



# ON OLYMPIC DREAMS AMRE HAMCHO

By Farah Rezeika

AMIDST THE GLOBAL EXCITEMENT LEADING UP TO THE 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS, WE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SITTING DOWN WITH AMRE HAMCHO, THE REMARKABLE SYRIAN EQUESTRIAN WHO HAS SECURED HIS PLACE ON THE PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL STAGE. THIS INTERVIEW OFFERS A GLIMPSE INTO HIS JOURNEY, THE EMOTIONS HE'S EXPERIENCING, AND THE STRATEGIES HE HAS EMPLOYED TO PREPARE FOR THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SPORTING EVENT.





*“When you have the will and drive, anything you dream of can become achievable in this life.”*

**AMRE, TAKE US BACK TO THE MOMENT YOU RECEIVED THE NEWS OF YOUR QUALIFICATION FOR THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPICS.**

It felt absolutely amazing, especially after what felt to be a very long year of extremely hard work and dedication. The feeling was unbelievable. It's not just about the work I have put in this year, but all the work over the years building up to this very special moment. This has always been my dream since the start of my journey, and I am so happy I have finally achieved it.

**AS YOU GEAR UP FOR THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPICS, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO REPRESENT SYRIA TODAY ON SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS GLOBAL STAGE?**

It's always a great honor to represent my country on the international stage, and getting the chance to represent Syria in the Olympics with the whole world watching is on a completely different level for me. I am sure it is going to be an unbelievable feeling that I am already feeling so excited for.

**THE EQUESTRIAN EVENTS AT THE OLYMPICS ARE WATCHED BY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WORLDWIDE. HOW DO YOU HANDLE THE PRESSURE AND EXPECTATIONS THAT COME WITH COMPETING AT SUCH A GRAND STAGE?**

I always do my best not to think about it and just focus on myself, my horse, and the task ahead of me. I make sure I don't get distracted by anyone or anything and put all my focus into doing my absolute best and being at my most competitive level. In the end, we'll see what happens, but I will know I have tried my best.





### LET'S TALK STRATEGY. HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR THE OLYMPICS?

It was a long year of qualification. I did enjoy a break for a month back in **JANUARY** and then continued to compete in the **UAE TOUR** where I did two shows. I will start competing again in June for sure, as I am currently not going to many shows before the **OLYMPICS**. My main goal is to make sure my horse, Vagabon, arrives fit. He has all the experience in the world, so he doesn't need many shows before the big stage at the **OLYMPICS**.

### BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL ATHLETE, THERE IS OFTEN A DEDICATED TEAM OF COACHES, TRAINERS, AND SUPPORT STAFF. CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THE TEAM THAT HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING YOU REACH THE OLYMPICS?

Of course, it is not only me who qualified for the Olympics; it is my entire team without whom this great achievement would not have been possible, and I would not be where I am today. I had a lot of great coaches and trainers, but I would like to give a special thanks to **BILLY TWOMEY**, who helped me a lot in the qualification process. Our stable manager, **ALAA AHMAD**, was always there for the horses and the management. And most importantly, the grooms are the most vital part of the team, so I would like to thank them sincerely for all their hard work.


### CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE HORSES YOU HAVE SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN TO COMPETE WITH AT THE PARIS OLYMPICS?

My main horse at the **OLYMPICS** will be **VAGABON**. He is the one I qualified on, and we have had a very special partnership over the past 4 years in which we won a couple of GPs together and even jumped in the **WORLD CUP FINALS** back in **2022**.

### WHAT SPECIFIC QUALITIES DOES YOUR HORSE POSSESS THAT MAKE THEM A STRONG CONTENDER FOR THE PARIS OLYMPICS?

Vagabon is a scopey and careful horse. His scope can be very beneficial at the Olympics because it is a big ring with large fences, which suits Vagabon well. He has a big stride, which will be very useful.

### FINALLY, WITH THE EYES OF THE WORLD ON YOU IN PARIS, WHAT MESSAGE OR LEGACY DO YOU HOPE TO LEAVE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA AND THE EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY?

When you have the will and drive, anything you dream of can become achievable in this life. I am sure all athletes dream of representing their country on such a big stage like the **OLYMPICS**, and this truly is a dream come true for me. I hope in the next **OLYMPICS**, we will represent **SYRIA** as a team in its entirety, not just as individuals. 



EXCELLENCE

ELECTRO+

*Equine Premium Supplement*

*Complete Recovery Formula*

*Promotes Hydration Alleviate*

*Cramps*

*Fast Acting*



**AL HAWARY ENTERPRISE GROUP**  
[www.excellence-equine.com](http://www.excellence-equine.com)