

Invader's First Crop - Kristen Manning

When a stallion's debut crop produces a Gr.1 winner, breeders rightly take note - particularly interested in the sort of mating that led to that early success.

And there are no surprises regarding Invader's first star Sunshine In Paris, daughter of a mare by Zabeel with whom Invader's sire Snitzel has always enjoyed great success... like father, like son!

Six of Snitzel's stakes winners are out of Zabeel mares... a 12% stakes winner ratio that outperforms Snitzel's overall 9.4% record.

Sunshine In Paris' dam Zenaida was the only Zabeel mare to visit Invader in his first season... undoubtedly there will be more now! Especially as Zabeel has also combined exceptionally well (38 stakes winners - nine Gr.1 winners) with Invader's dam sire Encosta de Lago.

No surprises there either, Encosta de Lago's sire Fairy King being a 3/4 brother to Zabeel's dam sire Nureyev whilst his dam sire Star Way hails from the same prolific Selene family as Zabeel's sire Sir Tristram.

Invader (whose Scone Inglis Challenge winner Vegas Raider has Zabeel as his second dam sire) boasts a further strain of the great Simon's Shoes family from which Fairy King and Nureyev hail... his third dam sire Topsider. Zabeel's dam also has another strain - her second dam sire Val de Loir.

The influence of another famed matriarch is noteworthy with Sunshine In Paris carrying a rare strain of the stallion Avocat General, descendant of the great Cinna... also ancestress of Invader's second dam sire Clay Hero and dam of Beau Pere who makes his presence felt in the pedigree of Invader's great grandsire Danehill.

Avocat General strains may be difficult to locate but there is plenty of Cinna out there... she is ancestress of Sunday Silence, Show A Heart, Whistling Wind, Vice Regal, Sky Chase and Carry A Smile.

Back to Vegas Raider... he is one of several promising Invaders line-bred to Encosta de Lago's family. He is out of a Flying Spur (whose dam Rolls is Encosta de Lago's grandam) line mare - as are the in-form gallopers Redavni, Victory Lane and Royal Invader.

The now Hong Kong based unbeaten galloper Nishikado is out of a granddaughter of Encosta de Lago's relative Night Shift whilst the consistent Movader carries another strain of this prolific family... L'Enjoleur.

Nishikado is also line-bred to Fairy Bridge as is Invertational, impressive winner of his last three... and so is Vain Invader and Invasive who also show promise. As do Storm The Fortress and Lady Masquerade; the former is line-bred to Redoute's Choice's ancestress Best In Show via Try My Best/Last Tycoon and whilst the latter's dam sire Royal Academy hails from the same Woodbine family as Invader.

And so it seems Invader is already picking up on the strengths of his pedigrees - great early signs!

Pedigree Analysis - Kristen Manning

A member of the flourishing Danehill sire line out of a mare by the great Encosta de Lago, Invader has plenty to offer breeders.

One of the 148 stakes winners bred on this Danehill/Encosta de Lago combination, he is by the four times Australian Champion Sire Snitzel who has done such a great job with a variety of mares.

Such as daughters of Zabeel - five of Snitzel's 30 winners out of his mares being stakes winners. And Zabeel line mares are of particular interest for Invader with his strain of Star Way who hails from the same prolific Selene family as Zabeel's legendary sire Sir Tristram... noting that within five generations alone Star Way and Sir Tristram have combined in the pedigrees of 130 stakes winners, 25 of whom are Gr.1 winners.

Plus Zabeel's dam Lady Giselle is bred on a 6 X 6 cross of the famed matriarch Simon's Shoes via her descendants Nureyev and Val de Loir. Meanwhile Invader's dam is also line-bred to this family via Nureyev's 3/4 brother Fairy King (so far 84 stakes winners with this Nureyev/Fairy King combo including 13 Gr.1 winners... a mix that provides for a cross of the aptly named mare Special) and Topsider.

It is a case of the more the better for this internationally renowned family which can so easily be sourced via strains of Sadler's Wells (full brother to Fairy King), Thatch, Thatching, Lt Stevens, Ridan, Lorenzaccio and Reform.

Several members of this family have stood in Australia, such as Headwater (whose dam sire Hurricane Sky is a half-brother to Redoute's Choice's dam), Smart Missile, Tate Gallery, Perugino (sire of Testa Rossa), Geiger Counter, Yeats, Dusty Boots, Jade Robbery, Dreamscape and Fiorente whose dam sire Pilsudski is by Polish Precedent whose Gr.3 winning third dam Lady Be Good is Invader's sixth dam.

