

THE SAUDI CUP 2022
A RACING FESTIVITY IN A LAND CARVED

BY THE HOOFS OF ITS HORSES

BY MENNA LOUTFY

IT WAS SUCH AN EXCITING WEEKEND IN RIYADH, AT THE WORLD'S RICHEST RACE DAY CARRYING THE FLAG OF SAUDI CULTURAL HERITAGE. WITH A TOTAL PURSE OF USD\$31.5M, EIGHT TURF AND DIRT RACES TOOK PLACE WITH TOP WORLD RACEHORSES AND JOCKEYS COMPETING AT KING ABDULAZIZ RACECOURSE.



SPECIAL EVENTS



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Moving around the racecourse and the grandstand, you would see how the event attracted horse lovers, royalty, fashion enthusiasts and Saudi crowds coming from all around the Kingdom to witness the Saudi Cup festival.

FRENCH SUPERSTAR CHRISTOPHE LEMIRE MAKES HISTORY WITH FOUR INCREDIBLE WINS FOR JAPAN

On the first race of the Saudi cup day, Lemire and Authority (JPN) flew to the finish line at the \$1,500,000 Neom Turf Cup winning the 2100m race by a length and a quarter.

The Japanese domination at King Abdulaziz Racecourse continued when Songline made an

amazing victory at the **\$1.5M 1352** Surfsprint followed by Stay Foolish dominating the **\$2.5M** Longines Redsea Turf Handicap.

The fourth triumph for Lemire was at The Riyadh Dirt Sprint presented by Saudia, with an easy victory for Dancing Prince (JPN) adding to Japan's incredible night in Riyadh.

"This is unbelievable. I knew this was a very good horse and it's easy when you are riding good horses. I'm so happy for connections. I have been in Japan for two years with the restrictions and no travel, so I was fresh tonight! My horses were just too good tonight. I don't know what to say" Lemire said.



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SPECIAL EVENTS



EMBLEM ROAD MAKES AN UNBELIEVABLE VICTORY AT THE \$20M SAUDI CUP ON HOMELAND

It was such a joyous Saturday evening for the Saudi crowds after the unexpected extraordinary win of Emblem Road in the \$20 million Saudi Cup race.

Panama's jockey *"Wigberto Ramos"* soared to the finish line riding Emblem Road towards the glory of the Saudi title, defeating star horses like last year's winner Mishriff (**IRE**) and Kentucky Derby winner Mandaloun (**USA**).

Emble road is a four-year-old American bred that only raced in Saudi Arabia, trained by Mitab Almulawah and owned by *Prince Saud Bin-Salman Abdulaziz*.

"Wow. To have a locally trained horse perform that way is very emotional. I'm very happy for the connections, and I'm happy for Saudi Arabia. I think Mishriff, a Saudi Arabian-owned horse [the 2021 Saudi Cup winner], did amazing things to spread the love of horses. And to have a locally-trained horse win it [The Saudi Cup] is extremely special, and I'm really excited about what this means for the future of horse racing in Saudi Arabia." **_ Prince Bandar Bin Khalid Al Faisal**, Chairman of the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia said.

MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR 2022

A SEASON FOR HOME WINS

BY NERMIN MARWAN

THE MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR IS A REMARKABLE EVENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CALENDAR. OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR MARKS ONE OF THE EQUESTRIAN HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR; WITH THE MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR'S JOURNEY ACROSS THREE AMAZING MOROCCAN CITIES. BEGINNING AT THE JUMENTERIE DE LA GARDE ROYALE IN TETOUAN, THEN CONTINUES TO THE CAPITAL OF THE KINGDOM, RABAT, AT THE MOROCCAN ROYAL FEDERATION OF EQUESTRIAN SPORTS HEADQUARTERS. THIRD AND FINAL STAGE, THE GRAND FINALE OF THE CIRCUIT TAKES PLACE DURING THE SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA AT THE PARC D'EXPOSITION.





