



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2015
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Champions of Arabian Breed Crowned at U.S. Open as Rolex Central Park Horse Show Begins

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New York, NY – Horses returned to New York City's Central Park for the second-annual Rolex Central Park Horse Show on Wednesday with the inaugural U.S. Open Arabians, presented by Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar. Showcasing the athleticism and diversity of the Arabian breed in the foreground of the Manhattan skyline, Champions in four under saddle and six halter classes were crowned.

Classes including Hunter Pleasure, Western Pleasure, and Country English Pleasure showcased the Arabian horse under saddle. Yearling Fillies, Yearling Colts, Junior Fillies 2-3 Years Old, Junior Colts 2-3 Years Old, Senior Mares and Senior Stallions were presented in hand to highlight these horses as desirable breeding stock based on their conformation and shape.

Capping the evening, Arabian fans at Wollman Rink traveled through time to when Arabian horses roamed the desert. The Arabian Mounted Native Costume class portrayed the magic and romance of the Arabian horse as ancestors of modern day light breeds.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Champions were awarded for each of the ten classes offered at the Rolex Central Park Horse Show where Sally Wheeler-Maier, a New York City native, was presented as Silver Champion in the Country English Pleasure class aboard her own Captain Courageous PA. Wheeler-Maier is an amateur rider who makes a living as an actress and rides part-time.

"Usually you travel all over the country to show, but I walked ten blocks from 66th and 2nd carrying my show hat and I had a lot of family and friends here cheering me on, which was an amazing feeling," she said.

Wheeler-Maier has been showing since she was nine years old, after reading *The Black Stallion* and asking her dad for a black Arabian stallion. She received just that and has since been dedicated to the breed through her training at Trowbridge Arabians in Westport, CT, and at shows from coast to coast, a list that now includes New York City.

"It's like a really fantastic fancy horse camp," said Wheeler-Maier of competing in Central Park alongside professionals.

One professional that competed in five of Wednesday's classes and earned two Gold, one Silver and two Bronze Championships was Ted Carson. Carson hails from Minnesota, but now calls North Carolina home and competes all over the world.

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"I've been showing horses professionally for 26 years now and this is the most amazing spot I have ever shown a horse in. To run in there with the first horse of the show was special," he said. "I think the footing is some of the best I've ever seen in the world. This is probably the best setting you could ever think about and I think that everyone who put in the effort to get this done is amazing and we want to support this heavily."

While exhibitors were in awe of their surroundings, they still impressed the judges, including Dr. Nasr Marei, who traveled from Egypt to be part of the U.S. Open Arabians. "It is a true honor to be here and I think it will get better and better," he said. "The show was tremendous and organizationally it was spectacular. The quality of the horses was impressive and it's a backdrop that is the best in the world."

Cynthia Richardson, president of the Arabian Horse Association (AHA), spearheaded the U.S. Open Arabians after watching the inaugural Rolex Central Park Horse Show on television last year. "After I saw it, I asked the USEF if I could meet with the people who are organizing the show and I came to talk about how we could make this happen and it's been an amazing journey," she said. "I'm really looking forward to next year and building this."

Richardson and International Equestrian Group CEO Mark Bellissimo were proud to announce that the U.S. Open Arabians will return to headline the 2016 Rolex Central Park Horse Show and anticipate a huge response from the Arabian horse community.

"I think it adds a different dimension and twist to the show and we're very excited about the possibilities as we move forward," said Bellissimo. "With more time and more exposure, I think the level of the event will continue to grow and I'm looking forward to packing the stands next year. Our vision for this horse show has always been a celebration of the horse and I think expanding that appropriately to different disciplines and breeds is something we aim to do."

U.S. Open Arabians Final Results

Yearling Fillies

Place Entry # Horse Exhibitor Owner
Gold 138 Verdetta J Jeff Schall Larry Jerome
Silver 107 Xpceptions Ted Carson Butler or Collins

Hunter Pleasure

Place Entry # Horse Exhibitor Owner
Gold 104 Klint Black+++// Wendy Shelton Flois or Cindy Burrow

Yearling Colts

Place Entry # Horse Exhibitor Owner
Gold 114 Jalal Aljassimya Giacomo Capacci Aljassimya Farm
Silver 122 IJ Bellatore Jeff Schall Isaac & Jessica Taylor

Junior Fillies 2-3 Years of Age

Place Entry # Horse Exhibitor Owner

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Gold 109 Edens Manderley Ted Carson Shelley Macmillan

