

# Daily Commercial

Clermont

## Famous Arabian Nights show horses for sale today at Clermont ranch

Posted: Saturday, March 1, 2014 6:00AM – Roxanne Brown



Al-Marah Owner Mark Miller with Nuncho Primero Whiz (AKA "Rocky") a palomino Quarter Horses Gelding and former show horse at Arabian Nights for sale today for \$7500 in Clermont.

The man who founded and built the popular Arabian Nights dinner theater equestrian show in Kissimmee will open his Clermont ranch today in hopes of adopting out 16 of the horses that performed at the attraction before it closed.

Mark Miller, who was raised around horses and learned all about the Al-Marah Arabian breed from his mother Ruth Bazy McCormick Tankersley, called it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire one of the highly trained show horses.

"All of the horses are beautiful. They are trained for riding and if you wanted to go to horse shows with them, a lot of them can still compete," Miller said.

In fact, he said his own daughter is getting ready to perform in a national show with a 21-year-old reining horse named Horacio.

A press release issued by Al-Marah announcing the auction calls the animals "the most famous horses in Central Florida."

"If not the entire country," said Miller, who mentioned that over the years, these horses have performed for 500,000 to 600,000 people annually at Arabian Nights.

Miller's ranch is on 80 acres off Lakeshore Drive overlooking Little Lake Nellie and Lake Nelli. Its name, Al-Marah, a word from the Budeon tribe that means "An Oasis," is synonymous with the Tucson Ariz., ranch Miller's mother ran. Miller has about nine national champion horses in Clermont, in addition to the 16 that came from Arabian Nights. Miller said while he personally loves the horses, he is only keeping a couple from the show to use on his ranch as teachers to some of the others. He is hoping to find good homes for the rest because they are not from the core herd of horses his family has bred since the 1940's. Breeds available include Al-Marah Arabians, Percherons, Appaloosas, Saddlebreds, Belgians, Irish Sport Horses and Quarter Horses.

Buyers will have the opportunity to see all them on site, and discuss the horses with Al-Marah Arabians staff, including Miller and head trainer Kassie Barteau.

Miller said he and Barteau will be able to discuss with people which horses would be best for their needs, whether it's casual riding, jumping, performing or any type competition at various levels. Prices will range from \$2,500 to \$20,000.

"They're all like family to me really, and they each have their very own personality. They love being around people. That's what they do," Miller said. "It'll be nice for anyone interested to come out and have a look at them."

The full list of horses and prices will be available online Saturday morning at [www.al-marah.com](http://www.al-marah.com). The auction is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.