TETOUAN

Abdelkebir Ouaddar wins the CSI4*W Tetouan!

The first weekend of the Moroccan circuit took place in the facilities of the Royal Guard of Tetouan. The exciting Grand Prix designed by Andrea Colombo ended with triumph for the Moroccan Hero Abdelkebir Ouaddar.

Forty riders were on the starting list of this challenging **1.50m CS14*-W Grand Prix** on that epic day. Two rounds whose time was among the challenges at the beginning of the race that made only Twelve pairs qualify for the second round.

To win this Grand Prix of **HRH Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan**, Kebir had to be faster than his nine other opponents in the jump-off, including medal-winning riders in major championships such as the Swiss rider **Niklaus Schurtenburger (2nd)**, the French Simon Delestre who ranked the **3rd** by timing **47.32**, or the Brazilian Olympic rider Luciana Diniz, who was making her return to international competition **(4th)**.

But Kebir was inspired and was able to transcend his horse Istanbul which is not known for being the easiest.

The first stop of the Royal tour ended with amazing



moments and the following Thursday riders traveled to Rabat for A **CSIO4*** as well as the Nations cup that was also the Olympic Qualifier which everyone waited for eagerly!

RABAT

Prix SAR **LA PRINCESSE LALLA AMINA**.

A second victory for Morocco in the **Grand Prix 1m50** by **El Ghali Boukaa!**

The Prix SAR Princess Lalla Amina, second stage of the Grand Prix of His **Majesty King Mohammed VI**, was the most important individual competition of the CSIO of Rabat. The class consisted of two

rounds. Forty riders were at the start, twelve only qualified for the second round on the course that was designed by Gregory Bodo who is recognized as one of the best course designers of his generation and was course assistant during the Olympic Games Tokyo **2020**.

This GrandPrix witnessed great performance for all riders, ended by rocking scores from Barbara Schnieper from Switzerland & Escoffier who came in the Fifth Place with timing **42.41**, The Moroccan Majid Djaidi & Mister d'Eclipse **(4th)**, António Matos Almeida & Calypso de Kamelia from Portugal **(3rd)**, Rodrigo Giesteira Almeida & Imposant van de Renger **(2nd)** also from Portugal and finally The



one and only **El Ghali Boukaa & A Kyss** ranking the first with timing **43.08**.

El Ghali Boukaa has just written a new chapter in the history of this fabulous Moroccan circuit: “*It's an incredible thing... incredible*”, El Ghali was unable to conceal his emotion. “*I've been riding this mare for just over a year and she's been just great. I am very happy, very moved, these are indescribable feelings*”.

The story of El Ghali Boukaa and A Kyss is that of a couple who quickly got along: “*Its owner entrusted it to me just a year ago because his daughter was leaving to study. At the time, she only jumped courses at 1.25m. Then her other daughter took her over for a while to do slightly bigger courses, then she left in turn and this time I got her back for good and it's a huge chance. Today, she won a Grand Prix at 1.50-55m; she still has a step to take*

to reach the top level. I will go this winter to Simon Delestre where I love to train and we will see if she is able to cross this course”.

THE NATIONS CUP OF RABAT

Germany won the 2022 Rabat Nation's Cup.

Ten teams at the start of CSIO4*W Nations Cup in Rabat.

The German team comprised of Sophie Hinnens & Churchill 48, Nicola Pohl & Exelero 2, Rene Dittmer & Burlington Riverland and David Will & My Prins Van Dorperheide ; all of them made spectacular performance not only in the Nations Cup but they were shining since the beginning of the MRT.

