WEST COAST

Golden Eight

An octet of new stallions sets up shop in California for 2018

BY EVAN HAMMONDS



Shaman Ghost winning the Big 'Cap at Santa Anita

THE ISSUES AND CONCERNS of the Thoroughbred breeding and commercial markets in California are no different than the ones in other states. Horsemen ponder the dwindling foal crop size and wonder what it will take to get more mares, and more "quality" mares, to their stallions.

However, come the turn of the calendar, optimism comes to the fore as new stallions are settled into new homes, and farm managers do their best to drum up business. Several new faces will try to break through in the Golden State in 2018.

"California is tough, especially on some of the older stallions," said Ballena Vista Farm's broodmare manager Miguel "Mike" Jimenez. "Here they tend to go with the new stallion prospects coming in. If you are not the hot horse for the year, it's hard to get the kinds of mares you need."

"I don't have to tell you getting a stallion started is one of the toughest things to do in this industry," said Legacy Ranch manager Terry Knight. "People are trying to be optimistic. Everybody tries to look at the bright side. It's difficult; I don't have to tell you that. We had that damn (San Luis Rey) fire, but the good news, some of the new tax benefits and laws...there are a lot of good reasons to be in the horse business."

Knight will manage the career of the incoming

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Stud Fee Value and Quality



SMILING TIGER

The leading California Freshman sire of 2017 ranked among the Top 20 nationally with progeny earnings of \$485,752. **Fee: \$6,500LF**



MR. BIG

Graded stakes sire with an average earnings/runner of nearly \$126,000 for 11 starters from 16 foals of racing age. **Fee:** \$6,500LF



TIZBUD

Sire of stakes winners **AMBITIOUS BREW** (G3, \$669,425) and **SOI PHET** (\$876,170) from 26 starters in 2017. **Fee: \$2,500 LF**

FRESHMAN SIRES WITH FIRST-CROP 2-YEAR-OLDS IN 2018



CLUBHOUSE RIDE

CANDY RIDE's leading money winner (**G2**, \$1,341,132) at stud in California was a **G1**-placed stakes winner at 2. **Fee: \$2,500 LF**



JERANIMO

Eight graded wins on dirt and turf and earnings of \$1.5 million include **G1** wins in 1:33.97 (8f) and 1:45.80 (9f).

Fee: \$2,500 LF



LAKERVILLE

Brilliantly consistent (11-5-4-0, \$318,910) stakes winner by Hall of Fame 6-time leading sire **UNUSUAL HEAT**.

Private Treaty



TAMARANDO

First season mares bred to the **G1** winner of \$722,652 includes the dam of **MAJESTIC HEAT** (**G2**).

Fee: \$2,500 LF



DESERT CODE

The 13 six-figure earners from 77 starters in his first four crops include four with \$250,000-plus bankrolls.

Fee: \$2,000 LF



METABOSS

Graded winner of \$300,420 posted the highest Turf Beyers of 2016 (101 and 102) for his sire STREET BOSS.

Fee: \$1,500 LF

Stud fees are payable when foal stands and nurses. All stallions are nominated to the Breeders' Cup.



