

THE QUINTESSENTIAL ARABIAN —

MIRAGE V

BY BETH CONTI

My love affair with the Arabian horse began, like many girls, after reading *The Black Stallion* and seeing pictures of this beautiful breed in a copy of *Arabian*

Horse World magazine. I learned as much as I could and, in 1980, my dreams came true when I rescued FX Frazeyn (Fixeyn x Seranta), my first Arabian. Though not a show horse, Frazeyn cemented my devotion to the breed, remained my joyful companion for the remainder of his life, and left indelible footprints on my heart.

In 2004, my life was once again enriched by an Arabian, Mirage V (Desperado V x Misti V), a horse that literally took my breath away. He was the quintessential Arabian, an embodiment of classic beauty, type, power, and poetry. I wasn't looking for another horse, but this stallion was irresistible, the complete package — beauty, balance, athleticism, intelligence. And his eyes — captivating, luminous eyes that reflected kindness and spirit. I knew he would be my “once in a lifetime horse.”

Arabian trainer Bob Hart saw potential as well, and Mirage went to Vallejo III as a three-year-old to become a working cow superstar, winning consistently with big scores, going National Reserve Champion Working Cow Horse as a four-year-old, and winning legions of fans in both the Arabian and Quarter Horse world with his heart, athleticism, and charisma. Concurrently, Mirage won in western pleasure at Scottsdale and was 2006 Region 11 Champion Western Pleasure Junior Horse, soon after winning Region 9 Champion Working Cow Horse.

And, incredible as it might seem, he now demonstrates the same confidence and athleticism in dressage, with big scores and with flair and elegance. Mirage's trainer Jennifer Tobie, who has anointed him “Saint Mirage,” is amazed and thrilled with his outstanding performance: “He has the talent and the heart to go all the way to the top.”

His success continued into 2010 with dual Sport Horse National Reserve Championships in Stallions In-Hand and Sport Horse Under Saddle in singularly competitive arenas. Capping a phenomenal year, Mirage was named the Sport Horse Nationals “Super Stallion” and was honored with

the coveted USEF Horse of the Year, National Champion Arabian Dressage Second through Fourth Level title.

Mirage V has a unique show record — he is the *only* Arabian ever to have National wins in working western, dressage and in-hand. His superb show record includes eleven National titles including 2005 U.S. National Reserve Champion Working Cow. His 26 Regional titles include championships in Sport Horse Stallion In-Hand, Sport Horse Under Saddle, Dressage, Working Cow, and Western Pleasure. Mirage is the embodiment of Arabian versatility.

In addition to his classic beauty, his intelligence, versatility, athleticism, and heart, Mirage has an uncommonly gentle disposition, one I saw displayed at a show. A little girl in a wheelchair asked to see him. Mirage looked at her, rested his head on her lap, and in so doing, captured her heart like he had captured mine. I am blessed to share my life with this extraordinary horse and great ambassador for the Arabian breed.

