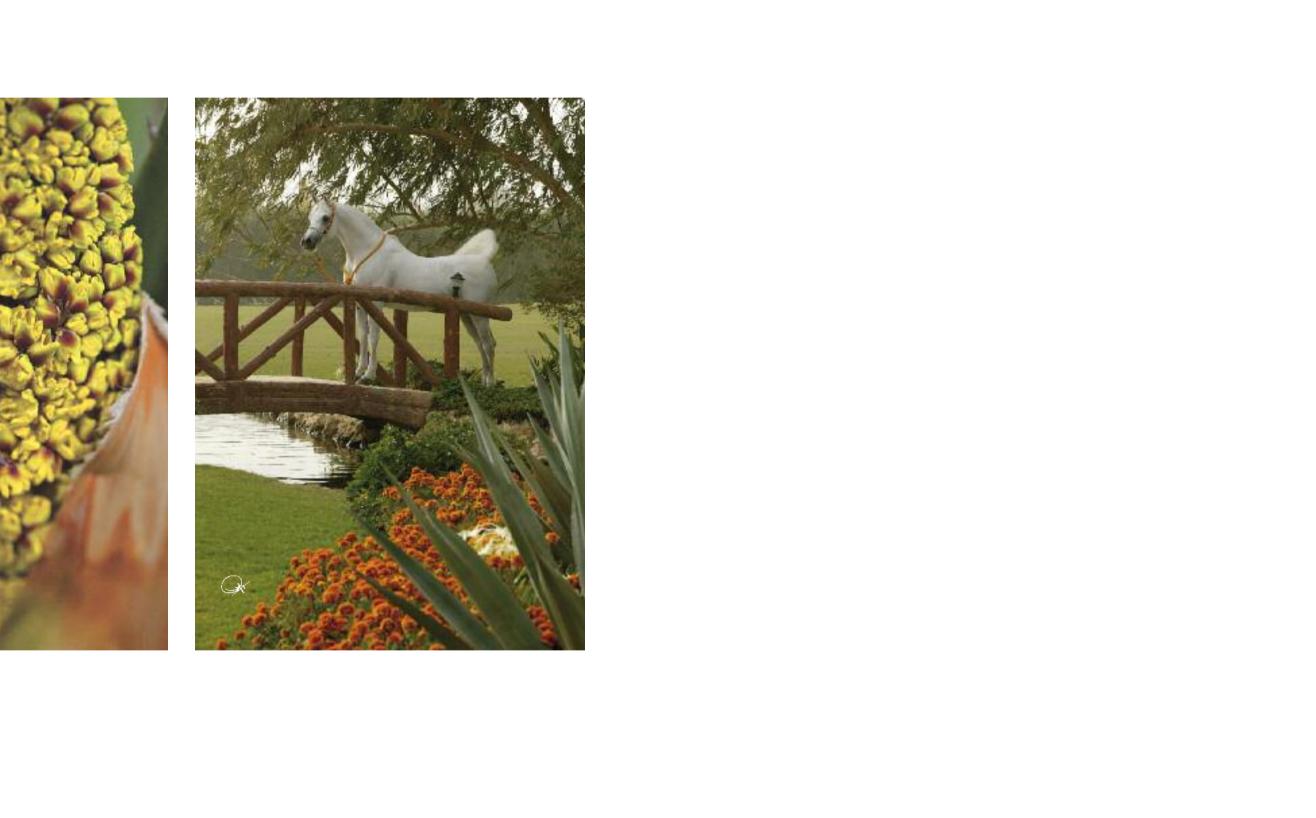


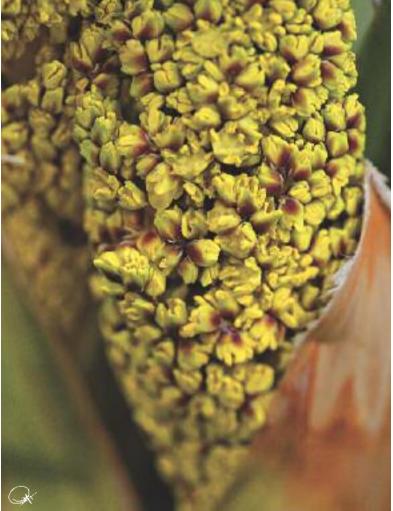














Ajmal Obbeyah (Pictured in Kuwait - April 2007 - 08:03 a.m. morning light) Left page: Ansata Hejazi (Pictured in Kuwait - December 2003 - 05:07 p.m. afternoon soft light)











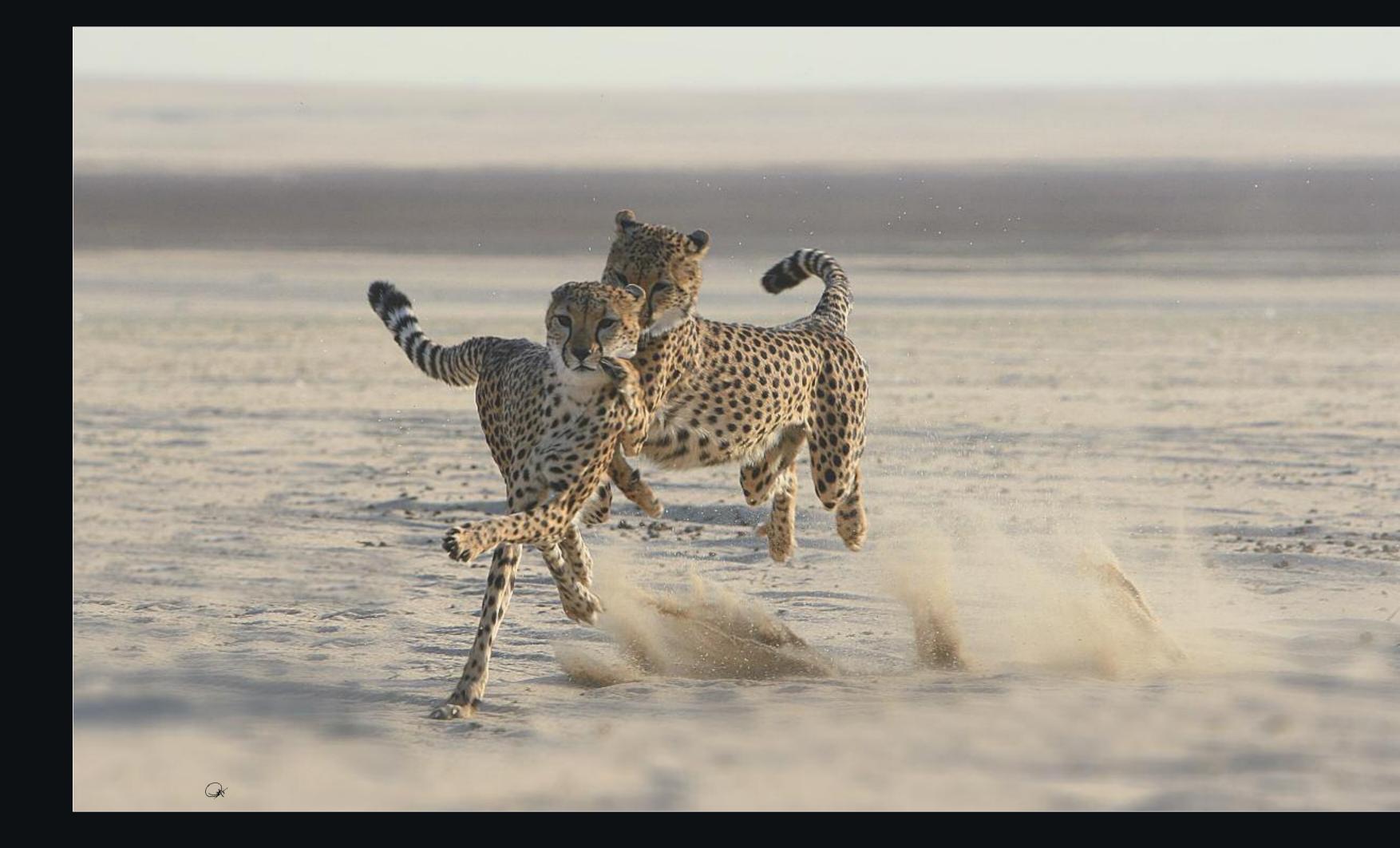








Cheetahs playing (Pictured in Kuwait - March 2009 - 05,04 p.m. afternoon light)















Ansata Al Murtajiz with two cheetahs trained to hunt in the desert (Pictured in Kuwait - April 2009 - 06:44 a.m. morning light) Left page: Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus) (Pictured in United Arab Emirates - April 2006 - 08:53 a.m. morning light)















Wahag Al Rayyan (Pictured in Kuwait - May 2007 - 08:46 a.m. morning light) Right page: NK Halla (Pictured in Kuwait - May 2007 - 08:46 a.m. morning light)









