

روح السقايير

SPIRIT OF TRADITIONS



من خلال عدسة جيجي جراسو

THROUGH THE LENS OF GIGI GRASSO

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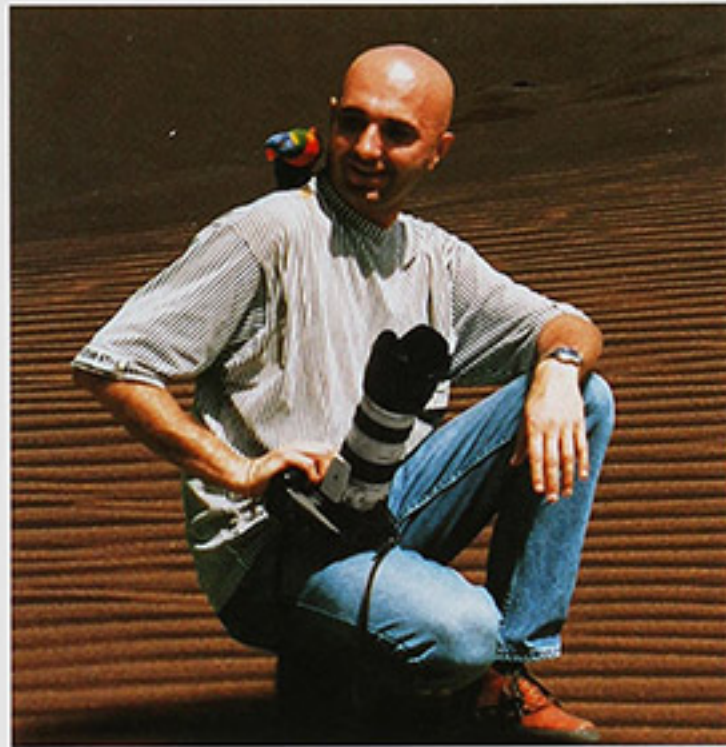
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GIGI GRASSO

PHOTOGRAPHER



Gigi Grasso, photographer, was born in Italy in 1964. An expert horseman with a thorough understanding of horses, he initially applied his talent as a photographer to this most exquisite of subjects. His boundless enthusiasm coupled with his extreme professionalism have earned him deep respect in this field. He has worked for many years with national and international magazines and his commissions have led him all over the world from the Middle-East to Australia. He has already published three successful books in the "Captured in Time" series dedicated to the Arabian horse (Egypt, Australia and Arabian Stallions in Europe). Over the years his horizons as a photographer have broadened, and he has focused his lens on other subjects he has encountered on his travels as well as making forays into the world of documentary making. In this his fourth book he demonstrates an acute artistic eye in capturing all the colour of Jordan and Oman, their people and their life.

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ROYAL STUD OF OMAN

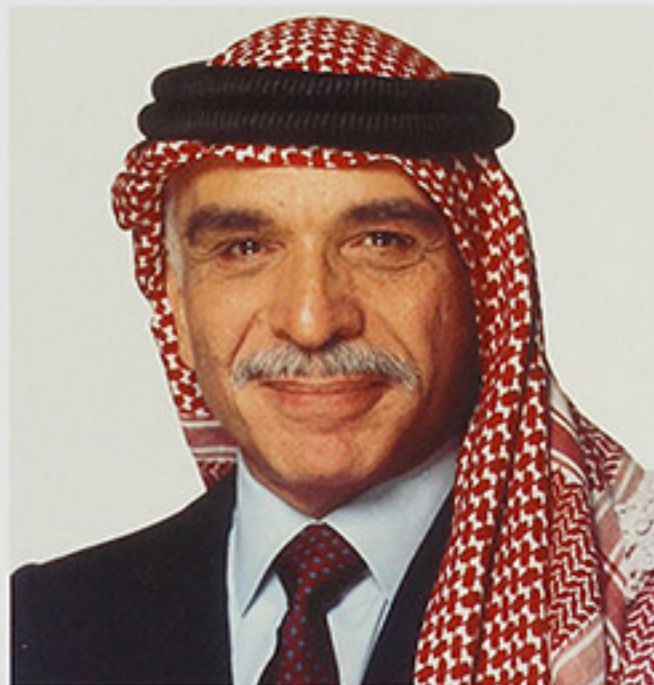
Text by Marco Buri



PATRONS

المقدمة

FOREWORD



عبدالله الثاني (عبدالله بن الحسين)

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN BIN TALAL

An Arab was once considered wealthy if he had a date garden and a fertile Arabian mare. Horses have long been associated with the Hashemite family. From the very dawn of Islam it was the Arabian horse that was depended upon to carry the message across three continents. The Arabian was bred for the very values that mankind holds sacrosanct; from loyalty to dependability, soundness and stamina. Their fire and character is a reflection of the essence of our region. Technology and transport have slowly phased out the utility of the Arabian as a means of transport and a partner in war. The passage of time has in no way diminished the symbolic majesty of the animal, or from its capacity to be a friend to man.

The Hashemites, our family, have guarded this our birthright vigorously, tracing and maintaining its spirit and tradition. We have shared our horses as ambassadors with the whole world, and now they have conquered hearts in every corner of the planet. So many people have campaigned too publicise the return of the Arabian to Arabia... I say: it never left!

Hussein I.

THE TEAM

Photography
GIGI GRASSO



Foreword
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN BIN TALAL



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در فلاح بن جعفر العلي

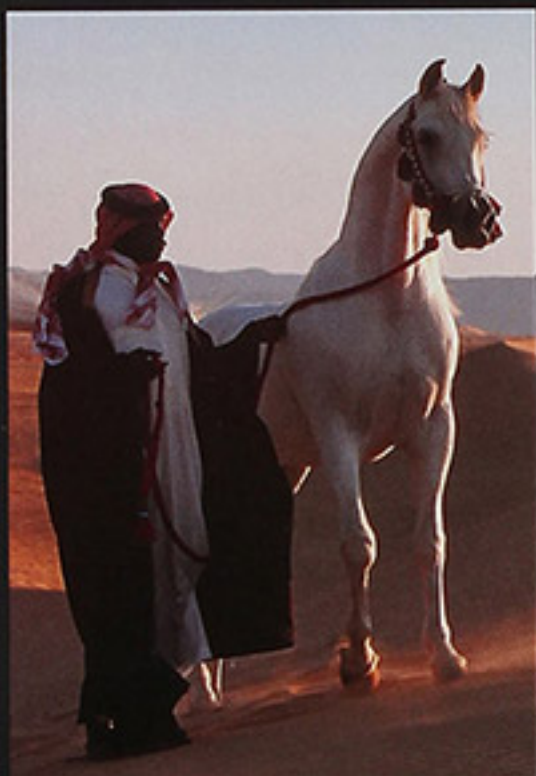
Royal Jaafar Stud



Royal Mikhiel
(Nabiel x Pharrah)



Royal Mikhiel with Adam in Wadi Araba



Set on the brow of a stony hill, in the clear light of Jordan, is Jaafar Stud, owned by Majdi Al Saleh and H. R. H. Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein, home to one of the Middle East's most independently minded breeding programmes.





Zeena
(Jerrash x Ghadeer)
at Royal Jaafar Stud



*Large enough to make the most of
the genetic potential available,
and small enough for each horse to
be known personally and thor-
oughly by the owners, this is a farm
which knows that flexibility and
imagination will achieve its goal.*





Krynolina
(Egon x Kwesta)
at Royal Jaafar Stud





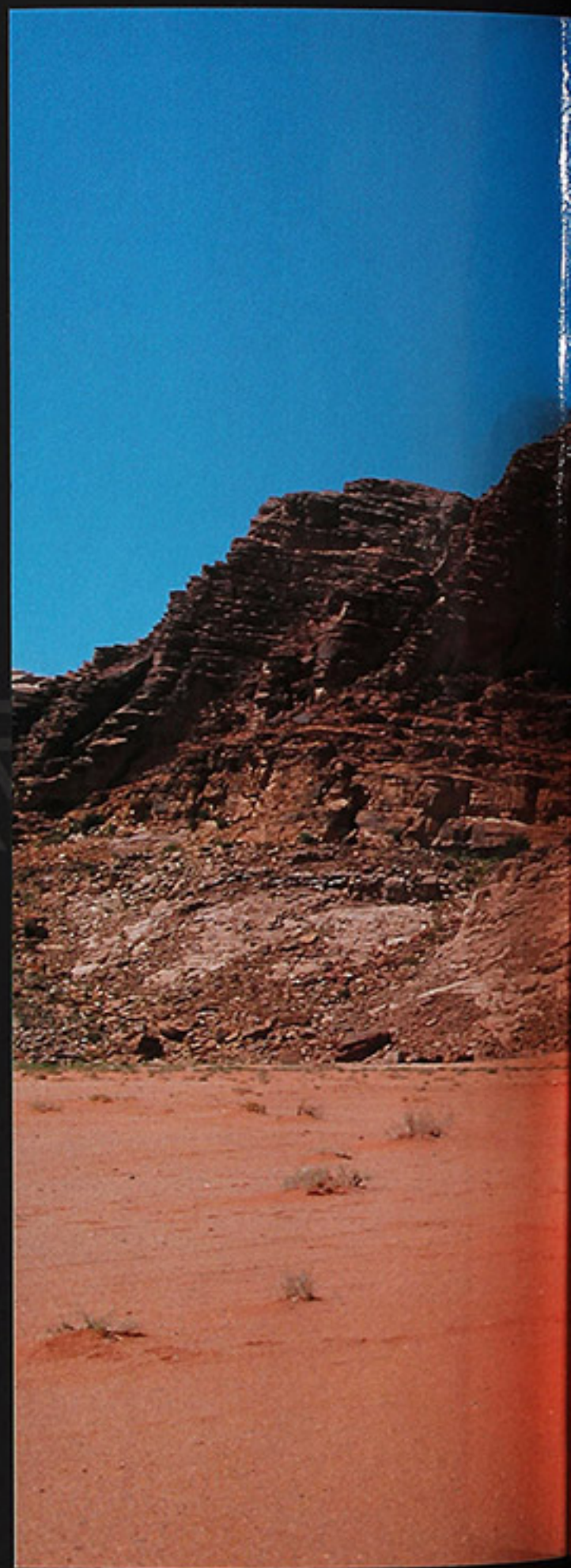
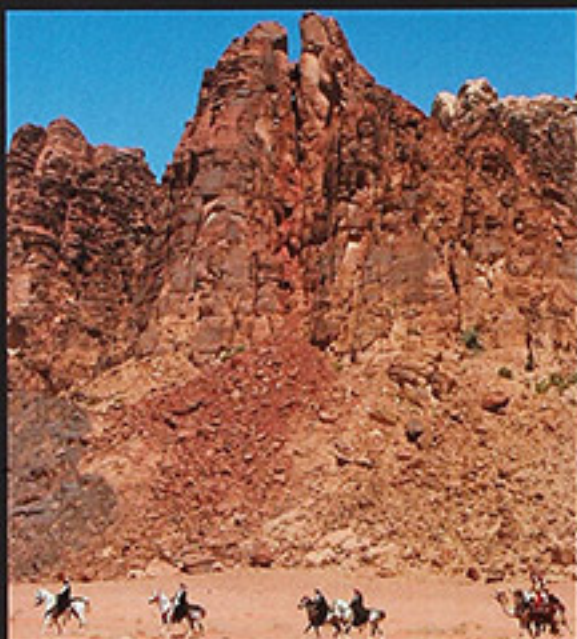
Krynolina
(Egon x Kwesta)
in Wadi Araba

Nojime
(Imperial Injah x S. N. Wasama)
with Majdi Al Saleh owner of Royal Jaafar Stud



*The mares of Jaafar have been chosen mainly from the two blood-
lines in the world today most associated with classic Arabian type,
straight Egyptians and mares from the State studs of Poland.*





*Jerrash, Cargo, Royal Mikhiel and Fazehra
with the Desert Patrol in Wadi Rum*



*In the
former group*

*are daughters of
world renowned
stallions such as Jamill,
Ansata Halim Shah and
Orashan.*

*Jaafar is also fortunate to
own the two famous cham-
pion stallions Royal
Mikheil and AK El Sen-
nari. In the second group
are the daughters of Pro-
bat, Europeczyk and the
lovely Palas daughter*

Kabala, dam of US

National Champion

Mare, Kawalka-

da.



