

## **Equestrian Business Models**

Exploring business opportunities



September 2020

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# <u>Scalable</u> business models related to horses tend to generate profit mostly from secondary activities (hospitality, catering and entertainment)

#### **Business models**



#### State owned or private stables

#### As a cost center

- State owned stud farms breeding a certain horse race. <u>Tend to be heavily subsidized</u>, as their revenue from horse sales and limited tourism hardly covers costs
- 2 **Private stables** have to be considered as an <u>expensive hobby</u>. Some income from price money from races, sales of horses or siring fees from stallions does usually cover only a small fraction of costs

#### As a profit center

3 Stables providing horse boarding are profitable. However, their <u>business model</u> is not <u>scalable</u>, as they serve local customers only. Also, an oversized horse boarding farm would encounter several logistics problems (e.g., horses would have to be spread over large swaths of land for grazing). Livery for about 100 horses seems to be the ceiling for size, with many farms just boarding 10-20 horses, often as a side business on an agricultural farm. Usually, they are run as a family business with its typical economics (unpaid work of family members)

#### **Equestrian centers**

4 **Equestrian centers** usually provide an agglomeration of horse related facilities (e.g., stables, racetracks, medical facilities). They serve activities tied to equestrian purposes. This might include events (e.g., races, horse shows, polo tournaments) or regular day-to-day activities (hosting equestrian clubs, providing horse keeping infrastructure). Usually there is further, not horse-related infrastructure, provided (hotels, catering), which is used also for other then equestrian related business (concerts, hospitality and recreation in general). Profit is generated from running the individual businesses

#### **Equestrian village**

but the features of a resort or real estate development, however with a recreational horse component serving as a unique selling proposition. The overall economics are the same as for any real estate development. Profit is generated from the resort or mixed-use real estate development business in general, however horse related entertainment plays an important role in attracting customers and serves as a differentiator

Remark: The differentiation between equestrian centers and equestrian villages is difficult. All these premises are somehow unique, with the border between horse related infrastructure and the real estate component fluent

Source: Team analysis

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#### Best printed in A3

### Business models - comparison



	Stable/Stud Farm	© Equestrian Center	© Equestrian Village/Resort
Setup	Centered around a horse barn, complemented by pastures, riding places, etc. Larger stables might include own medical facilities, special training facilities, etc.	Compound comprised of facilities focused on horse keeping and horse related activities (races, training)	Real estate development to provide recreational services with horse related activities comprising one type of activity amongst others
Ownership/legal form	3 main types  1 State owned to either provide horses for representative purposes or to ensure the breeding of a certain type of horses (keeping tradition)  2 Privately owned for personal use only  3 Privately owned to provide paid services for other horse owners	Can be a single development, or an agglomeration of different businesses related to each other, but centered around the macro-theme of horses     Usually organized as a limited liability company or a similar legal form	Usually organized as a limited liability company or a similar legal form  Due to its nature of being predominantly a real estate development project, financing might be handled through a fund
Value proposition	Providing horses for representative purposes, military tradition and the preserving of certain breeds Personal recreation, competitions Providing riders with the opportunity to ride the farm's horses and/or taking care of private owner's horses by providing boarding	Supporting horse related events by providing the necessary infrastructure (racetracks, polo fields) and organization.     This might include catering, hospitality and entertainment facilities     Hosting horse clubs and providing them with the usual stable related services	Broad range of services provided for all ages and skill levels centered on horse riding, but extending to other recreational activities too
Business model	Typically, heavily subsidized, income from breeding or limited secondary touristic activities     None     Providing paid services for riders and/or horse owners	Income from:     Stable related services     Events (Entry fees and event related services)     Merchandising	Primary income from mixed-use real estate (touristic resort, hotels, catering, entertainment)     Horses are just one attraction among many and serve as a unique selling proposition
Typical Infrastructure			
Horse keeping related	Barns, stables, ample land for grazing to accommodate 100-1,000 horses, veterinary facilities     Usually, high-end horse keeping facilities for high-value horses, including stables, barns, veterinary facilities, training tracks. Often furnished in a very luxurious way Barns, stables and pastures. Training places, outdoor and indoor	Infrastructure to enable horse related activities (races, shows) Racing tracks Grandstands Polo fields Veterinary facilities Training facilities	Barns, stables     Often large swaths of land for horse tours     Training spaces, both indoor and outdoor     Polo fields     Grandstands     Racing tracks     Veterinary facilities
Secondary	Limited touristic infrastructure to accommodate visitors     None. Some large stables offer tours     Limited (Basic catering for customers)	Hotels (mostly hotels not directly related to the facility but in the area)     Catering facilities	Hospitality (normally in the upscale star range)     Catering     All amenities typical for a resort/mixed-use development
Typical service offerings			
Horse keeping related services	Sale of horses, keeping the studbook     No external services     Horse boarding ranging from self-care board to full board, training for horses and riders	Facilitation of races and horse shows     Hosting of equestrian clubs	Horse riding, training courses (often for beginners) Facilitation of races and horse shows Hosting of equestrian clubs
Event related services	Sometimes festivals, horse shows     None     Limited touristic offerings ("Riding vacations', often in cooperation with local hotels)	Races     Horse shows     Concerts	Catering for business events     Catering for family gatherings (e.g., weddings)     Concerts     Competitions (e.g., Polo)     Horse shows
Recreation/lifestyle related services	None	Limited, depending on the surrounding touristic facilities	All services usually provided by resort/mixed-use developments
Examples	Stud Farm Lipica (breeding stud for the Lipizzaner Horse) King Abdulaziz Arabian Horse Center     Godolphin Racing, including its breeding operation     Stables of HM King Abdullah & Sons     There is a multitude of thousands of small stables	Ascot racecourse	Tanque Verde Ranch Arizona Al Habtoor Polo Resort Meydan racecourse and grandstand

