

Arabian Horse World  
presents

# VICARIO

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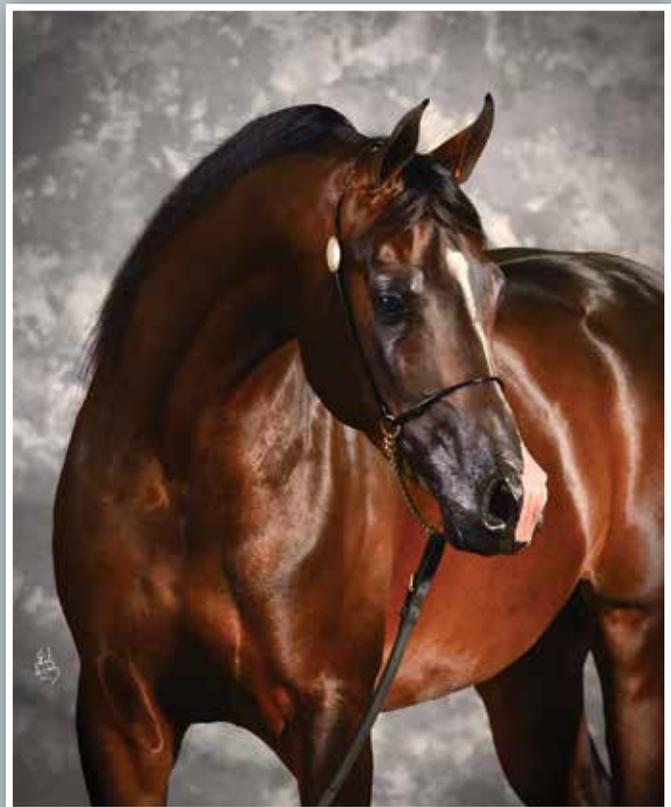
U.S. National Top Ten Futurity Colt and Top Ten Western Pleasure Futurity **Vicario** (DA Valentino x Faberge AA), owned by Barbara Sink-Krusenstjerna, Waukeg, Iowa, shown by Robert Bick and ridden by Jody Strand.

When asked what horses are great candidates to compete in halter and performance at the same National show level, Jody Strand's answer is simple: "special horses." Indeed, the blood-bay stallion Vicario is one of these special horses. Within 24 hours, Vicario competed in the Arabian Western Pleasure Futurity class where he was named Top Ten with Jody Strand and in the Futurity Colts class where he earned Top Ten with Rob Bick.

What makes Vicario competitive in both halter and performance divisions? "He's a big, beautiful stallion," says Strand. "Halter handlers often appreciate how fit and toned our performance horses are. We tend to keep them slightly heavier than halter trainers often prefer, but it didn't affect Vicario in the halter ring. Vicario was just born with that great neck. The transition was easy for him."

Strand said that Vicario only received one halter schooling session with Rob Bick prior to his class. "He knows his job," added Strand, referencing Vicario's time as a young horse with Andrew Sellman. With Sellman, Vicario earned the titles of 2013 Canadian National Champion Two-Year-Old Colt and 2012 U.S. National Top Ten Yearling Colt. It was at Sellman's facility that a client of Strand's first saw Vicario. "She thought he'd wear a western saddle extremely well and she was right."

During the U.S. Nationals show, Vicario was purchased by Gretchen Love of Portland, Oregon.



Strand said that the interest in Vicario's purchase was not a surprise: "He's the kind of horse that turns heads. In our first time out in the warm-up arena I had four trainers ask who he was before we had even made our first lap." Vicario will remain with Strand and is slated to compete at Scottsdale 2015.

— Morgan Millner