Nada with Jumana Al Saleh



Nada with Jaafar Al Saleh



Nada
(Ben Malik x Eai Elinorah)
at Royal Jaafar Stud

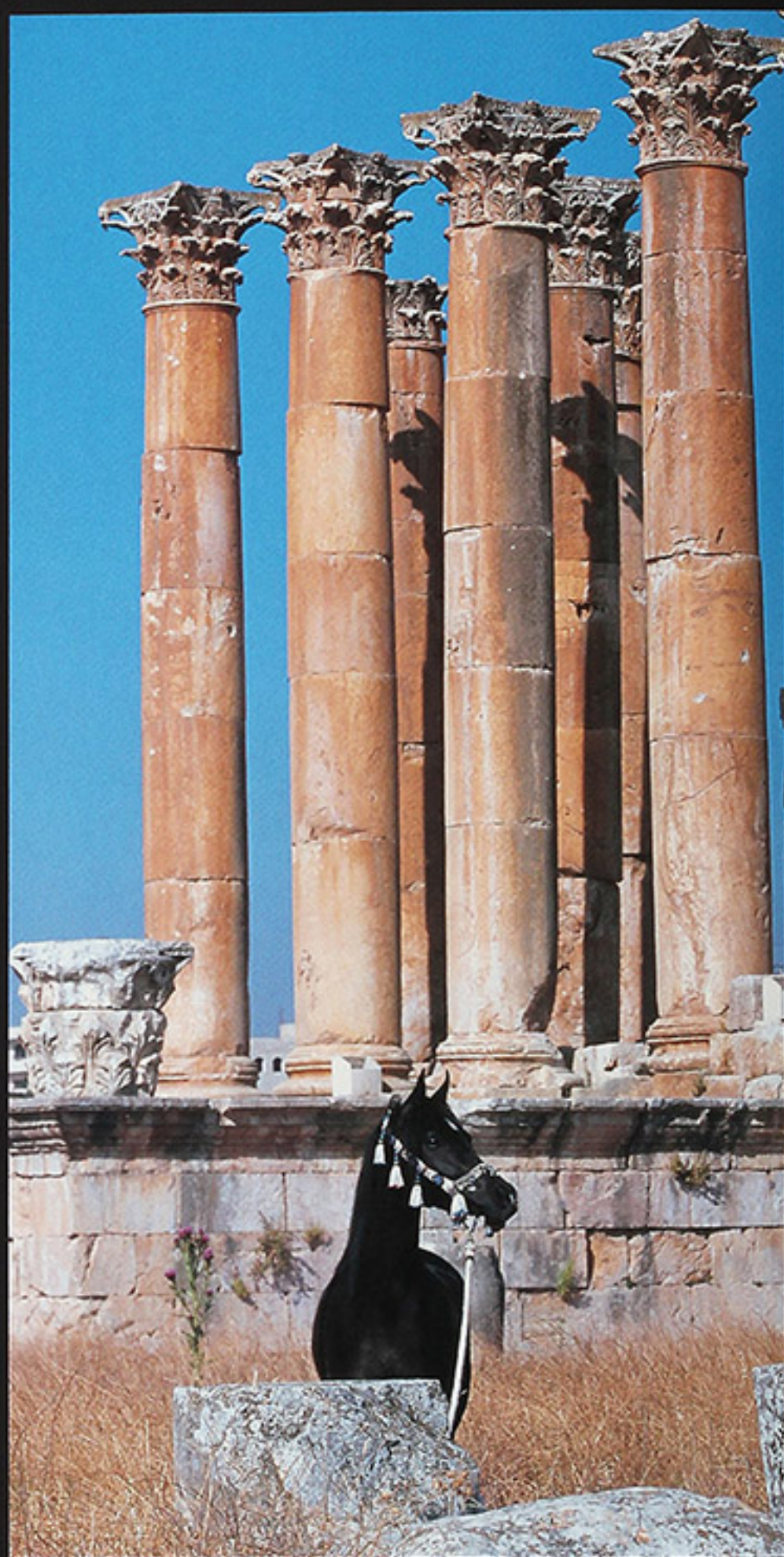


However Majdi and Zein are planning not just to make the best use of the wealth of knowledge around the world in following straight breeding programmes but aim to create their own definition of the perfect Arabian.

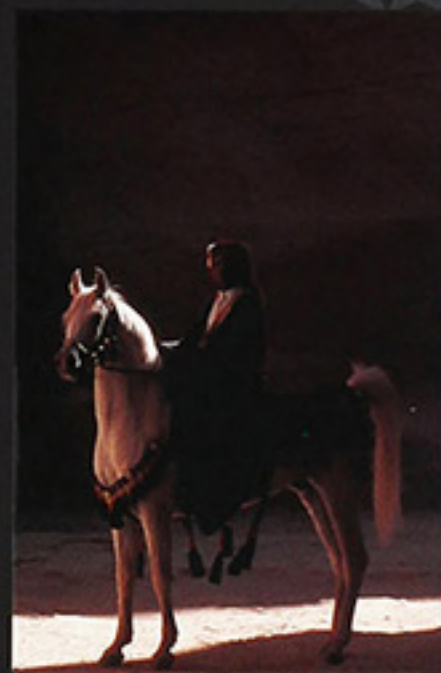


MB Kershana
(Orashan x Keralma)
at Royal Jaafar Stud





MB Afrusa
(The Atticus x Royal Mahrusa)
in Jerash



*Royal Mikhiel
with Saed in Petra*



Jumana
(*Amr x S. N. Wasama)
at Royal Jaafar Stud



To that end the farm also includes the blood of the incomparable El Shaklan, through Jordan's most successful show mare, SN Wasama and her collection of homebred daughters and the first horse of Jaafar, Jerrash, a son of Maleik el Kheil, who ended his show career in 1997 with a fourth Middle East International Champion Stallion title and a score of over 94 points.



Thurayyah
(Wachlarz x Krynolina)
at Royal Jaafar Stud





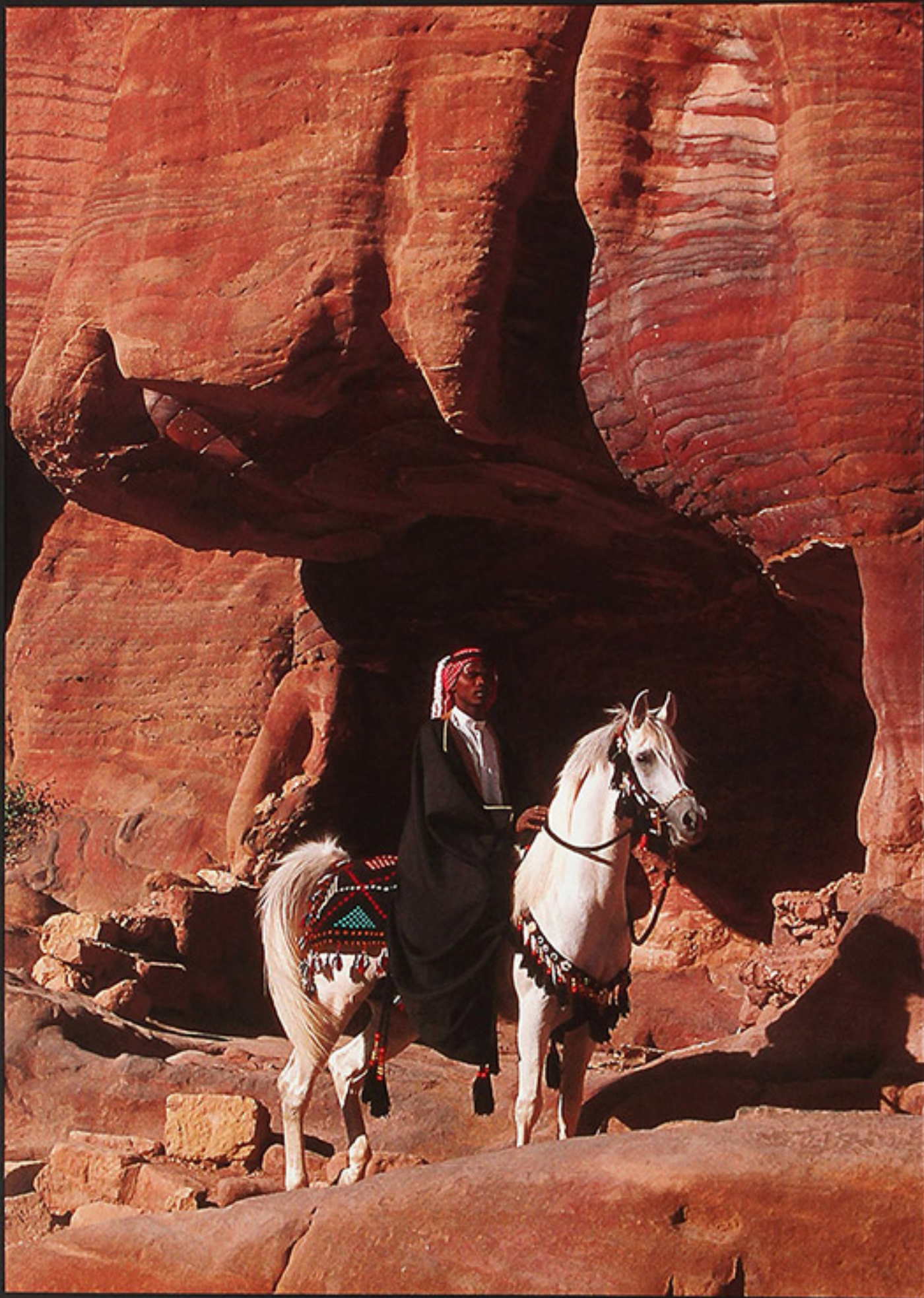
Flaxman's Raja
(Date With Destiny x Bsa Bint Affa)
at Royal Jaafar Stud

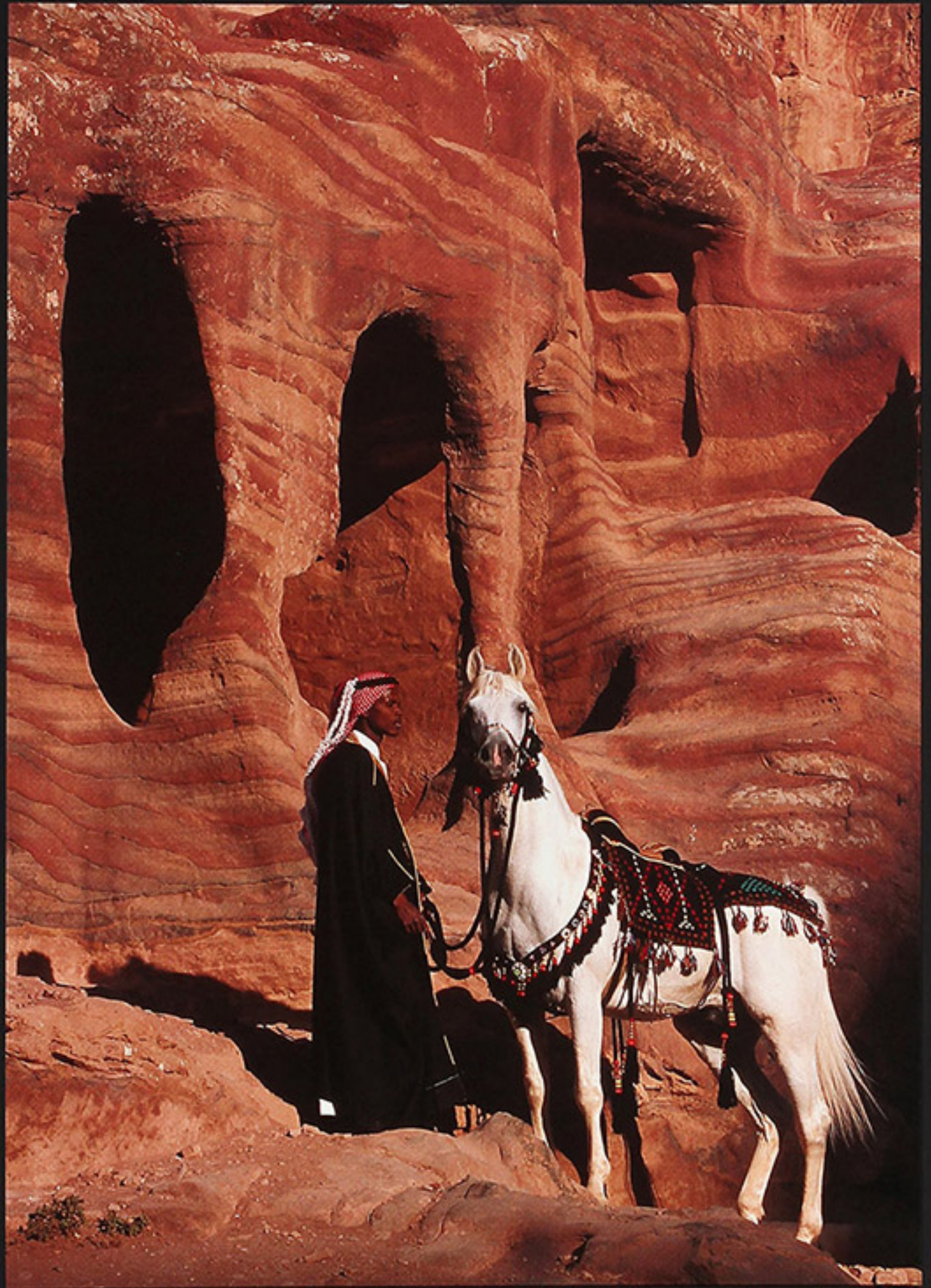


The classical type of the Arabian horse also includes the ability to perform in the climate and terrain of his origin. To this end Royal Jaafar Stud have competed successfully in all the recent 80 - 120 km. endurance races in Jordan.



