

Equestrian

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A Royal Legacy

Iconic U.S. Breeding Programs
Culminate in a Breed's Future

Matthew Seed
Horse Photographer

Sneak Peek
Cozy Up to a Good Book







Afires Heir

As the U.S. Arabian National Championship Show concludes, there is more and more evidence to support the popular opinion that the 2002 bay Arabian stallion, Afires Heir, is becoming the most significant producer of English Pleasure horses the Arabian industry has seen in years.

The results are remarkable!



National Champion Heirs Noble Love

PHOTO: FERRERA

Afires Heir sired nineteen of the Top Ten winners in the Park, English and Country English divisions, two of which were National Champions, three Reserve National Champions. This is an increase over his 2012 record, in which his get claimed an impressive twelve Top Tens and two National Champions in the English Pleasure division.

Equally impressive in 2013, Afires Heir sired three of the Top Ten winners in the AEPA English Pleasure Futurity class and the National Champion. This is a class specifically de-

signed to showcase young stock in the English Division and is highly competitive, paying out \$100,000 in prize money. In 2012 he also sired the National Champion and four of the top ten winners.

The success of his get has increased his popularity as a sire and as a result Afires Heir rose to first place (from fourteenth in 2012) in the 2013 Arabian Horse World Stud Book. This is remarkable, especially for a performance sire. It is usually the case that this ranking is held by halter champions, such as DA Valentino, Marwan Al Shaqab



Res National Champion
Heir Force One

Ferrera



Res National Champion
King Heir

Ferrera

PHOTOS: FERRERA



Top Ten
JK Heiristocracy

Ferrera

and Magnum Psyche.

Notably, the only other performance sire to hold this position in recent history is Baske Afire, half brother to Afires Heir. This is no coincidence. Both are by the outstanding sire, Afire Bey V, and out of *Bask++ granddaughters, representing two of the most significant breeding programs in the history of the Arabian breed. (Afire Bey

V is under the expert management of Tim and Marty Shea, breeders of significance in the Arabian world and proudly owned by Dave and Gail Liniger.)

When Lasma imported the immortal *Bask++ in 1963, the Arabian breed was forever changed. *Bask++ was one of the few Arabian stallions to be National Champion in both Halter and Performance,

When Lasma imported the immortal *Bask in 1963, the Arabian breed was forever changed.



*Bask++

1964

PHOTO: JOHNNY JOHNSTON

*Bask++

1965



PHOTO: USEF ARCHIVES

a feat achieved by only four horses to date. A beautiful, correct, athletic stallion who transformed the breed by passing on his long, well set neck, long hip and big trot. His daughters were highly sought after as brood mares because they faithfully reproduced these desirable traits.

During roughly the same time in history, Sheila Varian purchased her foundation sire, Bay-Abi, who went on to become a National Halter Champion. From this sire, many great ones followed,

the most relevant being Bay El Bey, also a National Halter Champion, who sired Huckleberry Bey, a National English Pleasure Reserve Champion, the sire of Afire Bey V. Volumes could be written on the Lasma and Varian breeding programs, but suffice it to say that they both have had profound effects on what we see in the show ring today.

As you would expect from his pedigree, Afires Heir bred by Marty and Tim Shea, is producing excellent performance horses.



Bay-Abi

Who went on to become the 1959 National Halter Champion. From this sire, many great ones followed.



Bay El Bey

The most relevant being Bay El Bey, 1959 National Halter Champion, who sired Huckleberry Bey.



Huckleberry Bey

1984 National English Pleasure Reserve Champion, the sire of Afire Bey V.



Afire Bey V

Legendary sire of Afires Heir.

Unanimous National Champion

2007
2008
2009
2010



PHOTO: FERRERA

Afires Heir has accomplished what no other Arabian has done in the history of the breed.

Interestingly, according to Joel Kiesner, Afires Heir's trainer and one of the industry's leading performance trainers, he expects in the future. "As I travel to see his foals each season, I see not only athletic, English moving horses, but beautiful, typey, correct halter candidates as well."

Afires Heir has accomplished what no other Arabian has done in the history of the breed. He won four

consecutive English Pleasure National Championships, being first on every judge's card in every class during his entire show career. Over a span of five years, he was National Champion in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. He is truly one of the most exciting Arabian stallions in the breed with incomparable motion and breathtaking beauty. More importantly, he is passing these qualities on to his get with remarkable

VJ Royal Heir

(Afires Heir x MA Ghazta Trot)

Following in his sire's footsteps, VJ Royal Heir was crowned 2013 National Champion Arabian English Pleasure Junior Horse.

consistency. His owners, Bill and Shirley Reilich, have reason to be proud.

It's a thrill to see Afires Heir's young offspring having such an impact in the show ring. We are excited for the breeders and owners of these wonderful horses," says Shirley Reilich who together with her husband Bill Reilich own Afires Heir.

Still a young stallion (foaled in 2002) Afires Heir stands to create a significant legacy in the Arabian industry as his breeding career accelerates. Arabian enthusiasts have a lot to look forward to.

■ Lisa Blackstone



Afires Heir



Bay-Abi
*Naganka
Raffon
Waneta
Witraz
Balalajka
Fadjur
Taza
Witraz
Balalajka
Tsatyr
Naritha
Elimar
Har Nahra
Wisdom
Bay-Felicti

Bay El Bey
Taffona
*Bask
Sparklingburgundy
*Bask
Tsanar
MHR Nobility
Miss Wisdom

Huckleberry Bey
Autumn Fire
Brass
EE Msindependence

Afire Bey V
Brassmis


2011



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