

Cover Story:  
**VITORIO TO**  
*Portrait Of A Champion*

by JO LAUTER

Sometimes, when a passionate dream is held long enough in the heart—when planning, dedication and perseverance pay off—the goal is at last attained. The art of horse breeding requires an excessive degree—and the prodigious combining—of each of these elements ... the most essential of which may well be the passion.

Vitorio TO is the realization of more than one heart-held dream. He represents the ultimate achievement of 30 years of one exceptional horse breeding program, and the supreme hope for the future of another. Heir apparent to a legacy of such excellence and promise as to challenge the imagination, Vitorio TO, like his

sire—the six-time National Champion DA Valentino—has been perfect from the moment he drew his first breath at Ed and Maureen Horton's Thirteen Oaks Arabians where he was bred and born. Before he was a year old, Vitorio TO, found his way into the hearts of Don and Janey Morse and soon the awesome colt became a treasured member of their Oak Ridge Arabians family of fine horses.

"I love Vitorio TO dearly," Janey says, "and I'm enjoying everything about him. He is such a magnificent addition to our program and complements Fausto. It is such a blessing to have these outstanding stallions at Oak Ridge, and I'm

especially excited about what these two boys will give us when each is crossed with the daughters of the other."

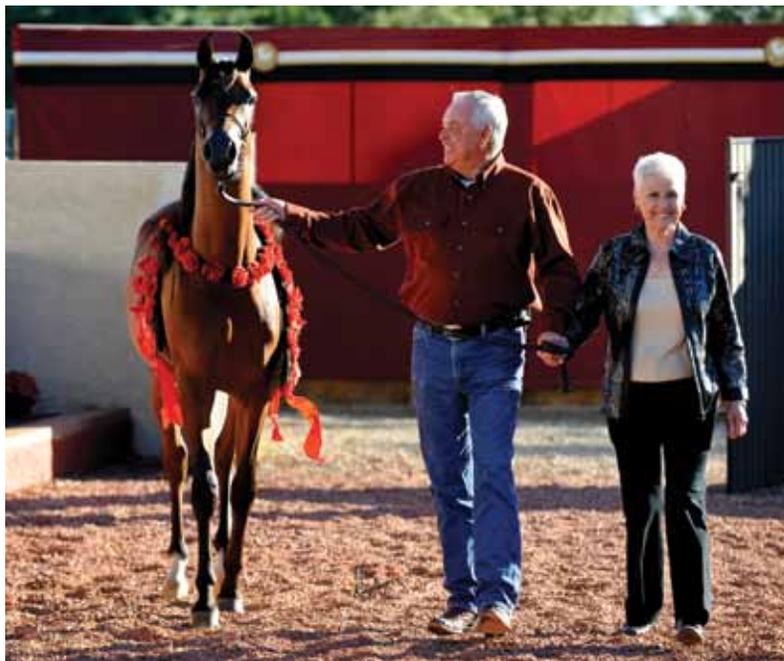
"Since we started our love affair with the Arabian horse, I've wanted to find a special stallion," Don tells us, "a really exciting horse with all-around potential. For me, there are four factors that all need to be present for a stallion to fit

this bill. First, he has to have a great pedigree. Second, he needs the quality and the charisma to be a National and International Champion. Third, he must have the gentle disposition that makes me love the Arabian horse. And fourth, he's got to have everything it takes to be a world-class breeding sire. By the Grace of God, Vitorio TO seems to have it all!

The heritage from which Vitorio TO comes is one of unquestionable

excellence. His pedigree is the sort of road map to stardom that—when all the genetic materials mingle just right—can make history ... in the show ring and in the breeding barn. He is a son of the remarkable, record-holding show stallion, DA Valentino, who, before his untimely and too early death, was just beginning to make his mark as an important breeding stallion. Also, Vitorio's dam, Sol Natique, is an exceptional representative of her primarily Polish and Crabbet pedigree.

It's impossible to look at Vitorio TO's pedigree without recognizing the intense prepotency he carries for the



*Vitorio TO (DA Valentino x Sol Natique) with Ed and Maureen Horton.*



*Vitorio TO (DA Valentino x Sol Natique)*

characteristics of extremely long, flexible necks and the exquisite Arabian type that comes only with huge, dark eyes. On the topside, for necks, we see (especially) DA Valentino, Echo Magnifico, \*Aladdin, \*Bask, and the Real McCoy—the latter two are also noted for the huge eyes they possessed and always passed on. On the mare's side, \*Salon, and his paternal half-brother, \*Naborr, were progenitors of both long necks and giant eyes. Not only does Vitorio TO carry this genetic material, he is the physical embodiment of all that it implies. In fact, his first foals are early indications that these attributes will breed on through him.

Needless to say, there is more to this young stallion than a long neck and big eyes. In addition, he carries and exhibits the size and the balance and the charisma and the motion that have already—at just 3 years of age—helped him to earn three International Championships ... one in the United States, one in Canada and one in Brazil—all under the tutelage of David Boggs.

### *A Few Thoughts From David Boggs ...*

*"When we're blessed to spend a lifetime with Arabian horses, there are those "special ones" that capture us in a way that is hard to explain. Valentino was one of those 'special ones' for me. And now his son Vitorio, almost a replica of his sire, has begun his journey and offers healing and new found joy to my heart saddened by the passing of his dad.*

*"I'm excited because breeders from all over the world—beginning here at home in the USA—have lined up some of their finest mares to breed to him. Right now, semen is being shipped to the State Studs in Poland. In the next few weeks, shipments are planned to Australia, Europe and South America—an auspicious start for a magnificent colt. Terry Anne and I feel truly blessed to be a part of this colt's life and to share the excitement with our great friends, Don and Janey Morse."*

### *A Certain Destiny*

Because horse breeding is an art, and because every great breeding stallion must come from an excellent program, we asked Vitorio TO's breeders, Maureen and Ed Horton, to share their thoughts on this colt and his mom. Here is what Maureen had to say:

*"We have to put Vitorio TO at the top in our 30+ years of breeding. He is exactly what we aim for as we select the stallions for our mares every spring.*

*"Before Vitorio TO, we had bred his dam, Sol Natique, to some very nice stallions, but she just hadn't produced what we were looking for. The foals were all beautiful, but we were still pushing for that special one. We looked to DA Valentino—along with Sol Natique—to put that great foal on the ground. And together, they did just that."*

With a fabulous foundation behind him and a brilliant future ahead of him, Vitorio TO will continue his show career—and he'll stand beside Don and Janey's beloved Fausto CRH and Vegas DPA, poised to make history as a breeding sire with the Morses' world-class mares at Oak Ridge Arabians. ■

For more quotes and details please visit VITORIO TO's website: [www.vitorioto.com](http://www.vitorioto.com)