“This victory is magnificent because it is a horse that was very difficult, and I managed to get him on my side and today he gave me all his heart. I dedicate this victory to my country and especially to my king because he is always behind me, I owe him my sporting career and I thank him infinitely. It is a gift for all Moroccans. In Tetouan, we always have a great audience and I felt carried today. Can we say that this Morocco Royal Tour is already a success for the Moroccan rider? It started well”



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EL-JADIDA

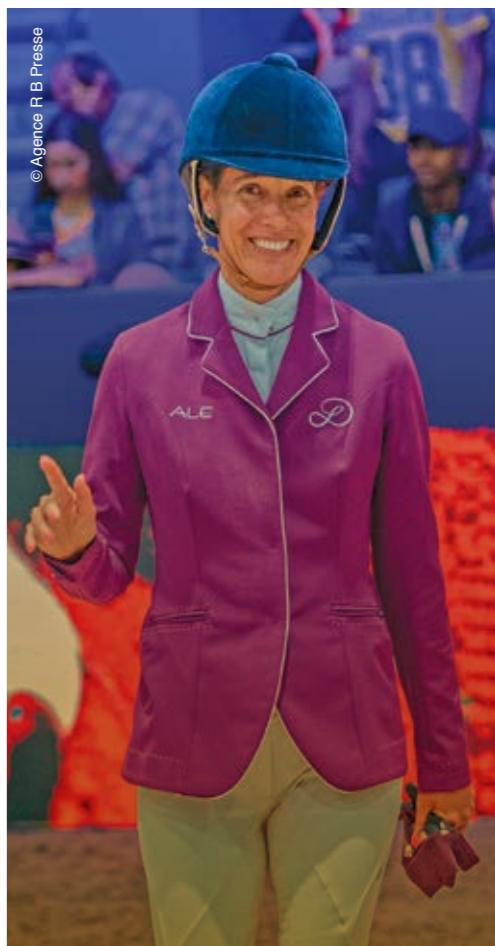
Grand Prix SA Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI

Ouaddar writes history!!

The favorite duo for the Moroccans, **Abdelkebir Ouaddar** and Istanbull V.H Ooievaarshof ,since their victory in Tetouan, won the Grand Prix of His Majesty King **Mohammed VI in El Jadida** which designed by Peter Schumacher; a German course designer known for his courses at the **CHIO Aachen**, **MET Oliva** and other prestigious shows, to close the eleventh edition of the Morocco Royal Tour.

By achieving a double clear round in **34.61** seconds, ranking first ahead of the French Legend **Simon Delestre & I Amelusina R 51 (2nd)**, the German rider **David Will & Zaccorado Blue (3rd)**, **Niklaus Schurtenberger & Quincassi (4th)** and the Belgium **Jérôme Guery & Azaria Dinero (5th)**.

"On the personal track record, Abdelkebir signs his 5th victory on the Morocco Royal Tour, his second victory with Istanbull and for the first time in history a Moroccan rider wins the Grand Prix of El Jadida! If that was not enough, the Morocco Royal Tour sees for the first time in history its 3 Grand Prix won by Moroccan riders: Ouaddar in Tetouan, Boukaa in Rabat and Ouaddar in El Jadida!"



MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR 2022

TOP RIDERS' FORUM

BY NERMIN MARWAN

THROUGHOUT OUR COVERAGE OF THE MRT 2022, WE CHATTED WITH A GROUP OF THE TOP RIDERS WHO HAD GREAT PARTICIPATION IN THIS TOUR. HAPPILY, WE TALKED WITH ALI EL-AHRACH FROM MOROCCO, BARBARA SCHNIEPER AND ELIAN BAUMANN FROM SWITZERLAND, MANS THIJSSSEN AND NIELS KERSTEN FROM NETHERLANDS, AND FINALLY THE GERMAN RENE DITTMER. LET'S HEAR THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT THE MRT2022;



ALI EL-AHRACH

"I am delighted with The MRT2022 development; it is really good to move from a 1 show to a 4* show because we can ride with the best riders in the world in order to enhance the level of the Moroccan riders".*

The facilities are perfect for horses and riders in the 3 Shows, all the foreign riders were very happy with all the facilities in the 3 Shows.

Regarding the course: we had 3 different course designers so we had different and very good courses, the fences were beautiful and different in the 3 shows.



