

## MIDWEST/CANADA

# La Tia and Tacos

*Chicago restaurateur  
Salvador Hernandez savors success*

BY BOB KIECKHEFER

**SALVADOR HERNANDEZ** got into the racing business on his own and enjoys limited visibility in the industry. He is as likely to invite a questioner to enjoy some tacos and tequila at his Taqueria Los Gallos restaurants as to come look at his horses.

If you ask the Illinois racing establishment about him, it quickly becomes clear he is respected even in his relative anonymity. If you ask him, he admits rubbing elbows with the racing crowd is not high on his agenda. He seems happier in his restaurant kitchen.

Nonetheless, Hernandez, 67, has made his mark on racing, largely as a result of putting together an unraced but well-bred sire and a mare that started only once. On March 20, 2009, they produced a filly later named La Tia who turned out to be the kind of big horse everyone in the game dreams of owning.

La Tia (which translates from Spanish to “the aunt”) is by City Place out of La Adelita. Both are owned by Hernandez and neither previously left a mark in the annals of the Turf. However, a deeper look at La Tia’s pedigree provides all the notice—and genes—a grass prospect could require. City Place is by Storm Cat, out of the Glitterman mare Glitter Woman. La Adelita is by Sky Classic out of the Vaguely Noble mare Untitled.

How did Hernandez figure the match? He said he did that on his own.

“I plugged the numbers into the computer,” he said. “I liked them, and she came out pretty good.”

La Tia was winless in three starts as a 2-year-old, all at Hawthorne Race Course, not far from Hernandez’ residence and business west of the Chicago Loop. All three starts were on the dirt and against fellow Illinois-breds. In her final start of 2011, she finished sixth of seven as the odds-on favorite.

She didn’t start again until May of the following year, on Arlington International’s Polytrack. Suddenly, she was a different filly, leading all the way and kicking clear in the stretch to win by nine lengths. She remained in Illinois-bred company



Salvador Hernandez, breeder and owner of grade I-winning Illinois-bred La Tia

as she won the \$113,125 Purple Violet Stakes the following month by 8½ lengths at odds of 6-1.

In July of 2012, she made the big jump to the Arlington Oaks (gr. III). As usual, she went right to the lead and held on to score by three-quarters of a length. Her trainer at the time, Brian Williamson, put her on the grass in the Hatoof Stakes on Arlington Million Day that summer, and she ran well, finishing fourth and pointing to her future on the turf.

Under the tutelage of Armando de la Cerda, she was in the mix in some of the top U.S. grass races in 2013, finishing a good fifth behind Dank in the Beverly D. Stakes (gr. IT). At 5 she won the Arlington Matron Stakes (gr. III), the Ontario Matron Stakes (Can-III) at Woodbine, the Athenia Stakes (gr. IIIT) at Belmont Park, and the Matriarch Stakes (gr. IT) at Del Mar. In the latter, she led all the way, defeating Queen of The Sand and Discreet Marq.