Source: Team analysis





State/Royal horse facility		
Owner	Republic of Slovenia	
Location	Lipica, Slovenia	



Description	
Description and history	Founded in 1580     Holder of the studbook for the Lipizzan horse breed
Horses	<ul> <li>About 400 horses</li> <li>The breeding core of the stud farm comprises:</li> <li>Six original lines of stallions, with at least four stallions of each line</li> <li>Sixteen classical families of mares with at least three broodmares of each family</li> <li>Foals until reaching the age of 4 years</li> </ul>
Infrastructure	300 hectars of land     All the necessary premises for breeding, including a veterinary center and ample pastures     Multi-purpose leisure center comprising: Hotel, golf course, mini golf     100,000 visitors per year
Business model	Carrying out the breeding program for the Lipizzan breed of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, funded by the state     Selling of horses     Complementary income from tourist activities
Service offerings	
Horse keeping/breeding	Sale of horses (Lipizzaner horses are due to their muscular features and their unique color used for dressage, e.g., in the Spanish Riding School of Vienna where they demonstrate the "high school" movements of classical dressage, and for ceremonial and policing purposes, e.g., mounted regiments of the Italian carabinieri)
Events	Organization of different types of events (business, cultural, sports)     For the business events the hotels of the stud farm offer seminar rooms in the 4-star hotel Maestoso
Recreation	<ul> <li>Riding school with the following offerings</li> <li>Schooling horses</li> <li>Schooling horse-riders</li> <li>Carriage-drawing</li> <li>Horse shows</li> <li>Tourist Riding School</li> </ul>



## 1 King Abdulaziz Arabian Horse Center



Horse Center	
Owner	Ministry of Agriculture
Location	Dirab, Saudi Arabia



Description	
Description and history	<ul> <li>Established in 1961</li> <li>The center takes care of the offspring of the horses of the Kingdom founder and also other breeds of Arabian horses to maintain</li> <li>There is also a branch for the Makkah province</li> </ul>
Horses	<ul> <li>236 horses in the center</li> <li>The center is the official registry of Arabian horses in the KSA with currently 16,900 horses from 5,424 owners registered</li> <li>The following original bloodlines are preserved and bred on <ul> <li>AL-Hamadaneyya</li> <li>AL-Abeyya</li> <li>AL-Sawaiteyya</li> <li>AL-Kahela</li> <li>AL-Saklawyya</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Infrastructure	<ul><li>100 hectars area in Dirab</li><li>Climatized stables</li><li>Veterinary facility</li></ul>
Business model	Non-profit organization
Service offerings	
Horse keeping	<ul> <li>The centers coordinates all breeding activities in the KSA</li> <li>Issuing breeding certificates</li> <li>Representing the country in international organizations for the breeding of Arabian horses</li> </ul>
Events	<ul> <li>Responsible for organizing and monitoring all Arabian horse shows throughout the country</li> <li>For 2019 17 horse shows are planned in the Kingdom</li> </ul>
Recreation	Horse shows     Tours for foreign visitors (heads of state, diplomats)

