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Solid as a Rock

Rockridge Stud and Lere Visagie are off to a fast start

BY LENNY SHULMAN
PHOTOS BY SKIP DICKSTEIN

LERE VISAGIE HAS broken from the gate like a rocket with his Rockridge Stud near Hudson, N.Y., a testament to his long track record and sterling reputation in the Empire State.

Having hung out the shingle on his operation last May, Visagie, due to his experience in managing the farm when it was Empire Stud and, most recently, Vinery New York, is already able to boast a quality stallion line-up that includes leading New York sire Bluegrass Cat plus Vinery holdovers Posse, D' Funnybone, and Pomeroy; Eclipse Award-winning sprinter Trinniberg; Empire Maker's son Soaring Empire; incoming grade III winner San Pablo; and Giant Surprise.

"I can't complain about my roster," said Visagie, 38, and a father of two boys. "It's a good entry point, and people will take notice of our operation. Our clients are happy, and we're having a good start for a new venture."

While still in his teens, the native of South Africa came to North America—and specifically Kentucky—to work with horses, first as an intern at Taylor Made Farm and then working with stallions and yearlings there and at Lane's End Farm. An opportunity then arose to move to New York and manage Questroyal Farm, as Visagie began

(continued on page 52)



Lere Visagie, top, has turned Vinery New York into Rockridge Stud

SIZZLING IN 2014


BOB AND JOHN

Top 10 NY Sire

#5 by winners – 11

Co-#1 by repeat winners – 3

\$6,000 live foal



WHO'S HOT?		PROGENY PP COUNTS							
Third-Crop Sires - 90 Days									
Sire	Total Listings	Unique Progeny	STWrs STWins	Black-type Horses	GSWrs GSWins	Graded Stakes Horses	Winners Wins	G2SWrs G2SWins	
Any Given Saturday	24	17	1 1	5	0 0	1	16 10	0 0	
Hard Spun	21	18	1 1	2	1 1	1	18 20	0 0	
Street Sense	16	14	2 2	3	0 0	0	13 15	0 0	
Discreet Cat	13	8	1 1	4	0 0	2	8 8	0 0	
My Golden Sona	13	8	3 5	5	0 0	0	6 9	0 0	
Spot Quality	12	10	1 2	4	1 1	3	7 8	0 0	
Bob and John	11	8	0 0	1	0 0	1	7 10	0 0	
Conobian	11	9	0 0	1	0 0	0	8 10	0 0	
English Channel	10	8	8 7	6	3 4	4	7 9	1 1	
Athle's Storm	9	8	2 2	4	0 0	0	6 6	0 0	

3/8/14

Burning up the tracks

CONGAREE

3 SWnrs already in 2014
First GSWnr of the
Year for a NY Sire

COSMONAUT

#1 2nd Crop Sire in NY
TAKEOFF YOUR HAT
2 straight wins at Gulfstream

MAYBRY'S BOY

66% winners/starters
Maybrys Challenge
AQU mdn win by 3 ¾

STONESIDER

Sinistra, 2nd by a head
\$100,000 Kings Point S.

Plus the first foals by MGSW

SMART BID

are burning up the paddocks!



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2014 Leading Sires in New York

Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2014 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	BLUEGRASS CAT (03, Storm Cat), Rockridge Stud	\$7,500	122/24	0/0	0/0	(Rpretyboyfloyd, \$57,600)	\$729,152	*459	18	1.33	2.02
2	NOBLE CAUSEWAY (02, Giant's Causeway), Sequel Stallions New York	N/A	40/13	1/2	0/1	(Samraat, \$450,000)	\$614,290	195	5	0.76	1.09
3	POSSE (00, Silver Deputy), Rockridge Stud	\$5,000	71/17	1/1	0/1	(Apprehender, \$70,000)	\$565,901	*545	20	1.39	1.37
4	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$10,000	54/12	0/0	0/0	(Your Time Is Up, \$61,800)	\$486,901	*626	35	1.76	1.27
5	CONGAREE (98, Arazi), Saratoga Stud	\$7,500	32/9	3/4	0/3	(Don't Tell Sophia, \$140,000)	\$430,483	*306	15	1.36	1.47
6	UTOPIA (JPN) (00, Forty Niner), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	56/9	0/0	0/0	(First Ranger, \$74,260)	\$314,634	233	5	1.08	1.29
7	DISCO RICO (97, Citidancer), Keane Stud Operations	\$5,000	22/10	0/0	0/0	(Marriedtothemusic, \$83,600)	\$302,676	239	9	1.31	1.23
8	POMEROY (01, Boundary), Rockridge Stud	\$3,500	43/10	0/0	0/0	(Papa's Paisley, \$27,000)	\$268,813	*236	9	1.15	1.33
9	BOB AND JOHN (03, Seeking the Gold), Saratoga Stud	\$6,000	45/11	0/0	0/0	(Dimples, \$33,600)	\$232,398	*170	7	1.01	1.40
10	HERE'S ZEALOUS (97, Dehere), Kaz Hill Farm	\$1,000	26/4	0/0	0/0	(Green Gratto, \$91,800)	\$216,095	172	0	0.82	0.96
11	STONESIDER (03, Giant's Causeway), Saratoga Stud	\$3,500	25/4	0/0	0/0	(Sinistra, \$60,100)	\$206,148	*161	2	1.10	1.24
12	CATIENUS (94, Storm Cat), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	42/10	0/0	0/0	(Jcs American Dream, \$49,500)	\$184,514	*529	26	1.15	1.29
13	FROST GIANT (03, Giant's Causeway), Keane Stud Operations	\$10,000	20/3	0/0	0/0	(Loki's Vengeance, \$51,200)	\$159,500	*111	4	2.41	1.15
14	TEUFLESBERG (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	18/6	0/0	0/0	(Hundred Acre Wood, \$49,036)	\$139,098	68	4	2.10	1.22
15	GOLDEN MISSILE (95, A.P. Indy), Milfer Farm	\$3,500	28/6	0/0	0/0	(Missile Nick, \$21,600)	\$139,009	*616	15	1.06	1.57
16	BUSTIN STONES (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Hot Stones, \$40,607)	\$126,899	65	0	1.39	1.57
17	ALEX'S PAL (99, Valid Expectations), Centennial Farm	\$2,500	13/1	0/0	0/0	(Limestone Cowboy, \$54,800)	\$120,497	88	2	1.32	0.95
18	LEWIS MICHAEL (03, Rahy), Questroyal North	\$3,000	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Los Bambinos, \$28,800)	\$96,594	75	1	0.88	1.23
19	MR. SEKIGUCHI (03, Storm Cat), Mole's Hill Farm	\$2,500	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Sayonaray'all, \$19,200)	\$77,196	*82	1	0.91	1.30
20	MAYBRY'S BOY (99, Broad Brush), Saratoga Stud	\$2,500	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Maybrys Challenge, \$20,832)	\$39,667	14	1	1.61	1.64

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2010 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through March 16, 2014. 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.)

*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.

Bluegrass Cat

Bred to be a racehorse.
Bred to be a sire.



**New York's
Record-Breaking
Champion General
Sire in 2013**

Nearly \$5.5 million in progeny earnings last year, shattering the single-year mark by a NY sire.

\$200,000 colt at 2014 Barretts March

111 two-year-olds race in 2014.

Storm Cat – She's a Winner, by A.P. Indy • \$7,500
Inquiries to Erin Robinson 859/421-7531

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By **STREET CRY** that won a
NY Grade I on dirt

← **HERE COMES BEN**

\$7,500 Live Foal

NY's only sire with a 2012
Grade I winning 3YO champion
BC Sprint winner **TRINNIBERG**

→ **TEUFLESBERG**

\$5,000 Live Foal



#1 third crop sire in NY in 2013
and off to a fast start in 2014 led
by **FIRST RANGER** (\$74,260) with
2 impressive wins at AQU

← **UTOPIA**

\$5,000 Live Foal



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of **Saratoga**
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2014 Leading Sires in Pennsylvania

Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2014 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ANY GIVEN SATURDAY (04, Distorted Humor), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$5,000	86/28	1/1	0/1	(Hoppertunity, \$410,720)	\$1,268,499	*418	10	1.18	1.51
2	ROCKPORT HARBOR (02, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2013	98/18	1/1	0/1	(Cape Cod Carol, \$82,000)	\$714,672	385	22	1.39	1.49
3	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	\$10,000	58/17	2/2	1/2	(Start Jumping, \$71,900)	\$656,492	*823	38	1.56	1.35
4	CORINTHIAN (03, Pulpit), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$4,000	85/27	0/0	0/0	(Frivolity, \$52,440)	\$569,793	*405	6	0.92	1.41
5	OFFLEE WILD (00, Wild Again), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$4,000	66/18	0/0	0/0	(Bayern, \$68,400)	\$510,293	*304	9	1.30	1.28
6	SILVER TRAIN (02, Old Trieste)	Died, 2013	92/22	0/0	0/0	(Balance of Power, \$36,000)	\$506,543	*322	15	1.07	1.36
7	SMARTY JONES (01, Elusive Quality), Northview PA	\$7,500	49/15	0/0	0/0	(Old Time Hockey, \$50,800)	\$385,537	*479	23	1.71	2.15
8	FLASHY BULL (03, Holy Bull), Penn Ridge Farms	\$4,500	48/13	0/0	0/0	(Pink Flash, \$45,800)	\$310,921	189	4	1.21	1.20
9	FAIRBANKS (03, Giant's Causeway), Northview PA	\$3,500	40/9	0/0	0/0	(Shaka Sign, \$24,360)	\$237,955	141	1	0.98	1.34
10	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,500	24/6	0/0	0/0	(Horizontalyspeakin, \$73,800)	\$226,950	173	6	1.32	1.45
11	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$2,500	25/7	0/0	0/0	(Moonshine Mullin, \$41,100)	\$179,976	*355	9	1.15	1.16
12	REAL QUIET (95, Quiet American)	Died, 2010	20/4	0/0	0/0	(Where's Rosie B, \$48,000)	\$167,710	*623	15	1.20	1.23
13	GIMMEAWINK (00, Elusive Quality), Mountain Springs Racing Stable	\$2,500	31/10	0/0	0/0	(Winkatdawaw, \$33,600)	\$160,472	*195	2	0.81	1.10
14	WISEMAN'S FERRY (99, Hennessy), Dana Point Farm	\$5,000	28/8	0/0	0/0	(Wise Mac, \$31,800)	\$144,953	*272	6	1.70	1.07
15	WEIGELIA (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	\$3,500	18/5	0/0	0/0	(Isabella Swift, \$34,120)	\$141,514	54	2	1.17	1.04
16	RIMROD (00, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Neo's Grand Finale, \$27,180)	\$118,770	81	2	1.52	1.18
17	CAT THIEF (96, Storm Cat), Penn Ridge Farms	\$4,000	19/8	0/0	0/0	(Baetykaty, \$25,200)	\$114,474	*468	18	1.18	1.63
18	ACTIVIST (94, Wild Again), Godstone Farm	N/A	22/4	0/0	0/0	(Graced, \$26,310)	\$111,670	173	3	0.96	0.86
19	TALENT SEARCH (03, Catienus), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	13/3	0/0	0/0	(Forbidden Talent, \$23,300)	\$89,252	52	0	0.95	1.41
20	GOT THE LAST LAUGH (04, Distorted Humor), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	12/4	0/0	0/0	(Dixie's Last Laugh, \$21,850)	\$89,248	31	0	1.23	1.15
21	TRAJECTORY (97, Gone West), Mountain Springs Racing Stable	\$3,500	16/7	0/0	0/0	(Mia's Rocket, \$11,714)	\$86,458	361	14	1.10	1.35
22	INVISIBLE INK (98, Thunder Gulch)	Died, 2011	12/5	0/0	0/0	(Adios Nardo, \$33,100)	\$82,697	*109	5	0.88	1.21
23	LITE THE FUSE (91, Buckaroo), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$2,500	15/4	0/0	0/0	(Spark the Fuse, \$15,840)	\$81,144	*531	23	1.24	1.20
24	MORE SMOKE (02, Smoke Glacken), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$1,500	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Raging Smoke, \$28,680)	\$75,444	46	0	0.99	1.26
25	LOVE OF MONEY (01, Not For Love)	Died, 2012	21/3	0/0	0/0	(Wire Funds, \$17,963)	\$73,248	107	2	1.07	1.27
26	DELAWARE TOWNSHIP (96, Notebook), Maui Meadow Farm	\$2,000	12/4	0/0	0/0	(Crossing, \$19,160)	\$67,104	273	7	1.10	1.25
27	POWER BY FAR (95, Power of Mind), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Power's Cupcake, \$25,690)	\$61,282	107	1	1.23	1.20
28	SNOW RIDGE (98, Tabasco Cat)	Died, 2012	13/4	0/0	0/0	(H M S Anniversary, \$21,260)	\$59,064	*280	7	1.01	1.17
29	FORMAL DINNER (88, Well Decorated), Mountain Springs Racing Stable	\$2,000	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Only George, \$13,890)	\$58,543	*639	25	1.08	1.10
30	SOUTHERN SUCCESS (03, Dixieland Band), Dana Point Farm	\$1,000	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Southern Celebrity, \$20,520)	\$47,502	43	0	1.19	1.16