She kicked off her 2015 campaign with a narrow loss to Di-

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## 2015 LEADING SIRES IN CANADA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee Can\$	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2015 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>BADGE OF SILVER</b> (00, Silver Deputy), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$5,000	42/8	0/0	0/0	(Magic of Believing, \$82,600)	<b>\$295,148</b>	*300	11	1.21	1.39
2	<b>MILWAUKEE BREW</b> (97, Wild Again), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	39/13	0/0	0/0	(Mornin Brew, \$35,450)	<b>\$258,504</b>	*503	27	1.22	1.57
3	<b>WILKO</b> (02, Awesome Again), Adena Springs North	Private	27/10	1/1	0/1	(Qiaona, \$42,620)	<b>\$236,547</b>	*156	4	1.14	1.17
4	<b>SILENT NAME (JPN)</b> (02, Sunday Silence), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	24/6	1/1	0/1	(Fanticola, \$57,420)	<b>\$177,886</b>	*234	11	1.54	1.24
5	<b>NORTH LIGHT (IRE)</b> (01, Danehill), Adena Springs North	Private	29/10	0/0	0/0	(Feisty Albert, \$25,950)	<b>\$158,204</b>	*319	8	1.06	1.56
6	<b>IMPERIALISM</b> (01, Langfuhr), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	44/6	0/0	0/0	(Miss Wilby, \$18,675)	<b>\$140,180</b>	202	4	0.79	0.99
7	<b>FORMAL GOLD</b> (93, Black Tie Affair), Esquirol Farms	\$1,500	19/5	0/0	0/0	(Tabled With Gold, \$38,688)	<b>\$136,419</b>	508	22	1.06	1.28
8	<b>SLIGO BAY (IRE)</b> (98, Sadler's Wells), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	25/7	0/0	0/0	(Lexie Lou, \$40,000)	<b>\$135,447</b>	*363	11	1.23	1.45
9	<b>WHERE'S THE RING</b> (99, Seeking the Gold), Peaceful Valley Farms	\$3,000	20/8	0/0	0/0	(Sick Love, \$22,800)	<b>\$132,019</b>	303	9	1.37	1.41
10	<b>DOUBLE HONOR</b> (95, Gone West), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	26/4	1/1	0/1	(Double Secret, \$60,750)	<b>\$103,149</b>	*599	22	1.04	1.16
11	<b>OLD FORESTER</b> (01, Forestry), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$4,000	15/4	0/0	0/0	(Star of the Forest, \$36,500)	<b>\$96,316</b>	304	10	1.49	1.66
12	<b>OLMODAVOR</b> (99, A.P. Indy), Dunroven Farm	\$1,250	29/3	1/0	0/1	(Persuasive Paul, \$27,520)	<b>\$92,624</b>	*260	10	0.89	1.34
13	<b>FINALITY</b> (99, Dehere), Red Rock Farm	\$2,500	11/6	0/0	0/0	(Heads I Win, \$17,105)	<b>\$88,383</b>	237	16	0.65	0.76
14	<b>WANDO</b> (00, Langfuhr)	Died, 2014	11/4	0/0	0/0	(Wando's Rebel, \$34,800)	<b>\$81,272</b>	*152	2	1.17	1.14
15	<b>GOTCHA GOLD</b> (03, Coronado's Quest), Strideawayacres	\$2,500	26/6	0/0	0/0	(Off Duty, \$16,460)	<b>\$78,022</b>	*94	0	0.90	1.49
16	<b>EINSTEIN (BRZ)</b> (02, Spend a Buck), Adena Springs North	\$5,000	23/5	0/0	0/0	(Swan Deer, \$16,500)	<b>\$73,176</b>	*113	0	0.65	1.00
17	<b>ROSBERG</b> (01, A.P. Indy), Canmor Farms	\$3,000	7/5	1/0	0/1	(Lady Rosberg, \$27,909)	<b>\$62,365</b>	71	7	0.82	0.87
18	<b>SINGING SAINT</b> (04, El Prado), Adena Springs North	Private	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Tairneach, \$28,550)	<b>\$61,694</b>	*44	0	0.87	1.06
19	<b>BOLD N' FLASHY</b> (89, Bold Ruckus), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$2,500	1/1	1/1	0/1	(Bold Thunder, \$52,950)	<b>\$52,950</b>	340	17	1.33	1.23
20	<b>BEST OF THE BESTS (IRE)</b> (97, Machiavellian), Peaceful Valley Farms	\$2,000	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Amico Mio, \$35,039)	<b>\$51,369</b>	294	3	0.73	0.96
21	<b>SECOND IN COMMAND</b> (00, Silver Deputy), Road's End Farm	\$2,000	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Hollywood Miss, \$20,115)	<b>\$48,738</b>	74	5	0.78	0.82
22	<b>ONE WAY LOVE</b> (95, Regal Classic)	N/A	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Love in Egbert, \$14,400)	<b>\$37,763</b>	328	3	0.93	1.30
23	<b>SKIMMING</b> (96, Nureyev), Pacific Stud	\$4,000	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Mah Gellin, \$26,520)	<b>\$33,161</b>	329	17	0.74	1.02
24	<b>GIANT GIZMO</b> (04, Giant's Causeway), Adena Springs North	\$5,000	4/3	0/0	0/0	(As Noted, \$14,645)	<b>\$31,802</b>	86	2	1.64	1.55
25	<b>BOLD EXECUTIVE</b> (84, Bold Ruckus)	Died, 2011	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Had to Happen, \$13,020)	<b>\$31,650</b>	803	49	1.63	1.30

versy Harbor in the Buena Vista Stakes (gr. IIT) at Santa Anita and was in training at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots in New Orleans when Hernandez thought he had her sold privately as a breeding prospect to Japanese interests. However the deal fell through and he decided to retire her. He plans on breeding to her to hot sire Candy Ride.