Source: https://kaahcfao.com/en/

## 2 Godolphin Racing



Privately owned stable		
Owner	Al Maktoum family	
Location	Headquarters in Dubai Operating multiple racing stables, e.g., in Newmarket (UK), two in Dubai (UAE), two in Sidney, and one in Melbourne (AUS)	





Description		
Description and history	<ul> <li>Founded in 1992</li> <li>Private thoroughbred horseracing stable</li> <li>Named after the Arabian horse Godolphin</li> <li>Several local stables across the world</li> <li>Darley Stud as the breeding arm</li> <li>Numerous wins in international races</li> </ul>	
Horses	Thoroughbred racing horses	
Infrastructure (number of horses is stable capacity)	More than 1,000 horses: Al Quoz Stables, Dubai - 120 horses / Marmoom Stables, Dubai - 84 horses / Dalham Hall Stud, Newmarket, foaling unit / Godolphin Stables, Newmarket - 115 horses / Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket - 190 horses / Carbine Lodge, Melbourne - 50 horses / Crown Lodge, Sydney - 125 horses / Osborne Park, Sydney - 84 horses / Gainsborough Farm, Kentucky – undisclosed number of mares and foals / Greentree Stables, Saratoga Springs - 100 horses / Jonabell Farm, Kentucky – 172 horses	
	Each facility usually comprises several hundred hectars of land	
	Facilities are equipped state of the art (e.g., Equine spas, Seawalker, Swimming pool, Private grass gallops, Private all-weather gallops)	
Business model	<ul> <li>Godolphin racing is not set up as a profit center</li> <li>Primary goal is excellence in horse racing with substantial (undisclosed) funds available</li> <li>On the income side, revenues are generated from siring and the sale of horses</li> <li>It is estimated that for every USD 1,000 an owner invests in a racing horse the return in price money is USD 250</li> <li>However, a good stallion can generate substantial income through breeding</li> </ul>	
Service offerings		
Horse keeping/br eeding	Siring     Horses for sale (racehorses, yearlings, broodmares)     Training horses	
Events	Involved in the organization of international races, especially in Dubai	
Recreation	None	

## 2 Stables of HM King Abdullah & Sons



Privately owned stable		
Owner	Family owned, CEO: HRH Prince Muteb Bin Abdullah	
Location	Janandria Farm in the suburbs of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	
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Description	
Description and history	Largest stables in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia     Part of the weekend residence of the late King Abdullah
Horses	Over 1,000 horses in 5 divisions     Thoroughbred horse breeding     Thoroughbred horse racing     Arabian horse breeding     Arabian show horses     Show jumping      All of the mare's offspring remains on the farm until they are two years old, at which time they are moved to the training center at King A'Aziz racetrack — 1km away
Infrastructure	<ul> <li>Horse breeding is part of the Janandria Farm which is also home to <ul> <li>Dairy farm and dairy processing facility</li> <li>Sheep rearing unit</li> <li>Horticultural division</li> </ul> </li> <li>As no natural grazing is possible the horses are fed locally grown alfalfa, concentrates and micronutrients</li> <li>Facilities are extremely high-end, including</li> <li>Air-conditioned stables</li> <li>A fully equipped Veterinary Hospital</li> <li>125 post and rail sand paddocks, all with sun shelters (80 hectars)</li> <li>A self-contained Stallion Unit</li> <li>Foaling Unit</li> <li>Pre-training facility, which includes stabling for 100 horses, 1800m training track, lunge rings, mechanical walkers etc.</li> <li>Extensive staff accommodation</li> </ul>
Business model	None
Service offerings	
Horse keeping	No external services offered
Events	None
Recreation	For the owner family and guests (included guests of the state)

#### 3 Typical horse boarding and training commercial stable



Privately owned stable as a business		
Owner	Privately owned, often as a family business	
Location	There is a multitude of these stables, as most of privately owned horses are	