Najmeh
(Jerrash x Ghadeer)
at Royal Jaafar Stud



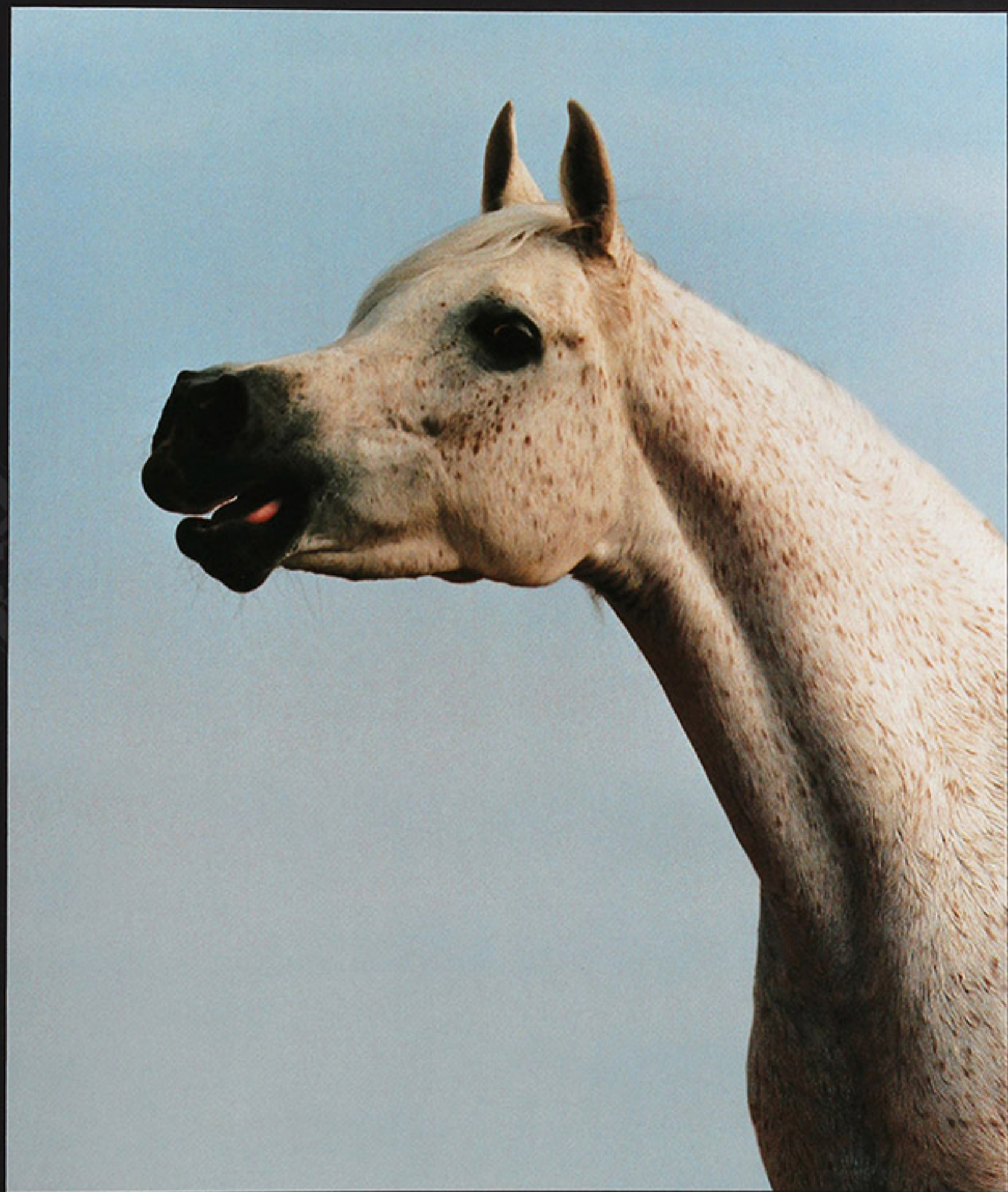


*Royal Mikhiel
with Saed in Petra*

Majdi takes charge of the demanding task of training the team of endurance horses, and Princess Zein contested the first 80 km. race herself, not only completing but finishing in fourth place on the ex Polish racehorse, Herb.



S. N. Wasama
(Ibn Estasha x Winja Al D'Ama)
with H. R. H. Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein
at Royal Jaafar Stud

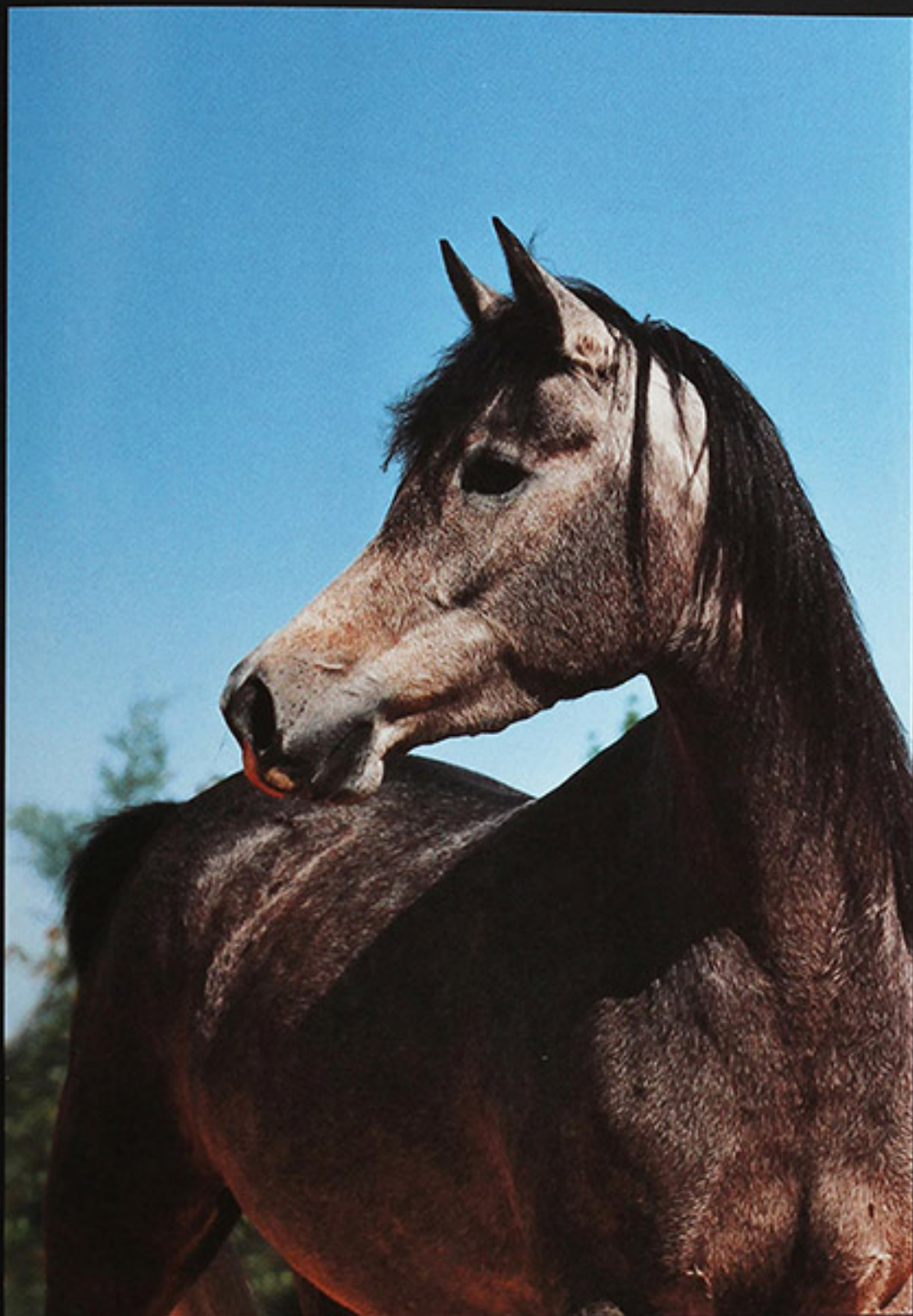




Further performance credentials are added into the herd by the use of the beautiful Russian stallion Vatican, winner of the Russian Derby and the Animex Cup in Poland.



Flaxman's Nazeera
(El Masri Amir x Tasannum)
at Royal Jaafar Stud

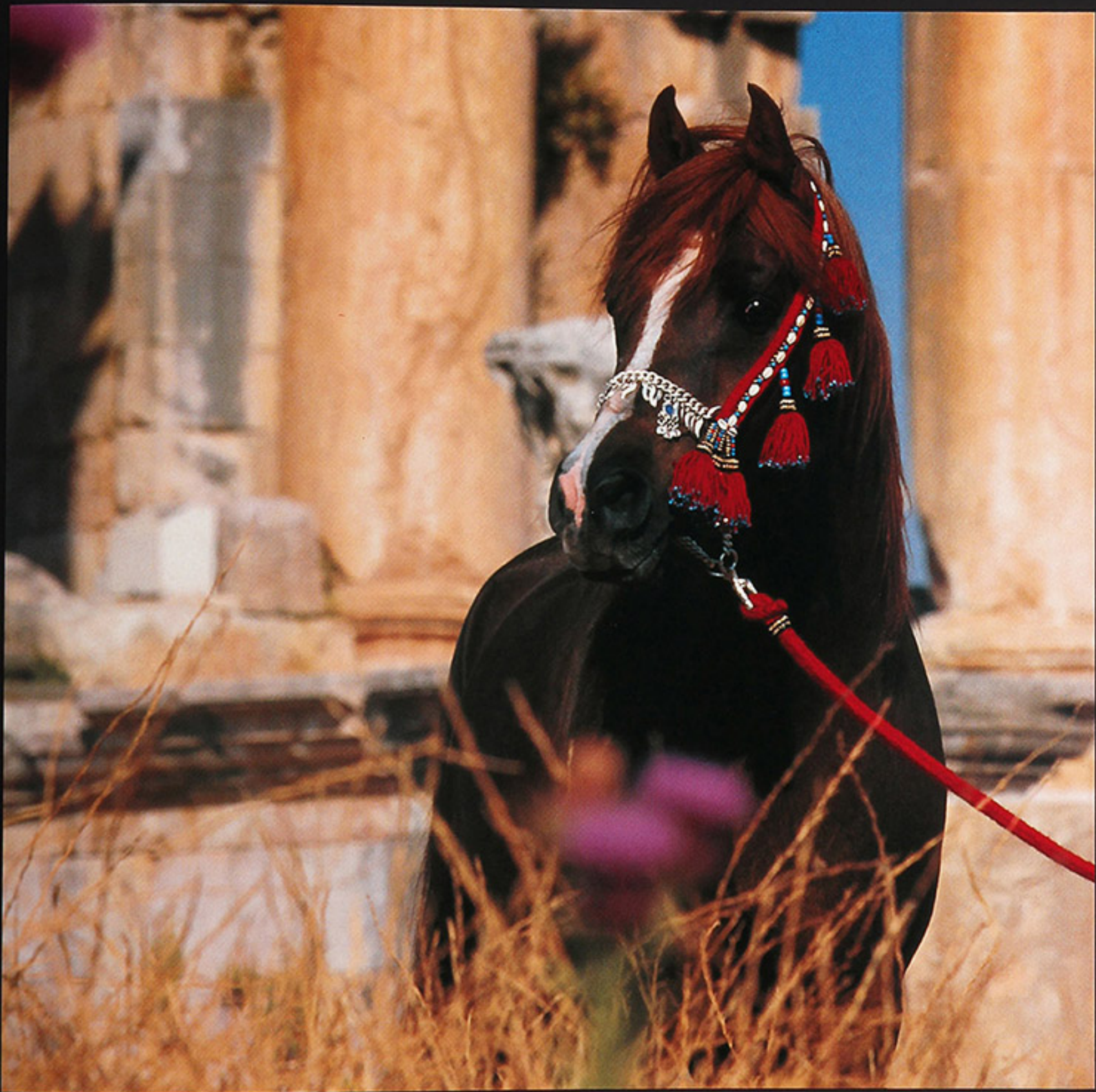


Picola
(Europejczyk x Pipi)
at Royal Jaafar Stud



Jerrash
(Maleik El Kheil x Jaiba)
in Jerash







Noora
(Ak El Sennari x S. N. Wasama)
at Royal Jaafar Stud



The third characteristic that underlies true Arabian type is that of temperament, an affinity with man being one of the most important things that the horse of a Bedouin could possess. Whatever the blood-lines, it is strikingly apparent that the horses selected for Jaafar have an intelligent, willing outlook on life that makes them a pleasure to work with, whatever the task they are set. Thus the goal of Jaafar Stud has been set; to breed horses of perfect Arabian type, in beauty, in performance and in temperament.