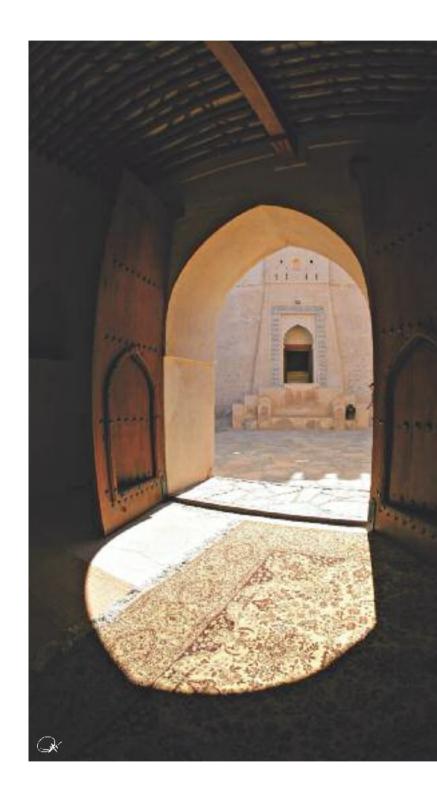


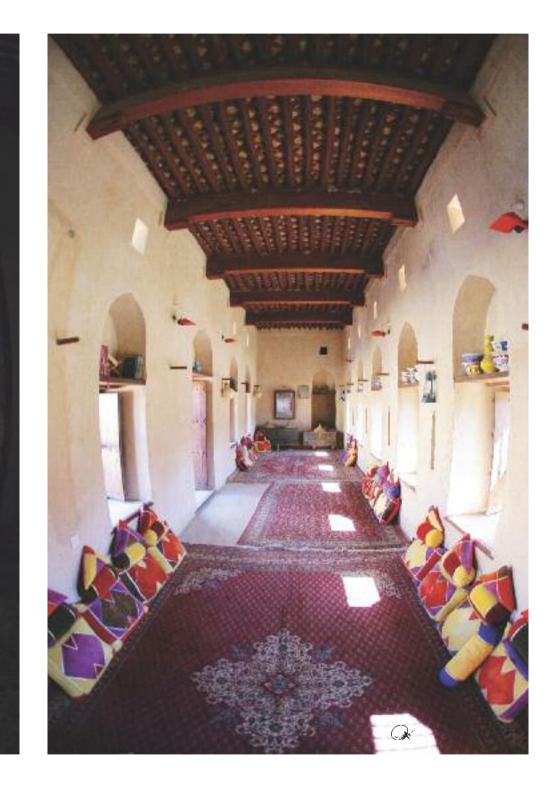


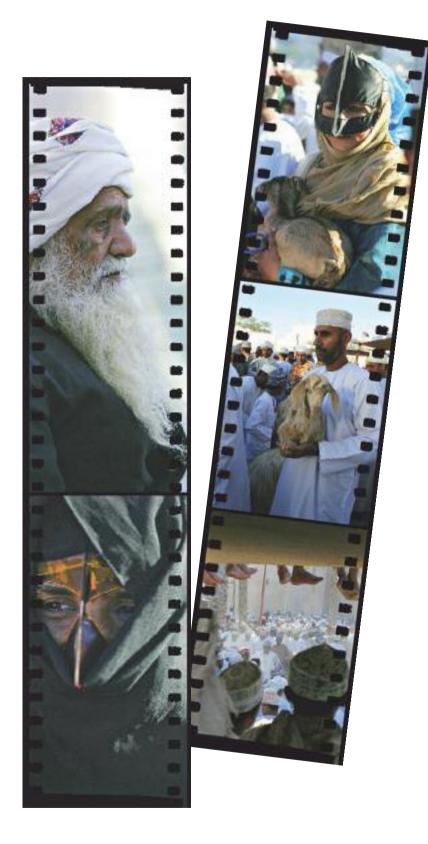




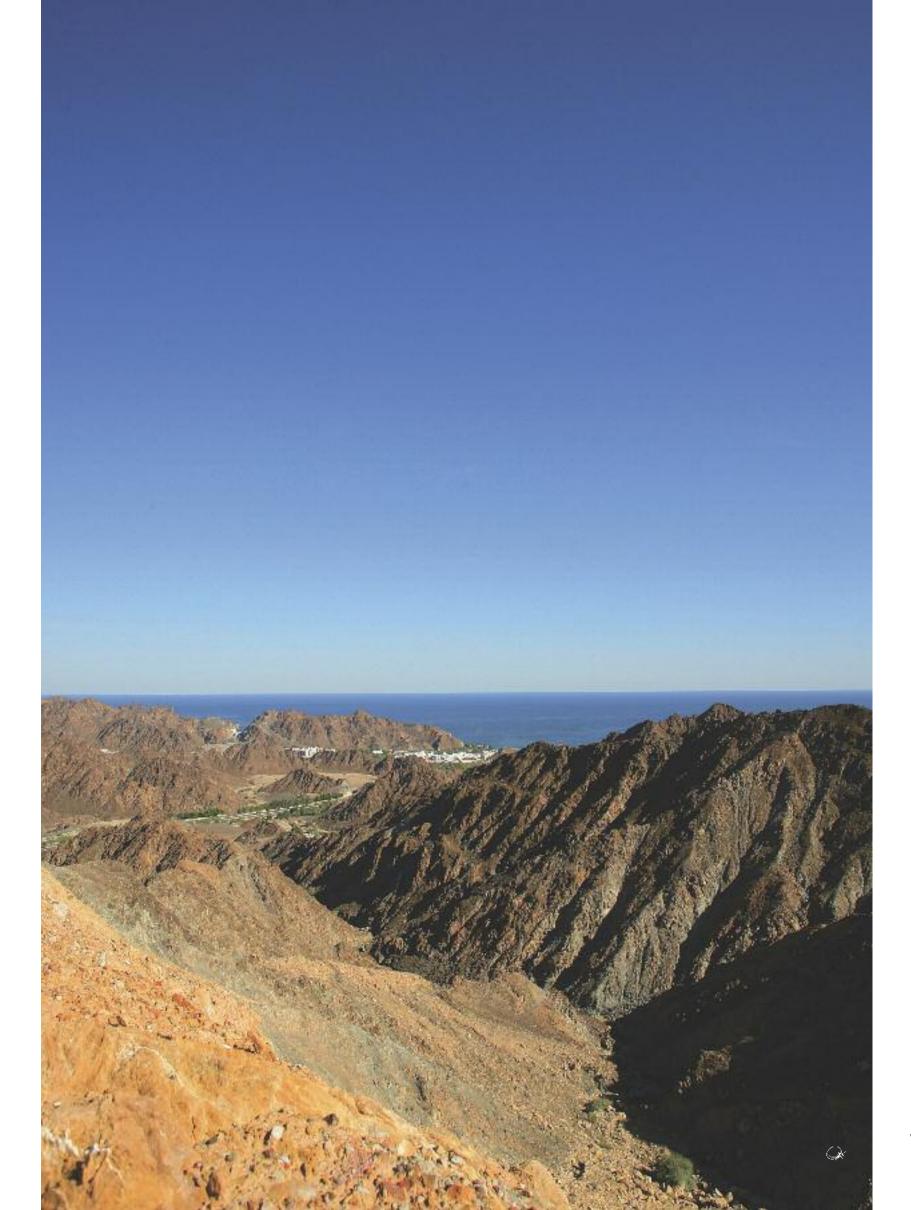












Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque (Pictured in Oman - March 2006 - 07:48 a.m. morning light)











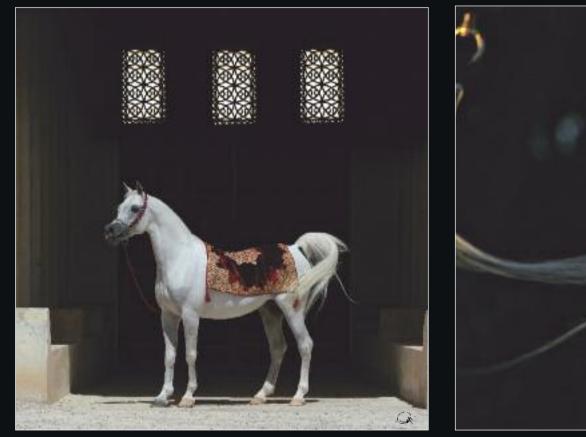








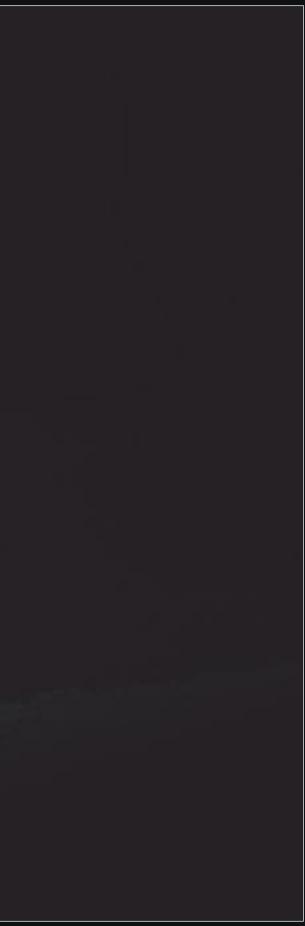


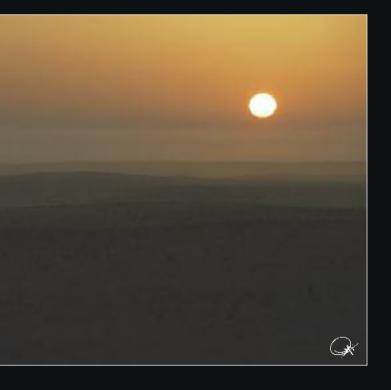




Left side: Al Adeed Al Shaqab (Pictured in Italy - June 2010 - 06:02 a.m. gold morning light) Right side: Al Adeed Al Shaqab (Pictured in Qatar - April 2007 - 07:12 a.m. morning light) Left page: Gyrfalcon (Falco rusticolus) (Pictured in Qatar - March 2006 - 07:48 a.m. morning light)











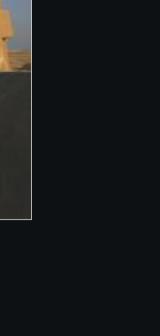


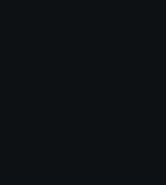
Traditional Bedouin tent on the desert of Qatar with trained falcons for hunting - Al Shaqab (Pictured in Qatar - November 2007 - 06:19 a.m. gold morning light)







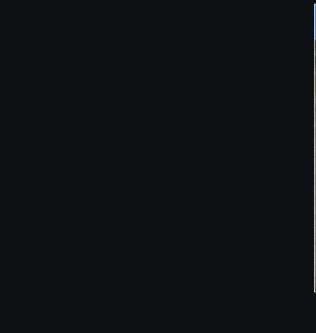




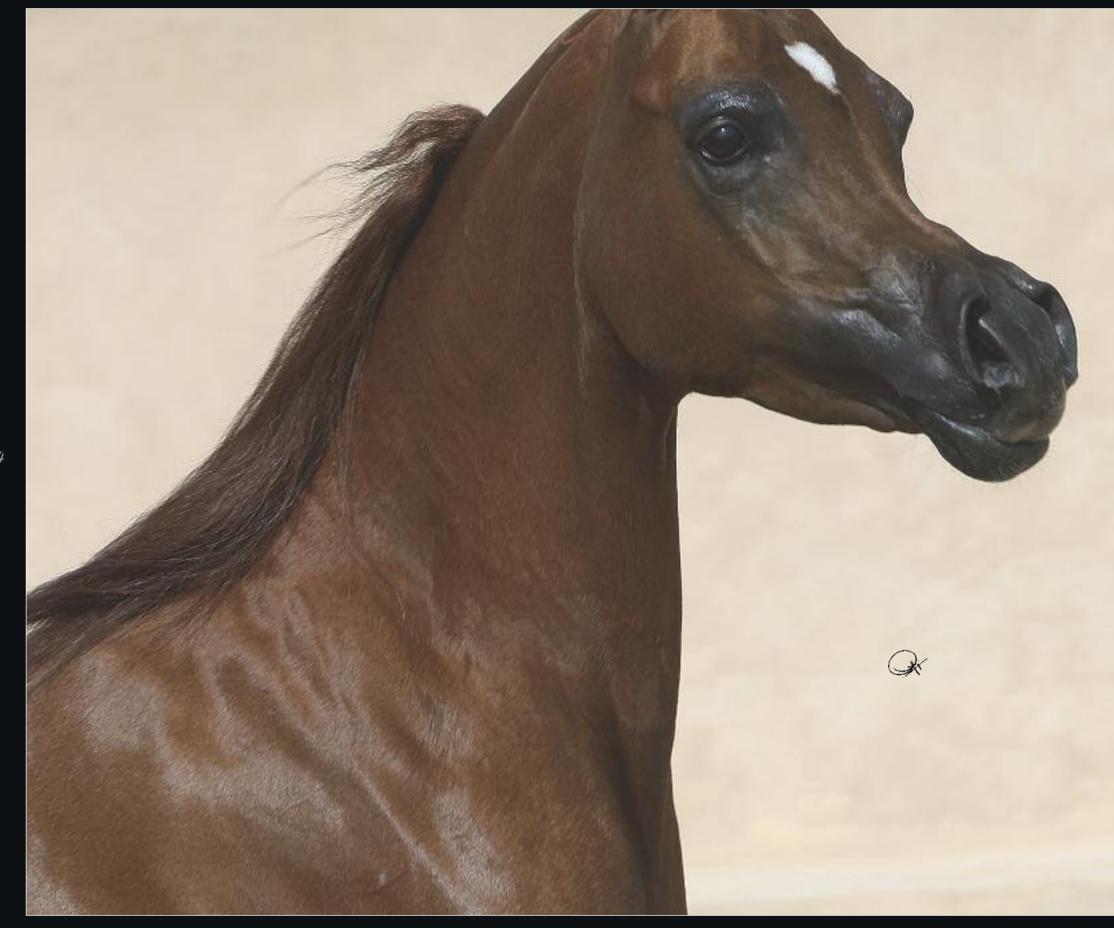
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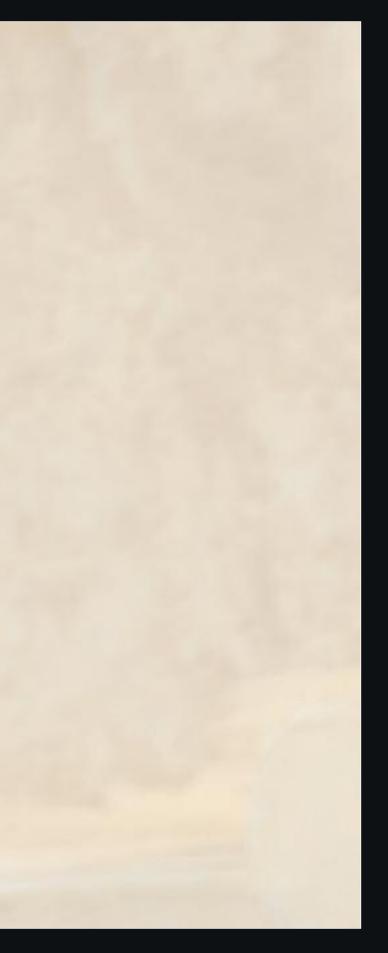