Harris Farms

2017 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

				ВТ	Rstrct				Cumulative		
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	SWnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2017 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	BLUEGRASS CAT (03, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$7,500	198/108	3/4	0/3	(Bluegrass Jamboree, \$181,900)	\$4,858,716	*848	32	1.21	1.68
2	STAY THIRSTY (08, Bernardini), Lovacres Ranch	\$5,000	113/67	3/4	0/3	(Coal Front, \$411,000)	\$3,741,405	*232	4	1.36	1.55
3	UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev)	Died, 2017	109/54	3/5	0/3	(Majestic Heat, \$263,190)	\$3,374,622	*780	44	1.93	1.21
4	LUCKY PULPIT (01, Pulpit)	Died, 2017	163/85	3/4	2/3	(California Chrome, \$250,000)	\$3,277,616	*392	7	1.57	1.13
5	TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat)	Died, 2014	126/80	4/4	1/4	(Pee Wee Reese, \$192,920)	\$2,965,230	738	35	1.26	1.05
6	MINISTERS WILD CAT (00, Deputy Minister), Tommy Town Thoroughbre	ds \$4,000	101/63	1/2	1/1	(Mr. Hinx, \$438,548)	\$2,197,794	404	15	1.03	0.91
7	SQUARE EDDIE (06, Smart Strike), Ocean Breeze Ranch	\$25,000	78/34	2/3	2/2	(B Squared, \$247,735)	\$2,031,472	142	11	1.54	0.97
8	PAPA CLEM (06, Smart Strike)	N/A	106/63	2/2	2/2	(My Italian Babbo, \$221,961)	\$2,027,913	233	6	0.83	1.10
9	U S RANGER (04, Danzig), Rancho San Miguel	\$3,000	137/73	0/0	0/0	(Ranger Lady, \$99,394)	\$2,005,658	*339	3	0.67	1.32
10	VRONSKY (99, Danzig), Old English Rancho	\$6,500	70/40	2/2	2/2	(What a View, \$228,845)	\$1,974,272	191	10	1.47	1.09
11	STREET HERO (06, Street Cry)	N/A	66/31	2/2	1/2	(The Player, \$187,043)	\$1,338,808	*223	6	1.13	0.98
12	GRAZEN (06, Benchmark), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	33/16	3/6	2/3	(S Y Sky, \$278,240)	\$1,304,825	67	5	1.71	1.34
13	DECARCHY (97, Distant View)	Died, 2017	51/25	1/2	1/1	(One Fast Broad, \$249,160)	\$1,045,315	374	13	1.02	0.97
14	DESERT CODE (04, E Dubai), Harris Farms	\$2,000	51/26	0/0	0/0	(Desert Law, \$123,728)	\$1,030,079	129	3	0.98	1.10
15	MISREMEMBERED (06, Candy Ride), Barton Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	53/23	0/0	0/0	(Whiskey Tree, \$110,296)	\$1,026,175	75	1	0.98	1.48
16	THORN SONG (03, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2014	70/37	0/0	0/0	(Exotic Ghost, \$52,210)	\$946,611	120	1	0.57	1.29
17	CYCLOTRON (00, Grand Slam), Old English Rancho	Private	41/21	1/1	1/1	(He Will, \$175,759)	\$945,807	114		1.20	1.26
18	MARINO MARINI (00, Storm Cat)	N/A	84/43	0/0	0/0	(Marino's Wild Cat, \$69,778)	\$940,181	364	4	0.81	0.96
19	SLEW'S TIZNOW (05, Tiznow), Rancho San Miguel	\$3,000	34/22	3/3	0/3	(More Power to Him, \$132,979)	\$923,487	78	3	1.07	1.09
20	SURF CAT (02, Sir Cat), Old English Rancho	Private	33/16	1/5	0/1	(Sircat Sally, \$464,660)	\$917,158	110	2	0.89	1.18
21	HEATSEEKER (IRE) (03, Giant's Causeway)	Died, 2016	65/28	0/0	0/0	(Emmy and I, \$96,075)	\$913,554	*201		1.12	1.25
22	KAFWAIN (00, Cherokee Run), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	62/39	0/0	0/0	(Pray Hard, \$82,500)	\$884,225	*606		1.03	1.20
23	SOUTHERN IMAGE (00, Halo's Image), Gray's Farm	\$1,500	64/33	0/0	0/0	(Southern Treasure, \$57,945)	\$831,957	*503	7	1.06	1.16
24	EINSTEIN (BRZ) (02, Spend a Buck), Daehling Ranch	\$2,000	62/30	1/1	0/1	(Seeking Albert, \$87,076)	\$814,989	*170	1	0.68	0.95
25	BOLD CHIEFTAIN (03, Chief Seattle), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	32/18	1/1	1/1	(Moonless Sky, \$244,720)	\$680,592	54	1	0.83	0.94
26	EDDINGTON (01, Unbridled), Ballena Vista Farm	\$3,500	56/25	0/0	0/0	(Handiwork, \$72,965)	\$680,207	*420		1.21	1.44
27	BENCHMARK (91, Alydar)	Died, 2017	42/23	0/0	0/0	(Princess Kendra, \$121,817)	\$647,371	721		1.19	1.09
28	TANNERSMYMAN (98, Lord Carson), Woodbridge Farm	Private	29/18	0/0	0/0	(El Huerfano, \$141,575)	\$630,125	169	3	0.71	0.72
29	DIXIE CHATTER (05, Dixie Union), Ballena Vista Farm	\$2,500	70/28	0/0	0/0	(Blow the Whistle, \$63,818)	\$613,388	204	3	0.59	0.99
30	STORMIN FEVER (94, Storm Cat)	Pnsd	43/25	0/0	0/0	(Marriage Fever, \$138,090)	\$604,037	*769	26	1.12	1.32

