



## CONTINUING A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE IN HORSEMANSHIP

Written by Evie Tubbs Sweeney



Since the passing of its founding icon, Sheila Varian, over three years ago, Varian Arabians has demonstrated its deep rooted ability to carve a new chapter for the historic farm, largely due to its foundational principles that are esteemed as much now as ever before. In this sense, Varian Arabians is truly timeless. And so are its principles... aptly dubbed "The Varian Way."

It represents a lifestyle, an homage to those before us, a set of horsemanship skills that are as much about us as they are about the horses we ride. Like Tom Dorrance – the wise equine revolutionary who tutored his young pupil, Sheila Varian, in the quiet language of horses – Sheila's principles are a way of life as well. It combines a love for the land, a loyalty to tradition steeped in Vaquero heritage, a soft approach to horsemanship, and a hands-on methodology that challenges our own humanity as much as our horses.

Services offered by Varian Arabians include breeding, foaling, boarding, and training The Varian Way led by head handler, Mike Perez.

One of the farm's most beloved opportunities is the Sheila Varian Museum, a labor of love by general manager Angela Alvarez that opened in August 2016 and has since welcomed visitors from around the world. The Museum transforms Sheila's office areas and personal living room peeking into the intricacies of the legendary cowgirl – both as a human being and as legendary horse woman.

Breeding remains a cornerstone in the Varian Arabians program. Standing alongside the Desperado V son, Windy Bey V, is the heir apparent to the royal throne of Varian Arabians stallions: Major Mac V. There was no doubt in Sheila's mind that he represented the perfect, grand culmination of six



**Major Mac V**

generations of breeding. Now with three foal crops on the ground, he is already an international superstar, embodying the best of his paternal ancestors, particularly Huckleberry Bey++. Major Mac V's stage debut was most certainly in the short film, "The First of Many," an Equus Film Festival award winner in 2016, based on his first ride in the hills of California with Lester Buckley at the request of Sheila one week before she passed away. The film luminously encapsulates the wonders of the horse/human connection in the rawest, most organic way that leaves no viewer unmoved or untouched.

In continuing with its tradition of educational excellence, Varian Arabians lends its facilities to hand-selected



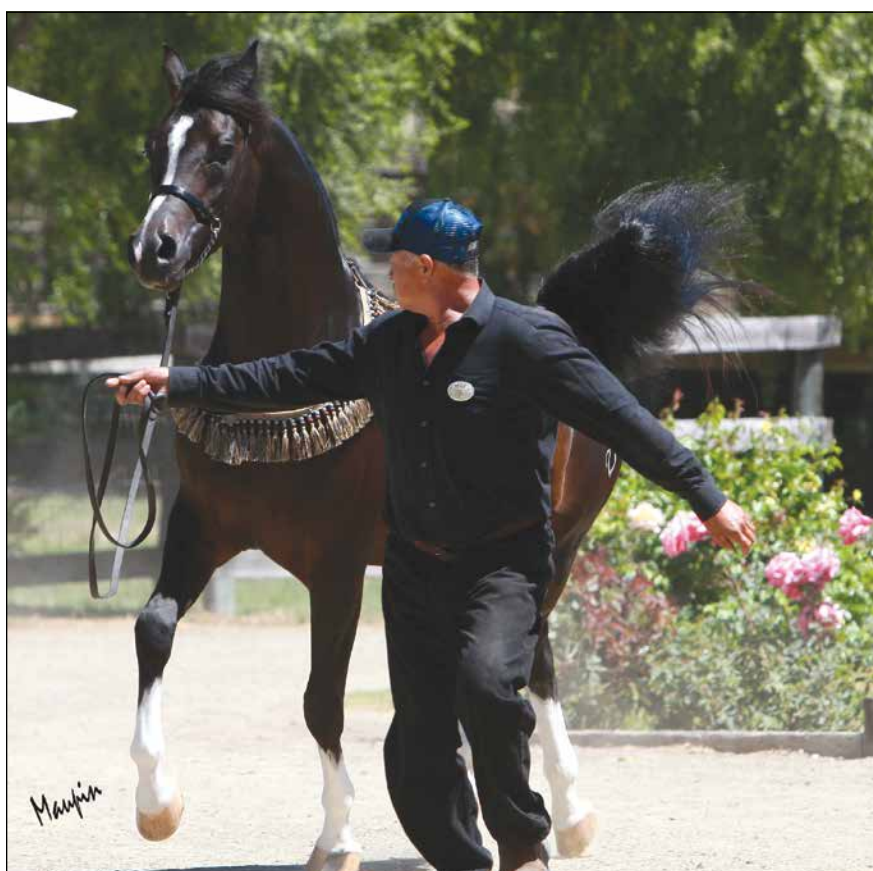
**Varian Barn with Rainbow**

clinicians of the highest level, providing solid horsemanship education from the ground up. This year's clinician topics include: Groundwork, horse-to-human

communication, advancing lines to liberty, confidence building for horse/human teams, western dressage, and more.



*Breeding remains a cornerstone in the Varian Arabians program. Standing alongside the Desperado V son, Windy Bey V, is the heir apparent to the royal throne of Varian Arabians stallions: Major Mac V. There was no doubt in Sheila's mind that he represented the perfect, grand culmination of six generations of breeding.*



**MAJOR MAC V + MIKE PEREZ**

Guests will enjoy all that the beautiful farm has to offer, from its flower-laden, exquisite grounds to the rich and abundant history hinting at every bend. No better example is the famous Varian Arabians History Wall. This favorite experience turns the inside wall of the illustrious show barn into a 225-foot immersive walk through history, as visitors journey through

photos, memorabilia and other artifacts alongside Sheila, general manager Angela Alvarez, and all its famous equine residences since the inception of the farm.

Registration for 2023 clinics is now open. Visit [www.VarianArabians.com](http://www.VarianArabians.com) for more information.

**Varian Arabians | Arroyo Grande, CA**  
**Angela Alvarez (805) 441-1229**  
**[www.VarianArabians.com](http://www.VarianArabians.com)**  
**[angelaalv@aol.com](mailto:angelaalv@aol.com)**

**EVERYTHING.**  
Everything Sheila ever wanted.  
Everything we ever needed.

 **MAJOR MAC V**

(Maclintock V x Majors Tiffany GA)  
Proudly Standing at Varian Arabians  
[www.VarianArabians.com](http://www.VarianArabians.com)  
 /MajorMacV