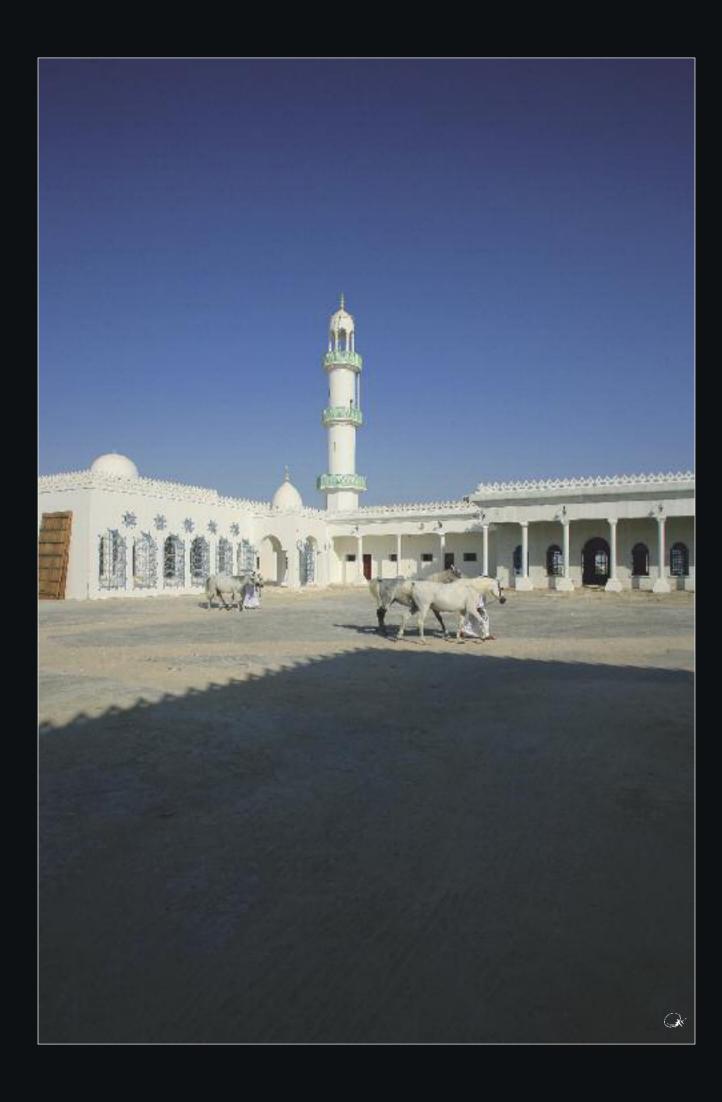








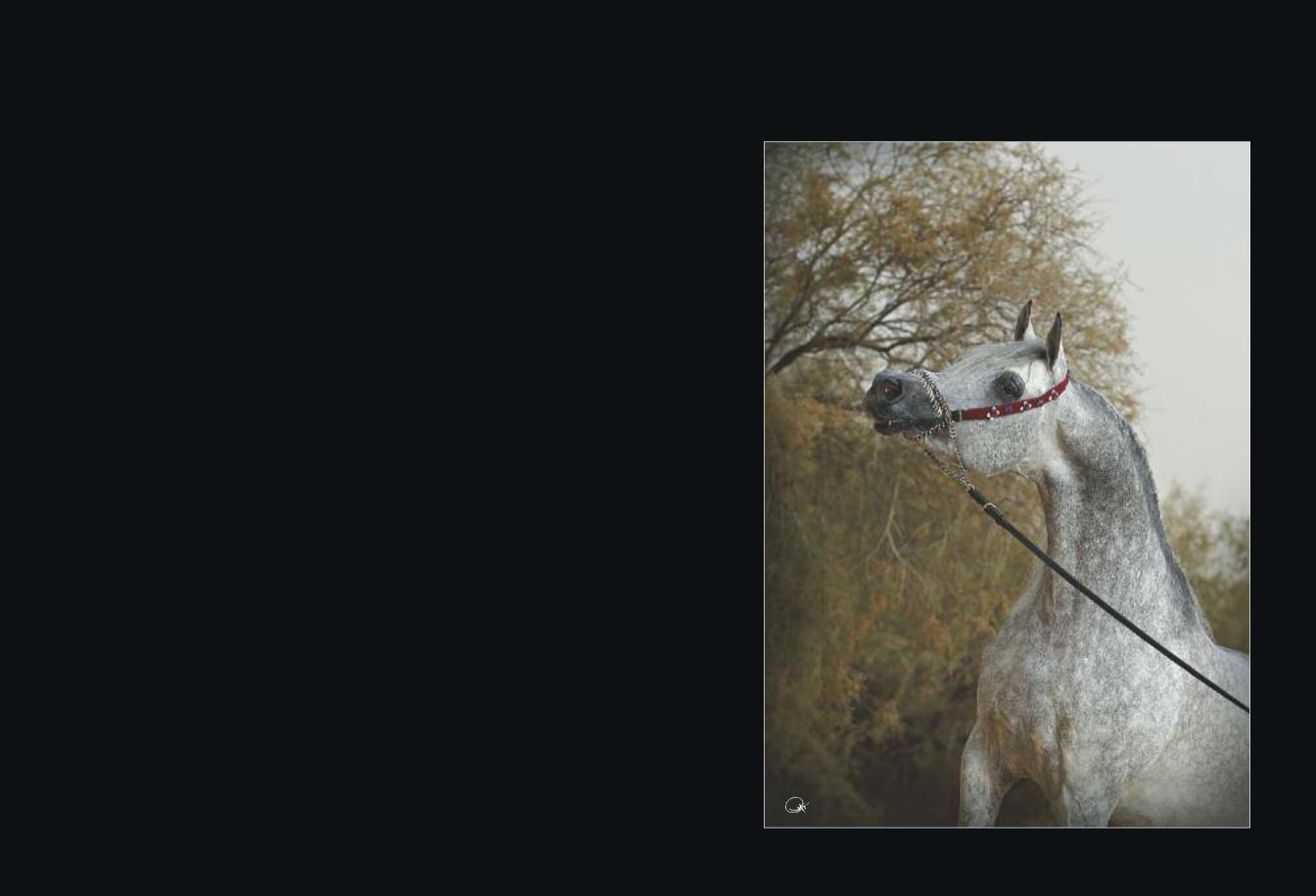
Left side: Inra Al Shaqab (Pictured in Qatar - November 2007 - 06:55 a.m. morning light) Right side: Wijdan Al Shaqab (Pictured in Qatar - December 2007 - 08:15 a.m. morning light)





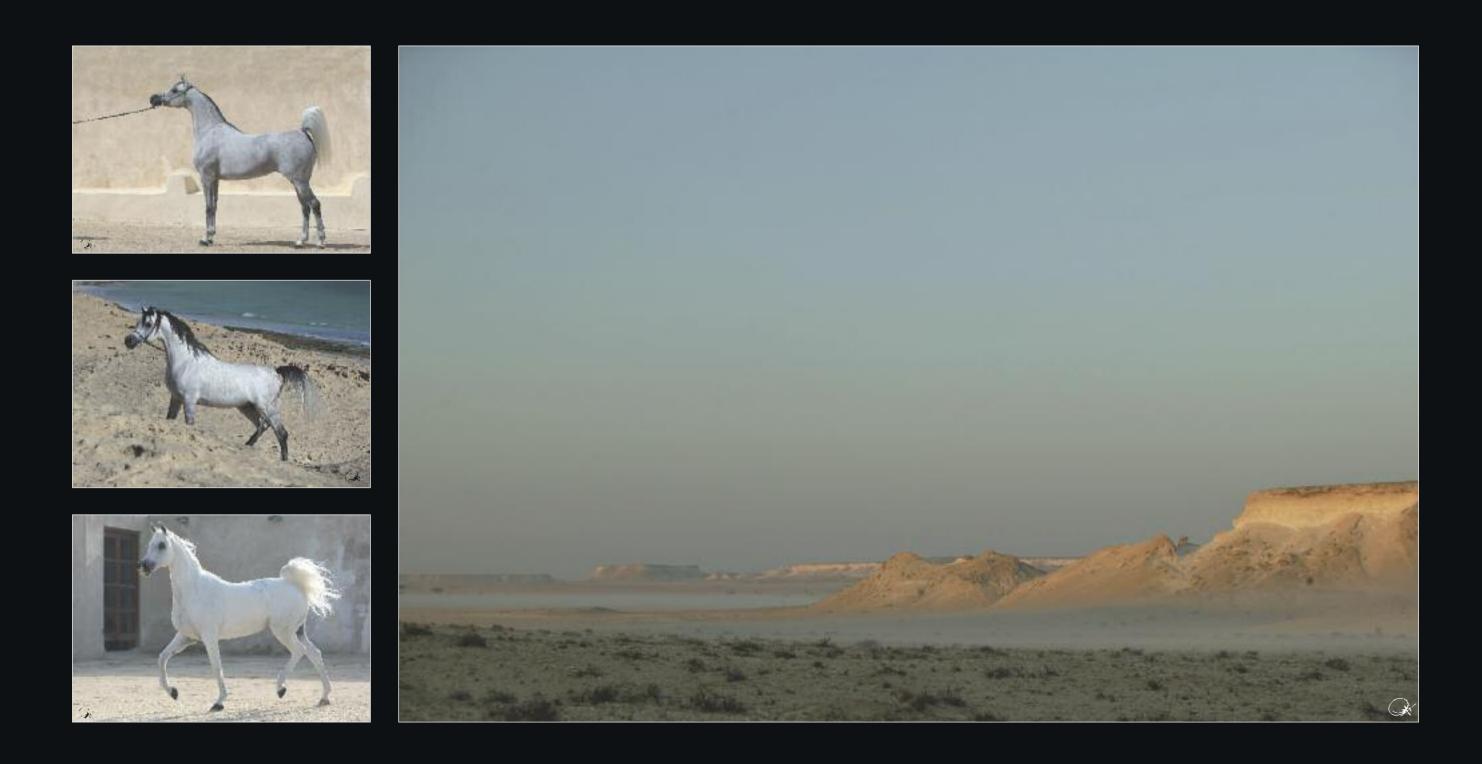


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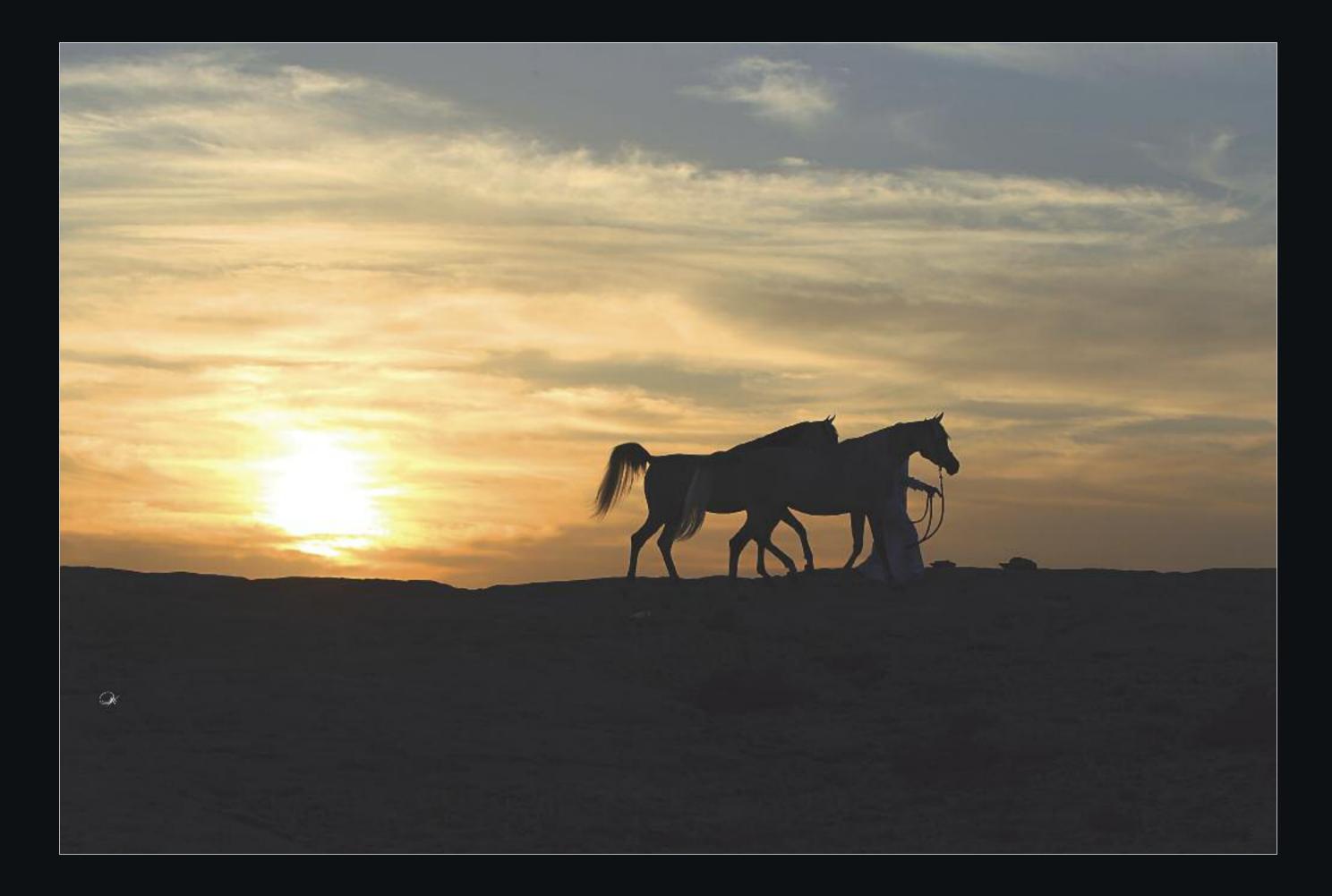






Above left: Abha Myra (Pictured in Qatar - February 2009 - 09:03 a.m. morning light) Center left: Farhoud Al Shaqab (Pictured in Qatar - March 2012 - 06:20 a.m. gold morning light) Below left: ZT Sharuby (Pictured in Qatar - April 2009 - 06:04 a.m. morning light) Above right: desert view of Qatar (Pictured in Qatar - March 2004 - 05:45 a.m. soft sunrise morning light)

















