

## WEST COAST

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## Out of This World

*Linda Madsen brings  
Thoroughbreds to Milky Way Farm*

BY TRACY GANTZ

**LINDA MADSEN CAN'T** point to one incident in her life that put her on the path to Thoroughbreds. It could have been that first visit to Santa Anita Park with her mother on her seventh birthday, her marriage to Thoroughbred veterinarian Dr. Larry Seeman, or the time neighbor Dan Schiffer and his trainer, Mel Stute, needed a place to board horses.

"I've always absolutely loved Thoroughbreds," said Madsen.

While Madsen's Milky Way Farm near Temecula, Calif., has been devoted only to Thoroughbreds for about eight years, she brings a lifetime of horsemanship to the venture. Her parents, Leland and Esther May Mekeel, raised champion Arabians beginning before Linda was born, and she showed those horses growing up.



ANNE M. EBERHARDT

Linda Madsen, owner of Milky Way Farm, at the 2013 Keeneland January sale

# Performance Proven in California

## HEATSEEKER

### #1 California Freshman Sire

2012 year-end of \$415,412 is the highest single season first-crop total in California since 2008

Second-ranked among California's leading juvenile sires of 2012 by winners and races won

Worldwide earnings topped \$520,000 as of 1/29/13: **16** winners of **22** races on dirt, turf and synthetic, including a \$150,000 stakes score and three stakes-placings.



Giant's Causeway-Rusty Back, by Defensive Play  
**2013 Fee: \$5,000 Live Foal**

## LUCKY PULPIT

### #1 California Third Crop Sire

Lifetime A-E Index (1.75) is second only to **Unusual Heat** among California sires and second only to **Tapit** among **Pulpit's** sons at stud

Lifetime Average Earnings per Runner: **\$53,320**  
**79%** Winners from Starters / **20%** Wins from Starts



His **\$27,000** filly at Barretts' January Sale was the third highest-priced yearling sold.



Pulpit-Lucky Soph, by Cozzene  
**2013 Fee: \$2,500 Live Foal**

### ALSO STANDING

#### UNUSUAL HEAT

Nureyev-Rossard  
**2013 Book Full**

#### THORN SONG

Unbridled's Song-Festal  
**Fee: \$3,500 Live Foal**

#### DESERT CODE

E Dubai-Chatta Code  
**Fee: \$2,000 Live Foal**

#### TIZBUD

Cee's Tizzy-Cee's Song  
**Fee: \$1,500 Live Foal**

#### LUCKY J. H.

Cee's Tizzy-Lucky C. H.  
**Fee: \$1,500 Live Foal**

All stallions are nominated to the Breeders' Cup. Stud fees are payable at foaling.  
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## 2012 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

 Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion Foreign foaled, YOB, Sire, Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	Chief Earner, Earnings	2012 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	UNUSUAL HEAT 90, Nureyev, Harris Farms	\$20,000	118/55	10/13	3/10	Unusual Heatwave, \$337,374	<b>\$4,610,915</b>	*571	37	2.16	1.24
2	TRIBAL RULE 96, Storm Cat, Ballena Vista Farm	\$6,500	169/98	7/8	4/7	Eternal Rule, \$292,350	<b>\$3,865,413</b>	456	27	1.40	1.19
3	KAFWAIN 00, Cherokee Run, Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	139/75	5/11	3/5	Daisy Devine, \$412,932	<b>\$3,160,191</b>	*412	18	1.15	1.28
4	BENCHMARK 91, Alydar, Ballena Vista Farm	\$5,000	125/83	5/6	0/5	Missdealornodeal, \$187,509	<b>\$2,565,591</b>	655	34	1.25	1.14
5	MINISTERS WILD CAT 00, Deputy Minister, Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	119/67	7/12	3/7	Doinghardtimeagain, \$198,500	<b>\$2,381,289</b>	222	12	0.98	1.00
6	OLD TOPPER 95, Gilded Time, Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	131/73	3/3	0/3	Ain't No Other, \$145,780	<b>\$2,354,337</b>	481	21	0.96	0.86
7	SOUTHERN IMAGE 00, Halo's Image, Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	95/48	3/8	0/3	Winning Image, \$267,232	<b>\$1,811,224</b>	*367	5	1.33	1.37
8	MARINO MARINI 00, Storm Cat, Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	97/47	2/3	1/2	Starlight Magic, \$238,120	<b>\$1,621,644</b>	243	5	0.95	1.00
9	UNBRIDLED ENERGY 02, Unbridled's Song, Golden Eagle Farm	\$2,500	93/53	1/1	0/1	Cosmic Energy, \$159,104	<b>\$1,619,802</b>	*167	4	1.03	1.20
10	SWISS YODELER 94, Eastern Echo, Lovacres Ranch	\$3,000	103/50	4/8	1/4	Tilde, \$344,560	<b>\$1,591,105</b>	677	27	1.04	1.09
11	SALT LAKE 89, Deputy Minister	Died, 2010	82/40	6/9	0/6	Hamazing Destiny, \$249,449	<b>\$1,563,647</b>	*1210	57	1.41	1.41
12	DECARCHY 97, Distant View, Magali Farms	\$3,000	100/42	1/1	0/1	Stoney Fleece, \$146,198	<b>\$1,366,817</b>	268	7	0.96	0.99
13	GOOD JOURNEY 96, Nureyev, Magali Farms	\$4,000	60/30	1/4	1/1	Dancingtothestars, \$174,856	<b>\$1,354,693</b>	*301	2	1.59	1.04
14	AWESOME GAMBLER 04, Coronado's Quest, Lovacres Ranch	\$5,000	41/16	1/3	0/1	Willia B Awesome, \$457,000	<b>\$1,225,138</b>	78	1	1.46	0.78
15	LUCKY PULPIT 01, Pulpit, Harris Farms	\$2,500	40/25	1/1	1/1	Rousing Sermon, \$213,500	<b>\$1,105,835</b>	67	3	1.72	1.20