"I wanted to keep her as a broodmare," Hernandez said. "I looked at a couple of stallions but I like his (Candy Ride's) pedigree. He's the sire of Shared Belief. Their lines match up pretty well, so why not give it a try?"

From 24 starts, she recorded 10 wins, two seconds, and five thirds with career earnings of \$1,023,326.

Hernandez was born in Mexico and came to Chicago in 1969. He worked his way into, then up in the restaurant business.



La Tia winning the Matriarch Stakes in November 2014

"Right now I'm retired, but I own a restaurant. I own a few restaurants. You come on down and have some tacos," he offered.

By 2000 he was in the racing game. How? Almost as an afterthought. And, like his decision to breed La Adelita to City Place, he did it pretty much on his own, following his instincts like any good restaurateur.

"It was curiosity," he said with an infectious laugh.

"A friend of mine, he wanted a horse. So I went to take a look and then I decided I wanted a horse, too, and so I went from there. I just did it myself. I didn't know anything about it. I just started looking, and this is what's happened. It's been pretty good for me lately, so it's lots of fun. It's not a mystery. Just have the right horse at the right time, you know? You need to have some dumb luck, too."

He races as Hernandez Racing Club and in various partnerships, with horses in Chicago and Philadelphia and targeted starts elsewhere.

Illinois racing faces serious financial and regulatory challenges, making it harder and harder for horsemen to keep their heads above water. But Hernandez said he continues to enjoy the sport and plans to stay active.

"The horses are like my hobby," he said. "I worked hard for 25 years in Chicago and the horses are how I have a good time after all that hard work."

As with any other good horseman, he knows that having a promising young one in the barn is proof against pessimism, no matter what the financial landscape dictates. Accordingly, shortly after reluctantly selling La Tia, Hernandez visited Ocala and purchased a colt by Archarcharch. He is high on the prospect.

"He has no name yet," the proud owner reported. "But he is going to be called 'Salvador.'" Hernandez said his namesake

#### Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in New York (stallions that are dead or exported prior to 2011 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through March 23, 2015. As supplied to Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., include adjusted money from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Adjusted earnings are put on par with average North American earnings from the previous year. For example, the average North American purse in 2014 is \$21,617 or 45% of the 2014 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 45% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 19%; Singapore by 54%. 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.

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## 2015 LEADING SIRES IN INDIANA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2015 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>STRONG CONTENDER</b> (03, Maria's Mon), R Star Stallions	\$3,000	22/4	1/0	0/1	(Days Ride, \$53,100)	<b>\$130,661</b>	*143	7	1.07	1.13
2	<b>STRONG HOPE</b> (00, Grand Slam), Midwest Equine & Veterinary Hospital	\$1,800	23/5	1/0	0/1	(Hattaash, \$36,542)	<b>\$112,263</b>	316	6	0.96	1.71
3	<b>MONBA</b> (05, Maria's Mon), Nicks Farm	\$2,000	16/6	0/0	0/0	(Easygoestiz, \$21,660)	<b>\$107,953</b>	52	0	0.58	1.45
4	<b>IRISH ROAD</b> (00, Unbridled's Song), Breakway Farm	Private	11/2	0/0	0/0	(An Imaginary Road, \$21,500)	<b>\$70,980</b>	71	0	0.94	0.85
5	<b>CITY WEEKEND</b> (02, Carson City), Equine Vet Hospital of Northern Indiana	\$2,000	15/6	0/0	0/0	(Hotel Mike, \$19,295)	<b>\$67,002</b>	90	3	0.75	0.99
6	<b>DEPUTY STORM</b> (01, Forestry), R Star Stallions	\$1,500	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Arkaybee, \$15,540)	<b>\$48,831</b>	81	2	1.02	1.28
7	<b>DESERT WARRIOR</b> (00, Deputy Minister), Haffner Farm	\$1,000	10/1	0/0	0/0	(Desert Spirit, \$20,800)	<b>\$46,384</b>	*267	0	0.86	0.99
8	<b>UNBRIDLED EXPRESS</b> (04, Unbridled's Song), Swifty Farms	\$1,000	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Union Express, \$13,590)	<b>\$34,485</b>	16	2	1.55	1.44
9	<b>GOLD CASE</b> (94, Forty Niner)	Died, 2014	19/2	0/0	0/0	(Itzacoldcase, \$12,516)	<b>\$32,684</b>	*597	21	1.02	1.11
10	<b>SAINTLY LOOK</b> (00, Saint Ballado)	Died, 2014	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Needmore Cash, \$14,570)	<b>\$27,555</b>	22	3	1.34	0.89



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(think Hansen) will be targeted for a start late in the Arlington summer meeting. Trainer de la Cerda, too, said he's looking forward to seeing the horse on the track.