(continued from page 48)

what has become a longtime residency in that state. He went on from Questroyal to manage Sequel Stallions for Becky Thomas, and then moved to Empire Stud and has continued on that land through a couple of administrations. When Vinery began heading for the exit of the North American horse industry, Visagie stepped

up and agreed to buy the property, taking the huge stride from management to ownership.

"When Vinery decided to scale down, it had two farms running in the area and I thought this might be a good opportunity," said Visagie. "I had managed all these big commercial farms in New York for years, but still it is a very big step up to take

over my own place. I had a decent number of clients that would stay with me when Vinery closed, so I decided to go out on my own. I was nervous to make that move, but it was the right thing to do at the time. Last April it was Vinery, and then on the first of May, I changed the sign and it became Rockridge."

Certainly Visagie's familiarity with the



Bluegrass Cat was New York's leading sire in 2013

2014 New York Sires by Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Bluegrass Cat	122	24
Posse	71	17
Noble Causeway	40	13
Freud	54	12
Bob and John	45	11
Pomeroy	43	10
Catienus	42	10
Disco Rico	22	10
Utopia (JPN)	56	9
Congaree	32	9
Golden Missile	28	6
Teuflesberg	18	6
Mr. Sekiguchi	14	5
Here's Zealous	26	4
Stonesider	25	4
Bustin Stones	16	4
Lewis Michael	16	4
Frost Giant	20	3



ROCKRIDGE **STUD** LLC

2014 Stallions

BLUEGRASS CAT

By Storm Cat \$7,500
Leading Sire in NY by Earnings,
Winners & Repeat Winners
2014: \$200,000 2YO at Barretts

D' FUNNYBONE

By D'wildcat \$2,500
Five-time GSW at 2 & 3
1st Yearlings in 2014

GIANT SURPRISE

By Giant's Causeway \$2,500
Impressive Saratoga Debut Winner
1st Yearlings in 2014

POMEROY

By Boundary \$3,500
#2 by SWs
#7 by Earnings

POSSE

By Silver Deputy \$5,000
3rd on the NY General Sires List,
2nd by Repeat Winners
2014: \$120,000 2YO at OBS

SAN PABLO

By Jump Start \$2,500
Graded SW of 10 Races
incl. the Philip H. Iselin S.-G3



SOARING EMPIRE

By Empire Maker \$3,500
GSW from the Family of GSW
Verrazano, First Foals in 2014

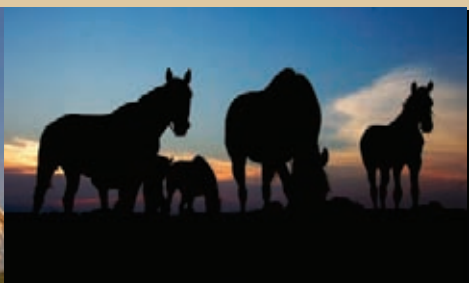
TRINNIBERG

By Teuflesberg \$7,500
Eclipse Champion Sprinter
Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1