## 2013 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

Rank	Stallion Foreign foaled, YOB, Sire, Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	Chief Earner, Earnings	2013 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	MINISTERS WILD CAT 00, Deputy Minister, Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	48/11	2/2	1/2	Tiz a Minister, \$171,000	<b>\$350,613</b>	233	13	0.99	1.00
2	UNUSUAL HEAT 90, Nureyev, Harris Farms	\$20,000	40/3	0/0	0/0	Unusual Way, \$57,000	<b>\$325,901</b>	*609	37	2.16	1.24
3	TRIBAL RULE 96, Storm Cat, Ballena Vista Farm	\$6,500	74/8	0/0	0/0	Tribal Gal, \$34,800	<b>\$255,737</b>	514	27	1.39	1.19
4	SALT LAKE 89, Deputy Minister	Died, 2010	21/5	1/1	0/1	Teddy's Promise, \$150,000	<b>\$192,202</b>	*1219	57	1.41	1.41
5	OLD TOPPER 95, Gilded Time, Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	38/7	0/0	0/0	Unstopper Topper, \$45,240	<b>\$185,497</b>	492	21	0.96	0.86
6	BENCHMARK 91, Alydar, Ballena Vista Farm	\$5,000	37/7	0/0	0/0	Marks Mine, \$55,620	<b>\$164,865</b>	675	34	1.25	1.15
7	GOOD JOURNEY 96, Nureyev, Magali Farms	\$4,000	27/5	0/0	0/0	Zuboff, \$34,800	<b>\$155,230</b>	*324	2	1.59	1.04
8	KAFWAIN 00, Cherokee Run, Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	34/4	1/1	0/1	Daisy Devine, \$45,000	<b>\$137,220</b>	*443	18	1.15	1.28
9	TIZBUD 99, Cee's Tizzy, Harris Farms	\$1,500	22/4	1/1	1/1	Tiz Flirtatious, \$60,000	<b>\$121,053</b>	143	4	1.01	0.95
10	UNBRIDLED ENERGY 02, Unbridled's Song, Golden Eagle Farm	\$2,500	30/6	0/0	0/0	Eternal Flight, \$33,000	<b>\$118,484</b>	*190	4	1.03	1.20
11	MARINO MARINI 00, Storm Cat, Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	23/6	0/0	0/0	Mighty Marino, \$24,882	<b>\$103,182</b>	257	5	0.95	1.00
12	HEATSEEKER IRE 03, Giant's Causeway, Harris Farms	\$5,000	20/5	0/0	0/0	Red Hot Tweet, \$21,660	<b>\$97,766</b>	*79	1	0.87	1.68
13	CINDAGO 03, Indian Charlie	Died	7/2	0/0	0/0	Twelve Folds, \$34,800	<b>\$91,804</b>	53	2	1.70	1.44
14	PERFECT MANDATE 96, Gone West	Died, 2012	19/4	0/0	0/0	Justification, \$33,850	<b>\$88,972</b>	298	11	0.92	1.25
15	VRONSKY 99, Danzig, Old English Rancho	\$3,500	13/3	0/0	0/0	Master Chef, \$34,800	<b>\$81,798</b>	103	3	1.61	0.94

## Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood deceased in North America stallions exported prior to the 2008 breeding season are excluded, and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2012. As supplied to *The Blood-Horse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems, Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. \*Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race. (2013 racing statistics through Jan. 29. Sires exported prior to the 2009 breeding season are excluded)

\*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.