Altogether, among babies, yearlings, and 2-year-olds, Hernandez has about 20 horses.

Hernandez' success has worked to the benefit of others as well, notably de la Cerda, who saddled La Tia to many of her greatest successes. The filly started her career with Moises Yanez. By the time of her Arlington Oaks triumph, she was in the barn of Williamson. But she started 2013 with de la Cerda, who previously had worked with both Williamson and Yanez.

It didn't take long for the combination of trainer and filly to click as La Tia was named the Illinois champion older female and champion turf female for the 2013 campaign. With her underpinning his efforts, de la Cerda finished sixth among Arlington trainers in 2013 with 27 victories.

"He's a good owner to train for," de la Cerda said of Hernandez. In handling La Tia, "he said to do whatever I think. The last few races, I asked him. But he said, 'OK' to what I thought we should do."



La Tia wins the grade III Arlington Oaks on Polytrack

FOUR FOOTED PHOTOS

# 2015 LEADING SIRE IN ILLINOIS

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2015 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>CHEROKEE RAP</b> (01, Cherokee Run)	Died, 2012	13/4	0/0	0/0	(Wildwood Nafir, \$34,188)	<b>\$90,809</b>	79	5	1.03	1.10
2	<b>ROAD RULER</b> (02, Unbridled's Song), JB Stables	\$2,000	11/4	0/0	0/0	(Armando's Star, \$44,506)	<b>\$86,903</b>	74	0	1.00	0.84
3	<b>INDY SNOW (GB)</b> (01, A.P. Indy), Hondo Ranch	Private	11/5	0/0	0/0	(Costilla Range, \$14,855)	<b>\$66,414</b>	36	1	1.23	0.83
4	<b>ALLUVIAL</b> (02, Forestry), Casey Thoroughbred Farm	Private	12/4	1/0	0/1	(Smoke Em Charlie, \$27,840)	<b>\$56,561</b>	126	1	0.51	0.91
5	<b>LEELANAU</b> (99, Carson City), Indian Hills Thoroughbred Farm	Private	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Showersofblessings, \$27,240)	<b>\$39,101</b>	135	0	0.41	0.82
6	<b>BEN BULBEN</b> (02, Pioneering), Ben Bulben Farm	\$1,000	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Cheroben, \$12,895)	<b>\$29,947</b>	38	0	0.78	0.86
7	<b>CHOSEN DEPUTY</b> (05, Deputy Minister), Hondo Ranch	Private	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Plains Warrior, \$22,752)	<b>\$24,938</b>	11	0	0.57	1.03
8	<b>STRAIGHT LINE</b> (02, Boundary), Fairberry Farm	Private	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Brim, \$9,300)	<b>\$19,936</b>	42	0	0.58	1.24
9	<b>ELHAYQ (IRE)</b> (95, Nashwan), JB Stables	\$1,000	3/1	0/0	0/0	(No Crime, \$11,955)	<b>\$19,740</b>	54	0	0.38	1.17
10	<b>EL MEDWAR</b> (04, Elusive Quality), Hondo Ranch	Private	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Sunswept, \$6,330)	<b>\$17,650</b>	13	0	0.47	1.27

Hernandez has been in the business long enough, de la Cerda said, that he knows what he wants when it comes to breeding, buying, and selling horses—and to let his trainer handle them on the track.

La Tia's success—along with a couple of other Illinois-bred shooting stars—has been a significant bright spot as the state's racing industry endures some dark financial times. With its harness tracks operating under bankruptcy protection and Arlington slashing purses and stakes for 2015, the racing establishment sees the success of a few Illinois-breds on the national stage as a sign that things could get better.

In addition to La Tia's success, Midwest Thoroughbreds has campaigned Work All Week through a highly successful career, including not only stops at Hawthorne Race Course and Arlington International in the Chicago area but on to victory in the Xpressbet Breeders' Cup Sprint (gr. I). The Pizza Man, also owned by Midwest Thoroughbreds, won the 2014 American St. Leger on Arlington Million Day and got home a good third behind Finnegans Wake in the Hollywood Turf Cup Stakes (gr. IIT) in November.

"If it hadn't been for Work All Week winning the Breeders' Cup, La Tia probably would have been the Illinois horse of the year," said Chris Block, one of the state's leading owners and trainers.

