



IN-DEPTH WITH

THE SHINING STAR OF MRT 2022

ABDELKEBIR OUADDAR

By Nermin Marwan

IT'S HARD TO INTRODUCE A DAZZLING STAR LIKE HIM, BUT IF I HAD TO, I WOULD SAY THAT WE ARE MEETING TODAY THE TRUE MEANING OF HORSEMANSHIP & ONE OF THE MOST HUMBLE RIDERS THAT WE MET; ABDELKEBIR OUADDAR.

WE CAN'T MENTION THE MRT, WITHOUT MENTIONING ABDELKEBIR OUADDAR AND ISTANBULL V.H OOIEVAARSHOF. HAVING BEEN THE FAVORITE DUO FOR THE MOROCCAN CROWD, SINCE THEIR VICTORY IN TETOUAN AND THE INCREDIBLE FEAT IN EL JADIDA!



First of all Congratulations on your amazing performance in The MRT 2022 and your winnings in Tetouan and El Jadida, and let's begin with them;

WINNING AT HOMELAND MUST'VE BEEN AMAZING, HOW DID IT FEEL?

Nothing beats winning at home, with a crowd cheering and supporting you all the way to victory and singing the national anthem.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR, STARTING AS A 1* SHOW AND BECOMING A 4* SHOW OVER THE YEARS?

The Morocco Royal Tour is no longer a second-class show, the competitors know that if they want to win a class, they have to bring their top horses. Even in the 1*classes, the young horses have to be competitive in order to win or be placed in a class.

The **MRT** is a really great show with a top atmosphere, everything is well organized from the moment the riders decide to come to the show *(all the documents for the sea crossing are done with the MRT staff and the forwarding agents)* until the return to their stables or Europe. The installations are super for the horses, the arenas are great and the grooms are super taken care of with good food during the tour! We have nothing to envy other international horse shows!

And at last, the concept is unique. The tour is organized in October while it's sunny in Morocco and not freezing or raining a lot. So the weather brings a plus at this time. The three shows are organized in three different cities, each one has its uniqueness and charm. *"It's not only about the sport but the Moroccan culture as well"*.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE STABLING; AND THE DETAILS AROUND IT?

In Tetouan, the horses sleep in real boxes and not stalls; they could almost feel at home. In Rabat and El Jadida, they are in stalls but they have a lot of space to walk during the day and with the sun all the Tour, we can't complain.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE COURSES ?

Each week we had different course designers, they adjusted to the level of the riders on the first days to have a memorable Grand Prix each week. The fences are atypic in Morocco with a lot of craft work, symbols of the cities and the country. We had the water jump during the Nations Cup in Rabat also.

Also the one star was a good formation for the young horses because the courses are very different each day and they can learn a lot.

HOW DO YOU COMPARE THE VENUES, DO YOU THINK THEY COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER?

The Tour is well thought out! Two big arenas and an indoor show to finish the tour and prepare for the European indoor season! Each one of the venues has a specialty: in Tetouan, we are inside the Royal Guard with an Andalusian feel, in Rabat the main event is the Nation's Cup and we could see the crowd cheering us from the moment we did