Straight Fire, a son of Dominus.

"The syndicate that owns him will support him and you hope you get some followers along the way, but the stallion business is 'what have you done for me lately.'"

Clay Murdock, general manager of Rancho San Miguel, sees some blue sky, but also plenty of realism.

"We're doing pretty good," he said. "Our business has grown in the last couple of years, but you have to have the right horses, certain stallions. With the stallions, certain ones are going to get the majority of the mares. If you have mediocre horses, I think you're in deep trouble."

Mike Allen, manager of Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, will house four new stallions for 2018 with the late addition of Frank Stronach's Shaman Ghost to the roster.

"People are still wondering what the market's going to do," Allen said. "Selling yearlings hasn't been great for a while in California. You can always sell the good ones, but the medium horses, average horses, are tough to sell."

Tommy Town has taken a new approach lately:

"We've been buying some well-bred Kentucky fillies, and our plan is to hope they make it into our broodmare band either here or in Kentucky," Allen said. "We had It Tiz Well win a grade 1 (she was retired Jan. 17 and will be bred to Tapit). She was one of those purchases when we first started doing it. We hope we get something that's close to her in the future."

For 2017 the highest-priced incoming stallion in the Golden State was \$1,500, and for 2018 there are a pair at \$5,000 and a \$10,000 market-topper in Shaman Ghost

Frank Stronach's homebred son of Ghostzapper (71 stakes winners) won the classic Queen's Plate at 3 at Woodbine and earned a championship as Canada's top 3-year-old male. He won or placed in seven graded stakes at 4 and 5, including victories in the Woodward Stakes (G1) and Santa Anita Handicap Presented by San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino, (G1). He also finished second in the inaugural Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes (G1).

With Stronach's statement last year to commit to California's state-bred program, Shaman Ghost's entry into the market shows Stronach is backing up what he says.

"We own two racetracks here in Golden Gate Fields and Santa Anita Park," said the founder of The Stronach Group. "We're a little concerned there aren't enough horses. There are small fields, so we want to make sure that we have a good horse population. Naturally, it's also important that we get new owners (involved in the sport).

"He won the Santa Anita Handicap, and

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in the states featured in this section (stallions that are dead or exported prior to 2013 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2017. As supplied to Bioodviorse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., lists include adjusted money from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore Adjusted earnings are put on par with average North American purse in along a rearnings from the previous year. For example, the average North American purse in 2016 is \$22,141 or 45% of the 2016 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 17%; Singapore by 65%. Current year stakes winners include all Northern Hemisphere black-type stakes results from all available countries. "Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners include 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.







