

GLENFIDDICH

FASTNET ROCK X NOTHIN BUT A DREAM (FIRST DEFENCE)

Pedigree Analysis - Kristen Manning

Bred on the highly successful Fastnet Rock/Mr Prospector cross, Glendfiddich boasts a pedigree of considerable depth, making him an exciting option for a variety of mares.

His sire Fastnet Rock has fared particularly well when crossed with Sadler's Wells with 12 of his Gr.1 winners being out of mares carrying a strain of that legendary stallion - nine of those through Sadler's Wells' most prolific son Galileo.

There is plenty of Galileo line representation in this part of the world with daughters of his high class son Rip Van Winkle of particular interest as his dam sire Stravinsky is another horse to have fared very well with Fastnet Rock; his daughters with him producing seven stakes winners including the multiple Gr.1 winner Mosheen.

Stravinsky is out of a mare by Blushing Groom who has always crossed nicely with the Danzig sire line - his sire Red God's grandam Boola Brook also being the grandam of Crafty Admiral, grandsire of Danzig's dam.

Other members of the Sadler's Wells sire line to cross nicely with Fastnet Rock include El Prado (represented in Australia by Artie Schiller and Medaglia d'Oro), Baratheia, Scenic, Montjeu (in particular Authorized and Tavistock) and High Chaparral whose sons Toronado and Dundee have both sired stakes winners out of Fastnet Rock mares.

Fastnet Rock has also fared exceptionally well with Zabeel, siring eight stakes winners out of his daughters - the multiple Gr.1 winners Atlantic Jewel and Avantage amongst that tally. Zabeel is of course a son of the great Sir Tristram whose son Marauding is Fastnet Rock's second dam sire.

Sons of Zabeel to have done a good job with Fastnet Rock include Savabeel, Colombia, Don Eduardo and Reset (whose dam sire Zeditave is out of a mare by Crowned Prince who hails from the same prolific Boudoir II family as Danehill's dam sire His Majesty) as well as the Octagonal line - him, his son Lonhro and Lonhro's son Pierro (grandson of a Sadler's Wells mare).

In regards to the Boudoir II family, strains of Majestic Prince and Graustark are also desirable - and Whisky Road is also a member.

Fastnet Rock loves Snippets as well, out of his daughters siring six stakes winners including the Gr.1 sprinters Merchant Navy and Wanted. Snippets line mares are a great option for Glendfiddich for other reasons - his third dam sire Hitting Away is a son of the classy race and broodmare Striking whose grandson Poker is the dam sire of Seattle Slew - dam sire of Glendfiddich's dam sire First Defence.

Striking is also the fourth dam of Woodman, another horse with whom Fastnet Rock has displayed affinity - out of his daughters siring five stakes winners. Striking is a granddaughter of the famed matriarch La Troienne whose great grandson Buckpasser (dam sire of Woodman) features four times in Glendfiddich's pedigree.

Cornish Prince, descendant of La Troienne's half-sister Adargatis, also makes an appearance in Glendfiddich's pedigree and he should pick up well on further strains of this great family. Quite a few descendants of La Troienne have stood in Australasia - such as Air de France, Hula Chief, Chem, Forest Glow, Belong To Me, Noble Bijou, Boucher, Rhythm, Congrats, Monashee Mountain and Don't Say Halo whose sire Halo hails from the same family as Danehill and Northern Dancer.

Multiple strains of the latter's dam Natalma and grandam Almahmoud are always desirable and can also be sourced via Machiavellian whose son Street Cry has enjoyed good success in Australia.

Meanwhile Halo's grandson More Than Ready (also out of a Woodman mare) is another descendant of La Troienne and Fastnet Rock has sired the Gr.1 winner Atlante and three other stakes winners out of his daughters.

Of More Than Ready's sons Sebring is of special interest - his dam sire Flying Spur being a descendant of the wonderful Northern Dancer mare Fanfreluche (a proven high class line-breeding subject) whose son L'Enjoleur is Glenfiddich's fourth dam sire.

There have been six Fastnet Rock stakes winners out of mares by Fanfreluche's most successful local descendant Encosta de Lago whose dam sire Star Way has always combined very nicely with his relation Sir Tristram - both stallions being descendants of the legendary mare Selene.

The influence of the Fanfreluche family (her dam Ciboulette is also well worth line-breeding to) can also be tapped into via daughters of Brazen Beau, Krupt, Kheleyf, Holy Roman Emperor and Charm Spirit or via strains of Snaadee, Night Shift, D'Accord, Medaille d'Or and Barachois.

It is well worth noting that one of the best horses line-bred to Fanfreluche is the four times Gr.1 winner Criterion, the son of Sebring whose stakes winning third dam Adarling is also the third dam of Glenfiddich.

This family is one that has produced one of the greats of the past, the 1953 US Horse Of The Year and US Hall Of Fame member Tom Fool who features five times in Glenfiddich's pedigree - four times via his son Buckpasser and once as the second dam sire of Northern Flagship.

It is easy to find further Tom Fool strains, mostly via his son Silly Season, sire of Lunchtime - sire of Snippets and dam sire of Choisir. Silly Season strains are highly desirable for Glenfiddich as he is a descendant of the great mare Canterbury Pilgrim who is a strong influence in this young stallion's pedigree - appearing via multiple strains of Swynford and Chaucer as well as Star Kingdom and Lucky Mel.

Another Canterbury Pilgrim descendant to look out for is Booby Trap, third dam sire of the great galloper Luskin Star - and it is worth noting that he and Fastnet Rock have combined in the pedigrees of 17 stakes winners.