BARBARA SCHNIEPER

"It was my first participation at the MRT; the prize money was very solid. Besides that, the "special" shows between the competitions were very interesting to follow".

The stabling and the details around were on the whole, very good.

The courses were versatile built and the fences were absolutely top.

The three shows in Tetouan, Rabat and El-Jadida really complemented each other because the distance between shows was not too far and the last was also an indoor.

The accommodation of the horses was good, sometimes a bit more space would be good. Concerning coming to the country: to be honest, we faced some long waiting times at the ferry and at the border, but once we crossed the border all was ok.



ELIAN BAUMANN

"In 2018, I decided to participate in the Morocco Royal Tour for the first time, I was very curious to how the tournament would be like. Now It has become one of my favorite tournaments and its amazing how well-organized everything is".

The stables are great. There is nothing to complain about. The non-slip floor throughout, bright boxes with windows. There are plenty of washing places available, especially in the immediate vicinity. The whole infrastructure is always very well maintained!

The courses were demanding technically, but always fair for horses and riders. They were beautifully designed and the jumps were very diverse.

All three venues are very attractive. The venues complement each other very well. The last stage probably does not suit all horses, as the transition from the two outdoor courts to the hall is not easy. I would also like to mention that the surfaces are very good and well maintained.

Regarding the logistics and transportation; we came from Switzerland. For our horses, it was a long journey. We made two stops, once in Barcelona and once in Estepona. So that the horses could relax overnight. At the port, we had very long waiting times, on arrival and return. In Morocco, at tournaments, everything is well organized. A big compliment to the organizer!



All photos by Jean-Christophe Bordas

MANS THIJSSEN

"I was really amazed by how good and how beautiful the atmosphere was. Also the staff was really helpful and we never had to worry about anything, because of the help we had".

All the 3 shows were incredible; all the venues were amazing on all 3 weeks.

The stabling was really well organized, especially in Rabat and El Jadida, the tents were really big and that made it cool enough for the horse to feel even more comfortable. The stables were close to the ring also. And once again, the staff in the stables in all 3 weeks was there to help you at any moment you needed help. I think everyone was really happy with the stabling and how it was organized.

The courses were really good, the course designers were very well-known and very good, who made good use of all the variations in the fences.

All 3 venues were really very special and also had enough paddocks, lunge areas, hack areas, and so on to make it comfortable for riders and horses. Also, it was really impressive to ride there I thought, especially in Tetouan and El Jadida it was a really special experience because you don't ride in arenas like that so much with such a big crowd.

The accommodation of the horses was really well organized. Coming into the country at first seemed like a difficult thing but with the help of the show and some people around you, it wasn't that difficult at all. So we were really happy we made the choice to come to Morocco and we will be back for sure!



All photos by Jean-Christophe Bordas

NIELS KERSTEN

"It was my first time at the MRT; the venue locations are amazing. The footing is perfect at all 3 venues. Regarding logistics, it is definitely a challenge to organize the whole trip as we're from Europe, But when we arrived to Morocco, it was well organized and taken care of. As there's police escort to all the venues and a strict schedule".



The stables for the horses were very decent and well-located near the competition arena. Good Washing places and nearby waters.

Top quality fences from most of IsiTrade and some others. And also a very good course designer which is very helpful.

Even though, all **3 venues** are top quality but still a lot of difference with the last one being indoors.

The horses' accommodation; It's a whole organization to get there, but the horses are well-taken care of and it's definitely worth it to go!

RENE DITTMER

"It was the first time for me at MRT and I really enjoyed it. We had excellent conditions and everything was very well organized".

The stables were really good at each show. Water was always close by and hay, straw, and shavings were easy to access.

There were great course designers from Europe. It was nice that each show had a different course designer. The fences were really nice. I liked that some of them gave some Moroccan flair.