Danzing Candy will stand at Rancho San Miguel for 2018

Grade 2 winner Stanford is an exciting prospect at Tommy Town

he also won on Polytrack, and they have a synthetic track at Golden Gate," Stronach said. "I think he's quite a versatile horse. I think conformation-wise he's very correct, and he has a great disposition. Naturally, you always get high on your own horses, but I've been around good horses, and I think he's a very nice horse."

Shaman Ghost is out of stakes-placed Get Back Time, a daughter of stakes winner Shav.

Rancho San Miguel, near San Miguel, Calif., has landed the sharp Danzing Candy (\$5,000) for 2018. By Twirling Candy, a son of Candy Ride and the runner-up to Uncle Mo on the 2017 leading third-crop sires list, Danzing Candy topped grade 1 winner Mor Spirit in the 2016 San Felipe Stakes (G2) at Santa Anita while under the care of Bob Baffert, and the dark bay colt made his way to the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1). As an older horse, he shortened up a bit, closing his racing career with backto-back graded stakes wins in the Lone Star Park Handicap (G3, 11/16 miles) and the seven-furlong San Carlos Stakes (G2).

Danzing Candy's younger three-quarters brother Cedartown (by Candy Ride), won last year's Zia Park Derby and recently added the Louisiana Stakes. Their dam, Talkin and Singing, is a Songandaprayer half sister to John Deere Breeders' Cup Turf (G1T) winner Better Talk Now.

"I loved his brilliant speed, and he had the ability to carry it two turns," Murdock said. "When you watch his races, he was just so smooth. He's a nice, balanced

horse-he's 16.2-good scope and just a beautiful walk. He has a nice range to him and a nice length. The bottom line is, when most people come to see him, we get the contract signed once they look at him. We haven't had a response to a stallion like this in a long time.

"A syndicate put him together headed by Adrian Gonzalez and another agent. Gonzalez, who is with Checkmate Thoroughbreds, had the contact with (trainer) Bob (Baffert). It came together relatively quickly-it was a no-brainer with some of our clients."

Grade 2 winner Stanford (\$5,000) will stand at Tommy Town Thoroughbreds near Santa Ynez, Calif. The son of top sire Malibu Moon (116 stakes winners) made 15 of 17 career starts in stakes company and earned \$1,385,510 while compiling a 6-5-0 slate. Beaten a neck in the Louisiana Derby (G2) as a 3-year-old, the bay horse was strong at 4, winning the rich Charles Town Classic Stakes (G2) and the Harlan's Holiday Stakes (G3). A winner from five to nine furlongs for Stonestreet Stables and the Coolmore collective of Michael Tabor, Susan Magnier, and Derrick Smith, Stanford is out of Rosy Humor, by Distorted Humor (2017's leading broodmare sire). Rosy Humor's immediate family consists of top sires Johannesburg, Tale of the Cat, and Minardi. Rosy Humor is also the dam of grade 3-placed Hedge Fund.

Allen was succinct in his assessment of Stanford:

"He's the best stallion that we've been

a part of, or bought because he's got great conformation.

"He's very well balanced and has a nice shoulder and hip," he continued. "He's short cannon-boned, short-coupled, and has a really good walk. He's a horse you would look at as a yearling or 2-year-old and you would have bought him.

"If they (his offspring) look like him, we can either sell them or run them," he said. "We run everything pretty much, but everybody who has seen him really likes him. I just think he's the best horse we've ever purchased. People that have come to see him are surprised we've brought this caliber of horse to California. Everybody has been impressed by his size and great conformation."

Tommy Town will have two additional new stallions for 2018 in Ruis Racing's Saburo (Medaglia d'Oro-Kid Majic, by Lemon Drop Kid) and War Envoy (War Front-La Conseillante, by Elusive Quality).

Saburo was bred in Kentucky by H. Allen Poindexter and, after being a \$190,000 RNA as a 2015 Keeneland September sale yearling, was sold to Mick Ruis' Ruis Racing for \$600,000 at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale. Saburo made two starts in maiden special weight company-once at Santa Anita, once at Churchill Downs.

