

# SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA 2010

# PRESERVED TRADITIONS

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By Nada H. Abdelmoniem





FOR THE THIRD YEAR AND RUNNING, UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI, THE THIRD EDITION OF SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA WAS HELD FROM OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> TILL THE 24<sup>TH</sup> AT PRINCESS LALLA MALIKA RACETRACK IN EL JADIDA LOCATED 100 KILOMETRES SOUTH OF CASABLANCA. EL JADIDA, WHICH THE PORTUGUESE HAD CALLED MAZAGAN, IS A FISHING PORT AND SEASIDE RESORT. IT IS AT THE HEART OF AN AGRICULTURAL REGION WHERE LIVESTOCK HORSES OCCUPY A PROMINENT PLACE.

The horse shows were organised by Salon du Cheval, chaired by HH Prince Moulay Abdallah Alaoui

with the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Horse as the main sponsor. Different areas and stands of the event covered an area of nine hectares.

The exhibition space consisted of seven villages dedicated to institutional sponsors, artisans, arts and culture, for farmers and international trade. Compared to 2009, the event proved to be a resounding success by recording the participation of 80 exhibitors and more than 700 horses, along with hosting nearly 250,000 visitors, including many children who benefited from various recreational activities and workshops. For six days, all activities related to the horse in all its glory, be it thoroughbred Arabian or Anglo-Arab were explored through exhibitions, conferences and contests. Traditional crafts related to horseback riding, saddle makers, weavers, shoemakers, blacksmiths, manufacturers of rifles and Fantasia, were widely represented.

The theme "The barb in Morocco

and abroad" was chosen as this year's signature event, a tribute to this noble creature native to North Africa and known for its stamina, sobriety, obedience, agility and endurance. The Kingdom has always honoured its equine culture by linking it to its socioeconomic and cultural activities, including the Tbourida (Fantasia) which continues to represent a key moment in the celebration of festivals and major events.

On the sidelines of the event, several scientific conferences on various topics relating to history, veterinary medicine and management of horses, particularly race breeds that were honoured this year – were held.

The show is marked by the participation of several Arab and European countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Belgium and Hungary. France was the guest of honour at the third edition with the participation for the first time from the regiment of the cavalry of the French Republican Guard which presented their famous "Carousel"

▼ Tbourida horsemen lining up to start a race





*The Tbourida represents the oldest equestrian culture in Morocco; it is a perfect example of their beautiful preserved horse traditions*



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▲ The Cavalry of the French Republican Guard presented their famous "Carousel"

▼ Joel Chacon performing

in a beautiful night show, that also included renowned artists as William Assir Bécar, Jean Marc Imbert, Christophe Chaussy, Joel Chacon, El Sadek Bahjaoui.

This year the show jumping competitions were upped to a three star event with international and local participation. The Barb horse wins were dominated by horses from Moroccan stud farm Haras Al Boraq owned by the young and promising breeder Anas Jamai. Arabian horse wins for different classes went to in different classes went to Studs from Dubai, Italy, France and Morocco, including Haras Al Boraq and Morocco's Selman Stables, also owned by another promising young breeder, Abdslam Bennani Smires.

After the runaway success of this third edition, with its rich and varied programme, excellent organisation and its promising outlook, Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida aims to position itself amongst the most renowned events in the international equestrian calendar . 



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Luis Alonso  
laaedp@terra.es  
Tel: +34659466519



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