Hashim
(Safeen x MB Kershana)
at Royal Jaafar Stud



MB Talrita
(Talmaal x Egyptian Sapphire)
at the Dead Sea






Royal Mikhiel
at Harra, east of Jordan






Royal Mikhiel
with Adam in Wadi Araba

تقاليد من البحار
A Tradition of the Seas



T

The ancient fort of Jalali against a March sky



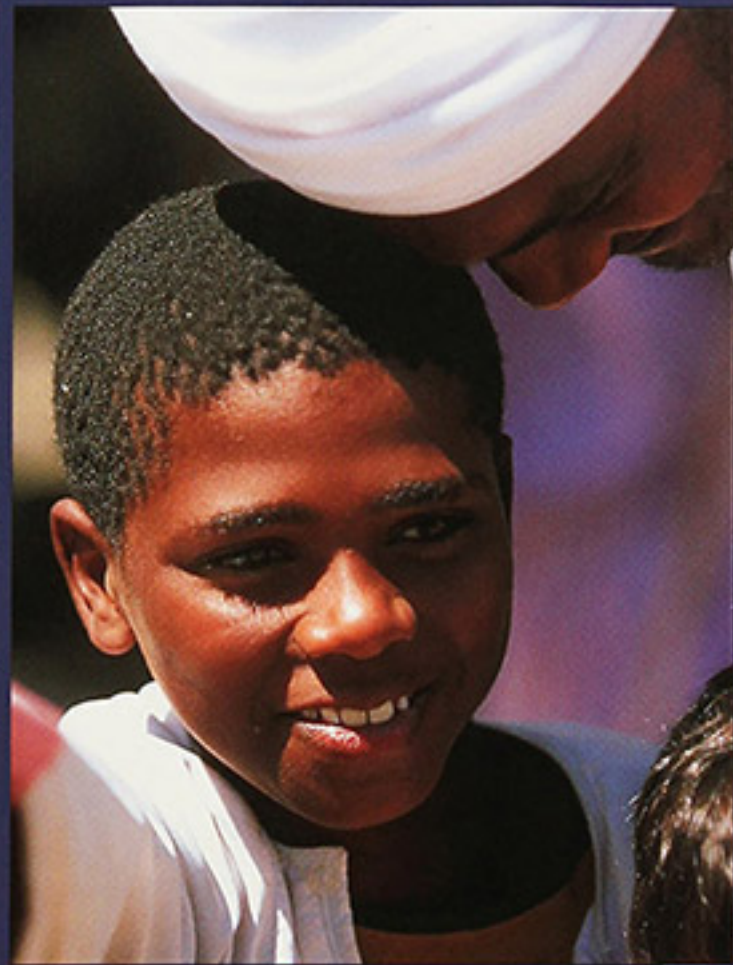
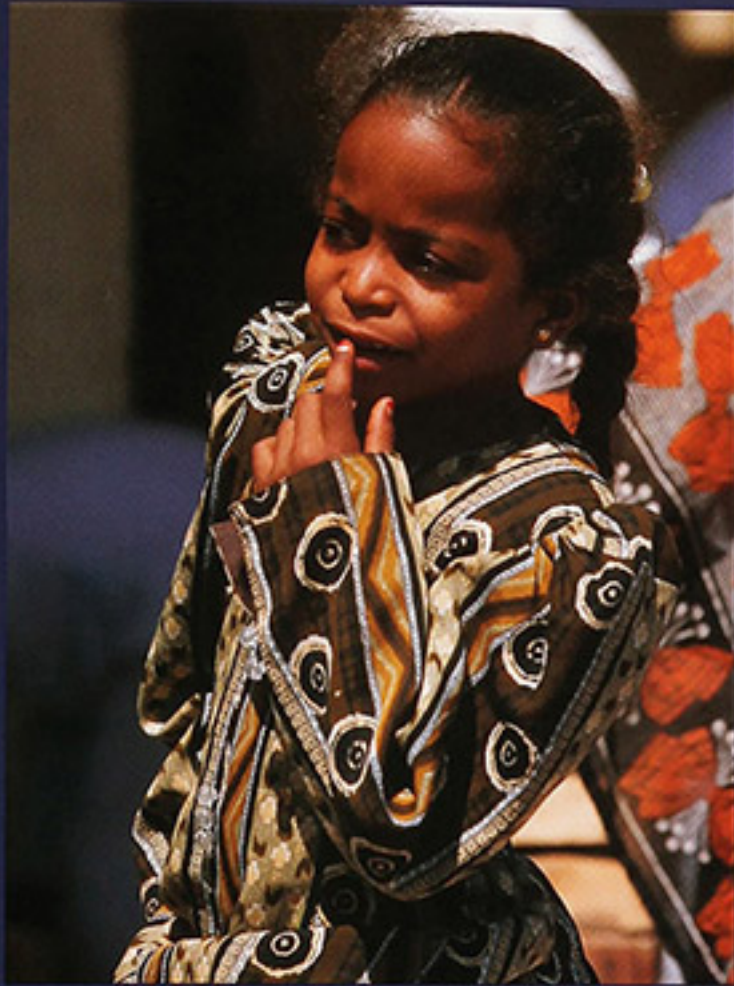
The Sultanate of Oman has a surface area of little more than 300,000 square kilometres. The coastal plains cover 3% of this area, the mountains 15%, while the sand and rock desert covers 82%.

Muscat, the capital, presents itself as a fascinating union of ancient and modern.



The Royal Palace at Muscat 'protected' by the twin forts of Jalali and Mirani





Spontaneous smiles and expressions of Omani children

Mosques, Arab architecture, golden domes and ancient Portuguese houses blend harmoniously with the newer white buildings and the whole is linked together by flowers, palms, fields, colours and scents with an order which seems far from the known Arab world. The city, crossed by the Tropic of Cancer, is the official residence of the Sultan, whose Royal Palace situated by the sea appears to be protected by the ancient Portuguese forts of Jalali and Mirani. The Omani people, following their contact with Portuguese seafarers, have always preferred to trade by sea, in contrast to other Arabs who have used the desert routes.



Musandam: fishing in a secluded bay...




... using ancient techniques unchanged by time



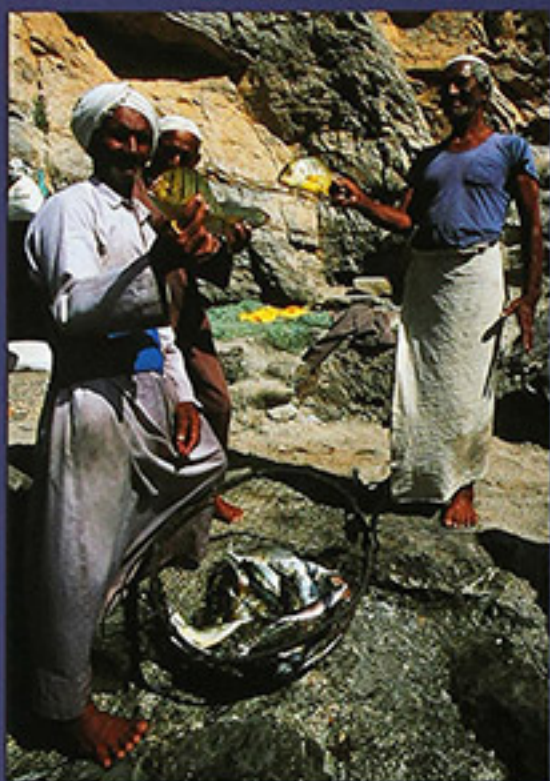
This is also linked to the important strategic geographical position of Oman with its 1,700 km. of coast. Portuguese sailors first set foot on this land at the beginning of the XVI century after Vasco de Gama opened the maritime route to the Orient by circumnavigating the Cape of Good Hope. They dominated Muscat for one and a half centuries leaving deep traces of their stay in the country, such as the numerous fortifications along the coast and the discovery and perfection of the maritime trade routes.





 Flamingoes wading in the light (South of Oman)





Skilled fishermen and their catch at the end of a day's fishing



The Portuguese style of buildings along the sea was then copied by the Omanis when building other fortifications inland. There are more than five hundred castles and towers scattered throughout Oman among which there are those of Nakhl, Al Rustaq, Al Hazm and Jabrin, these having been restored to their original glory and maintained as a symbol of Omani history.

T Traditional boat on the beach at Kumzar





Sheep trading between Iran and Oman

Musandam, a separate region to the North of the country, is carved out of the 1,880 m. high rocky mountains which throw themselves headlong into the sea of the Hormuz strait, the link between the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea. The hardness of the mountains is softened by the play of light from the sea which continually changing holds the eye. The fissures in the rock form patches of light and shadow which defined by the stone and water seem to intertwine into infinity.

This sea is home to an enormous quantity and variety of fish and is fished even today using traditional methods.