With Glenfiddich hailing from a terrific American family it is well worth looking at horses with American pedigrees and there is no bigger name than Secretariat who combines exceptionally well with his half-brother Sir Gaylord - grandsire of Sir Tristram. Fastnet Rock and Secretariat have come together in the pedigrees of 71 stakes winners - 11 of those successful at the elite level.

The outstanding broodmare Aspidistra is not easy to duplicate but with her Kentucky Derby descendant Unbridled (great grandsire of Glenfiddich's dam) being bred on a 4 X 4 cross of her (the US Horse Of The Year Dr Fager the other strain), she is worth searching for. Her great grandson Tayasu Tsuyoshi stood in Victoria and there are also strains of Cahill Road around - his dam Gana Facil is Unbridled's dam. Interestingly this family boasts the same ancestress - the 1788 born mare Prunella - as Canterbury Pilgrim.

Another great American influence to feature is the US Broodmare Of The Year Pocahontas whose outstanding son Tom Rolfe is the grandsire of Glenfiddich's third dam sire Alleged. Her grandson Alzao (dam sire of Deep Impact) stood in Australia whilst her son War Hawk II stood successfully in New Zealand. Strains of another of her sons in Chieftain can also be found - in American Pharoah (more on him below) and as the third dam sire of Giant's Causeway (more on him below as well).

The high class staying mare Teresina features twice in Glenfiddich's pedigree - her champion sire son Alibhai being the dam sire of Danehill's dam sire His Majesty whilst First Defence is a descendant. Further strains can be sourced via Special Dane (dam sire of Spirit Of Boom), American Pharoah's grandsire Empire Maker (his Gr.1 winning dam Toussaud is First Defence's grandam) and Pakistan II (second dam sire of O'Reilly).

American Pharoah and O'Reilly mares are of further interest; the former being out of a Storm Cat line mare - and that stallion has so successfully combined with Fastnet Rock in the pedigrees of 34 stakes winners including six Gr.1 winners.

Little wonder this works - Storm Cat's very fast grandam Crimson Saint also the dam of Royal Academy, Fastnet Rock's dam sire. Of the Storm Cat line, Fastnet Rock fares especially well with Lope de Vega/Giant's Causeway and Hennessy.

O'Reilly mares meanwhile provide for the chance to duplicate the terrific mare Sex Appeal - dam of Try My Best (whose son Last Tycoon features in the pedigrees of many broodmares in this part of the world - and his grandson Written Tycoon was last season's Champion Sire) whose full brother El Gran Senor is First Defence's second dam sire.

This is the prolific Best In Show family which has fared so well in Australia, its other members including Spinning World, Xaar, Manhattan Rain (by Encosta de Lago as is Rubick), Al Maher, Hurricane Sky, Umatilla, Domesday,

Good Journey, Masterclass and of course Redoute's Choice. He is best sourced away from the direct male line (noting that such Danehill line-breeding tends to underperform) such as members of the Zoustar sire line - that grandson of Encosta de Lago being out of a Redoute's Choice mare.

Glenfiddich is line-bred to Best In Show's ancestress Torpenhow whose descendant Nijinsky II (sire of Fastnet Rock's dam sire Royal Academy) combines very well with his 3/4 brother The Minstrel.

Back to American Pharoah - his sire Pioneerof The Nile is a descendant of the influential mare Clonasee to whom Glenfiddich's dam sire First Defence is line-bred - boasting two strains of her descendant In Reality and one of her great grandson Prince Blessed. Strains of Clonasee can also be sourced via strains of Rolling Minstrel, Glint Of Gold, Floral Pegasus, Decathlon and Tank's Prospect.

Glenfiddich's third dam sire Northern Flagship hails from a terrific family - his grandam, the dual stakes winner Dinner Partner, a proven line-breeding subject with the local superstar Northerly one of the great examples. His sire Serheed is a grandson of Dinner Partner whilst his dam sire Bellwater is out of mare by her son Jim French.

The Melbourne Cup winner Americain - who has daughters at stud - is also line-bred to this family via Blue Swords (dam sire of Hail To Reason who is easily found in Australia as the sire of Roberto and Halo) and Arazi. The latter also stood locally as did his relations Key Dancer, Joyeux Danseur and Varick.

First Defence is bred on the highly successful Mr Prospector/Seattle Slew cross, noting that those two stallions are both descendants of the great mare Myrtlewood, in turn descendant of the influential Frizette. There is plenty of this family about - seek strains of Shecky Greene, Darshaan, Elusive Quality, Baldrick, Sing Sing, Roan Rocket, Jugah, Bismark II, Prince True, Artie Schiller, Djeddah, Tourbillon, Daliapour, Bahri, Bahhare, Jet Pilot, Tiger, Bailjumper, Roy, Gold And Ivory and Mukaddamah.

Strains of Rasper, Crepello, St Crepe, Sunny Way and Rangong and Ribotlight are also worth seeking - each of those stallions being descendants of the lovely mare Red Sunset to whom such great gallopers as Sunline and Desert War are line-bred - and she is the grandam of Fastnet Rock's fourth dam sire Better Honey.

We have already mentioned a number of broodmare sires who have fared well with Fastnet Rock - others include Bite The Bullet, Dehere, Fuji Kiseki, Fusaichi Pegasus (descendant of Cherokee Rose as is Royal Academy), Hussonet, Indian Ridge, Monsun, Peintre Celebre and Volksraad.