"To breed one that goes on and runs and wins grade Is, that's the ultimate," Block said. "To see all your drive and hard work pay off, that's incredible."

To build on that success, however, will require some hard work in the halls of state government, which so far has been reluctant to grant the racing industry any alternative revenue sources to help it compete with slots-fueled purses in surrounding states. Hernandez could be an asset in that legislative effort but, so far, has not been asked.

He remains a well-regarded but little-known figure within the racing establish-

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2015 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>COWTOWN CAT</b> (04, Distorted Humor), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	40/10	0/0	0/0	(Island Cat, \$31,740)	<b>\$204,880</b>	136	2	1.12	1.31
2	<b>LUNARPAL</b> (02, Successful Appeal), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	16/6	0/0	0/0	(Annagrace'spal, \$32,300)	<b>\$133,356</b>	105	2	0.82	1.01
3	<b>MOBIL</b> (00, Langfuhr), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	7/4	0/0	0/0	(Figy's Mobil Pride, \$11,126)	<b>\$43,486</b>	*152	5	1.34	1.40
4	<b>KENTUCKY DANE</b> (00, Danehill)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Hope's Frog Song, \$18,720)	<b>\$33,076</b>	21	3	1.01	0.51
5	<b>MR. MABEE</b> (01, Storm Cat), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,500	10/1	0/0	0/0	(Mr. Mabee's Baby, \$14,780)	<b>\$32,033</b>	59	0	0.61	0.90
6	<b>WESTERN PRIDE</b> (98, Way West), R.C. Cline Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,500	13/1	0/0	0/0	(Musical Journey, \$7,748)	<b>\$25,438</b>	98	1	0.64	0.95
7	<b>KING OF THE ROXY</b> (04, Littleexpectations), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,000	4/1	0/0	0/0	(I Like to Roxy, \$19,320)	<b>\$22,012</b>	7	0	0.35	0.95
8	<b>TROPICAL STORM</b> (00, Storm Cat), Raimonde Farms	\$1,500	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Rodeo Storm, \$18,010)	<b>\$21,435</b>	*94	0	0.67	0.78
9	<b>SAINTS N' SINNERS</b> (00, Saint Ballado)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Seeking a Mile, \$20,130)	<b>\$21,149</b>	22	1	0.95	0.21
10	<b>COLONY KEY</b> (93, Keycolony)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Colony's Hot Bid, \$15,036)	<b>\$17,450</b>	49	0	0.29	0.24

## 2015 LEADING SIRES IN MICHIGAN

 Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2015 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>UNBRIDLED ENERGY</b> (02, Unbridled's Song), Hubel Farms	Private	40/14	0/0	0/0	(Binging With Love, \$13,880)	<b>\$175,500</b>	*225	6	0.90	1.19
2	<b>GUN POWER</b> (97, Unbridled), Campbell Stable	\$1,000	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Brite Sabbath, \$15,322)	<b>\$15,322</b>	38	0	0.53	0.79
3	<b>EQUALITY</b> (99, Mt. Livermore), Dickinson Farms	Private	6/0	0/0	0/0	(Mr. Wiseguy, \$4,730)	<b>\$12,776</b>	156	9	0.67	0.79

## 2015 LEADING SIRES IN MINNESOTA

 Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2015 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>KELA</b> (98, Numerous), Stillwater Equine Clinic	Private	24/5	0/0	0/0	(Moonshine Bay, \$21,360)	<b>\$93,323</b>	*231	5	0.98	0.97
2	<b>FORD EVERY STREAM</b> (99, Seeking the Gold), Nightmare Stables	\$1,000	11/5	0/0	0/0	(See the Stream, \$22,620)	<b>\$68,368</b>	135	1	0.56	0.83
3	<b>MAGIC CAT</b> (95, Storm Cat), Benz Lake Farm	\$1,250	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Honor Lisabeth, \$20,980)	<b>\$25,586</b>	234	11	0.67	0.91
4	<b>TIMBER LEGEND</b> (99, Storm Cat), Boehlke Farm	\$1,000	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Victors Legend, \$5,115)	<b>\$9,855</b>	31	2	0.58	0.62

ment despite his tenure and recent good fortune with La Tia.

Neither Block nor other figures in the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association report much contact with Hernandez, though they all acknowledge his commitment to the business. Nor do racing officials have much to add about his involve-

ment in the sport other than at the entry box.