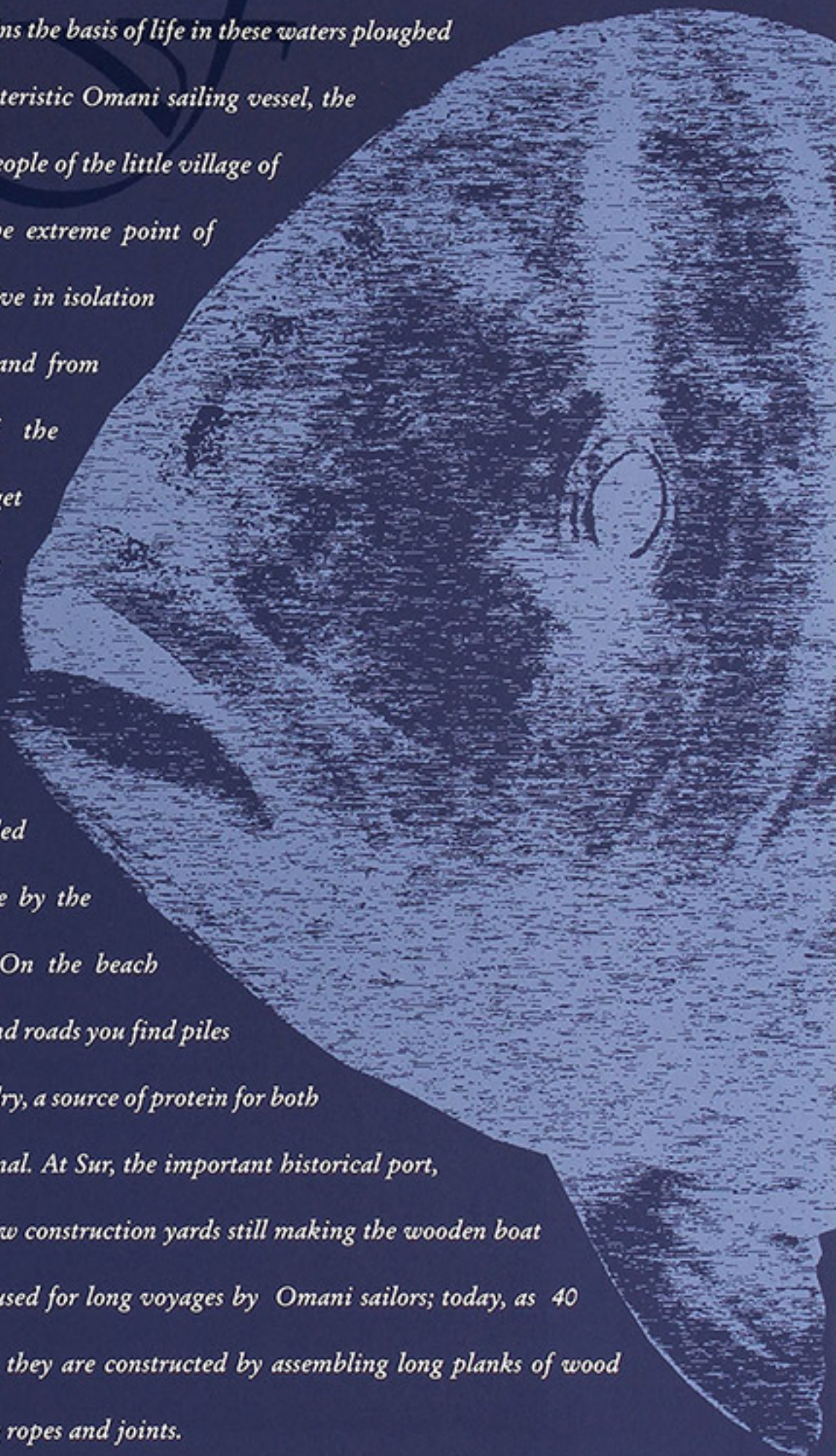
A rest after crossing the Hormuz strait

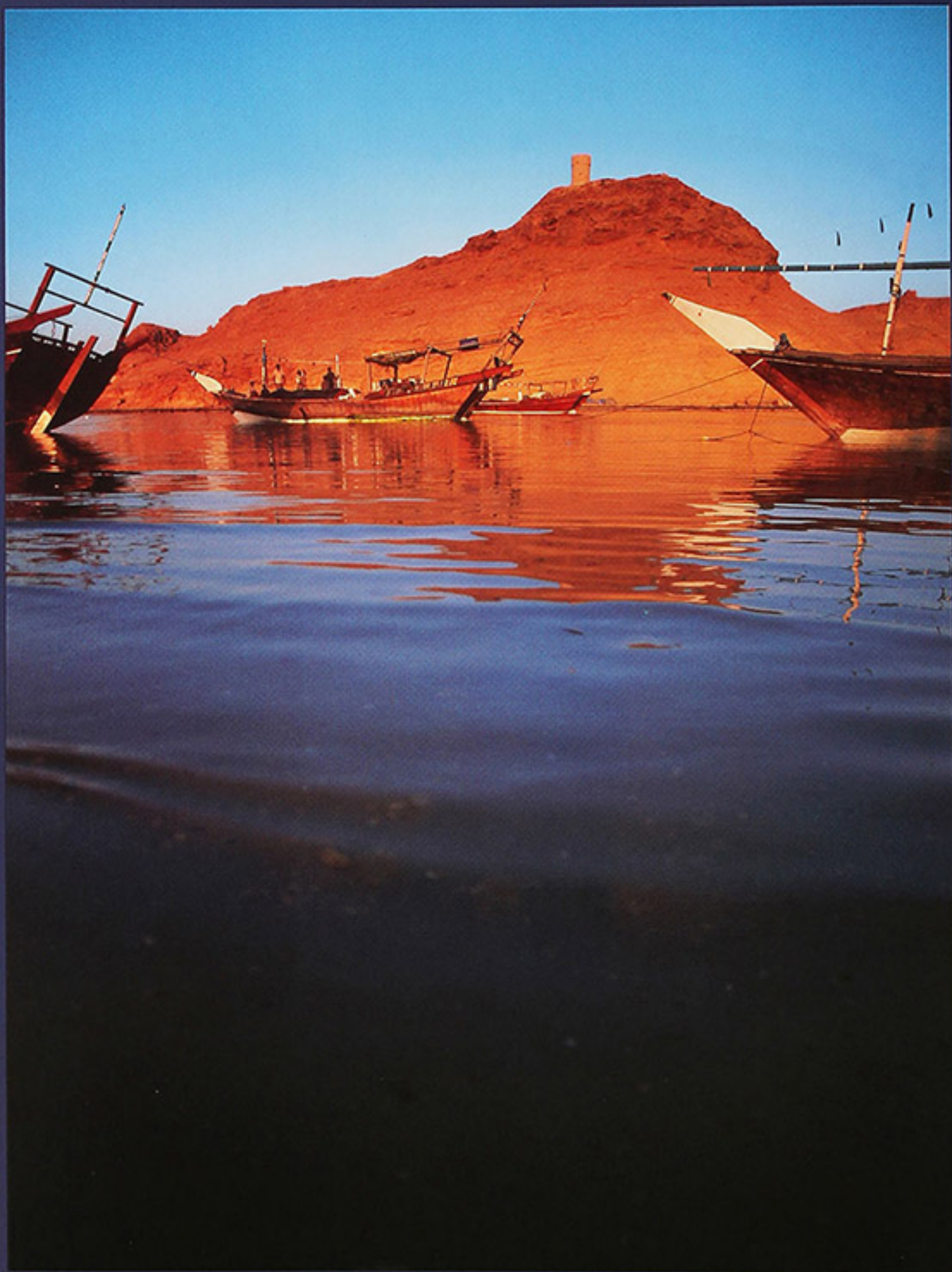


An encounter on the cliffs at Musandam



Fishing remains the basis of life in these waters ploughed by the characteristic Omani sailing vessel, the Dhow. The people of the little village of Kumsar at the extreme point of Musandam, live in isolation cut off by land from the rest of the country. To get there you have to travel by boat or by a helicopter provided for the people by the government. On the beach or on the inland roads you find piles of fish left to dry, a source of protein for both man and animal. At Sur, the important historical port, there are Dhow construction yards still making the wooden boat traditionally used for long voyages by Omani sailors; today, as 40 centuries ago, they are constructed by assembling long planks of wood together using ropes and joints.





Legend has it that Simbad the Sailor was an Omani and used one of these types of vessel to plough the waves of the then known seas. He sailed to the limits of the accessible waters, encountering men, new lands and customs and tasting strange foods as is all recounted in the mythical voyage known as the Arabian Odyssey.



Sur - Dhows at berth near the dhow construction yard...



T The atmosphere of a sunset at Sur

فنك أربية الشجر والبارية

CUMMISIA

The Art of Falconry



Maamouri with his sparrow-hawk





A delicate moment in the hunt



The lines drawn by the flight of birds in the sky has always held a deep fascination for man. This movement man has always studied and interpreted, following their passage from North to South and vice versa. The migrations from Africa towards Europe travel along well laid out routes which pass over three great peninsulas: Iberian, Italian and Balkan. The latter is of notable importance for the species crossing Jordanian territory: birds of prey, cranes and storks can be observed in movement towards the Euro-Asiatic continent.





Prepared for the hunt

Migration has very ancient origins and allows these winged creatures to reach their nesting grounds, milder climates and a more ample supply of food. Spring and Autumn are the periods chosen for these long journeys, as they are favoured by the climatic conditions which provide the best conditions for flight. The birds follow routes linked to the environment and geography, flying over coasts, mountain passes, ridges and deserts; the migrants that pass over Tunisia towards Europe fly over Cape Bon, a spectacular point of observation

of migrating birds of prey in the Spring to Summer period. On the peninsula of Cape Bon there is the village of El Haouaria. Here falconry has ancient traditions from Turk and Arab influences in the use of sparrows for the hunting of quail; this ancient art is the result of a symbiosis which has arisen between man and sparrow-hawk. This bird of prey is of modest size with a small head, a very curved beak, short rounded wings and a long rectangular truncated tail. At the same time it manages to be swift, robust and agile, ideal for hunting in the scrub. Its short wings, in fact, make it an able and fast hunter where the wood is thickest, launching itself at high speeds on black birds, thrushes and other small insect-eating birds.





These birds have an extraordinary ability to recognise small prey at a distance and evaluate the exact range thanks to a remarkable concentration of visual cells on the retina. The eyes, which in the sparrow-hawk are a lively yellow, being very large and having a remarkable retina surface area, can magnify the image in the bird's field of vision. This allows it to perceive the exact position and the depth of field of its prey. On its tarsi and talons depends a good part of its predatory efficiency in capturing animals suitable to its size; therefore we would expect to find very fine sharp talons in the agile sparrow-hawk, extraordinarily strong and heavy talons in the Royal eagle.







The long meticulous preparation for the hunt



Falcons feed on birds, rodents and insects and expend enormous amounts of energy when hunting; in the chase they make great bursts of speed and this requires great exertion in terms of energy. It should be added that in the hunting season this bird of prey can go without food for long periods of time and that, contrary to what one might think, only 8% of the dives of the peregrine falcon and only 11% of the attacks of the sparrow-hawk meet with success. For this reason, falcons must concentrate their efforts on weaker prey such as injured , weakened, old or young inexperienced birds.



A deep understanding is created between man and bird

During the month of April, the elders of El Haouaria capture their sparrow-hawks using special nets hung in the woods, the preferred hunting area of these winged creatures.

After capture a period of familiarising with man is initiated during which the bird in effect lives with the family and spends much time with its trainer. Only when it accepts food from the hand of man will it be ready for its initial training for the real hunt.



Buzard

The sparrow must be trained in the month of May when the migration of quails towards Europe starts. In the first week of June, when the wheat is harvested, this migratory flow comes to an end and the sparrow-hawk is tagged so as to be recognised in the future; freed it can then continue its journey after this brief interruption.





Man, bird, world and infinity

ALI BEY

(Noble Dream x Bay Affair)

Owner: G. + F. HUEMER
La Moulin Arabians Stud



THE GALLERY



من خلال عدسة جيجي جراسو

THROUGH THE LENS OF GIGI GRASSO

THE GALLERY



THE GALLERY
OF THE
MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

ALI BEY

(Magic Dream x Bey Affair)

Owner: G. + F. HUEMER
La Movida Arabians Stud



CORALL

(Nadir I x Cewiarka)

Owner: SILVIA GARDE - EHLERT
on lease to The Bluebell Stud and Gerald Kurtz
Gut Alemich Stud



L. M. LUVAL

(Ludjn El Jamaal x Bint China Moon)

Owner: G. + F. HUEMER
La Mouda Arabians Stud



MB TALVITA

(Talmaal x Egyptian Sapphire)

Owner: H. R. H. PRINCESS ZEIN BINT AL HUSSEIN and H. E. MAJDI AL SALEH
Royal Jaafar Stud



IMPERIAL PHARAJ

(Imperial Indal x Imperial Phanadak)

Owner: PIETRO CUTRONA
Pancallo Stud



ABHA GHAZALI

(El Perfecto x Abha Hamir ++)

*Owner: MARIETA SALAS - PRINCESS TCHIKOTOUA
Ses Planes Stud*



EL PERFECTO

(Vallehemoso x Example)

*Owner: MARIETA SALAS - PRINCESS TCHKOTOUA
Ses Planes Stud*



BAYFYRRE

(Ma Bayhajt x Farih)

Owner: MONIKA SAVIER
Te Balzane Stud



NEVAN

(Neman x Nevodka)

Owner: FIORICA and COUZZI partnership



AL ESTORIAH

(Esteem x BST Dazzire)

Owner: GERHARD HUBER
Al Hembra Stud



PAMAR

(Mars x Pagoda)

Owner: PAOLO DAMILANO
San Pietro Stud



PR KRYSTL PRINCE

(Padrons Psyche x PR Forever Krystl)

Owner: JOHN OOSTERVINK - ALOÏS LOOYENS
PR Krystl Prince Syndicat



THE GALLERY



W. G. M. G. M.
BOARD OF OLD DERBY

PR KRYSTL PRINCE

Prinses Beatrix (Princess Beatrix)

Prinses Beatrix (Princess Beatrix)

Prinses Beatrix (Princess Beatrix)