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2014 Leading Sires in Maryland

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2014 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	E DUBAI (98, Mr. Prospector), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	72/26	1/1	0/1	(My Donna Jean, \$94,530)	\$667,477	*843	31	1.36	1.23
2	NOT FOR LOVE (90, Mr. Prospector), Northview Stallion Station	\$15,000	54/19	1/1	0/1	(Steady N Love, \$108,130)	\$509,430	876	75	1.73	1.45
3	ORIENTATE (98, Mt. Livermore), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	76/25	0/0	0/0	(Night Maneuver, \$40,500)	\$413,395	*730	38	1.33	1.80
4	LOUIS QUATORZE (93, Sovereign Dancer), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	33/9	1/2	0/1	(Ribo Bobo, \$150,000)	\$379,099	*940	24	1.15	1.35
5	GIACOMO (02, Holy Bull), Heritage Stallions	\$5,000	57/13	0/0	0/0	(Classic Giacnroll, \$52,500)	\$348,273	*252	13	1.18	1.32
6	DANCE WITH RAVENS (02, A.P. Indy), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	47/10	0/0	0/0	(Quite a Legacy, \$39,296)	\$291,624	300	9	1.21	1.47
7	GREAT NOTION (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,500	23/10	0/0	0/0	(Mass Destruction, \$41,243)	\$288,967	159	8	1.65	1.22
8	LION HEARTED (96, Storm Cat), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	36/11	0/0	0/0	(Irish Lion, \$43,943)	\$260,457	*572	20	1.24	1.31
9	PETIONVILLE (92, Seeking the Gold), Murmur Farm	\$6,000	44/9	0/0	0/0	(Villette, \$40,320)	\$229,712	*660	46	1.35	1.27
10	OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$3,000	27/8	0/0	0/0	(Joint Custody, \$40,000)	\$221,026	*503	23	1.41	1.16
11	TWO PUNCH (83, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2011	28/5	0/0	0/0	(Coco Punch, \$39,473)	\$163,714	*1098	56	1.43	1.40
12	SCIPION (02, A.P. Indy), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	22/4	0/0	0/0	(For Scipion, \$21,240)	\$144,545	95	2	1.18	1.07
13	GATORS N BEARS (00, Stormy Atlantic)	Died, 2012	17/5	0/0	0/0	(Action Andy, \$32,900)	\$131,274	148	5	1.08	1.22
14	CHEROKEE'S BOY (00, Citidancer), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Imanindianoutlaw, \$29,498)	\$107,311	82	1	1.24	1.10
15	ROCK SLIDE (98, A.P. Indy), Shamrock Farm	\$2,500	21/5	0/0	0/0	(Rock Slide Classic, \$17,940)	\$82,665	247	7	1.04	1.22
16	SHOWING UP (03, Strategic Mission), Heritage Stallions	\$3,000	19/4	0/0	0/0	(Being There, \$20,040)	\$79,341	*94	3	0.81	1.40
17	GREEK SUN (01, Danzig), Marathon Farm	\$1,500	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Exclusively Greek, \$32,959)	\$46,609	31	0	0.91	1.19
18	GO FOR GIN (91, Cormorant)	Pnsd	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Donna's Girl, \$16,872)	\$26,592	*400	14	1.26	1.41
19	M EIGHTY (99, Lite the Fuse)	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Bomb Dust, \$11,910)	\$20,818	13	0	1.27	0.91
20	PURPLE PASSION (94, Northern Raja)	Died	2/1	0/0	0/0	(License to Cary, \$13,150)	\$17,138	57	0	0.82	0.75

property made his decision to buy easier.

Rockridge is located in the Hudson Valley, about 75 miles south of Saratoga Springs and two hours north of the down-state racetracks Belmont Park and Aqueduct. The farm spreads over 200 acres, of which 130 are usable for horses and the rest is in woods. However, there is contiguous land with barns if Rockridge needs to expand in the future. And it was a turn-key situation transitioning from Vinery.