Line-breeding to the family of a stallion is a very successful method and Invader hails from an outstanding one! It is definitely worth seeking out strains of other Lady Be Good descendants such as Zilzal (a son of Nureyev), Posse, Wavering Monarch (sire of Maria's Mon), Piccolino, Approve (out of a Sadler's Wells mare), Intikhab, Motivator (grandson of Sadler's Wells) and Mining whose grandam Impish is Invader's fifth dam.

Ancestress of this family is 1860 born mare Woodbine who has made such a great mark on the breed - and of whom Invader boasts multiple crosses; including Sir Ivor (6 X 6), Menow, Crafty Admiral, Sweep, Damascus, Havresac II and Intent.

Other Woodbine descendants include Red God (sire of Blushing Groom), Bold Ruler (sire of Secretariat, noting that Invader boasts strains of his half-brother Sir Gaylord... of particular note are French Deputy mares; he has Bold Ruler as his second dam sire and he is dam sire of three stakes winners from just eight runners by Snitzel), Be My Guest, Storm Cat, Royal Academy (it is worth noting that daughter of his son Bel Esprit have had seven runners by Snitzel - all winners including two stakes winners), Fusaichi Pegasus (dam sire of two Snitzel stakes winners), Green Line Express, Spectacular Love, Polar Falcon (by Nureyev), Captain Rio (by Polar Falcon), Last Tycoon (whose sire Try My Best hails from the same Best In Show family as Redoute's Choice), Shalford (line-bred to the Simon's Shoes family), Touching Wood, Phone Trick, Hennessy, Bletchley Park (whose dam sire Ahonoora is by Simon's Shoes descendant Lorenzaccio), Postponed, Danasinga (out of an Ahonoora mare), Green Forest (by Shecky Greene from the family of Encosta de Lago's second dam sire Mr Prospector), Assert, Hotel Grand, Outback Prince, Celtic Swing, Roi Dagobert and Conquistador Cielo (sire of El Moxie from the family of Danehill and Northern Dancer).

There are not a lot of Mint Lane mares around but he is worth a mention with his heavy Woodbine influence.

Last Tycoon is mentioned above and members of his line are also terrific for Redoute's Choice line horses with the wonderful mare Best In Show - one of the great modern day line-breeding influences - duplicated. Snitzel and Last Tycoon combine for an excellent 71.1% winners-to-runners strike rate with 14 of the 118 winners being stakes winners including the rising star Incentivise.

Redoute's Choice is out of a mare by Nijinsky II who is, like Best In Show, a descendant of the influential Torpenhow. It is well worth seeking strains of Nijinsky's 3/4 brothers Far North and The Minstrel.

And there are other Best In Show strains to be found... Good Journey and Spinning World (both by Nureyev), the half-brothers Umatilla and Hurricane Sky (sons of Redoute's Choice's grandam Dancing Show), Al Maher (grandson of Dancing Show), El Gran Senor (Try My Best's half-brother), Dr Johnson, Xaar (his sire Zafonic is out of a mare by The Minstrel), Thewayyouare (has both Nureyev and Sadler's Wells), Gielgud, Masterclass (by The Minstrel), Denon and Domesday (out of a Zafonic mare).

The latter is a son of Red Ransom whose daughters have fared well with Snitzel... four of the 23 winners bred on this cross being stakes winners. Another Red Ransom stallion of great interest is Charge Forward whose second dam sire Valid Appeal is a grandson of Snitzel's fifth dam Scotch Verdict.

23 of the 33 runners bred on a Snitzel/Charge Forward cross are winners with four being stakes winners including the Golden Slipper heroine Estijaab.

The influence of Encosta de Lago's family is also worth tapping into, such as via mares with a strain of his close relation Flying Spur who provide for a cross of the lovely mare Rolls. This Encosta de Lago/Flying Spur combo has produced 21 stakes winners including three Gr.1 winners and it works particularly well via Sebring, son of a Flying Spur mare.

Rolls is a granddaughter of Northern Dancer's outstanding daughter Fanfreluche, in turn daughter of the influential Ciboulette. This family is a proven high class line-breeding force, one which can also be found in Snaadee, Brazen Beau, Family Ties, Night Shift, Archregent, Kheleyf and Holy Roman Emperor.