"He had a sesamoid injury that brought a stop to his race career," Allen said. "He's real leggy; a tall horse; medium-boned."

Saburo is a half brother to Canada's champion female sprinter and champion

STANFORD

TOP-CLASS SON OF MALIBU MOON WITH A TOP-CLASS SIRE'S PEDIGREE.

SECOND LEADING EARNER
OF ALL TIME BY
MALIBU MOON (\$1,385,510)



By leading sire MALIBU MOON, sire of over 100 SW's including Orb, Devil May Care, Life At Ten, Gormley, AskTheMoon, Declan's Moon, Carina Mia, Malibu Mint, Malibu Prayer, Eden's Moon etc

From the immediate family of: TALE OF THE CAT (Champion 2yo sire), JOHANNESBURG (sire of SCAT DADDY), PULPIT (sire of TAPIT), ROUND TABLE (Champion sire), FED BIZ (3 time G2 winner).

- 1st **Charles Town Classic Stakes-Gr.2**, 9f., Charles Town, by 2 lengths (PICTURED).
- 1st Harlan's Holiday Stakes-Gr.3, 8½f., Gulfstream Park, by 3 lengths from Gr.1 Travers Stakes winner Keen Ice.
- 1st **Challenger Stakes-L**, 8½f., Tampa Bay Downs, by 3¼ lengths, (NTR 1:41.75)
- 1st **Long Branch Stakes-L**, 8½f., Monmouth Park, by 1¼ lengths.
- 1st 3yo Allowance, 6f., Gulfstream, by 1½ lengths.
- 1st Maiden, 5f., Monmouth Park, on 2yo debut, by 1½ lengths.
- 2nd **Louisiana Derby-Gr.2**, 9f., Fair Grounds, btn ¼ length.
- 2nd **Gulfstream Park Handicap-Gr.2**, 8f., Gulfstream, btn a head.

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STANFORD WIRES THE HARLAN'S HOLIDAY

Stanford (Malibu Moon) may have stamped his ticket to the \$12-million GI Pegasus World Cup Jan. 28

with a decisive gate-to-wire victory in Gulfstream's GIII Harlan's Holiday Stakes ... ticked off comfortable opening fractions of :24.61, :48.94 and 1:12.46 under a motionless John Velazquez. Showing the way into the lane, the bay readily responded when asked for more by his Hall of Fame pilot, skipping away from his rivals to win by three lengths.



STANFORD USES SPEED TO CAPTURE CHARLES TOWN CLASSIC

Charles Town, W.Va. - Trainer Todd

Pletcher said earlier in the week he thought Stanford was a good fit for the Grade 2 Charles Town Classic because of his tactical speed ... Stanford rolled to the lead under Javier Castellano at the outset of the \$1.25 million Classic and was never headed ... was able to open a clear lead entering the stretch and ultimately scored by two lengths.

ALSO STANDING: BOISTEROUS – KAFWAIN – OLD TOPPER – MINISTERS WILD CAT SHAMAN GHOST – SABURO – WAR ENVOY

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Legacy Ranch will stand Straight Fire for \$3,500

older female Miss Mischief (by Into Mischief). Their dam, Kid Majic, placed in the 2007 Lone Star Oaks and is a half sister to Del Mar Futurity (G1) winner J P's Gusto (by Successful Appeal). Second dam Call Her Magic is a half sister to Pacific Spell, dam of Kentucky Oaks (G1) winner Proud Spell who is the second dam of the wellthought-of 3-year-old Dak Attack.

"War Envoy is a bigger horse, biggerboned, and could run a bit," Allen said.

War Envoy began his career in Europe and placed in the At The Races Champagne Stakes (G2) at Doncaster in England and in the Curragh's GAIN Railway Stakes (G2) and Nestle Supporting Irish Autism Action Round Tower Stakes (G3) before coming to the U.S. He made a pair of starts in Breeders' Cup races and even ran in last year's inaugural Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes (G1).