"The way the farm is set up, it's very easy to manage," Visagie said. "It's an established farm and it shows very well from the moment you turn into the driveway."

The farm is located near other Thoroughbred operations such as Gallagher's Stud and Waldorf Farm and is serviced by

multiple vet centers.

"It is good that we have a grouping of farms down here," said Visagie. "We are centrally located for people who want to come and breed with us. And we have Rood & Riddle vets who come down to service us and we have Rhinebeck for surgery 20 minutes away."

Breeder Stewart Hoffman asked around before placing his mares in Visagie's care during the Vinery days.

"I got rave reviews about him as an excellent horseman who is very hands-on and cares for the animals," said Hoffman. "I found all of that to be absolutely true. He's right in there foaling mares out, and he's a nice, amiable person who knows what he's doing."

Besides being a stallion operation, Rockridge also offers boarding, foaling, and sale prep service. Eight staffers assist Visagie, who takes pride in having managed farms with high conception rates through the years.

"Lere is very knowledgeable and easy to work with," said Dan Bearden, an owner/breeder who campaigned San Pablo. "He is a hard worker, and that's what it takes to succeed. I had some mares that had been having problems getting in foal. I sent them up there and they got them in foal right away. Lere is all business, not b.s. He just tells you how the cow eats cabbage and goes on with it."

Visagie credits his staff, which has been together a number of years, for the farm's high conception rate. And he offers clients a bonus—cameras in the foaling stalls so they can see their foals after they're born.

"For people who are out of town or out of state, it's one thing when you tell them they've got a nice foal, but to actually be able to see them on their computer makes a big difference," Visagie said. "We have gotten great feedback on that."

But with eight stallions to support, Visagie's success depends on the health of the New York racing circuit, which has been bolstered by an influx of funds from casino profits. Purses are plump, and owner and breeder award programs have flourished. Kentucky farms have invested in New York operations and better sires have come into the state to stand. Yet, issues remain.

"Although it's a booming market with good stallion prospects, the number of mares hasn't yet followed the number of stallions," said Erin Robinson, who sells



Visagie with Bluegrass Cat

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2014 Leading Sires in New Jersey

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Stks Foals	Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	DEFRERE (92, Deputy Minister), Walnford Stud	\$2,000	17/5	0/0	0/0	(Arlo, \$45,000)	\$161,965	*572	22	1.24	1.19
2	DON SIX (00, Wild Escapade), Greenfields Farm	N/A	15/5	0/0	0/0	(P. A. Thunder, \$25,110)	\$102,438	71	2	1.24	1.21
3	UNBRIDLED JET (96, Unbridled)	Died, 2011	9/3	0/0	0/0	(O K Lefty, \$40,000)	\$69,471	*257	9	1.04	1.25
4	CABLE BOY (04, Jump Start), Colonial Farms	\$1,000	3/0	0/0	0/0	(She's Hot Wired, \$32,460)	\$48,128	11	0	0.76	0.99
5	SAHARA HEAT (04, A.P. Indy), Sterling Chase Farm	\$5,000	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Lulu Had a Baby, \$23,940)	\$40,840	9	0	0.83	1.21
6	HEY CHUB (00, Carson City), Joe-Dan Farm	\$2,000	3/0	0/0	0/0	(Chubbianna, \$23,200)	\$29,810	17	0	1.51	1.67
7	COZY DELL (97, Cozzene), Hidden Acres 4-D Farm	\$500	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Kylie's Cozy Kid, \$17,460)	\$19,380	8	0	1.27	0.92

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Weigelia won 13 times on dirt and turf, including the G3 Carry Back S. scoring a 108 Beyer, the G3 Kenny Noe Jr. H. with a 103 Beyer, \$150,000 Jack Dudley Sprint H., twice (107 and 109 Beyers), \$100,000 Ponche H. (106 Beyer), Western Borders S. (104 Beyer), etc. He placed second in four stakes, including the G1 King's Bishop S. (105 Beyer), \$140,000 Icecapade S. (100 Beyer), etc. He placed third in eight additional stakes, including the G2 Smile Sprint H., G2 Amsterdam S., and G3 Jaipur S. **TOTAL RACE EARNINGS OF \$1,007,708.** His sire, **SAFELY'S MARK**, is by **DANZIG**, out of Eclipse Award Sprinter and National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame Inductee, **SAFELY KEPT**. His dam, **TURNING NORTH** is from the winning G1 family of champions **DAVONA DALE**, **SEEK GOLD**, etc.