De la Cerda confirms Hernandez' lack of interest in the social side of the game.

"You know those parties they have before the big races? I ask him, 'Do you want to go?' and he always tells me, 'No. Too many people. Too much whiskey.' I think

he likes spending his time more with his restaurant."

"I don't go to the banquets," Hernandez confirmed. "No one has asked me to go to Springfield (the state capital)."

He said he would be willing to lend his voice to the lobbying effort if asked and agreed the need for change is pressing.

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2015 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>STORM AND A HALF</b> (97, Storm Cat), Rockin River Ranch	\$2,000	23/6	1/1	1/1	(We Be Stormin, \$81,300)	<b>\$187,744</b>	439	21	0.80	0.95
2	<b>SHORE BREEZE</b> (98, Danzig), Iowa State University Horse Farm	\$1,000	32/6	0/0	0/0	(Creative Art, \$23,232)	<b>\$106,432</b>	173	1	0.82	0.75
3	<b>HEART OF THE STORM</b> (04, Storm Cat), McClintock Equine Station	Private	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Bee Bee Q, \$12,200)	<b>\$68,011</b>	53	0	0.71	0.87
4	<b>WOKE UP DREAMIN</b> (00, Holy Bull), Madison County Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Daybreak Dreamer, \$23,080)	<b>\$51,273</b>	138	6	0.77	0.94
5	<b>ADDED EDGE</b> (00, Smart Strike)	N/A	11/4	1/0	0/1	(Nic a Jack, \$18,415)	<b>\$42,881</b>	144	7	0.82	0.82

"I would go down there," he said. "But we need to know what we are going to say and we need to have a plan."

And, in line with his own personal division of labor, he added, "It would have to be scheduled right so I know when we would go and I can work it in with all the other things I'm doing right now."

He didn't discuss the possible solutions to racing's woes but is not hesitant about pointing one finger of blame.

Noting the looming cutbacks at Arlington, owned by Churchill Downs Inc., he said, "Churchill Downs? They got all the money; they got everything else so they don't care about us."

That said, though, he laughed and said he hopes to be around for another 25 years in the business.

"Let's see, that would make me, what, 93 or 94 years old? I hope I last that long. I hope the business lasts that long."

De la Cerda hopes Hernandez keeps going for a while, both in racing and in his main business. Taqueria Los Gallos, in the Little Village neighborhood and only a hop, skip, and a jump from Hawthorne Race Course, is the flagship of a small chain. Hernandez presides over the kitchen with pride and is quick to offer his own brand of homemade tequila to an unwary visitor. Los Gallos,

which translates to "the rooster," gets rave reviews on social media and from de la Cerda.

"I've been going to that restaurant since before I knew him," the trainer said. "Best tacos in Chicago." **BH**

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## ALCINDOR

(Unbridled's Song – Zing, by Storm Cat)

- Winner first time out (Hol, 6F, 1:09<sup>2</sup>/<sub>5</sub>), came back with 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub>-length allowance win with **102 Beyer** (Hol, 7F, 1:21<sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub>), named a "Rising Star" by *Thoroughbred Daily News*
- Never off the board, incl. **Grade 1** Malibu S. to G1SWs **TWIRLING CANDY & SMILING TIGER**, besting G1SW **NOBLE'S PROMISE**
- **\$1.15 Million** Keeneland September Yearling
- Full brother to **HALF OURS** (G2, **105 Beyer**), same great **UNBRIDLED'S SONG/STORM CAT** cross as **BUDDHA** (G1), **MAGNIFICENT SONG** (G1), **NOBLE TUNE** (G2), **NOONMARK** (G3), etc.
- Immediate family of Eclipse Champion **SHARED BELIEF** (G1)
- First outstanding foals arrive in 2015

## FLAGSHIP

(El Prado – Swift and Classy, by Clever Trick)

- **\$1 Million** Keeneland September Yearling
- By 2YO Champion & Leading U.S. Sire **EL PRADO**, sire of Leading Sires **KITTEN'S JOY** (G1, **114 Beyer**) & **MEDAGLIA D'ORO** (G1, **120 Beyer**)
- Half-brother to four Stakes Horses, incl. G3SW **RYDILLUC** (\$481,990) & NCR SW **GOLD WONDER**
- O/o SW **SWIFT AND CLASSY** from immediate family of Leading Sires **ROMAN RULER** (G1, **111 Beyer**) and **EL CORREDOR** (G1, **119 Beyer**)
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