Four stunning mares of Al Waab (Pictured in Qatar - March 2010 - 05:30 p.m. gold afternoon light) Right page: NK Nada (Pictured in Qatar - March 2010 - 05:40 p.m. gold afternoon light)









Two mares of Al Rayyan in the desert of Qatar (Pictured in Qatar - January 2004 - 06:30 a.m. morning light) Right page: Al Angha Al Rayyan trotting free in the desert of Qatar (Pictured in Qatar - February 2008 - 06:45 a.m. morning light)v









Safir Al Rayyan (Pictured in Qatar - February 2008 - 04:45 p.m. afternoon light) Right page: Ansata Nefer Isis and Jamila Al Rayyan (Pictured in Qatar - February 2008 - 04:59 p.m. gold afternoon light)





















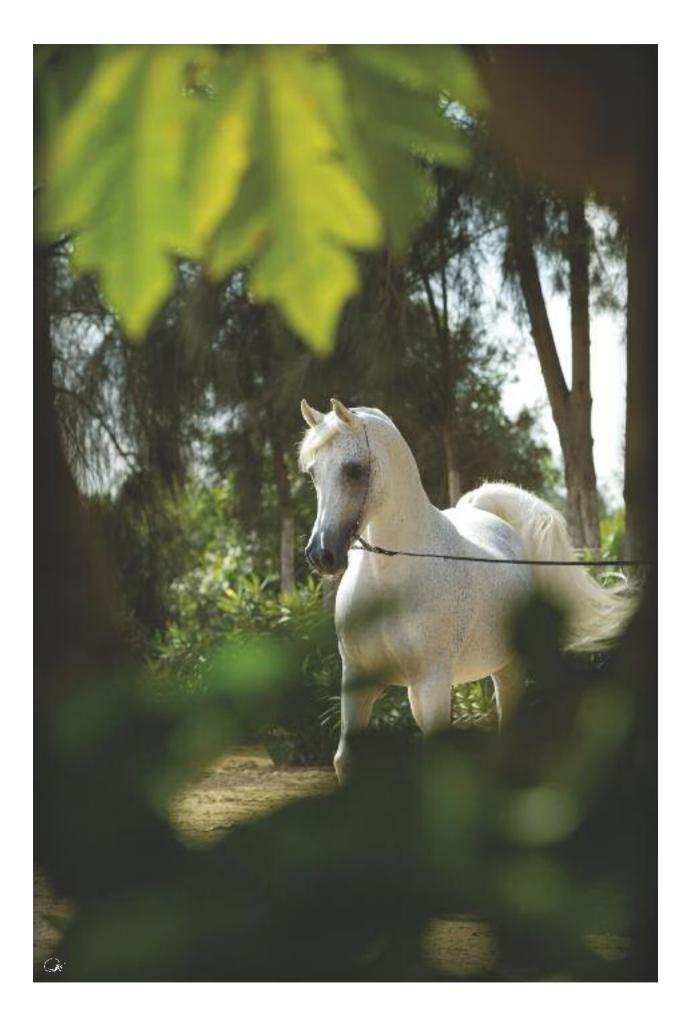
































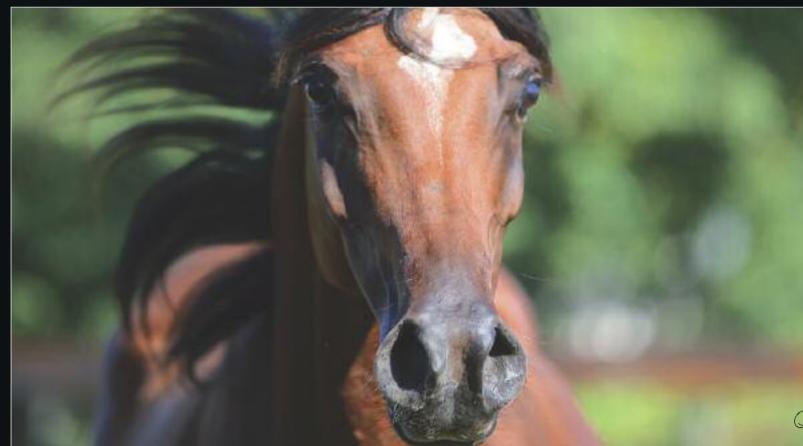




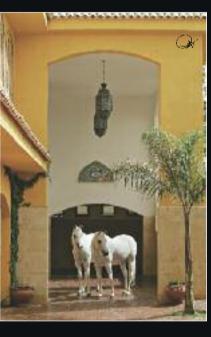








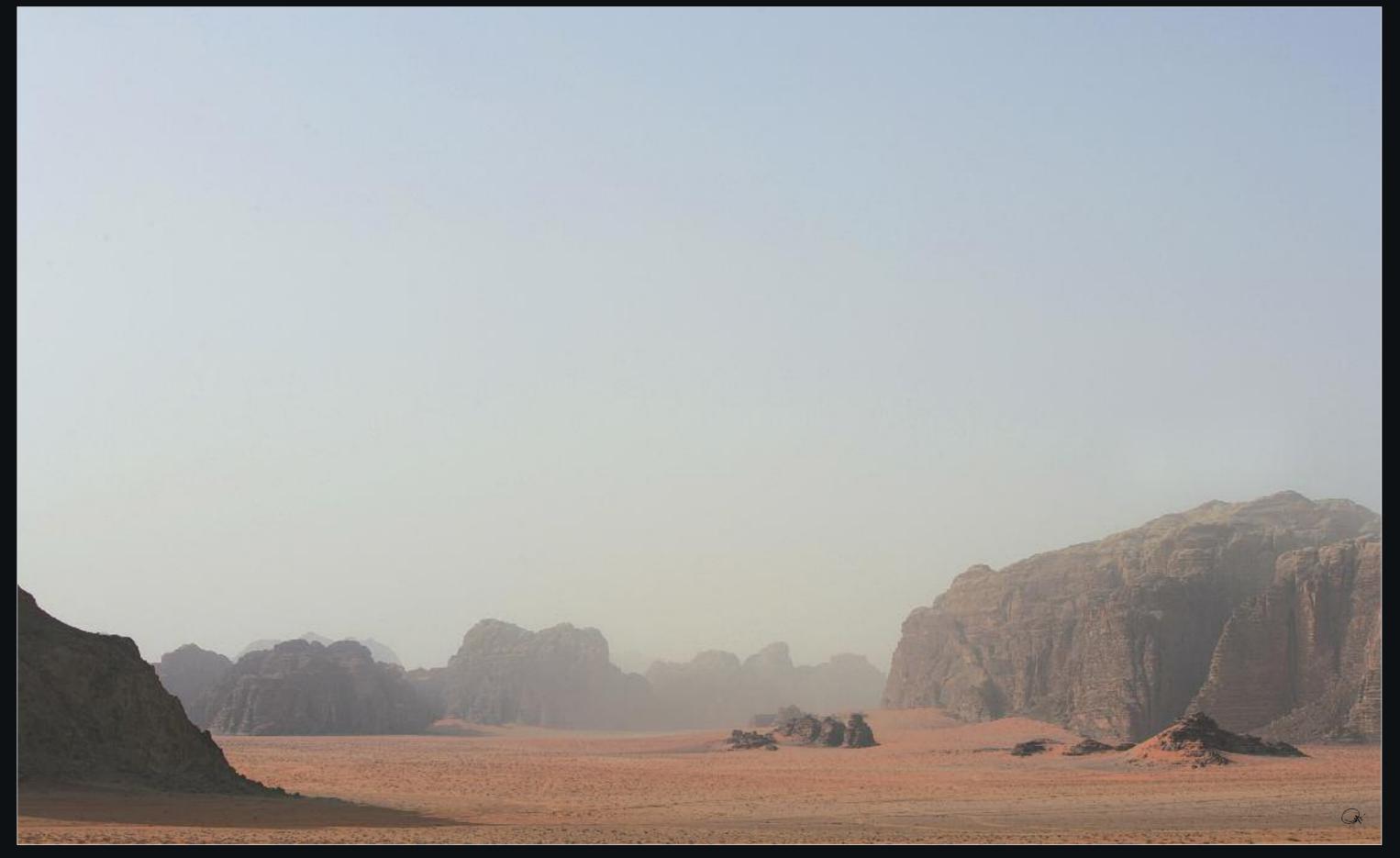




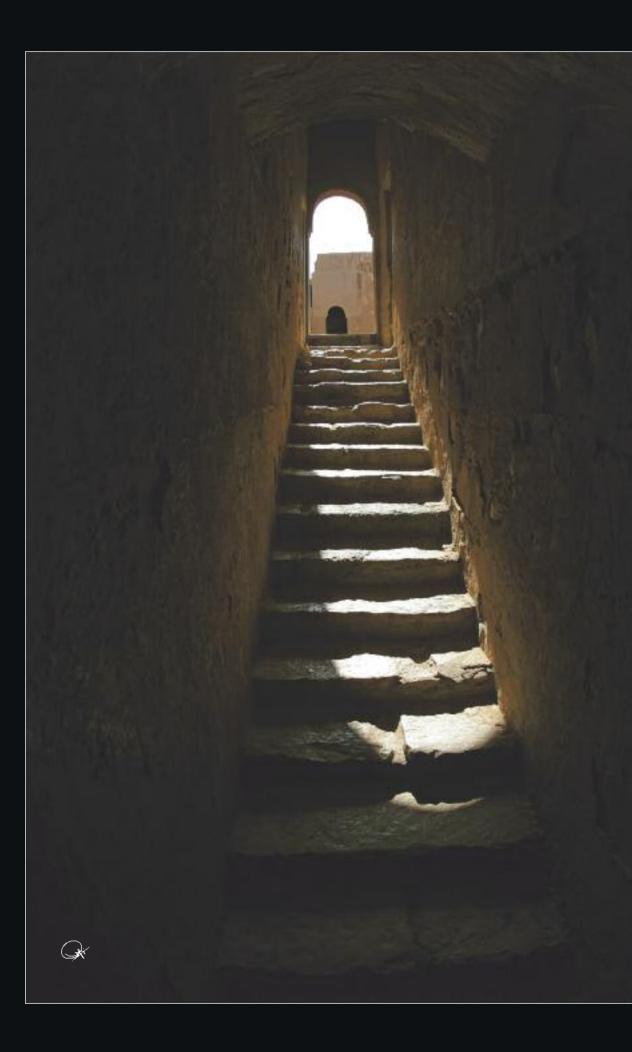


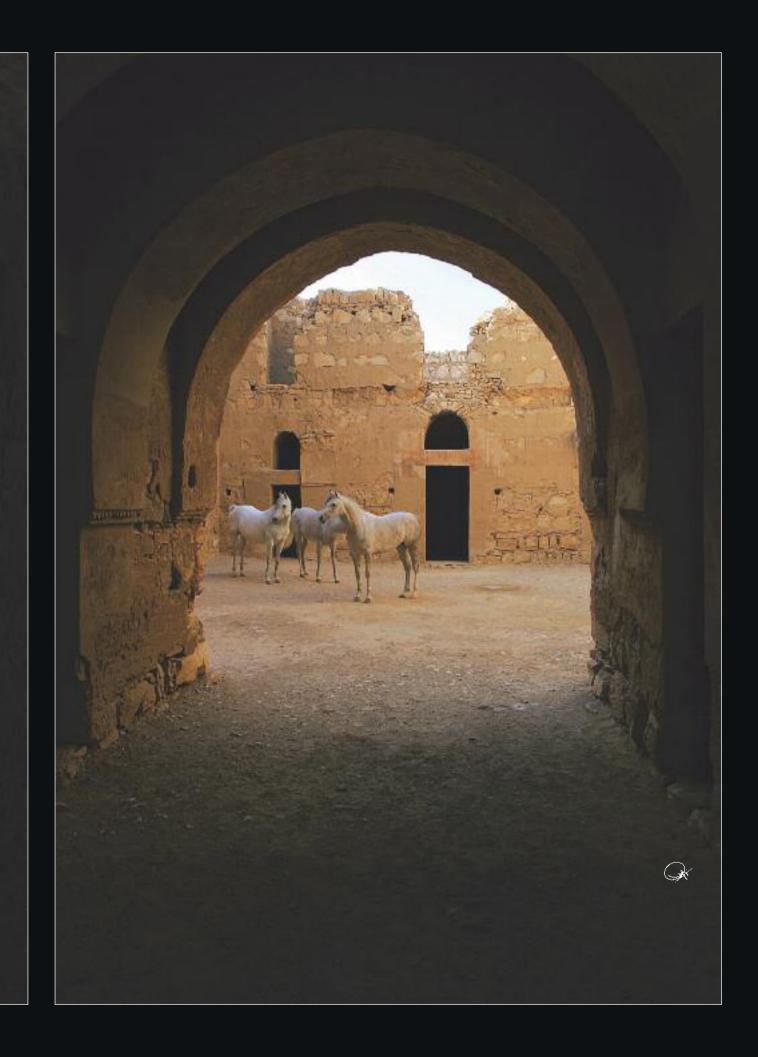








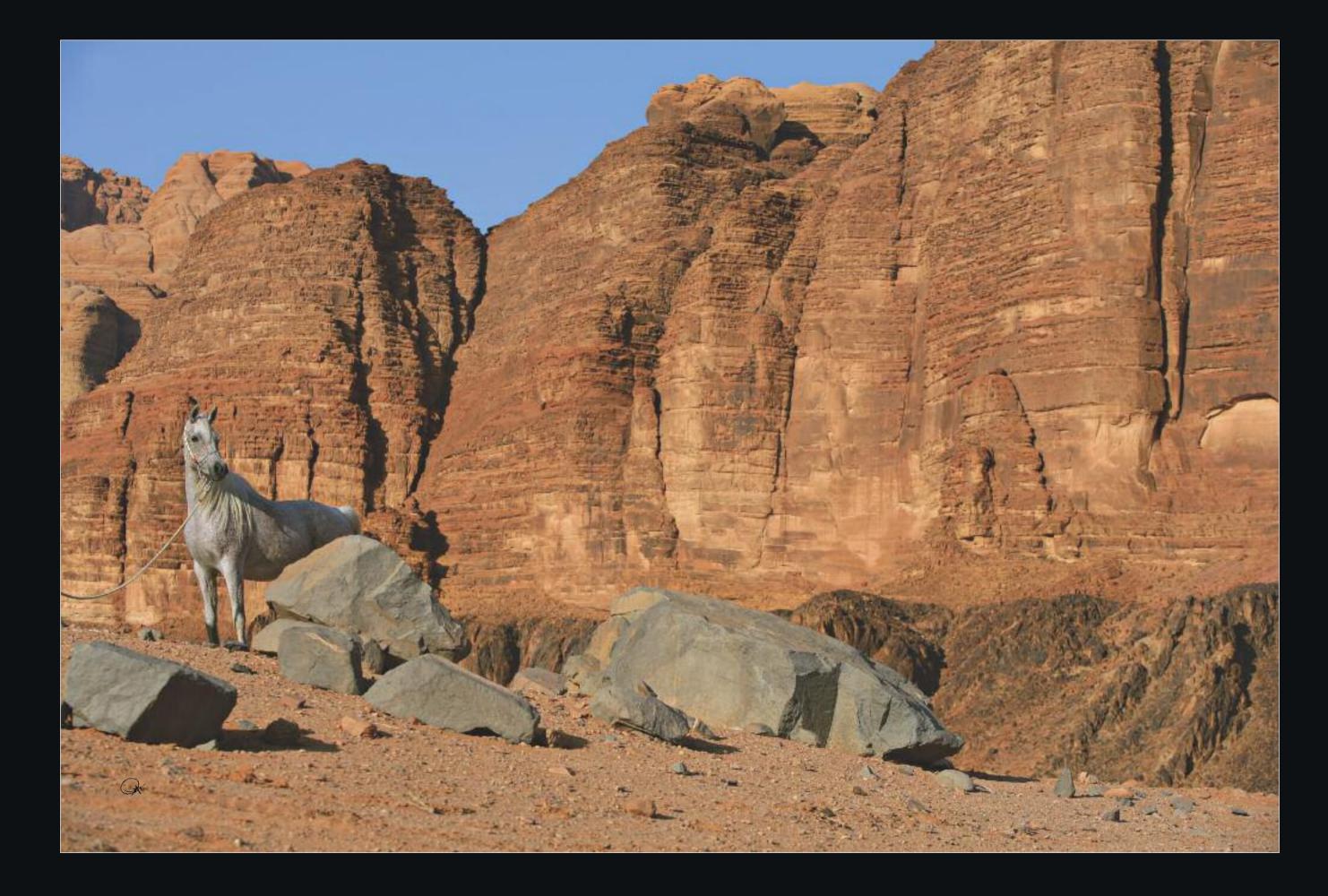






Two beautiful mares of Royal Jaafar Stud between the columns of the Qasr Al-Mushatta Desert Castle (Pictured in Jordan - May 2012 - 09:05 a.m. morning light) Right page: Qasr Al-Mushatta Desert Castle (Pictured in Jordan - May 2012 - 07:57 a.m. morning light)















Left side: Bint Moregha and Pilotka between the black rocks of Wadi Rum (Pictured in Jordan - May 2012 - 06:50 p.m. soft sunset light) Right side: Kershana between the black rocks of Wadi Rum (Pictured in Jordan - May 2012 - 07:01 p.m. soft sunset light)