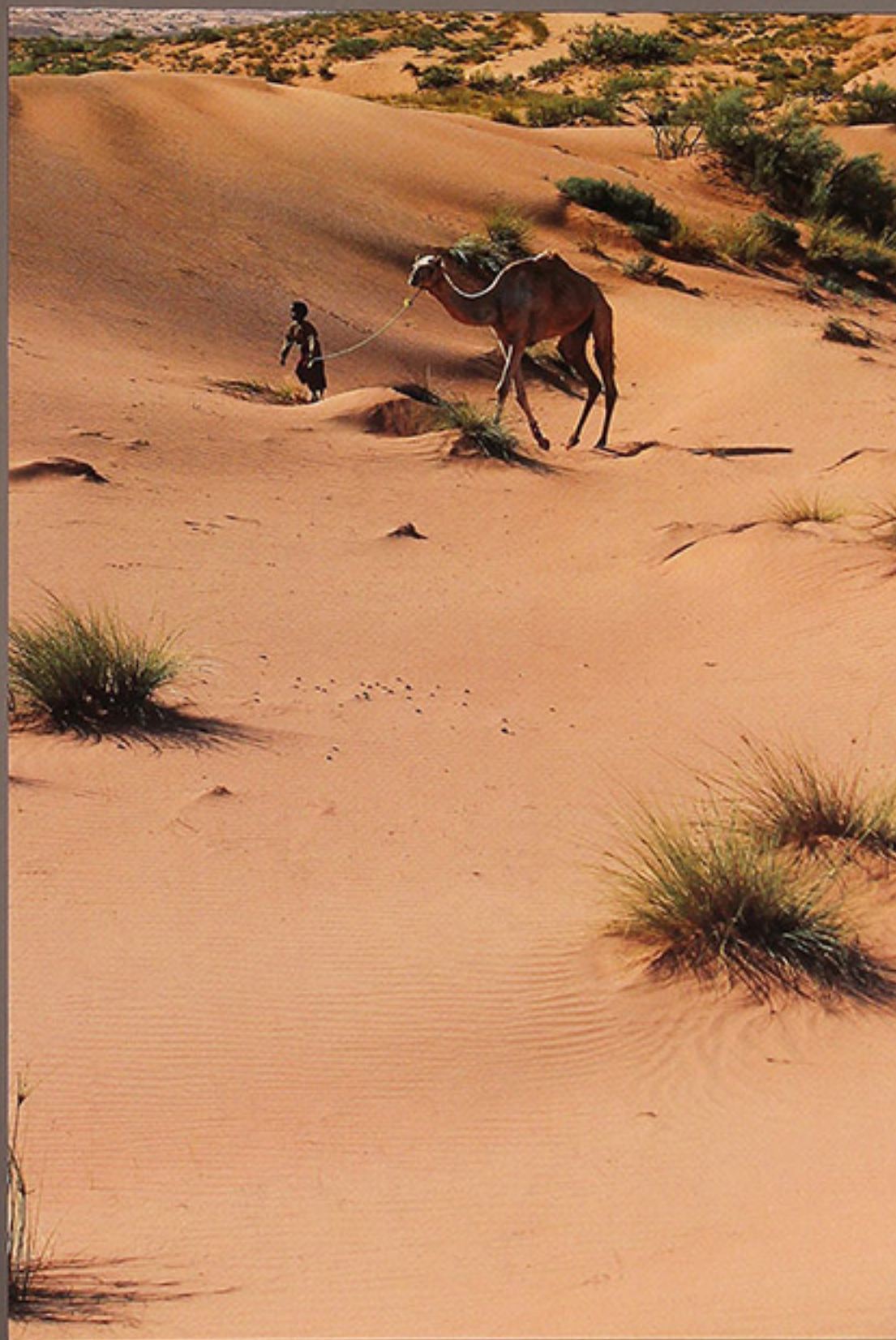
THE GALLERY



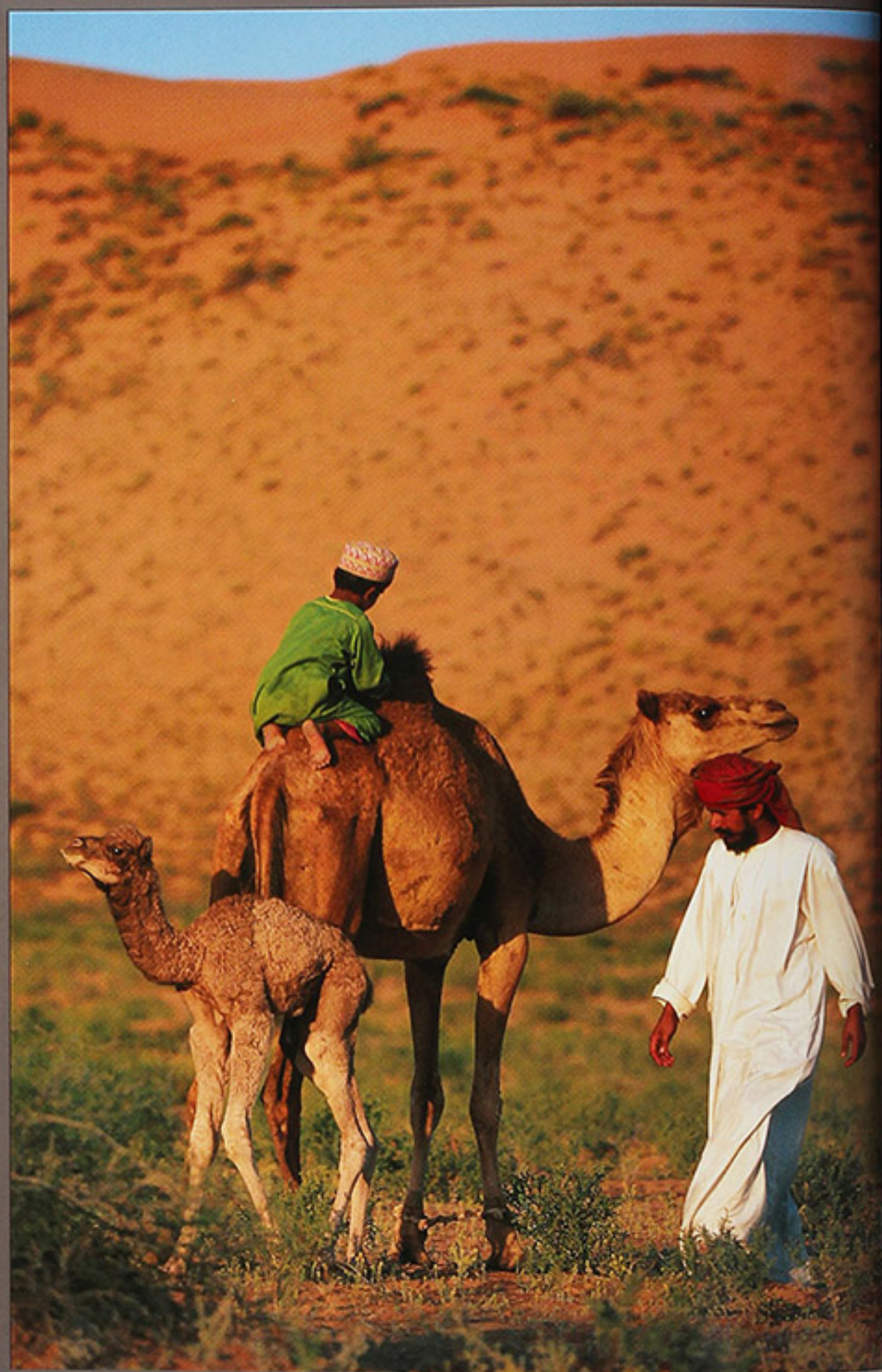
میں خندانہ حدیث: جمی جی جی

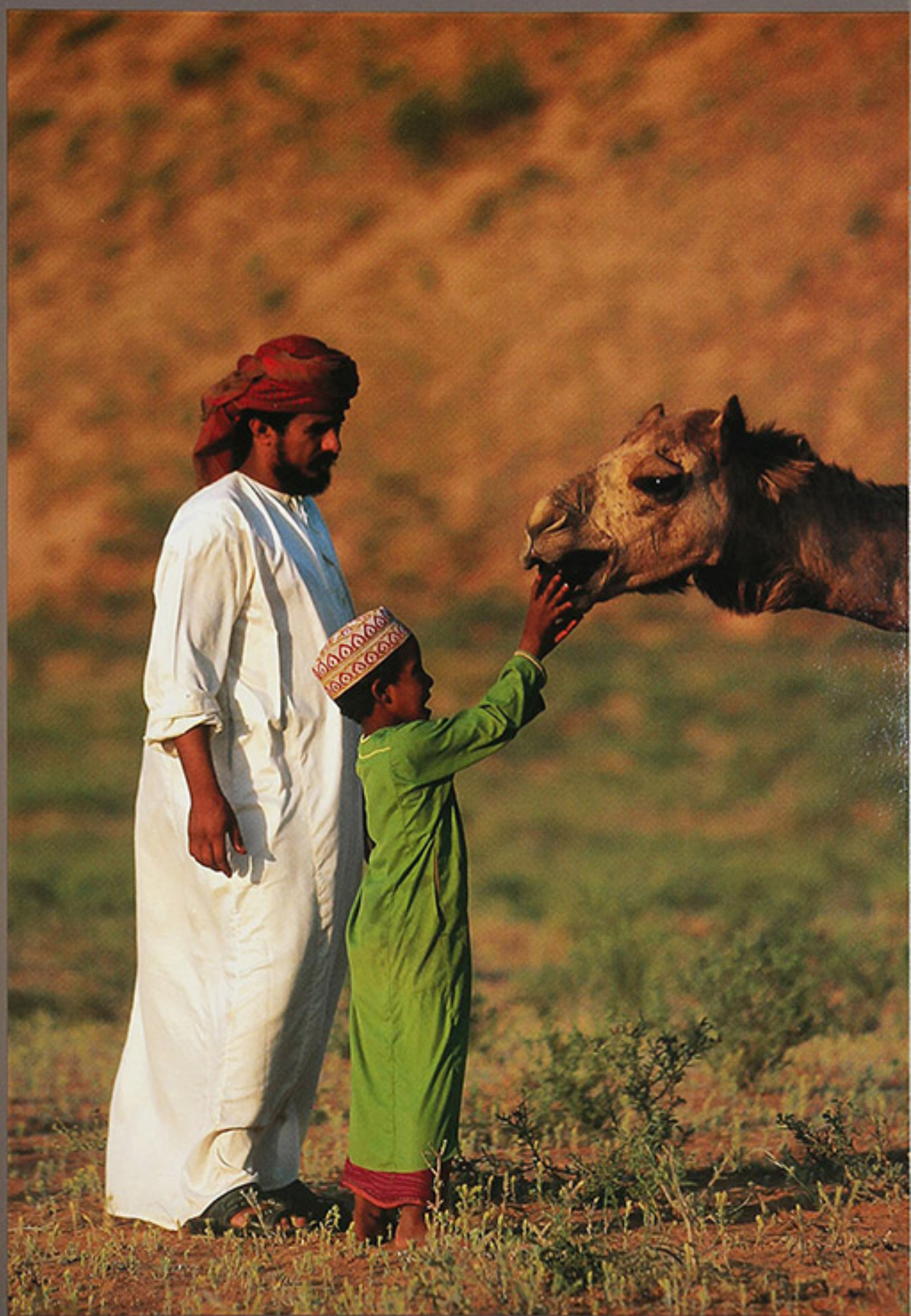
THROUGH THE LENS OF GIGI GRASSO

الصحراء، البدو وراكبهم
Oman
The Bedouin and their Desert Ships



The 80 km. wide strip of desert in the Sharqiyah region known as Wahaiba Sands stretches for 180 km.. Its sands of quartz and carbonate grains resulting from rock erosion are most particular. It is famous for its drifting dunes which can reach a height of up to 100 metres and which advance at a rate of about 10 metres a year. This land offers all the marvels that one would expect: the fascinating dawn and sunset light, the flurry of fine sand saturating the air, the criss-crossing of jeeps and the serene passage of the Bedouin and their camels along their trails. Wahaiba Sands is the habitat of almost one hundred species of living creatures, including mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians. The types of vegetation number a surprising one hundred and eighty.





The precious gift of the camel



These exceptional fauna and flora are sustained by 120 km. of irrigation tunnels called Falaj which form a dense network beneath this desert zone. The falaj are an ancient method of channelling water from the mountains to the plain and even now are used to irrigate a large part of the country. Water is fundamental to the Bedouin of the Wabaiba Sands.

It gives life to them and their camels, goats and other domesticated animals which wander freely around their encampments in certain well watered areas.

The ancient art of falconry: an integral part of Bedouin life ...



... which lives on to the present day

What strikes the visitor's eye is the love and respect the

Bedouin show for their animals especially towards their camels

which represent a way of life thousands of years old. Even

with the most modern of technology living alongside them, they

retain the simple and deep humanity of the men of the

desert. Their camels over the centuries have become

a principal source of their wealth. In their breed-

ing and in the spirit of the race the Bedouin have

found fame and fortune. Buyers from various

Arab countries come to Suwaiq, in the region

of Batinat, to search among the breeders for

the fastest camels in the Arab peninsula,

the champions that might win them a pres-

tigious race. These animals belong to the

family of Camelidae and to the genus

Camelus; the Arabian camels are

defined as Camelus

Dromedarius and

have only one

hump.





They differ therefore from the Camelus

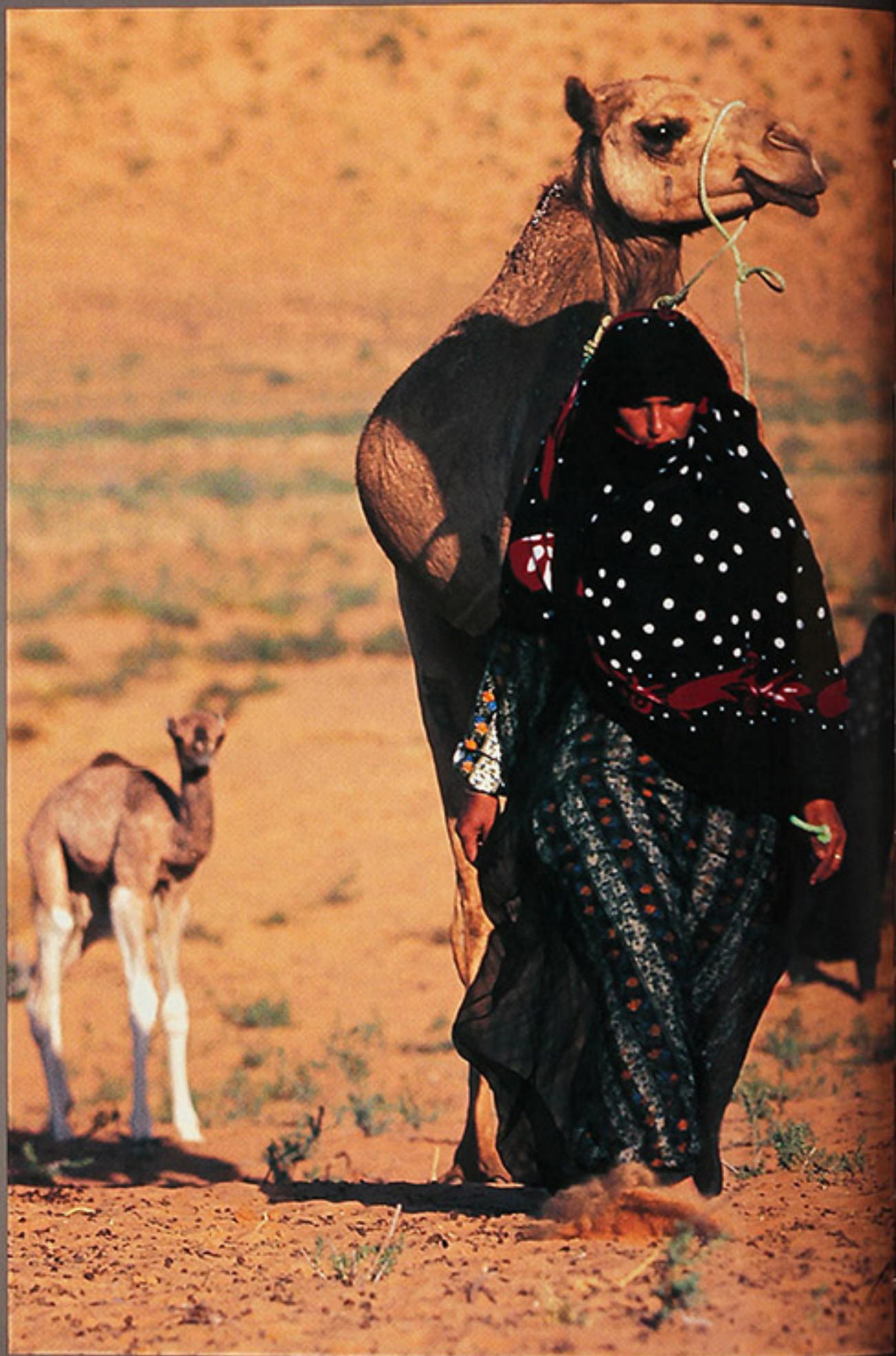
Bactrianus as the latter have two humps and a different coat.

Known as "Ships of the desert", these extremely hardy animals can carry over 150 kg. on journeys of more than eight hours, covering distances of about 200 km. a day. They feed on grass, dates, grain flour and oatmeal. In modern diets also some supplementary integrators for basic proteins may be added. The dromedary can survive without food and water for many days using, as we know, its reserves in its hump. When it finally reaches water it can gulp down about a hundred litres in a few minutes.

There are two genetic lines in Omani camel breeding: Meheri and Direi.

These can be recognised from their long hooves, small heads, slim thorax and developed muscles.