Description		
Description and history	Often part of a farm to generate additional income     Provides the necessary infrastructure for recreational horse riding	
Horses	Accommodates usually 20-50 horses	
Infrastructure	<ul> <li>Farm size on average 100 hectars in the US, in Europe usually smaller</li> <li>Stable and barns</li> <li>Training area</li> <li>High-end stables may have some extras, like horse showers, treadmills, etc.</li> </ul>	
Business model	<ul> <li>Focus on boarding of customers' horses or renting out own horses for recreational purposes</li> <li>Includes usually training for riders and horses</li> <li>The business model seems difficult to scale by increasing the number of horses (local business with a limited number of potential customers within a certain area</li> <li>Broadening the value-added chain possible by providing related services (veterinary, in-house shop, extended grooming, local events)</li> <li>The typical customer (in the USA) is female, age 38-45, married with an income of about USD 60k p.a., living in a rural area</li> </ul>	
Service offerings		
Horse keeping	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	Boarding	400-500 (in rural areas up to 1,200-2,500)
	Food	100-250
	Farrier – Trimming	10-25
	Farrier - Horse shoes (every 4-8 weeks)	75-135
	Tack (saddle, pad, halter, bit, bridle and lead), broken down per month	200
	Health care	75-250
	Basic training, per hour	20-50
Events	Sporadically to promote the facility (e.g., Kids weekends)	
Recreation	Non-horse related recreation usually not included	





Horse Center		
Owner	Ascot Racecourse Ltd.	
Location	Ascot, Berkshire, UK	



Description	
Description and history	<ul> <li>Founded in 1711 by Queen Anne</li> <li>Several acts of parliament to ensure that the grounds would remain a public racecourse</li> <li>2004-2006 extensive redevelopment, adding restaurants, bars, corporate hospitality facilities and improving the grandstand (total cost GBP 220mn)</li> </ul>
Horses	<ul> <li>Thoroughbred racehorses, hosting 13 of Britain's 36 annual Group 1 races</li> <li>No own horses</li> </ul>
Infrastructure	<ul> <li>Racecourse covers 73 hectars</li> <li>2,816 m in length with a 1,609 m final straight</li> <li>More then 100 bars and food outlets during the Royal Ascot</li> <li>Facilities for meetings, seminars, etc.</li> <li>In the middle of the course the Royal Ascot Cricket Club is located</li> <li>163 full time staff (6,500 temporary staff during the Royal Ascot)</li> </ul>
Business model	<ul> <li>Ticket sales for the races</li> <li>Catering during the races</li> <li>Venue for conferences, banquets, exhibitions, product launches and weddings</li> </ul>
Service offerings	
Horse keeping	• None
Events	<ul> <li>Currently 26 racing days per year, including several famous cups</li> <li>Royal Ascot Week with 18 group races with at least one group 1 race per day as a major social event (strict dress code, royal family present. During these 5 days 300,000 visitors attend</li> <li>Almost 100 life music acts over the course of a year</li> <li>Private events using the existing hospitality and meeting infrastructure</li> </ul>
Recreation	Boxes (during races) Private boxes for Royal Ascot begin at £609 per person for a 12-seated box Regular race days are priced at a rate of £100 each Dining (during races) Royal Enclosure fine dining during Royal Ascot starts from £250 per head Packages on regular race days start at £80 Cricket in the Royal Ascot Cricket Club



## **5** Meydan Racecourse



Horse Village		
Owner	Meydan Group	
Location	Dubai	

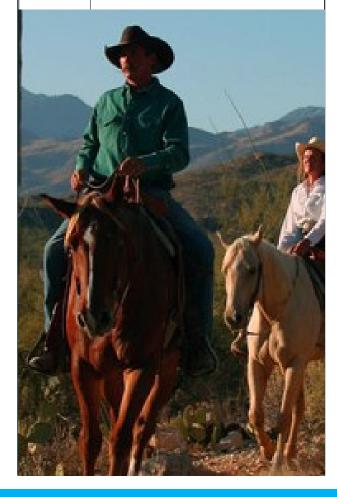


Description	
Description and history	Opened in 2010, replacing the Nad Al Sheba Racecourse
Horses	Thoroughbreds in the races, <b>no own horses</b>
Infrastructure	<ul> <li>Total size of the area about 140 hectars</li> <li>Turf track (oval Distance: 2400m, width: 30m)</li> <li>Dirt track (oval Distance: 1750 meters, width: 25 meters)</li> <li>Grandstand with 80,000 seats</li> <li>Barns, stables, turf and all-weather training tracks, and jockey and horsemen lounges</li> <li>5-star Meydan Hotel (284 rooms)</li> <li>Tennis Academy &amp; 9-hole golf course with Clubhouse</li> <li>Horse racing museum</li> <li>Meydan Marina</li> </ul>
Business model	<ul> <li>Facilitating horse races in Dubai</li> <li>Hosting several equestrian clubs</li> <li>Outside the race season catering tourists</li> <li>Dual use outside the race season as a business and conference center</li> </ul>
Service offerings	
Horse keeping	<ul><li>For racehorses during the competition season</li><li>No permanent horse boarding</li></ul>
Events	<ul> <li>Host a multitude events during the season from November-April, e.g.</li> <li>Winter Racing Challenge</li> <li>Dubai International Racing Carnival</li> <li>Dubai World Cup Night</li> <li>Dubai World Cup (the world's richest race day with over US\$26.25 million in prize money)</li> <li>Outside the season concerts are hosted (e.g., Elton John, Santana, Kylie Minogue, Janet Jackson</li> </ul>
Recreation	<ul> <li>Stable tours during the race season (Nov – April)</li> <li>Riders training by the Emirates Equestrian Center</li> <li>In the context of the recreation facilities located on the spot</li> </ul>