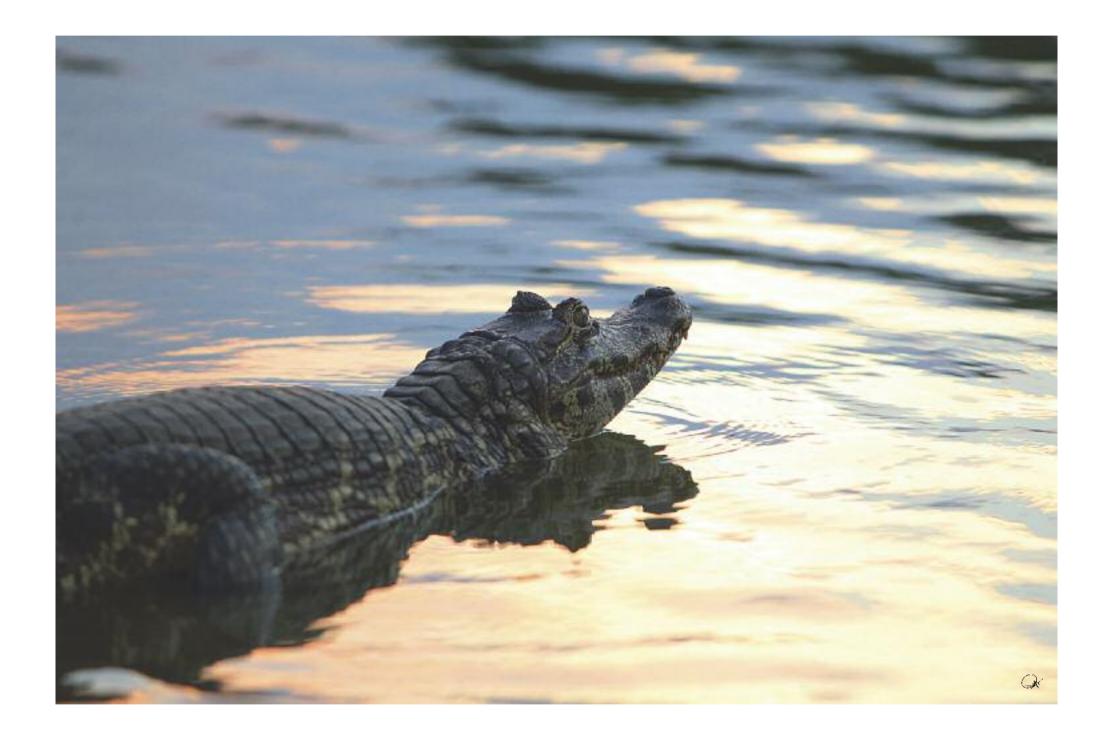


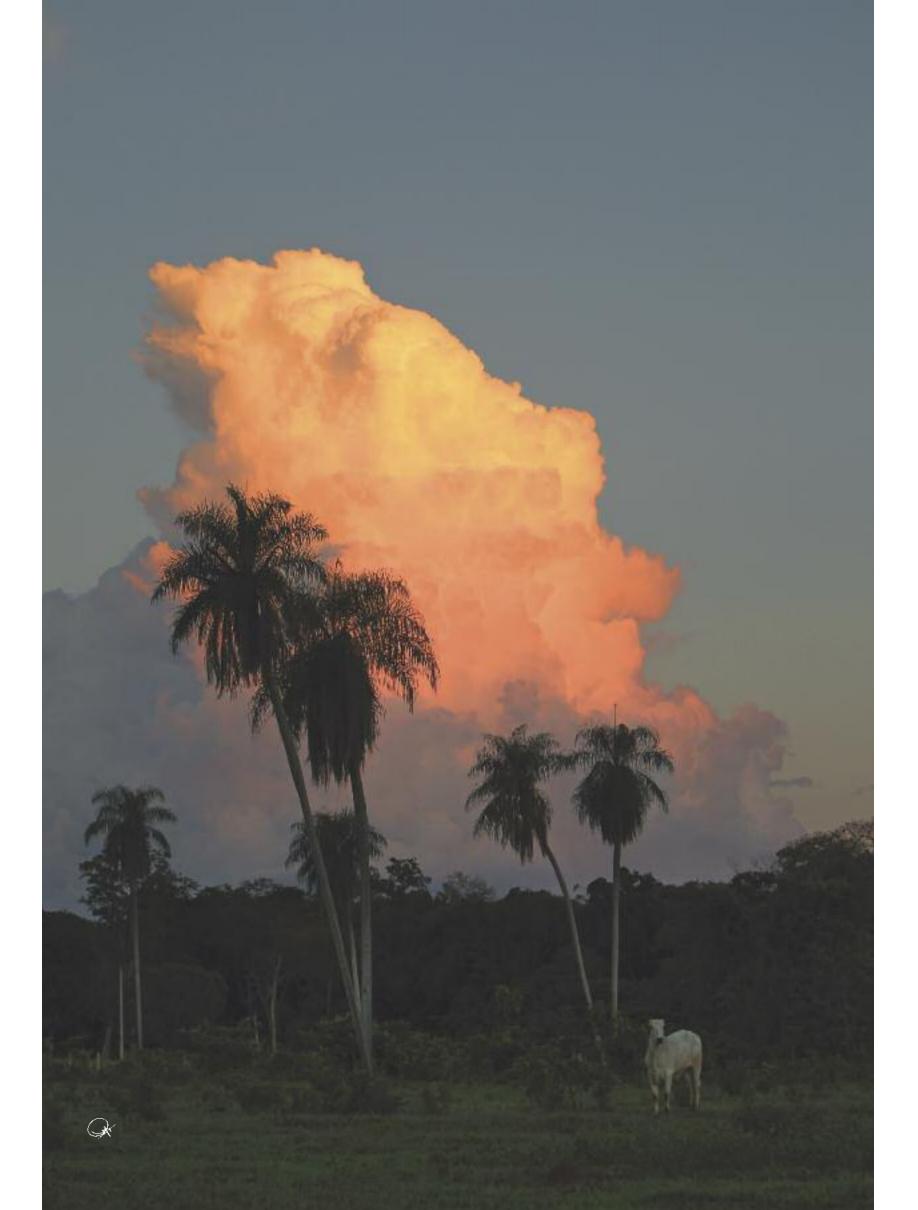


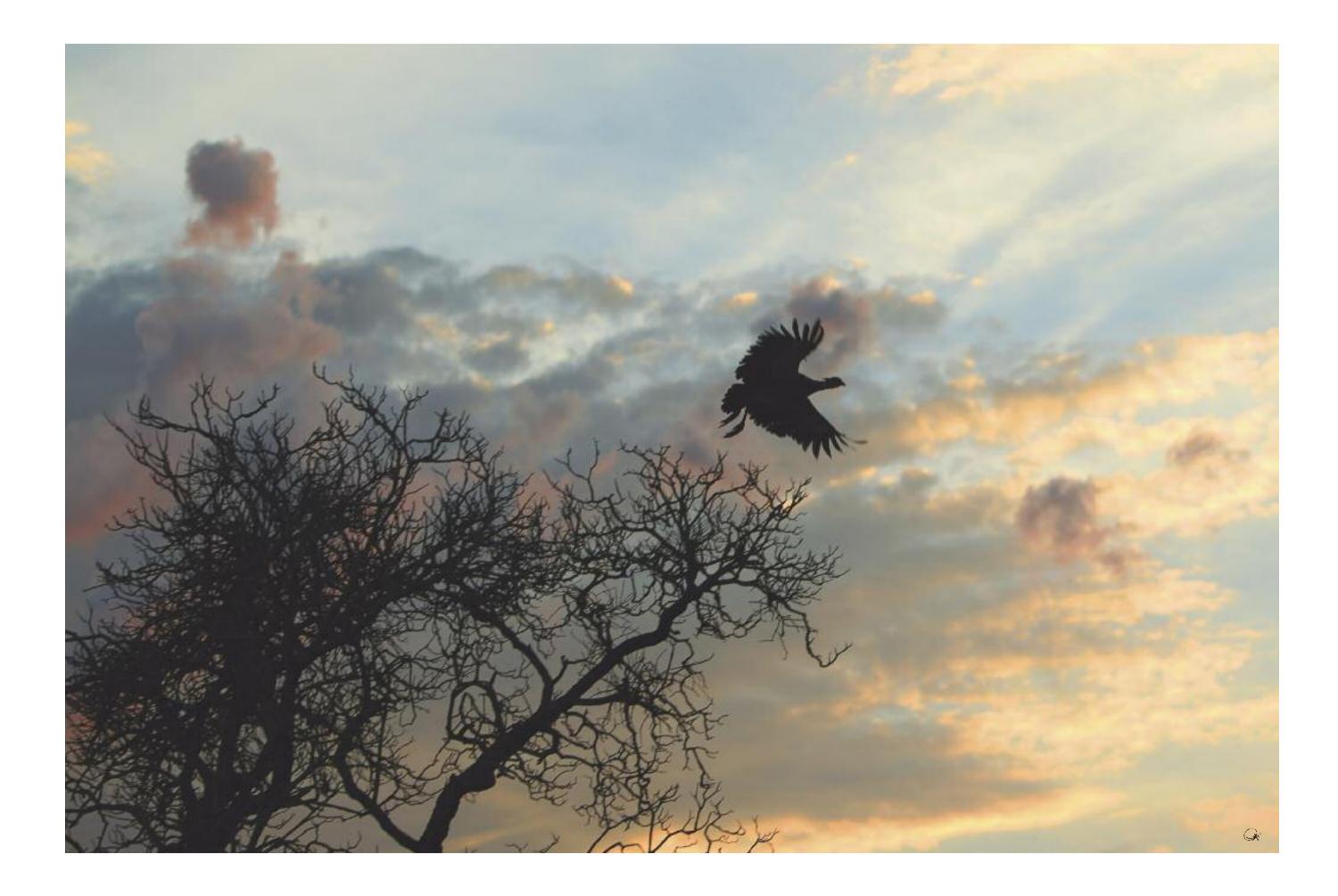
















X





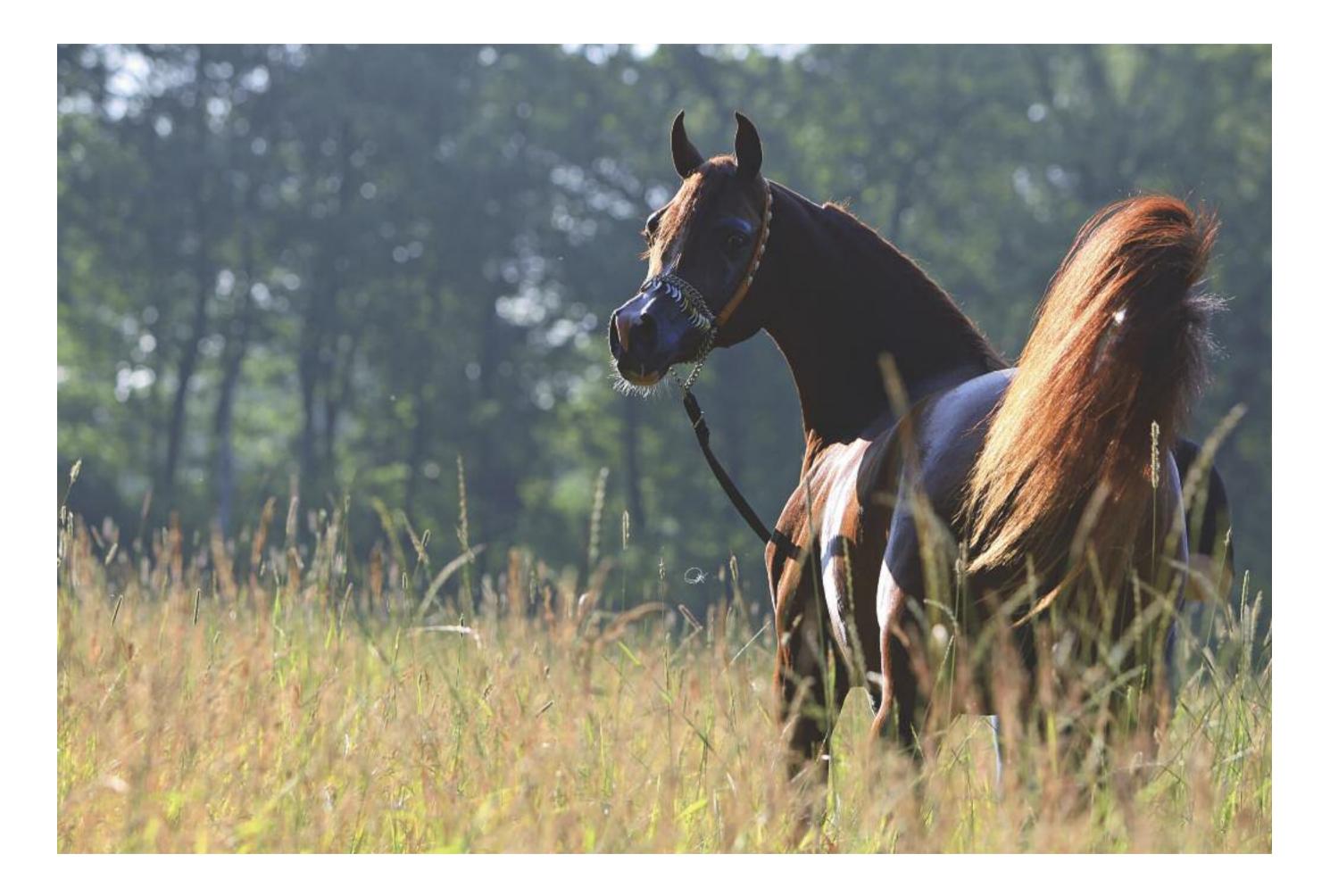




































Top: view of the presentation ring Halsdon Arabians and a group of mares running in the green pastures. Botton left: Lumiar Amadeus (Pictured in England - September 2008 - 08:40 a.m. morning light)



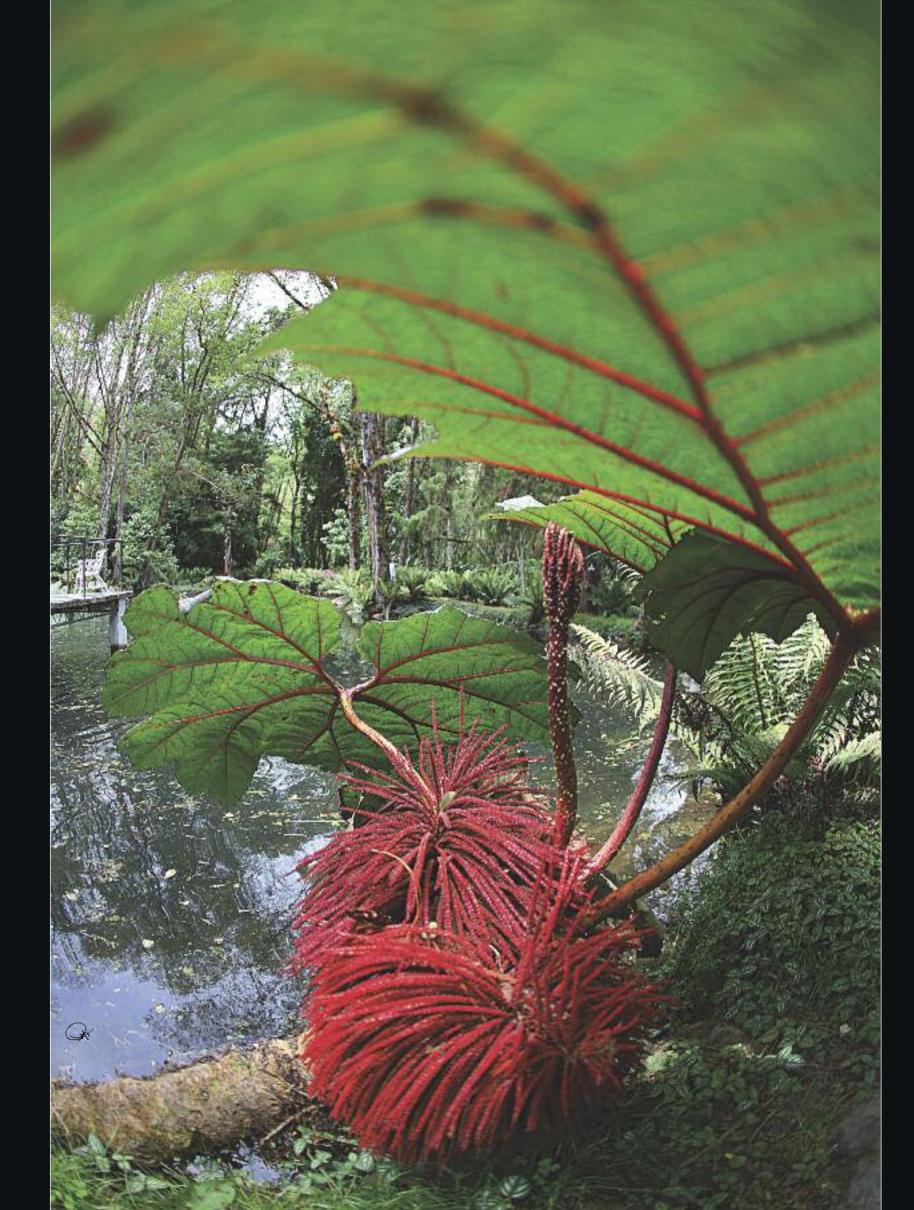


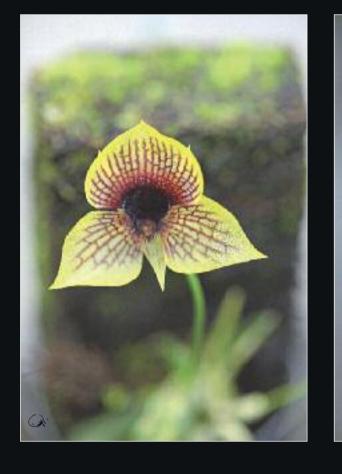