The show in Tetouan was my favorite. The second show in Rabat was also super nice since there was so much space. For some horses, it was difficult to come into an indoor arena in El Jadida after the first two shows. For me, it was great practice since I kept going with indoor shows back home and the atmosphere was amazing.

Regarding the horses, it was a long trip but everything was really well organized. The customs etc. were all handled really well. It was made as easy as possible for the horses.



AFTER TWO YEARS OF CANCELLATIONS
DUE TO COVID-19

THE SALON DE CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA

MAKES A REMARKABLE RETURN THIS YEAR

BY MENNA LOUTFY

SINCE 2008, THE ASSOCIATION OF THE SALON DU CHEVAL HAS ORGANIZED THE SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA IN OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR, PRESIDED BY CHARIF MOULAY ABDELLAH ALAOUI AND HELD UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI IN MOROCCO.





Held under the theme of The Horse Factor of Territorial Development, the amazing exhibition aims to support and encourage the development of the equine industry in Morocco as well as contribute to the promotion and protection of the Moroccan rich intangible equestrian heritage.

Over the years, the exhibition was able to impose its impact and presence within the professional circles as an unmissable annual meeting for horse lovers around the world and especially the **Middle East**.

A variety of fun activities related to the horse are included in the program, where high-level national and international competitions and exhibitions

are organized: the International Barb Horse Championship, the Champions' Cup for Arab-Barb Horses, International Arabian Horse Show "A", and **The Moroccan Arab horses breeders 'cup**.

And of course, the cherry on-top is always the **Grand Prix of His Majesty King Mohammed VI** of Jumping in the category of four stars, that is the third leg of the **Moroccan Royal Tour** which has a world cup qualifier that also attracts top world riders.

On this year's **2022** Edition, more than **100** exhibitors were in part of the exhibition presenting different countries, more than **1000** horses were

part of the whole spectacle, that included jumping horses, Tbourida horses, pure Arab blood horses as well as Arab Barb horses. The traffic was beyond expectations with **220k** national and international attendees.

"Since the organization of the first edition in 2008 and thanks to the efforts made, the Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida has become a major equestrian event for the enhancement and promotion of the equine sector in Morocco and an illustrious meeting to

highlight our rich cultural heritage related to the horse, and an opportunity to express Moroccans' deep attachment to these noble creatures.

For professionals, the **Salon** is a great meeting point and exchange of experiences between the various actors in the equine sector.

Internationally, the **Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida** has acquired an indisputable notoriety. It is one of the most famous Horse fairs in the world. The richness of its programming as well as the opportunities for professional meetings that it offers



All photos by Agence R B Presse

will make it, once again, an unmissable event in the international equestrian calendar.

We will be very happy to welcome and to see again the professionals, the sponsors, the craftsmen, the speakers, the riders of **Tbourida**, the riders of the national and international equestrian sports at the **Mohammed VI Exhibition Park** of **El Jadida** for another **Salon**, richer and more successful” **Charif Moulay Abdellah Alaoui - Chairman**

“The general organization of the event and its programming will, once again, highlight the rich equine cultural heritage of our country and the multiple uses of the Horse such as sports, festive or cultural levels.

The public thus had an appointment, once again this year, with competitions that represent, the reputation of the **Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida**, like the Champions' Cup for Barb Horses, the International Arabian Horse Show “A”, the

International Jumping **CSI 1 *** and **CSI 4*W, 3rd** stage of the **Morocco Royal Tour (MRT)**, as well as the **Moroccan Arab-Horse Breeders 'Cup**. The best Sorbas in the country are also present in the **Grand Prix of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Tbourida**.

This edition coincides with the inscription of Tbourida in the representative list of the intangible cultural heritage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization “**UNESCO**”.

Cultural and scientific aspects are not overlooked because the horse breed is also highlighted during many conferences, as well as in many fun games dedicated to children who receive particular attention from the Salon, given that the transmission of our equestrian traditions to new generations is one of the **Salon du Cheval's missions.” DR. El Habib Marzak - Commissioner**