Sundarban, a son of A.P. Indy, stands at Milky Way Farm

Today, while part of 100-acre Milky Way is leased to another Arabian breeder, Madsen has switched the farm's emphasis to Thoroughbreds. She has brought the same tenacity and dedication to this breed as she and her family did to Arabians.

"Anything we've ever done, we've tried to do the best," said Madsen.

That philosophy put her family on top of the Arabian show world and took her to championships in showing both Guernsey and long-horned cattle. Now Madsen is building a Thoroughbred broodmare band that she hopes will prove the farm's stallions and establish Milky Way as a major California breeding, boarding, and layup farm.

If Milky Way's Thoroughbred operation can parallel its Arabian success, Madsen will accomplish her goal. She speaks proudly of her parents being honored as two of the Arabian breeders of the century in 2000 just a few years before they passed away. One Arabian organization once selected the top 50 broodmares living or dead in the U.S., and 39 of them had passed

# BALLENA VISTA FARM

## California's Best Value Roster for 2013



### TRIBAL RULE

*Storm Cat-Sown, by Grenfall*

#1 California Sire by 2011-2012 Two-Year-Old Earnings

#1 California Sire by 2011-2012 Number of Winners

**2011-2012 Progeny Earnings: \$7,353,976**

**2013 Fee: \$6,500 LFSN**

### BENCHMARK

*Alydar-Winters' Love, by Danzig*

#1 California Sire by Races Won in 2009, 2010 and 2012

Most recent of 34 stakes winners is Debutante winner

**Marks Mine**, already Santa Anita stakes-placed in 2013

**2013 Fee: \$5,000 LFSN**

### DIXIE CHATTER

*Dixie Union-Mini Chat, by Deputy Minister*

#1 California First-Crop Sale sire with a 2012 yearling average of \$42,092 – more than 8X his stud fee.

Only **G1** winner by his sire standing for less than \$35,000

**2013 Fee: \$5,000 LFSN**

### IDIOT PROOF

*Benchmark-Perfectly Pretty, by Bertrando*

**G1** winner of \$1.3 Million set **NTR's** of 1:07.47 and 1:07.57

Recorded the fourth highest Beyer (**113**) at 3 from his crop,

topping **Hard Spun** and **Street Sense**

**2013 Fee: \$1,500 LFSN**

### CALIMONCO

*Storm Cat-Sweet Life, by Kris S.*

**G2**-placed stakes-winning miler at Santa Anita and Del Mar with earnings of nearly \$400,000 is the leading **STORM CAT** money winner to enter stud in California.

**2013 Fee: \$1,500 LFSN**

*All stallions are Breeders' Cup nominated.*

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# 2012 LEADING SIRES IN WASHINGTON