The number of orchid species which can be found all over the world is astounding. Nobody has been able to determine the exact number of species. The numbers given by different taxonomists may vary from 20,000 to 35,000.



(Pictured in Costa Rica - February 2009 - 08:01 a.m. soft light)





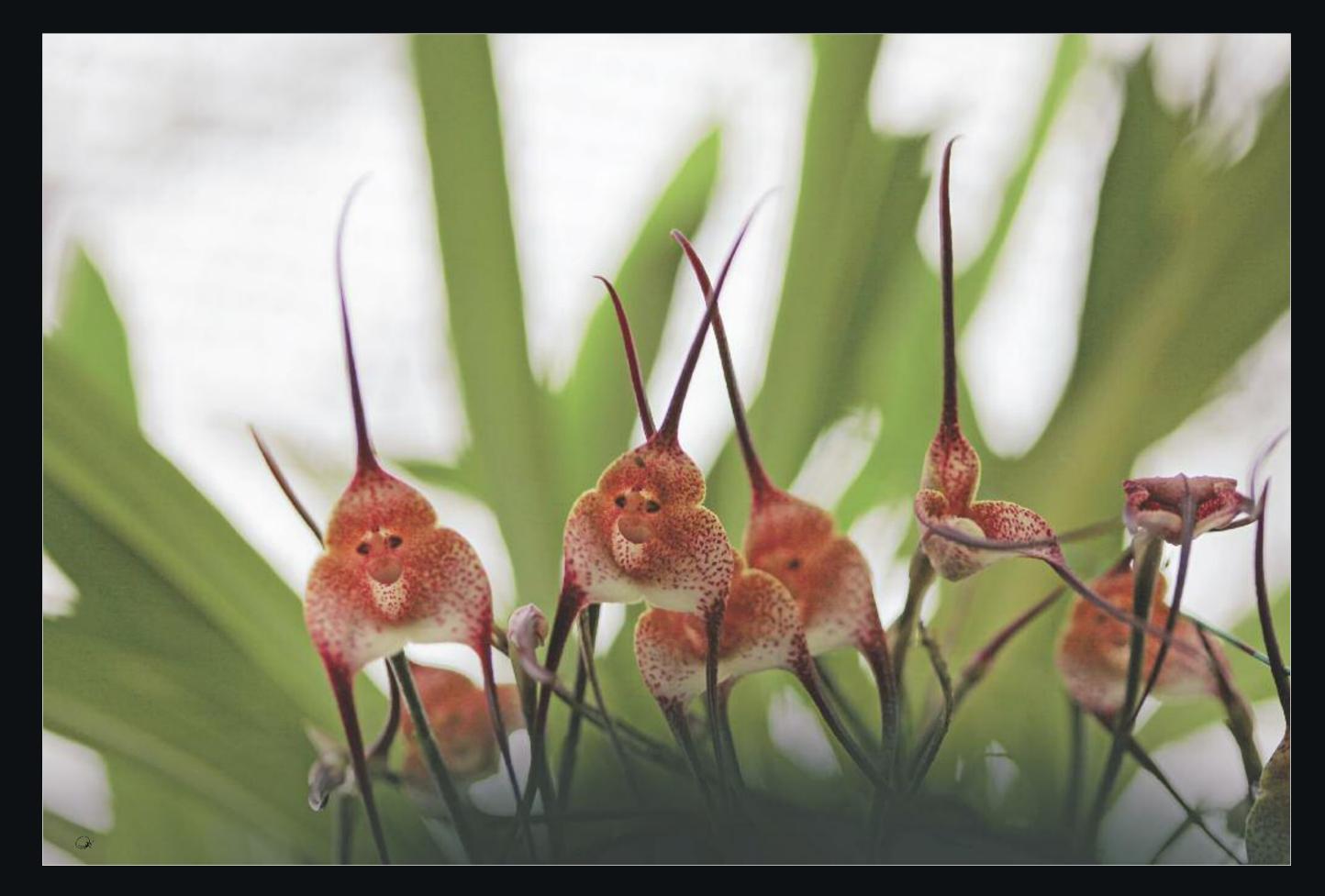
The orchid family is a cosmopolitan one and is represented in nearly every habitat, except for deserts and polar circles. Most of the species are found in the tropics, primarily in South-East Asia, Indonesia, Japan, New Guinea, North Australia, Central and South America and Africa. Left page: (Pictured in Panama - February 2009 - 08:30 a.m. soft light)