Country English Pleasure

Place Entry # Horse Exhibitor Owner

Gold 125 Afire Star VF Brooke Jarvis Kimberly Jarvis

Silver 128 Captain Courageous PA Sally Wheeler Maier Sally Wheeler Maier

Bronze 124 Baske Alarm Stephanie Lanvater Donald & Corinne Allen

Junior Colts 2-3 Years of Age

Place Entry # Horse Exhibitor Owner

Gold 110 SF Verazes Qamar Ted Carson Sycamore Farm, LLC

Silver 130 Falah Al Shaqab David Boggs Al Shaqab Member Qatar Foundation

Western Pleasure

Place Entry # Horse Exhibitor Owner

Gold 105 Monticello V Joe Reser Lesler Farms, LLC

Silver 118 Holdin Aces Thomas Garland Joelle or Robert Wright

Bronze 106 MPA Kharianne Wendy Shelton Flois or Cendy Burrow

Senior Mares Halter

Place Entry # Horse Exhibitor Owner

Gold 133 Valentino's Angel MI Andy Sellman HRH Prince Abdullah Bin Fahad Al Saud

Silver 115 CR Jasmeenah Michael Byatt Aljassimya Farm

Bronze 111 Gemellia Ted Carson Marcella G Haensch

Senior Stallions Halter

Place Entry # Horse Exhibitor Owner

Gold 134 Om El Al Azeem Andy Sellman Om El Arab International

Silver 103 Miracle of Marwan Joe Alberti Miracle Maker Group

Bronze 112 Maihab Ted Carson Faisal Muhammad

Native Costume

Place Entry # Horse Exhibitor Owner

Gold 135 HL Sanction Cathy Vecsey Hawk Haven Farms, LLC

Silver 137 EQ Escalade+// Kimberly Butler Blevins and Butler

Bronze 136 Squeezebox Mary Elizabeth Kelly Ronald Doerrer

Full results from the U.S. Open Arabians are available [here](#).

The Rolex Central Park Horse Show continues through Sunday, September 27, with more multi-discipline equestrian sport. In addition to Arabians, the schedule includes the inaugural U.S. Open in the following categories: Jumpers, Dressage, Hunters, and U25 Jumpers. All classes will be streamed live at www.centralparkhorseshow.com.

Rolex Central Park Horse Show Schedule:

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Gates open at 5:30 PM & VIP access opens at 6:00 PM

6:30 PM – U.S. Open \$25,000 U25 Grand Prix

8:00 PM – U.S. Open (Round 1) \$40,000 FEI Speed, presented by Canadian Pacific Railway

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Daytime gates open 12:30 PM & VIP access opens at 1:00 PM

Evening gates open at 5:30 PM & VIP access opens at 6:00 PM

1:30 PM – U.S. Open Dressage Grand Prix, presented by Breyer

6:30 PM – \$5,000 Junior/Amateur 1.20M, presented by PwC

8:00 PM – U.S. Open \$212,000 (Final) FEI 3* Grand Prix, presented by Rolex

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Daytime gates open at 9:00 AM & VIP access opens at 1:00 PM

Evening gates open at 6:00 PM & VIP access opens at 6:30 PM

10:00 AM – Hunter Schooling – Free Admission / Vendor Area Open to Public

11:00 AM-12:00 PM – Land Rover Mini-Car Driving Experience for Children – Free Admission/Sign Up Required at Ticket Kiosk

1:30 PM – U.S. Open Hunters \$50,000 Duchossois Cup for Professionals, presented by the Gochman Family, \$1,000 Small/Medium Pony and \$2,500 Junior/Amateur Hunter Classics

7:00 PM – U.S. Open \$75,000 Dressage Freestyle, presented by Axel Johnson Group

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Gates open at 9:00 AM

10:00 AM – Equestrian Demonstrations – Free Admission

11:30 AM-12:30 PM – Land Rover Mini-Car Driving Experience for Children – Free Admission/Sign Up Required at Ticket Kiosk

1:30 PM – Dressage Master's Class with Charlotte Dujardin, presented by Chronicle of the Horse and Breyer

About Aljassimya Farm

Aljassimya Farm is committed to the Arabian horse. Not only by linking the history of this timeless horse to his future, by breeding our own elite generations; but by sharing the magic of the breed with new audiences. It is a proud moment to be part of the Rolex Central Park Horse Show, bringing the Arabian Horse to the heart of New York City for the first time.

About Rolex

Leading brand of the Swiss watch industry, Rolex, headquartered in Geneva, enjoys an unrivalled reputation for quality and expertise the world over. Its Oyster watches, all certified as chronometers for their precision, are symbols of excellence, performance and prestige. Pioneer in the development of the wristwatch as early as 1905, the brand is at the origin of numerous major watchmaking innovations, such as the Oyster, the first waterproof wristwatch, launched in 1926, and the Perpetual rotor self-winding mechanism introduced in 1931. Rolex has registered over 400 patents in the course of its history. A truly integrated and independent manufacturing company, Rolex designs, develops and produces in-house all the essential components of its watches, from the casting of the gold alloys to the machining, crafting, assembly and finishing of the movement, case, dial and bracelet. Rolex is also actively involved

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in supporting the arts, sports, exploration, the spirit of enterprise, and the environment through a broad palette of sponsoring activities as well as philanthropic programmes.

About Rolex Central Park Horse Show

Launched in September 2014, Rolex Central Park Horse Show is the first-ever outdoor, multi-day equestrian sporting event in New York City, showcasing some of the best show jumpers and dressage riders in the world as they vie for top prizes against a backdrop of skyscrapers in one of the world's most iconic venues. As the event founder, Mark Bellissimo is the CEO of Equestrian Sport Productions and International Equestrian Group LLC; Managing Partner of Wellington Equestrian Partners (WEF), Tryon Equestrian Partners and Colorado Equestrian Partners; and Publisher of The Chronicle of The Horse magazine. In its second year, Rolex Central Park Horse Show will make its triumphant return from September 23 to 27, 2015 and will feature five days of multi-discipline equestrian sport and performances, ranging from Arabians and Dressage to Hunters and Show Jumping. The Rolex Central Park Horse Show will also host the inaugural U.S. Open in the following categories: Jumpers; Dressage; Hunters; U25 Jumpers; and Arabians. For more information, visit www.centralparkhorseshow.com, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CPhorseshow and follow @cphorseshow on Twitter and Instagram.

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