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seasons and shares in the Rockridge stallions from her base in Kentucky. "So you have the same number of mares to cross with more stallions, meaning there are less mares to go around. It can be a difficult market, but that breeds competition, which is a good thing. With the quality stallions coming to New York, the market should improve and hopefully the number of mares will increase."

To further ensure business, the fees for even the operation's top stallions have been lowered for 2014. Grade I winner and millionaire Bluegrass Cat, leader in progeny earnings of stallions standing in New York last year, stands in 2014 for \$7,500, half his 2013 fee. Multiple graded stakes winner Posse, who was the leading sire in New York by progeny earnings in 2012, stands in 2014 for \$5,000, down from \$12,500 a year ago.

"New York has always been a very tough environment," said Visagie. "As bigger farms have come in, that has changed a bit as people take notice. We are getting better stock and better clients, and that is positive, as is the out-of-state support coming in. People really like these stud fees. They jumped on Bluegrass Cat, and we should be close to 100 mares for him this season. Posse should get between 60 and 80. They will do very well."

Trinniberg, winner of the 2012 Xpressbet Breeders' Cup Sprint (gr. I) and that year's champion sprinter, is a new addition to Rockridge in his first season at stud. Somewhat light on pedigree, the son of Teuflesberg might have to prove himself before attracting top breeders. To that end, he could shuttle to the Southern Hemisphere, following in the footsteps of Bluegrass Cat, to help gain exposure as he begins his stud career.

A pleasing constant in the roster of Rockridge stallions is the presence of A.P. Indy blood running through the barn. Bluegrass Cat, Soaring Empire, and Giant Surprise are all out of A.P. Indy daughters, and San Pablo is a son of

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Rank	Sire	Fee	Earnings
1	Majestic Warrior	\$22,500	\$6,320,818
2	Midnight Lute	\$25,000	\$5,973,378
3	Curlin	\$25,000	\$5,973,013
4	Into Mischief	\$20,000	\$5,146,873
5	Street Boss	\$10,000	\$4,596,570
6	Tiz Wonderful	\$7,500	\$4,091,430
7	Spring At Last	\$15,000	\$3,367,193
8	Big Brown	\$10,000	\$3,290,026
9	First Defence	\$15,000	\$3,159,397
10	Frost Giant	\$10,000	\$2,587,126

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2014 Leading Sires in West Virginia

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2014 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	LIMEHOUSE (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$3,500	53/15	2/3	1/2	(Risky Rachel, \$60,000)	\$379,420	*331	18	1.25	1.25
2	BROTHER DEREK (03, Benchmark), Naylee Farm	\$3,500	34/9	0/0	0/0	(Much Stronger, \$44,240)	\$207,514	*91	2	1.13	1.28
3	WINDSOR CASTLE (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,000	38/10	0/0	0/0	(Windsor Warrior, \$22,000)	\$203,335	209	9	1.19	1.12
4	BOP (97, Rahy)	Died, 2012	22/6	0/0	0/0	(Little Bop Peep, \$17,000)	\$125,662	*182	5	1.02	0.91
5	LUFTIKUS (96, Meadowlake), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$1,500	30/5	0/0	0/0	(Joanne Elizabeth, \$34,920)	\$117,642	267	9	1.02	1.10
6	REPARATIONS (96, Forty Niner), Blue Spruce Farm	\$1,500	18/5	0/0	0/0	(Fast Punishment, \$35,000)	\$88,750	126	3	1.07	0.82
7	MEDFORD (95, Meadowlake), Maple Valley Farm	Pnsd	13/3	0/0	0/0	(Perfect Cross, \$16,280)	\$66,505	87	1	0.65	0.82
8	DURING (00, Cherokee Run), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,500	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Darting, \$25,200)	\$56,170	165	4	0.86	1.18
9	GHOSTLY MINISTER (97, Deputy Minister), Buckstud	\$2,500	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Bear's Lucky Lady, \$21,600)	\$55,040	65	1	1.01	0.97
10	PRIZED (86, Kris S.)	Pnsd	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Barcelona Baby, \$10,240)	\$54,399	*752	30	1.37	1.32