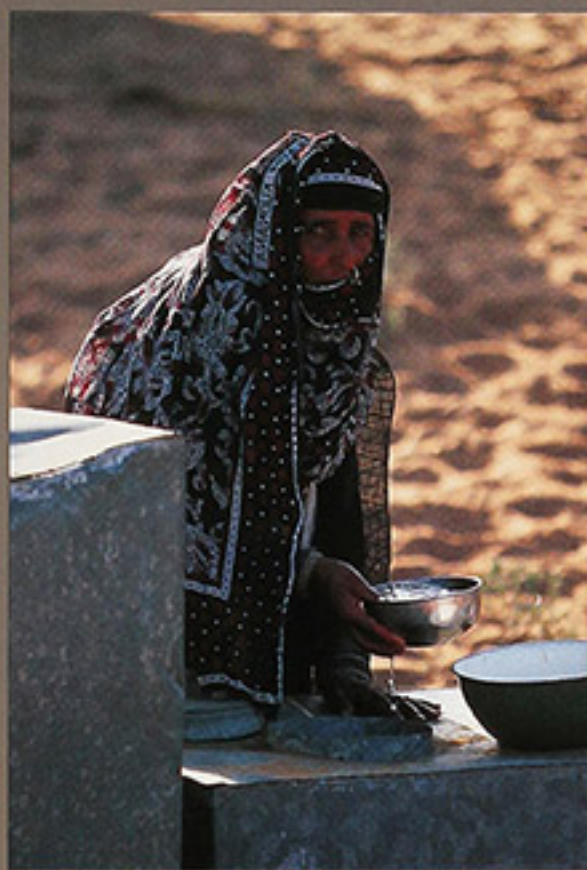
Spring time at the select breeding farms is the time for mating of the carefully selected lines of male and female. The camel's great strength and hardiness derives from its natural surroundings which gives it a sort of natural immunity against adversity and many diseases. It can live on average to the age of thirty but if well-looked after and fed, the longer living examples can reach the age of forty. The Bedouin obviously also make use of the hair and skin of these animals from which they make clothes, shoes, bags and saddles. Training starts early for the fastest specimens and normally is most intensive from July on in anticipation of the Autumn races held at Mudhaibi and Al Kamil Al Wafi in the Sharqiya region.



Great care is also taken over the diet of racing camels: apart from the usual grass, also vegetables, dates, honey, eggs and high energy content flour are added to their feed. More than 98,000 camels live within the Sultanate of which 70,000 live in the Dhofar region. Oman is considered the "mother of Arabian camels" and the animals bred here are defined as the "Queens of Camels". The most important and renowned camel market is at Ibri and the race that attracts the greatest number of entries and offers the highest prizes

is held in November in celebration of National Day.

Some of the fastest of these animals have been sold for over a hundred thousand dollars giving yet more prestige to Omani breeders.





The competition prizes are most enticing to

the Bedouin: apart from cash prizes they can win Jeeps

and silver Khandjars, their characteristic curved daggers. Even

children of five or six years of age take up the challenge tied to

their camels in long races rich in prizes. The type of racing mount

in Oman differs from those of other Arab countries mainly in the type of

saddle used. Omani saddles are more stylised, smaller, made of light wood

and are positioned behind the hump on an under saddle of plaited palm fibre;

while the Arab saddle is made of heavier wood and positioned on the hump.

Particularly unique to the world is the camel mounted band of the Royal

Police which uses this animal for parades.

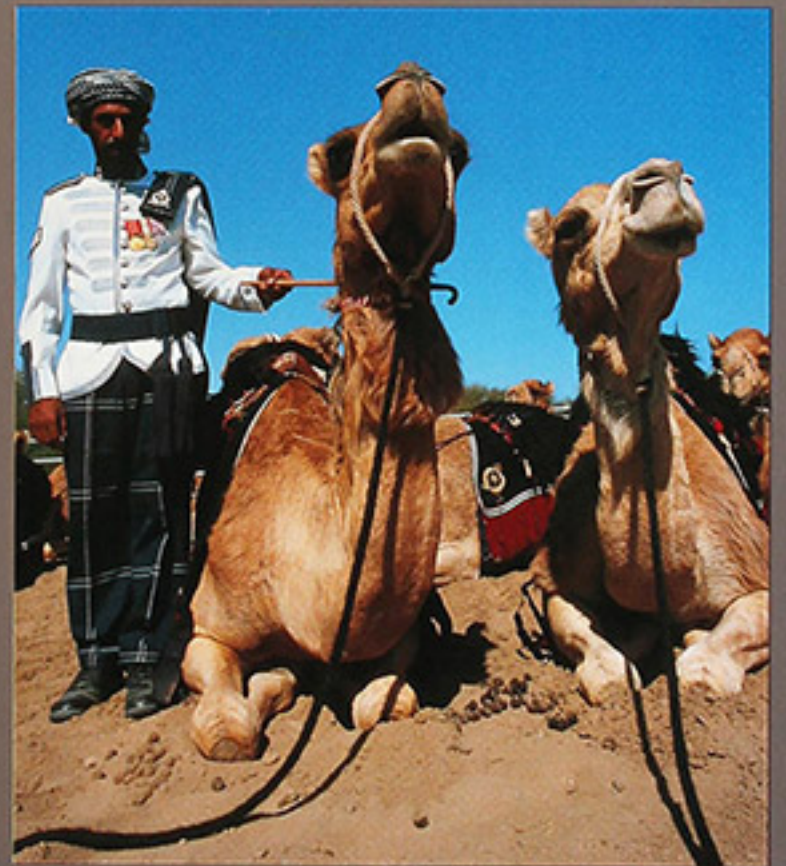


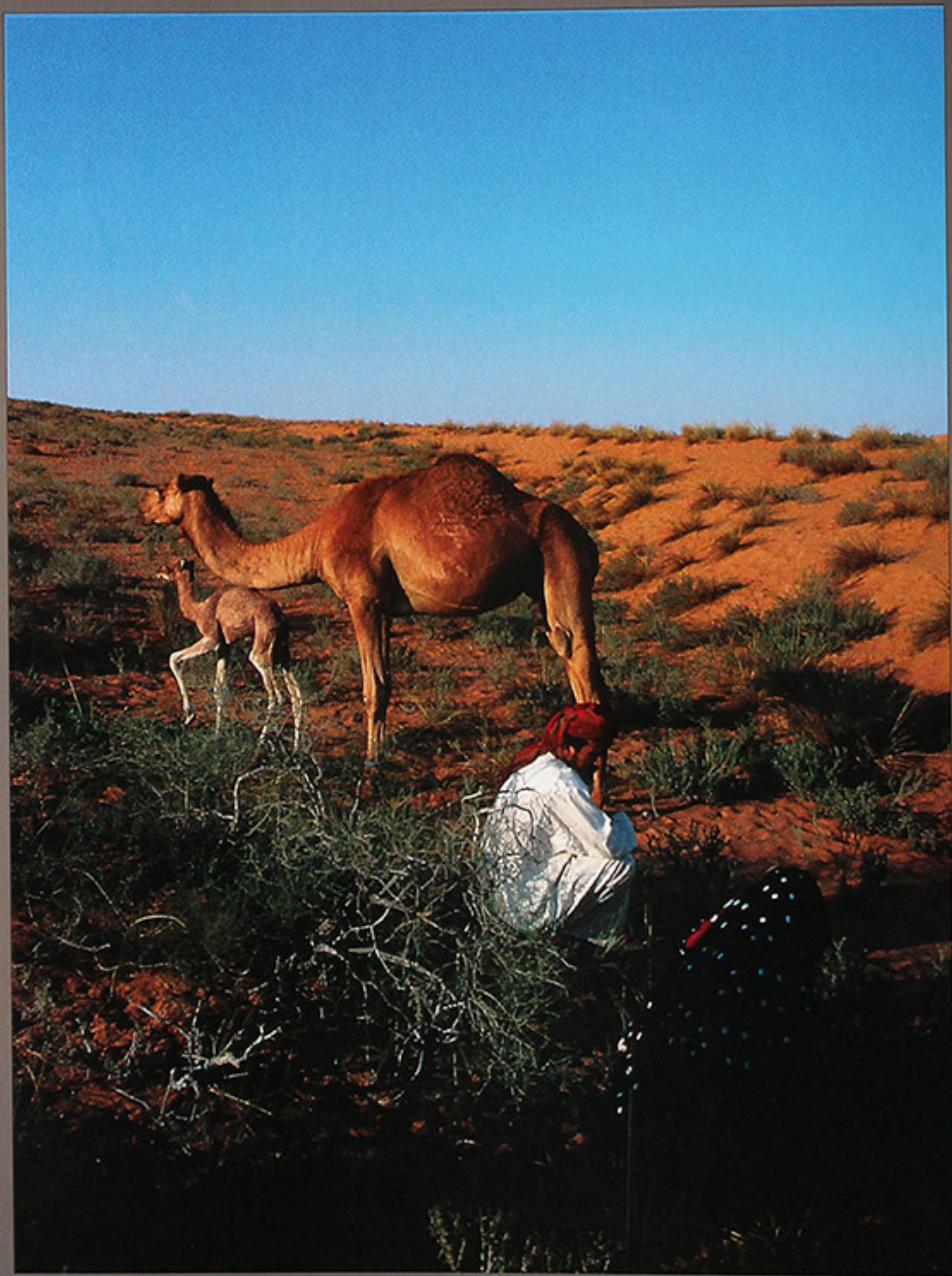
The camel mounted band of the Royal Police (Muscat)



It was founded at Muscat in 1985 and consists of 66 musicians mounted on camels and dressed in splendid uniforms. This exhibition is one of the high points of National Day, of the official engagements of His Majesty and of the equestrian shows held in his honour.

Dignity and humour are the qualities of this desert people which combined with their well-known hospitality are visible in their gestures, in their gaze on the characteristic scenery of the desert in which for them the camel represents the true "Ata-Allah", that is to say the gift of God.





The camels live at close quarters to the Bedouin encampments



در عهدك عمان السبيل
Royal Stud of Oman



Salah with a beautiful stallion

Only someone who has spent some time in this corner of the Arabian peninsula carries within him or herself the vivid images of this splendid country.

The pure inner beauty of the people, sweet and welcoming, the striking natural countryside, diverse and unspoilt,



the scents and colours of thousands of years of history stir up unique and unrepeatabe emotions. A feeling of this kind is kindled by the atmosphere of the Royal Stables near Adyat and Safinat.



A bird's eye view of the Royal Stud



Traditional Omani exercises of skill




The Royal Stables situated by the sea, materialises from a long sandy beach, the morning training ground for Arabians and Thoroughbreds. Racing, jumping, polo, show exhibitions and performances of the high school are all specialities of this beautiful equestrian centre.







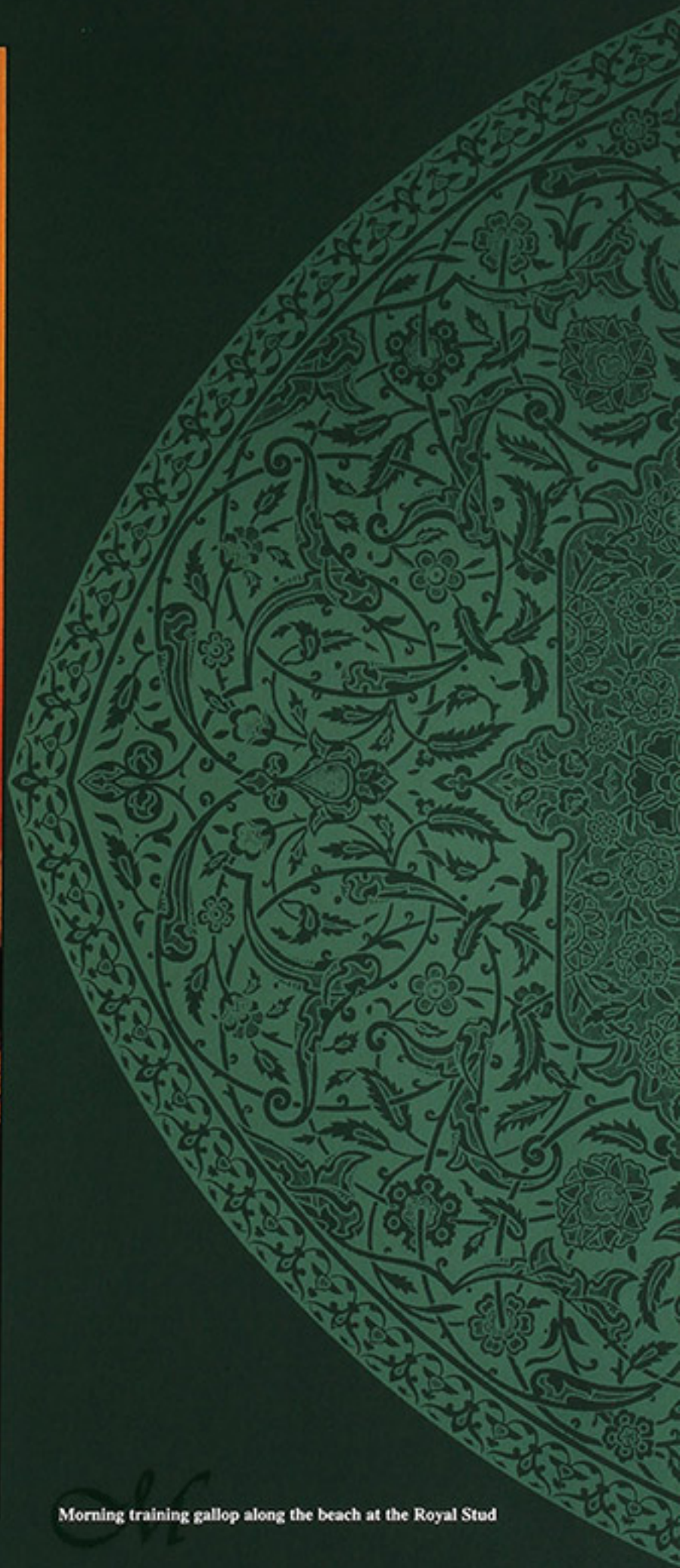
Horses with traditional trappings within the walls of ancient fort

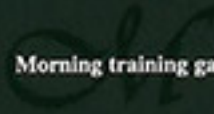


History recalls how the Omanis were great horse breeders with a remarkable talent for trade. Horses were bred in this strip of land of high plains trapped between the coast and the desert. In the twelfth century Omani merchants were famed for their trade in a territory that wound from Egypt to China. A century later some documents detail the provision of ten thousand horses a year to one Indian state for the cavalry defence of their territory. It was a time when the king and his commanders based their defensive and offensive ambitions on the strength and ardour of their horses. In the chronicles of the seventeenth century we read that the Arabian horses bred in Oman were considered the best and the hardiest in the whole of the Orient.