Rank	Stallion Foreign foaled, YOB, Sire, Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	Chief Earner, Earnings	2012 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>PARKER'S STORM CAT</b> 00, Storm Cat, Gibson Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	49/21	3/8	0/3	Ben's Cat, \$557,060	<b>\$1,544,455</b>	*192	4	1.24	1.13
2	<b>MATTY G</b> 93, Capote, El Dorado Farms	\$2,000	101/59	3/3	0/3	Format V., \$60,492	<b>\$853,829</b>	*478	17	0.85	1.00
3	<b>CAHILL ROAD</b> 88, Fappiano	Died, 2010	61/35	0/0	0/0	Royal Moses, \$45,137	<b>\$534,067</b>	*637	31	0.97	1.14
4	<b>SECRET ROMEO</b> 98, Service Stripe	N/A	20/13	2/4	2/2	Brandys Secret, \$120,896	<b>\$480,768</b>	54	3	0.97	0.82
5	<b>TRIBUNAL</b> 97, Deputy Minister	Died, 2008	41/19	1/1	1/1	Kooky Saluki, \$57,507	<b>\$374,273</b>	185	12	0.75	0.74
6	<b>HE'S TOPS</b> 93, Seattle Slew, Woodstead Farm	\$1,500	41/28	2/4	0/2	E Z Kitty, \$61,800	<b>\$372,195</b>	273	12	0.55	0.66
7	<b>YOU AND I</b> 91, Kris S.	N/A	40/21	0/0	0/0	Are You Serious, \$46,360	<b>\$361,746</b>	*486	20	1.09	1.36
8	<b>DELINEATOR</b> 91, Storm Cat	N/A	40/25	2/2	1/2	Cielator, \$47,952	<b>\$308,094</b>	313	18	0.63	0.86
9	<b>POLISH MINER</b> 97, Danzig	N/A	33/13	0/0	0/0	Centripetal Motion, \$56,355	<b>\$301,411</b>	153	1	0.97	0.97
10	<b>PRIVATE GOLD</b> 00, Seeking the Gold, El Dorado Farms	\$1,500	43/17	0/0	0/0	Valley News, \$49,160	<b>\$298,504</b>	119	5	0.49	0.60
11	<b>LIBERTY GOLD</b> 94, Crafty Prospector, El Dorado Farms	\$2,000	30/15	1/2	0/1	Mike Man's Gold, \$65,656	<b>\$237,861</b>	163	8	0.40	0.62
12	<b>FREE AT LAST</b> 89, Wild Again	N/A	35/18	0/0	0/0	Remarkably Free, \$17,023	<b>\$196,935</b>	449	24	0.56	0.75
13	<b>KATOWICE</b> 87, Danzig	N/A	26/14	0/0	0/0	Brady's Kat, \$26,663	<b>\$190,709</b>	405	19	0.81	1.02
14	<b>MAKORS MARK</b> 97, Son of Briartic	N/A	8/3	1/4	0/1	Makors Finale, \$140,370	<b>\$177,492</b>	46	1	0.41	0.79
15	<b>NACHEEZMO</b> 00, Carson City, Don Munger Farm	\$1,000	25/19	1/1	1/1	Roveing Patrol, \$22,175	<b>\$164,697</b>	37	1	0.25	0.32
16	<b>TRAIL CITY</b> 93, Red Ransom	Died, 2008	15/10	0/0	0/0	Paseo de Ramon, \$27,153	<b>\$154,952</b>	151	4	0.73	0.93
17	<b>RAISE THE BLUFF</b> 03, Pine Bluff, El Dorado Farms	\$1,000	20/11	1/1	1/1	Master's Bluff, \$26,290	<b>\$133,436</b>	40	1	0.35	0.51
18	<b>CHUMAREE</b> 98, Hennessy	N/A	34/14	2/4	0/2	Yellow Chumarine, \$38,181	<b>\$119,162</b>	75	2	0.15	0.33
19	<b>RUSSELLTHEMUSSELL</b> 94, American Standard	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	Chukchi Sunrise, \$105,850	<b>\$111,203</b>	38	0	0.39	0.39
20	<b>STOLEN GOLD</b> 94, Conquistador Cielo, Pulse Ranches	\$2,000	12/5	0/0	0/0	Fable Haven, \$52,090	<b>\$86,021</b>	96	3	0.64	0.48



Milky Way Farm comprises 100 acres near Temecula, Calif.



Milky Way stallion Roman Commander

through the Mekeels' program.

Linda's parents founded their first Arabian farm near Whittier, Calif., in 1938 and moved to the Temecula property in 1967. At one time, they bred 400 mares annually.

"We brought in studs from Poland," Madsen said, "and we were looking more at the mothers even than the sires because it seemed like if you had a really good fe-

male family, you were going to go to a good stud. We tried to put the best broodmare band together that we possibly could. That's what we're trying to do with the Thoroughbreds."

With the help of bloodstock agent Gayle Van Leer, Madsen has been traveling to Kentucky to buy mares for the farm's stallions—Sundarban, Roman Commander, and One Man Army. They look for mares

by good stallions out of live families without blowing the budget.

"We have to work real hard for every single mare," said Van Leer.

Van Leer began helping Madsen in 2008. The first mare Van Leer advised Madsen on was Three Gifts, a daughter of Giant's Causeway—Prospect of Joy, by Mr. Prospector.