the A.P. Indy stallion and Saratoga Special Stakes (gr. II) winner Jump Start.

"I love A.P. Indy, especially since I was at Lane's End," Visagie said. "He's always been a great sire, which is why I thought San Pablo would make sense in New York. The horse is a grade III winner and was always on the verge of becoming a very exciting racehorse. He was a hard-knocking horse who made almost \$600,000, and is a big, strapping, good-looking horse who I think will get solid horses."

Soaring Empire was a graded stakes winner at 4 and a stakes winner at 3. The half brother to multiple graded stakes winner Hungry Island entered stud last year. Working in his favor, in addition to a modest \$3,500 stud fee, is that not only are progeny of Empire Maker hot right now, but that stallion has been sent overseas, making his sons, such as Soaring Empire, more valuable.

Pomeroy is another Rockridge stallion to watch. Also offered at \$3,500, Pomeroy was a crackerjack racehorse, winning the King's Bishop Stakes (gr. I) at 3, the Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap (gr. II) at

4, and the Forego Stakes (gr. I) at 5. He began his stallion career in Florida and this year, his first crop of 2-year-olds since he moved to New York, hits the track. His progeny have earned five graded stakes wins to date.

Posse, a Silver Deputy son, has been a regular near the top of the leading New York sires for five years and his progeny have earned more than \$25 million. He is a multiple graded stakes winner of more than \$662,000 and has sired the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (gr. I) winner Caleb's Posse and Eclipse Award winner and millionaire Kodiak Cowboy.

D' Funnybone entered stud in 2012 after a sparkling career at the races. He won the Futurity Stakes (gr. II) and Saratoga Special at 2 and the Woody Stephens, Swale, and Hutcheson stakes (all gr. II) at 3. He stands at Rockridge for \$2,500.

Giant Surprise, by Giant's Causeway, began his stallion career in 2012 after winning his only career race. He also stands for \$2,500.

Standing stallions is a tough business. Some just won't succeed, and breed-

ers tend to jump on and off horses very quickly—sometimes before they prove themselves. But by any measure Rockridge is represented by an impressive lineup of studs, particularly for a brand new operation. And that is largely because of the confidence earned by Visagie when he was managing the property for Vinery.

"He is a great guy who is good with the horses and people alike; he really manages people well," said Tom Ludt, who oversaw Vinery's locations in Kentucky, New York, and Florida. "He managed the Vinery New York location for us, and we were very comfortable with him there. When he wanted to take a shot and go out on his own as Vinery was scaling down, he approached me and asked if he could stand our stallions. I thought he was the right guy for the job and a perfect fit, and the Simon family (owners of Vinery) obviously has the confidence in him to let him stand the stallions. He has all the experience."

Robinson worked for both Empire Stud and Vinery New York while Visagie managed them. After seven years of being associated with him, she said of Visagie, "You won't find a better horseman in the Northeast that has the hands-on horsemanship, knowledge, and experience Lere does. And to top it off, he's a nice guy who gets along with everybody, and that helps."

Although sometimes it seems otherwise, Visagie doesn't do everything. He is going to wait until attempting to do his own consignments, so in the meantime he consigns through Vinery/Millennium Sales. Other than that and breaking horses, though, Visagie does it all.

"I enjoy managing. I love the stallions; the foals. All aspects," he said. "The sales are always exciting to go to. Now we're focusing on the stallions and the breeding season. And to have all these stallions here, I couldn't have asked for a better line-up." **BH**



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