 Morning training gallop along the beach at the Royal Stud



A Advancing over the dunes



Subsequently

Oman gradually lost its African and Asiatic markets, thus its wealth and naval supremacy were diminished.

As a consequence the breeding of pure-bred Arabians went through a crisis with a period of decline accentuated by a virus in the nineteen-fifties which decimated pure-breds on Omani territory. It took ten years to eradicate the disease, but with the help, the passion and the expertise of the Sultan Qaboos bin Said the reconstruction of this equine heritage was slowly resumed. The eques-

trian tradition and the knowledge of the families involved in breeding were given new life with the importation of new horses and the creation of new blood-lines.



The results of this commitment can now be seen in both the Royal Stables and in the Stables at Salalah. Here, where Sultan Qaboos was born, Arabian foals, selected from a particular and unique Arabian blood-line, are bred. The semi-equatorial climate facilitates the growth of luxuriant vegetation which forms a magnificent backdrop to the sight of splendid foals running alongside mares in the paddock within the grounds. About sixty are born a year from a herd of forty stallions and more than sixty mares.



For the Oman cavalry, which parades to songs and performs exercises of equestrian high school executed with exceptional bravura by specialist cavalrymen, the horses are saddled in the traditional way without stirrups. A large air-conditioned saddle room houses a hundred and twenty colourful Omani and Syrian saddles rich in ornaments, all made and embroidered by hand.



Omani riding: exercises with a lance

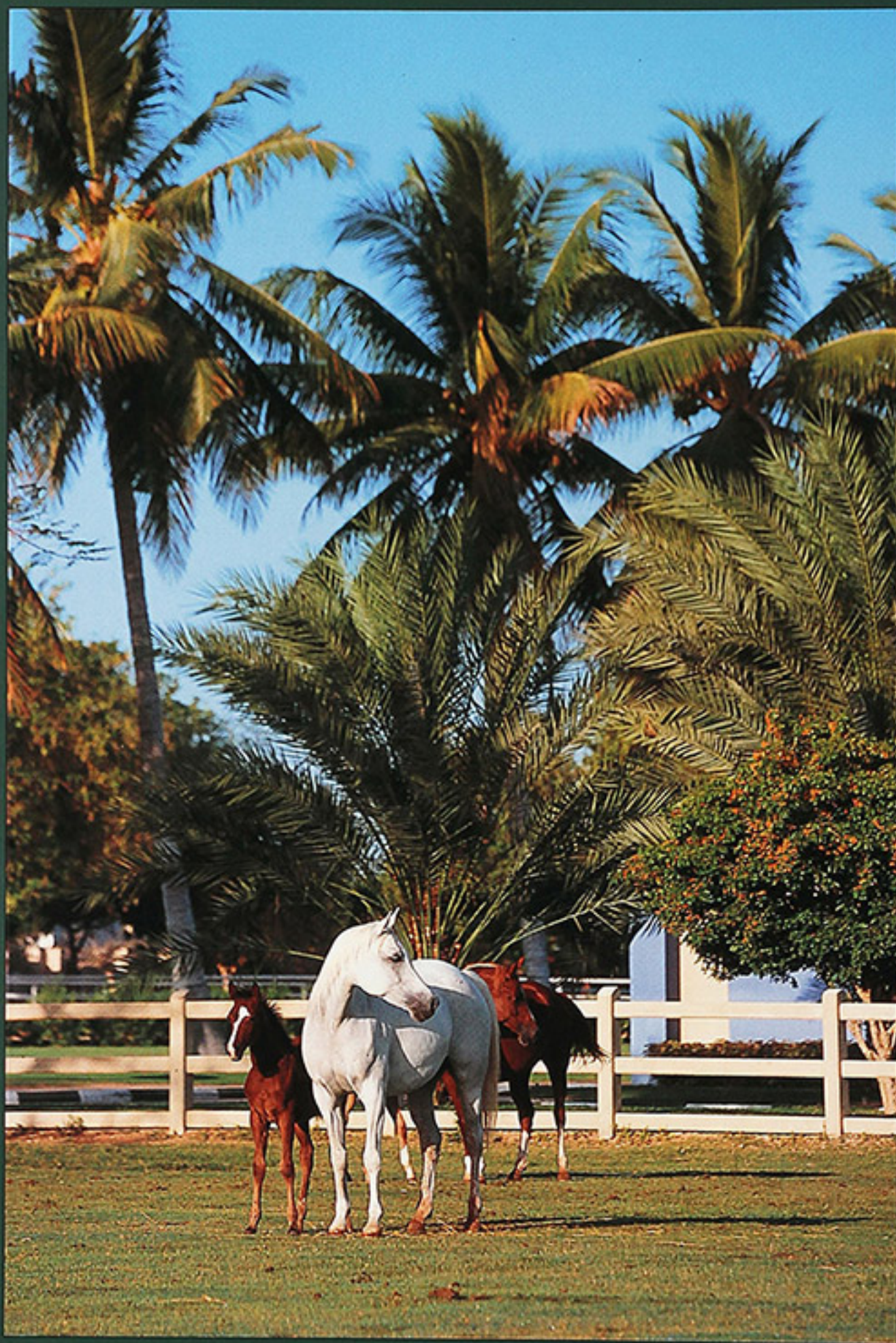
The Bedouin, with their equestrian knowledge which stretches back to times immemorial of their ancient culture, now talk to us anew of Khuaylau genetic selection in comparison to the Mu'niqi or Saqlawi lines.



The extensive paddocks at the Salah Royal Stud

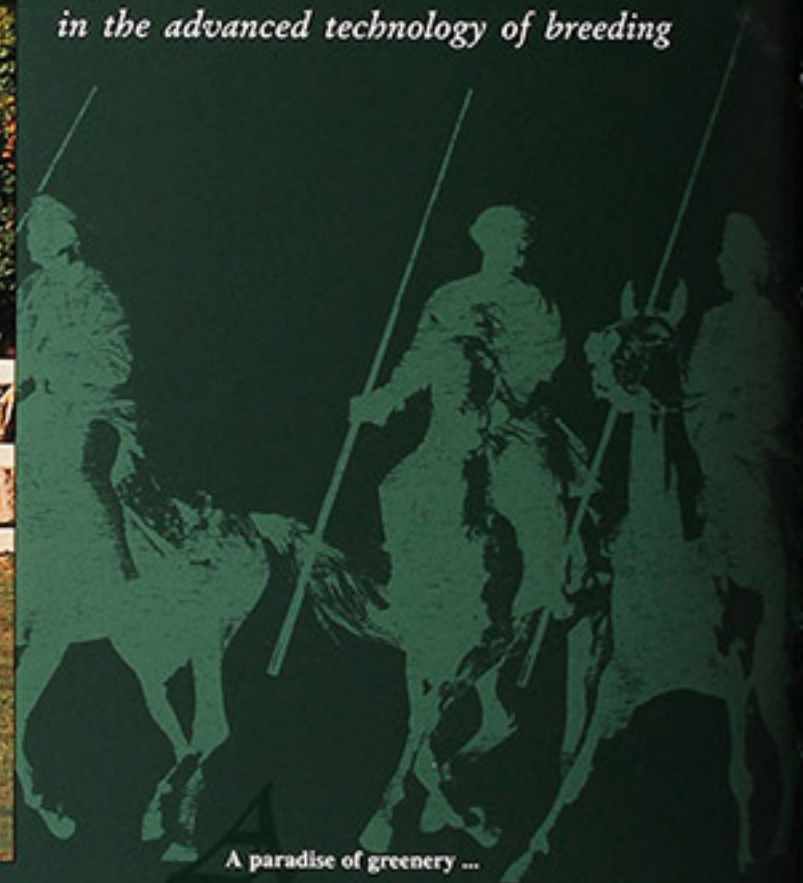


Side by side: mares and foals



One story passed from generation to generation of Omani Bedouin narrates how Zad Arakib, the most beautiful, the most elegant, strongest and hardiest of stallions was led to the Azd tribe by the prophet Suleiman and that from this horse all the true Arabian pure-breds descend. These famous horses are renowned as faithful companions in peace and war; they also symbolise the wealth of the owner.

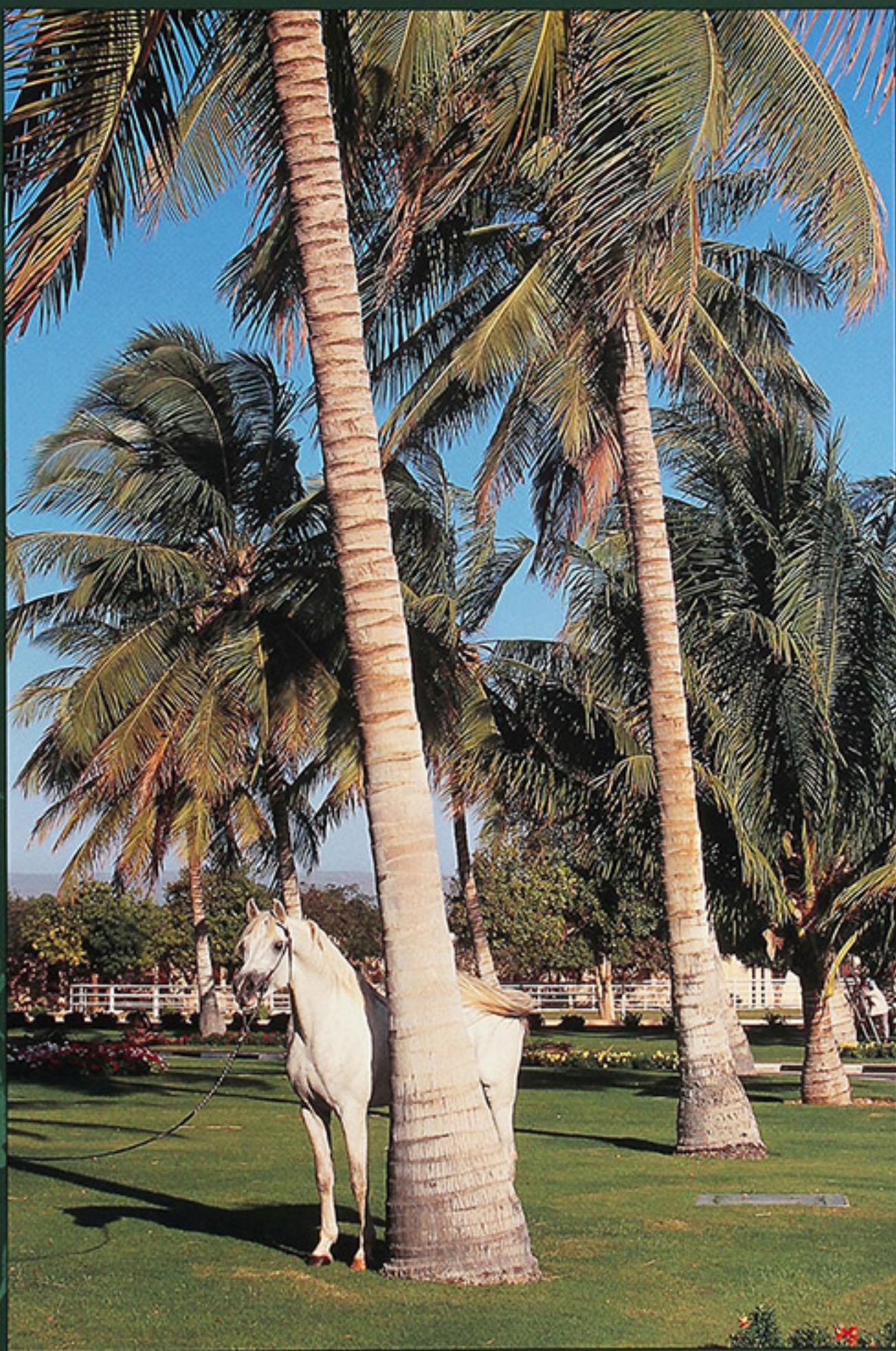
Today this wealth, originating from other resources, is being wisely invested in the advanced technology of breeding



A paradise of greenery ...

and training, but always mixed with a deep, serious yet simple knowledge that gives the Royal Stables and the country their great charm and the world an ever more interesting equestrian centre.

A member of the Royal stables, in underlining the concept of their deep attachment to tradition and respect for the life lived by their predecessors told us: " ... despite innovation, may our civilisation never betray the aim of maintaining the purity of the blood-lines of our pure-bred Arabians....".



... framed by the palms



Standing proud



Trusty steeds they fly like the wind
Rider and beast stretching the sands
Under the falcon's watchful eye
He with his precarious hold above
Cries his cry of nature wild
And he, horse and man are caught
In a flicker of time
Riders of the wind and sand



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