"Mick Ruis is going to make sure both of these stallions get a good start," Allen said.

Ballena Vista Farm, near Ramona, Calif., introduces Texas Ryano (\$3,500). The son of leading sire Curlin made 21 of his 22 starts on turf, racing exclusively in Southern California. His signature win came in the 2016 Hollywood Turf Cup Stakes (G2T).

Curlin, the sire of 43 stakes winners, couldn't be hotter as a potential sire of sires, and Texas Ryano's female family is loaded with black type tracing back to blue hen Charming Alibi, the dam of two-time English Horse of the Year and U.S. champion turf horse Dahlia. Texas Ryano is a half brother to four other stakes winners

and to two grade 2 stakes-placed runners.

"He's huge—he's about 17 hands. He's very big up front with a big shoulder; great heart girth," said Jimenez. "If anything, he may be a little light behind, but from what I've been told that is kind of how the Curlins are built, so if that is the case, I'm pretty happy about it because the Curlins have done well.

"The mare is a stakes-producing horse," he continued. "I can't imagine this horse being unsuccessful. We've definitely got some interest in the horse and have several bookings already. He's the only son of Curlin out here who is a stakes winner, so we hope he will do well."

Straight Fire (\$3,500) will stand his first season at Legacy Ranch near Lodi, Calif. Straight Fire was bred by Spendthrift Farm and is a son of the brilliant Dominus out of Tricky Indy, by A.P. Indy. A \$250,000 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale yearling in 2015, Straight Fire was a maiden winner at Del Mar by 101/2 lengths in the summer of 2016 for Jungle Racing, LNJ Foxwoods, KMN Racing, Jeff Davenport, and Andrew Molasky.

Straight Fire came right back in the Del Mar Futurity and ran second to Klimt. He moved forward to Santa Anita and was third behind Gormley and Klimt in the grade 1 FrontRunner Stakes while under the care of Keith Desormeaux. Tricky Indy is a winning half sister to the quick Confide, a multiple grade 3 winner around one bend from the family of champion 2-yearold filly Heavenly Cause.

"He's a good-sized horse—I'd guess 16

or 16.1. He's very well-proportioned; has good bone," said Knight. "He has a really pretty head and he's a real attractive horse. To my eye he's a more attractive horse today than he was when he got here. He's let down and filled out some.

"He has a good mind; good demeanor; a really good horse to be around. He was quite precocious, and I would expect breeding to the right kind of mare will get you a precocious kind of horse.

"We're fortunate we have a good group of people that own the horse and are going to support the horse; that's the best thing he has going for him, and I think the rest will follow."

At Pacific Coast Thoroughbreds near Hemet, Ethnic Dance will stand for \$1,500. A Cal-bred son of Tribal Rule-House of Danzing, by Chester House, bred by the Craig Family Trust and raced by Craig Stables and Michael Bello, Ethnic Dance won three of 13 starts while with trainer John Sadler, proving best in the nine-furlong Del Mar Derby (G2T) in the summer of 2013.

The following year Ethnic Dance hit the board in the Crystal Water Stakes going a mile on the turf at Santa Anita and was third back at Del Mar in the 11/16-mile California Dreamin' Handicap.

He's a half brother to grade 1 winner Twirling Candy, who stands at Lane's End in Kentucky. Twirling Candy holds the distinction of being second to runaway top sire Uncle Mo on the 2015 first-crop sires list, the 2016 second-crop sires list, and last year's third-crop sires list.













He Be Fire N Ice's first two crops are over 90% gray and have ideal conformation and size. This year we sent six of *Fire's* first yearlings to the Mayberry Farm in Ocala, Florida to begin their racing career three of which are shown above. They have found them to be well-built, exceptional movers with good minds.



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