Madsen has brought in several partners



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From left, Marci Leifer, Madsen, and bloodstock agent Gayle Van Leer

on the mares, primarily Jeff Stiefel and Joy Seifert. The Milky Way broodmare band currently numbers about 15. It includes a second daughter of Giant's Causeway, a full sister to grade I winner Exotic Wood, a Distorted Humor half sister to stakes winner Exotic Bloom, a full sister to stakes winner Chocolate Candy, and a Chilean champion miler out of a daughter of Japan Cup (Jpn-I) winner Mairzy Doates.

"I think they've gotten good value for the mares they have bought in the past few years," said Van Leer.

At the 2013 Keeneland January sale on Van Leer's advice, Madsen purchased Amanzi (an 11-year-old daughter of Red Ransom—Nickel Classic, by Regal Classic, in foal to Cape Blanco) for \$25,000 and A P's Regal Ransom (a 4-year-old daughter of A.P. Indy—Rubicat, by Storm Cat) for \$17,000.

"Gayle has been a big help," said Madsen, "and she has made it so fun for us."

Many of the mares will go to Sundarban in 2013. He is a 7-year-old son of A.P. Indy who earned \$103,340 and whose first foals are now yearlings. Sundarban's dam, Desert Tigress, is a full sister to the second dam of 2012 CashCall Futurity (gr. I) winner Violence, being by Storm Cat out of champion Sky Beauty.

Madsen first saw Sundarban as a horse in training at a sale in Kentucky and loved his looks and bloodlines. The horse had been running in the East and Midwest, and the next time Madsen noticed him, he was in training with Jerry Hollendorfer in California. Ultimately, Madsen, Stiefel, and Seifert were able to acquire him.

"We were delighted to get him," said Madsen. "It was just like it was meant to be."

Stiefel also owns One Man Army, the sire of 2009 Malibu

Stakes (gr. I) winner M One Rifle. Now 19, One Man Army is a son of Roman Diplomat—Precious Jet, by Tri Jet. He stands privately to Stiefel's mares.

Roman Commander rounds out the current Milky Way stallion roster, though Madsen said she might add one or two more stallions in the future. A 9-year-old son of Deputy Commander—Jettin Diplomacy, by Roman Diplomat, Roman Commander won the 2006 Real Quiet Stakes and Barretts Juvenile Stakes and finished third in that year's Hollywood Futurity (gr. I). Kendall Mann raced the horse and continues to own him as a stallion.

Madsen said she feels the time is right to breed mares in California and work to develop some good regional stallions. As the number of mares bred has dwindled in the state, the California-bred foal crop has shrunk. To boost those numbers, the state's incentive program offers lucrative bonuses to owners, breeders, and stallion owners and has added more stakes for California-breds and California-sired runners.

Madsen has previously taken a chance on a young, unproven stallion. Her hus-

band did veterinary work for many of the area's Thoroughbred farms during the 1980s, including El Rancho Murrieta, owned in part by Hall of Fame trainer Charlie Whittingham. The ranch was standing Runaway Groom, a Canadian champion who won the 1982 Travers Stakes (gr. I) by defeating all three winners of that year's Triple Crown events.

Seeman liked the stallion so much that he suggested they breed a mare to him. They took Trumpet Blues, a daughter of classic winner Personality, to Runaway Groom.

Runaway Groom is a California stallion that got away. He only stood one season in the state before moving to Florida, where he developed into an outstanding sire. Runaway Groom's one California crop included Trumpet Blues' daughter Runaway Blues, bred by Madsen.

Mel Stute trained Runaway Blues for Madsen, who was ecstatic to own a Thoroughbred racehorse. After the filly ran for Madsen several times, Linda lost her in a claiming race. Runaway Blues ultimately earned \$145,800, most of it for Ed and Natalie Friendly. Years later, after the mare had produced several foals, the Friendlys gave her back to Madsen.

"I just thought that was the sweetest thing anyone had ever done," said Madsen. "I never forgot it. I had three more colts out of her. She lived to be 28 years old. It was so fun to have her. We kept her in the front pen her whole life."

During the years that Seeman worked for El Rancho Murrieta, the couple raised their two sons, Terry and John, while living on the Milky Way property. Seeman also did the veterinary work for the family's Arabian operation.

The boys showed cattle, and John now raises cattle with his wife, Rebecca, who is Siefert's daughter. Terry and John obtained finance degrees at college, and Terry works in finance. He and his wife, Bethany, have two children, one of whom, 5-year-old Will, already loves horses.

Madsen recalls stories from the El Rancho Murrieta years, several involving Whittingham and the never-ending series of stakes winners that came through his barn. Many of those horses laid up at El Rancho Murrieta, but some came to Milky Way.