## **5** Tanque Verde Ranch – Arizona Dude Ranch



Horse village/resort		
Owner	Cote family	
Location	Tucson, Sonora Desert	

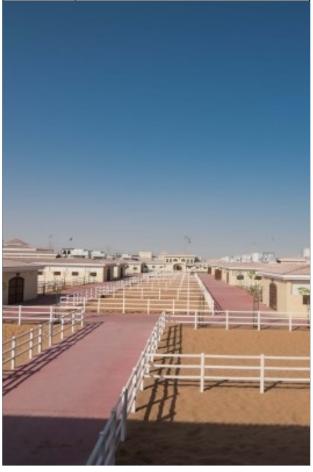


Description	
Description and history	Ranch was founded in 1868
Horses	Ca. 150 horses and ponies
Infrastructure	<ul> <li>24,000 hectars of land (most of it desert)</li> <li>Lodging with 70 rooms for 200+ people</li> <li>Restaurant</li> <li>Typical amenities of a family resort: <ul> <li>Spa</li> <li>Pool</li> <li>Fitness center, yoga classes</li> <li>Basketball and tennis courts</li> <li>Mountain bikes</li> <li>Fishing</li> <li>Nature Center for children</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Business model	<ul> <li>Vacation resort with focus on horse riding but also providing all amenities of a high-end resort</li> <li>Facilitation of meetings and corporate retreats</li> <li>Facilitation of weddings</li> <li>The horse component is not the main source of income but rather a unique value proposition to differentiate from competitors in the hospitality industry</li> </ul>
Service offerings	
Horse keeping	Horseback riding and lessons with focus on beginners and kids (entertainment component prevailing)
Events	Private events are organized upon request (e.g., weddings, family gatherings or business meetings
Recreation	<ul> <li>Targets mainly families</li> <li>Riding (Western Style Riding for all levels)</li> <li>Other on-site recreation comprises the use of typical resort amenities</li> <li>In the vicinity of the ranch there are lots of recreational activities possible, e.g., museum visits, shopping in Tucson, skiing/snowboarding at the Mount Lemmon, hot air ballooning, golf</li> <li>Meals are rustic</li> </ul>

## **5** Al Habtoor Polo Resort



Horse village/resort		
Owner	Habtoor Hospitality	
Location	Dubai	



Description	
Description and history	Hotel resort tied to the Habtoor stables and the polo club     Hotel opened March 2017
Horses	n/a
Infrastructure	<ul> <li>About 30 hectars (hotel and stables)</li> <li>5-star hotel with 96 rooms, 30 suites, 25 villas</li> <li>Several bars and restaurants</li> <li>Horse academy (jumping, dressage, and polo)</li> <li>520 stables</li> <li>60 turnout paddocks</li> <li>2 lunge areas</li> <li>5 horse walkers</li> <li>2 international competition arenas</li> <li>4 polo fields</li> <li>2 exercise tracks.</li> </ul>
Business model	Two business lines complementing each other Resort themed around horses, with all amenities typical for a 5-star resort in the region Stables and horse keeping, to facilitate the horse-related entertainment offerings of the resort, as well as livery
Service offerings	
Horse keeping	<ul><li>Livery at AED 3,900 per horse</li><li>Stable only 2,745</li></ul>
Events	<ul> <li>800 sqm of banquet spaces for gatherings, meetings and events</li> <li>500 sqm ball room for 220 guests for weddings</li> <li>Outdoor terraces for banquets for up to 1,300 guests</li> </ul>
Recreation	<ul> <li>Riding (Horse riding school and polo academy)</li> <li>All typical resort leisure facilities (Spa, fitness gym, swimming pools, 4 floodlit tennis courts, and 2 squash courts, mini golf, golf driving range, archery, croquet)</li> </ul>