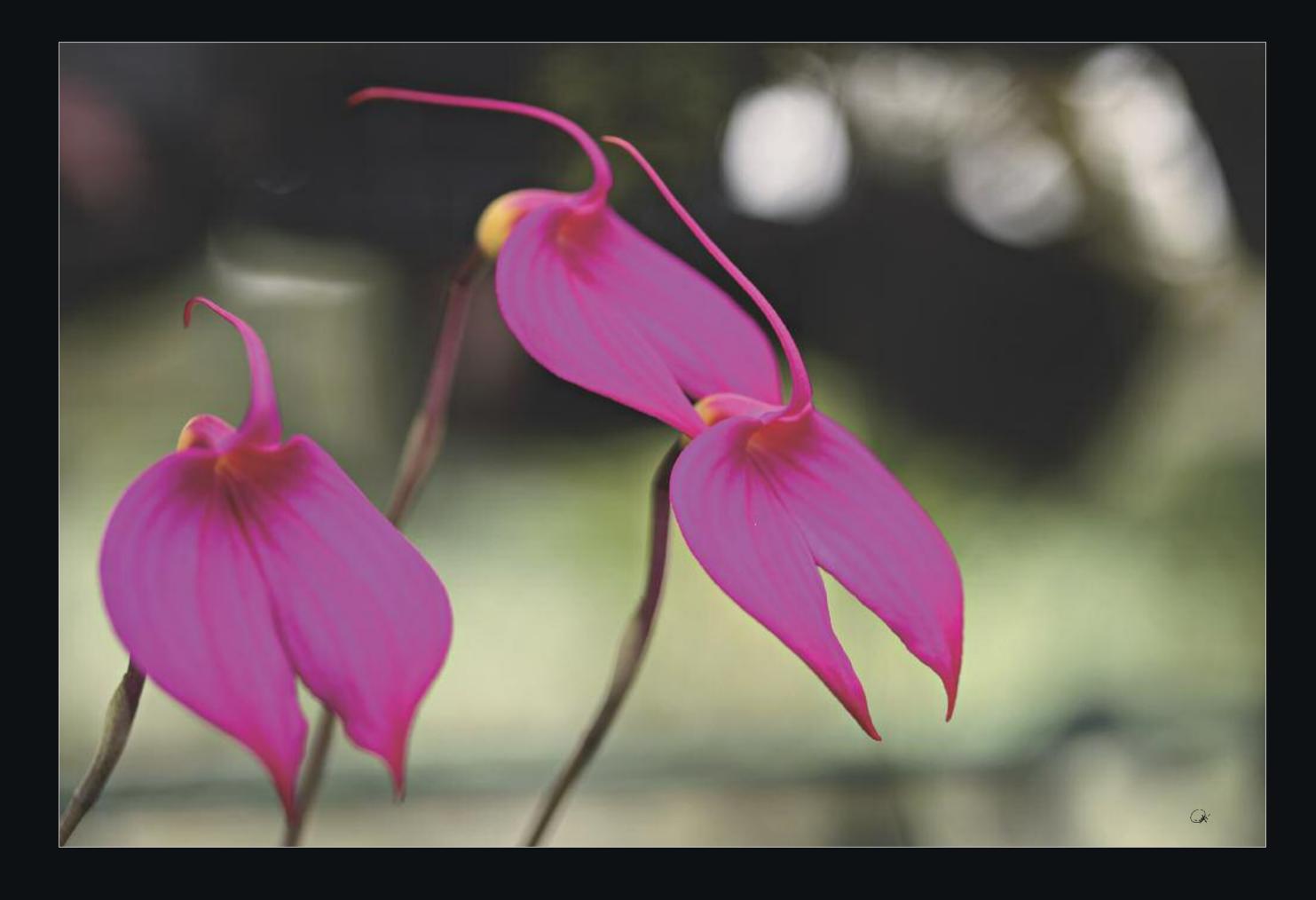
Orchids have been known since ancient times. The first evidence can be found in the most important early far eastern botanical-pharmaceutical books. The brilliant Chinese culture emerges often, as it seems the very first reference of man's cultural bond to orchids dates back to the period of the earliest Chinese dynasties, more than 3,000 years ago. The ones in the page left and right they are called "Monkey Orchids".

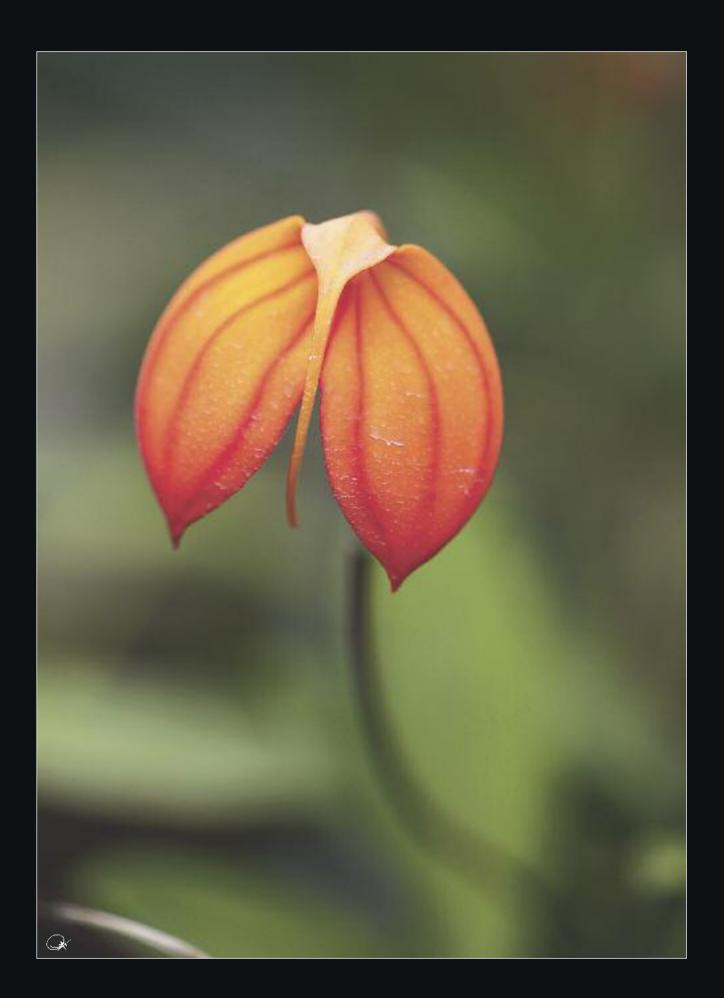
(Pictured in Panama - February 2009 - 09:09 a.m. soft light)



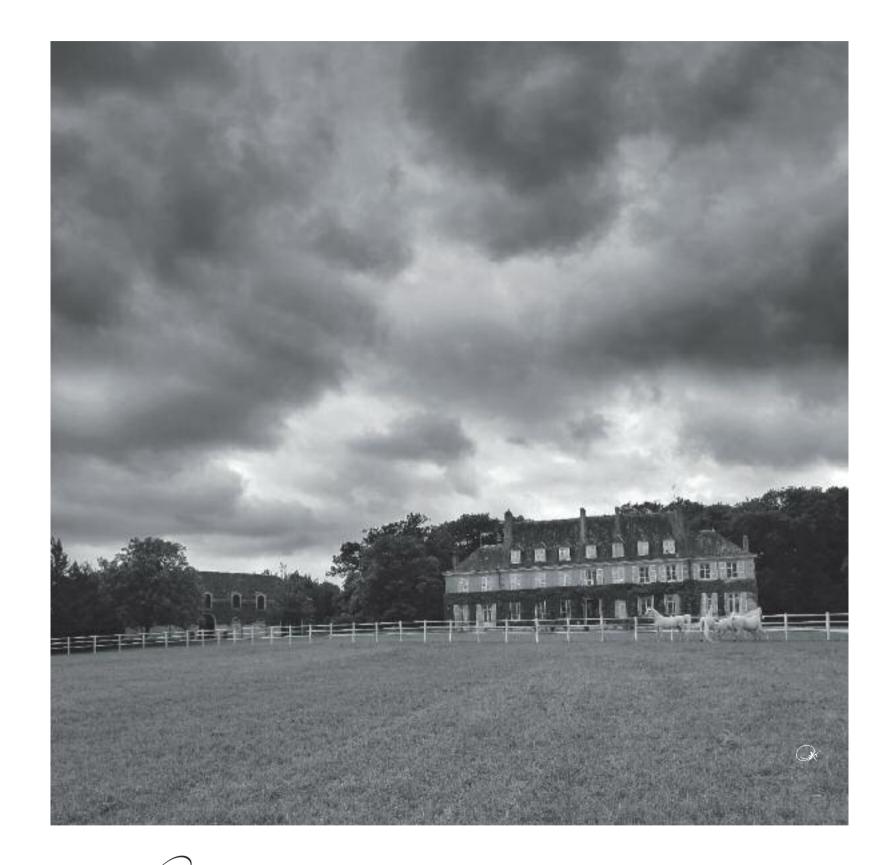


Cometimes a flower can be more than just a flower. Cometimes it is the face of a young friend in the jungle.

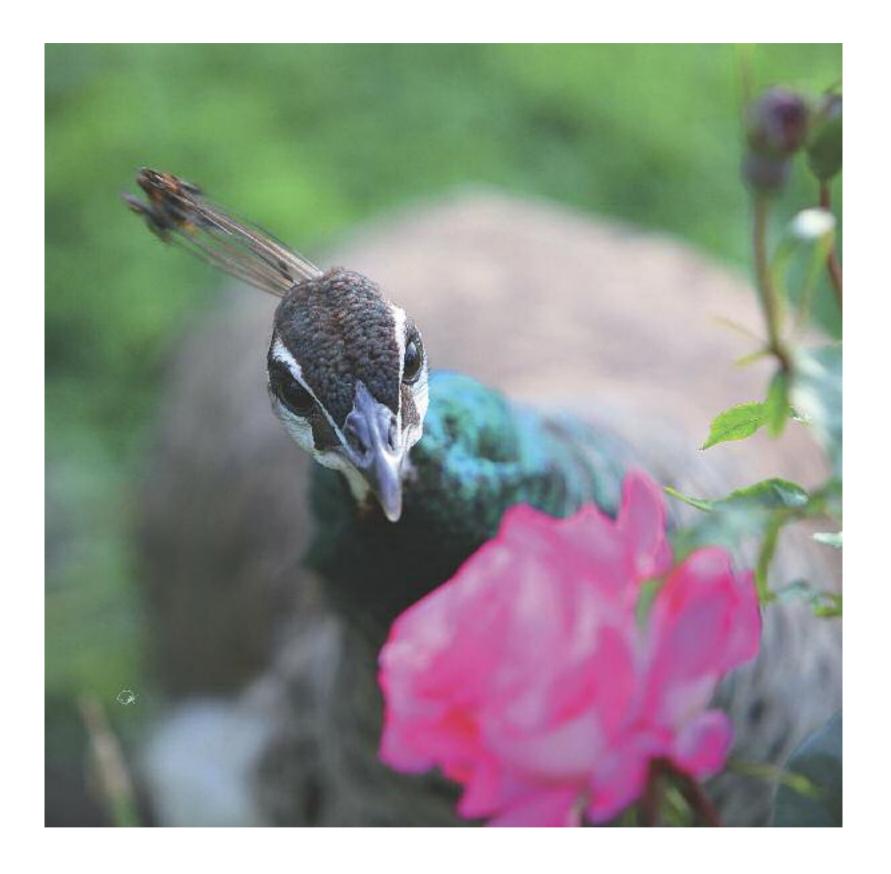




Orchids are mostly epiphytic, that is they grow on trees in the rainforest having evolved from terrestrial orchids. They represent the pinnacle of evolution in the world of plants. Epiphytic orchids are not hardy, but alpine orchids are, because they have underground tubers, that can survive the winter after their leaves have dropped.