Invader carries several strains of the influential mare Frizette, ancestress of Mr Prospector, Djedday and Judger. Her other descendants include Roan Rocket (dam sire of Rory's Jester), Lomond, Seattle Slew, Roy, Shecky Greene, Seattle Dancer, Bold Native, Bahri, Bahhare, Tourbillon, Djeddah, Bismark II, Baldric, Half Iced, Sing Sing, Jugah, Artie Schiller (grandson of Sadler's Wells), Prince True, Mukaddamah, Twenty Four Karat, Darshaan, Daliapour, Tiger, Straight As A Die, Heart Of Darkness, Gold And Ivory, Sunrise County, Bailjumper and Elusive Quality.

Daughters of the latter are of particular interest as they have fared very well with Snitzel - 14 of the 16 runners bred on this cross being winners, five of them stakes winners. Elusive Quality is by Gone West whose dam sire Secretariat is Sir Gaylord's half-brother whilst Elusive Quality's dam sire Hero's Honor is out of a mare by Graustark who has always combined exceptionally well with his full brother His Majesty - Danehill's dam sire.

And Invader is already line-bred to this family with his fourth dam sire Majestic Prince being a great grandson of Boudoir II, third dam of His Majesty and Graustark. Other members of this family include Crowned Prince (dam sire of Zeditave), Whiskey Road and Our Poetic Prince.

General Nediym mares have fared well with Snitzel - of the 25 runners, 22 being winners; three of those being stakes winners including the Gr.1 sprinters Sizzling and I Am Excited. General Nediym's sire Nediym has much in common with Redoute's Choice's dam sire Canny Lad (Mumtaz Begum influence) and this line is of great interest for Invader who boasts a rare strain of Edmundo whose dam Weighbridge is third dam of General Nediym's dam sire Without Fear. General Nediym had just 12 runners out of mares carrying an Edmundo strain with two of the seven runners being stakes winners.

Invader's second dam sire Clay Hero is a descendant of the great mare Cinna whose highly successful son Beau Pere (three times Australian Champion Sire) is the second dam sire of Danehill's dam sire His Majesty.

Further Cinna strains are desirable and she is also ancestress of Sunday Silence, Show A Heart (dam sire of six winners from eight runners by Snitzel including this year's stakes winner Royalzel), Whistling Wind, Vice Regal, Sky Chase and Carry A Smile.

Boasting multiple Northern Dancer strains (Danzig, Nijinsky II, Grand Chaudiere, Storm Bird, Firy King, Fanfreluche, Topsider), Invader is line-bred to that legendary stallion's dam Natalma, also third dam of Danehill. This is just a fantastic family to line-breed to with its other members including Machiavellian and Halo - as well as El Moxie, Gleam Machine, Nuclear Freeze, Arctic Tern, Eagle Eyed, Catrail, Youthful Legs, Diatribe, Orpen and Exit To Nowhere.

The Kentucky Oaks heroine Lalun is always worth duplicating - her son Bold Reason is the dam sire of Encosta de Lago's sire Fairy King and this family also appears in Snitzel with his dam sire Snippets being out of a mare by Grand Chaudiere whose fifth dam Sunshot is Lalun's fourth dam.

Strains of Bold Reason's half-brother Never Bend (sire of Mill Reef and Riverman) are highly desirable whilst other members of this family include Wolver Hollow, Shinko Forest, New Approach, Alfred Nobel, Windsor Lad, Solferino, Frontal, No Robbery, Supernatural, Our Babu, King Of The Tudors, No Faith and Niccolo Polo.

Snippets' dam Easy Date is a lovely mare to line-breed to though the most prolific source is Not A Single Doubt and you probably don't want the Redoute's Choice cross too close! There is plenty of the Easy Date family around though and she is also third dam of Zizou.

Easy Date's dam sire Misty Day is a son of another great mare in Grey Flight who is also lovely to duplicate... look for her in Gray Phantom, What A Pleasure, Sovereign Dancer, Priolo, Bold Lad, Secret Savings and First Consul (second dam sire of Lonhro whose daughters have had just six runners by Snitzel, two of whom are stakes winners).

Broodmare sires who have done well with Snitzel include Starcraft, Success Express, Timber Country, Tale Of The Cat, Gold Fever, Made Of Gold, Mister C, More Than Ready, Mr Greeley and O'Reilly (by Last Tycoon).