"Charlie would come here, and Bill Shoemaker would come with him," said Madsen. "Charlie was the nicest man in the world. He'd invite us down to the races, and I'd get to go to the barn."

The mare Kilijaro, whose wins included the 1980 Yellow Ribbon Invitational Stakes (gr. IT), 1981 Gamely Handicap (gr.



Longhorn cattle at Milky Way

IIT), and 1981 Matriarch Stakes, particularly impressed Madsen, who wanted to visit her at the barn. Kiljaro was not a particularly friendly individual, and Whittingham warned Madsen to be careful around her stall.

"I wouldn't walk up close to a horse I didn't know anyway," said Madsen. "I wasn't very close, and here she comes from the back of that stall. Her mouth was just wide open, and she grabbed onto the webbing. If anybody had been closer, she would have grabbed onto them, I'm sure."

Thoroughbred layups were just an ancillary part of the Milky Way operation back then. But as her parents got older, Madsen and Seeman began to think about switching from Arabians to Thoroughbreds. Madsen felt the Arabian business was shrinking, and they began scaling back.

In 2005, Schiffer, a longtime breeder and a second-generation president and board member of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association, was selling the family farm, located near Milky Way. He, Stute, and other Schiffer clients ended up boarding horses at Milky Way.

Madsen and Seeman set out to change the course of Milky Way's emphasis, but Madsen eventually had to complete their dream herself after a rough few years. She had to weather the deaths of her mother in 2005, her father in 2007, and—quite unexpectedly—Seeman in 2008.

Having long lived on the Milky Way property just up the hill from her parents' house, Madsen had always been surrounded by family. Her brother, John Mekeel, and his wife, Susie, moved into their parents' house, and Linda enjoys having them close by, especially now that her sons are grown.

Without Seeman, Madsen has brought



COURTESY GAVLE VAN LEER

Madsen and Joy Seifert left with See Alice at the Keeneland January sale

in Dr. Steve Colburn to do the veterinary work. She has several employees to help her, including Jennifer Moore, who works with the stallions and the young horses.

"Linda's doing a great job there, bringing in stallions and mares," said Schiffer. "She's developing the property so that it will be a first-class facility. With fewer and fewer farms now, she's well-located for Southern California horsemen."

Madsen does much of the work herself, including foaling mares. She also preps horses for sales and plans to sell most of the mares' foals at auction as yearlings or 2-year-olds.

"She's hands-on," said Van Leer, "and her horses always look well."

About the only service Milky Way doesn't provide is breaking and training. Instead, Madsen sends horses to Jose Murillo and Ventura Vargas for those lessons.

The mares are divided into small groups among several pastures on the farm that range from five to seven acres each. When Madsen walks in, the mares amble up, hoping for a carrot.

The stallions are housed in nearby small paddocks, the temperate weather allowing them to be outside nearly all the time, though the farm has a total of 60 stalls in its three barns. Madsen also has a pasture of Guernsey cattle, while the longhorns greet visitors from one of the front pastures along the driveway into the property.

"Linda's heart is totally into it," said Van Leer. "She loves what she's doing."

For Madsen, breeding and raising Thoroughbreds is something she has long wanted to do.

"I've got the perfect life," she said. "And to get to be doing this on this scale is really fun." **BH**

# SUNDARBAN

A.P. Indy – Desert Tigress, by Storm Cat

## SKY BEAUTY (G1):

Hall of Fame, 9 Grade 1 Victories  
Champion Older Mare  
Granddam of Sundarban

## POINT OF ENTRY (G1):

\$1,834,490 thru 2012  
2nd Breeders' Cup Turf 2012  
Dam is o/o half-sister to SKY BEAUTY

## VIOLENCE (G1):

\$543,000 (Undefeated 3 starts)  
CashCall Futurity 2012  
Dam is o/o full sister to Desert Tigress

## HURRICANE CAT (G3):

Sire of 6 Group-Winning horses in France and Chile in first two foal crops.  
Full brother to Desert Tigress.

## PLEASANT HOME (G1):

\$1,378,070  
Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1)  
Dam is a half-sister to SKY BEAUTY

## SKY BEAUTY (G1)—Champion Mare

## GOLD BEAUTY (G1)—Champion

DAY JUR (G1)—(Son of GOLD BEAUTY)—  
European Horse of the Year

## IT'S ALL ABOUT FAMILY



One of California's busiest Stallions  
with 48 mares in 2012

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