Then clouds roll in over a nearby mountain range it looks like cream being poured over a slice of cake. (hen you feel the air change: deeper, heavier. And the rain comes, the air takes on a fresh clean smell.



















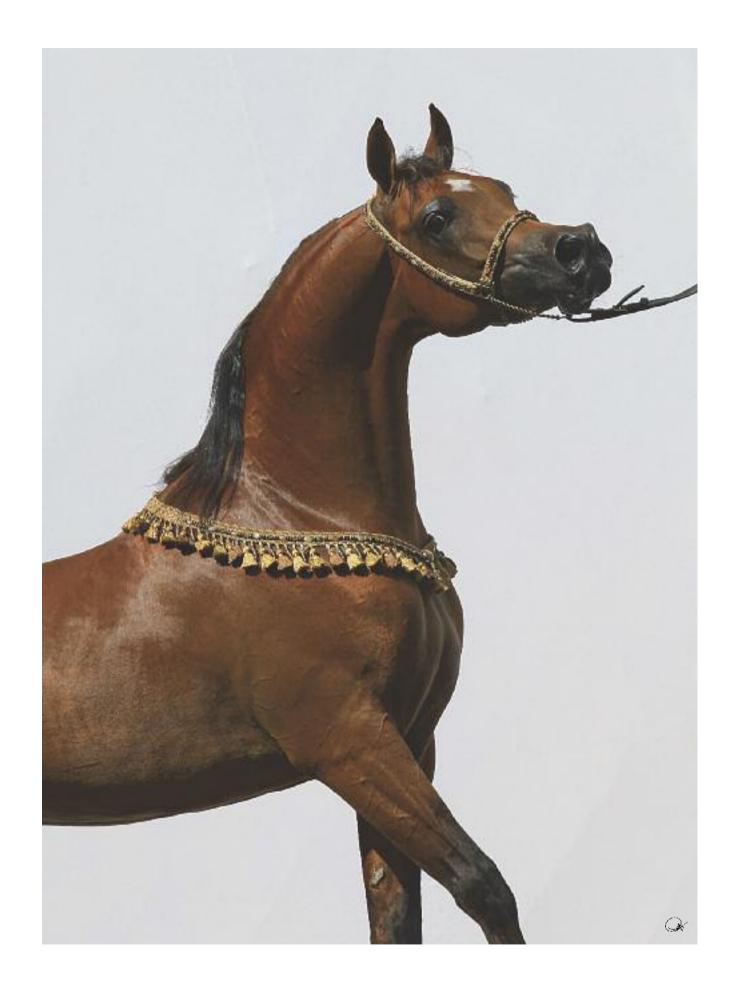










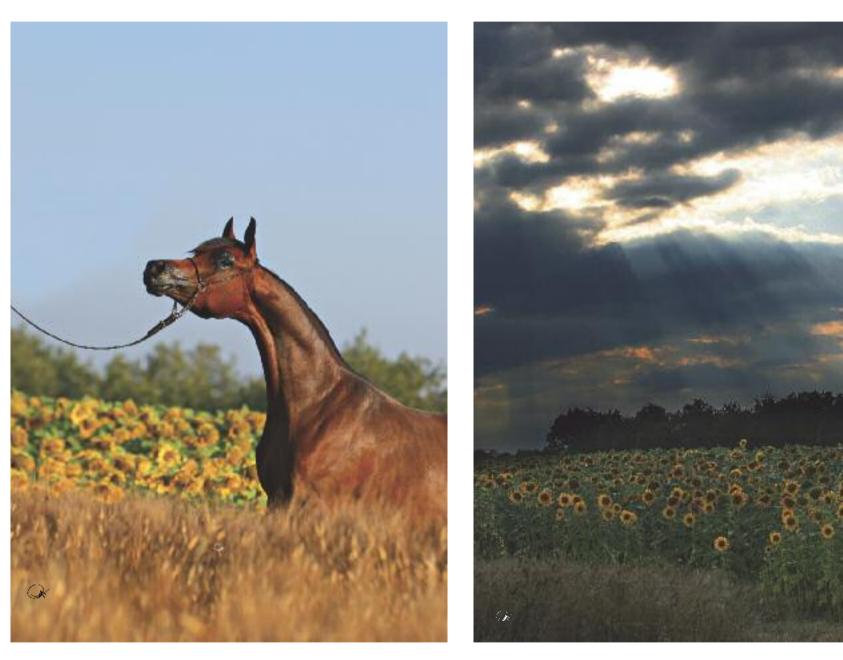






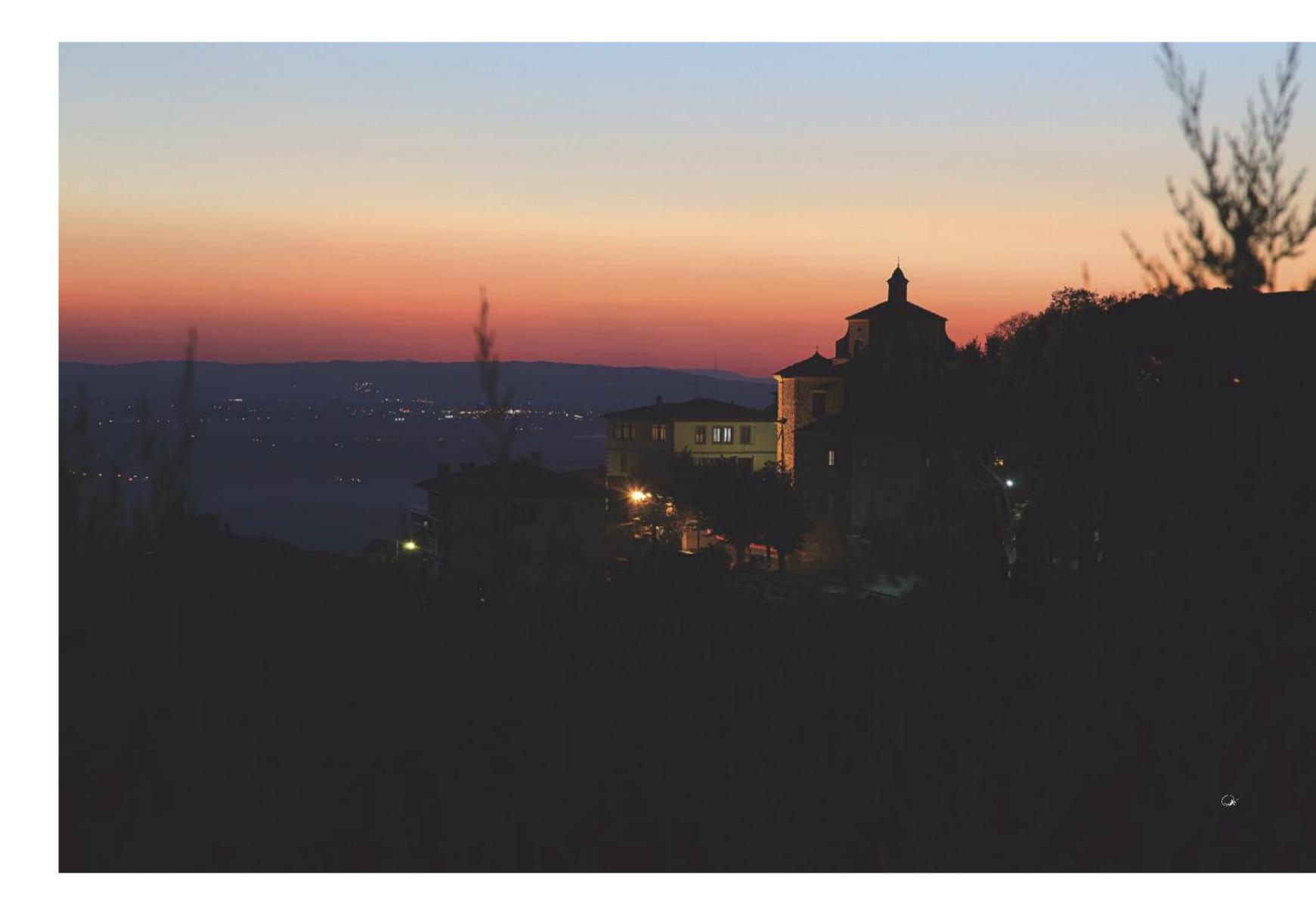






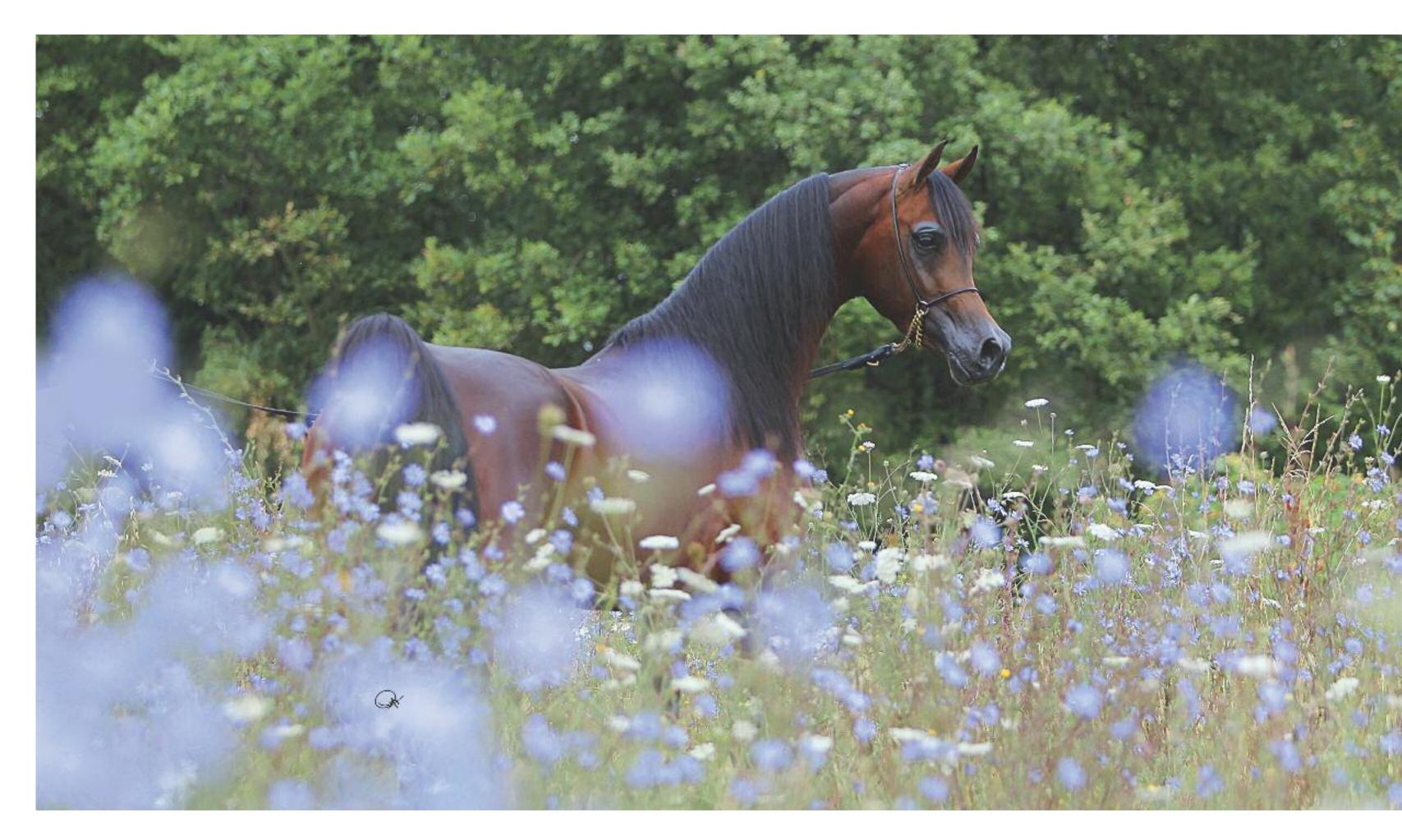
Left side: Gazalat Al Khaladieh (Pictured in Italy - July 2011 - 06:14 p.m. sunset light) Right side: Dramatic view of a field of sunflowers before the rain (Pictured in Italy - July 2011 - 06:42 p.m. sunset light) Right page: Cortona (Pictured in Italy - November 2011 - 05:15 p.m. sunset light)



















Cortona (Pictured in Italy - November 2011 - 05:05 p.m. sunset light) Left page: Athenaa (Pictured in Italy - June 2010 - 05:44 a.m. soft morning light)

(re journey must never end in my profession.

As a photographer I must accept the fact that time is always moving - change is always occurring. And I must be humble enough to understand that I can always see more, hear more, touch more, and by recognizing this I will be better. I don't aspire to be just a better photographer;

L walk through life with an open mind and in full use of all my senses to be the best person L can be.

