

HOME IS WHERE THE HORSE IS



ANNE M. EBELHARDT PHOTOS

A decision on finding the right boarding operation deserves careful study

That Thoroughbreds are a tricky investment is well-known to all participants in the industry. There is a lot of money passing hands for a most-fragile commodity, meaning that the care and welfare of the animal should be paramount to all involved. Choosing where to board your broodmare and, subsequently, where to raise your foal, are crucial decisions not to be made without careful study and examination of all alternatives. A proper facility should have the tools, experience, and horsemanship to ensure the safety and welfare of its Thoroughbred charges, as well as the proper physical layout and access to top veterinary care. You'll want staff members who are well-versed in timely communications with you, the client.

Fortunately, many such top-shelf boarding operations exist throughout the country to give that special care to your Thoroughbred. What follows are profiles of some of the leading facilities.

CASTLETON LYONS

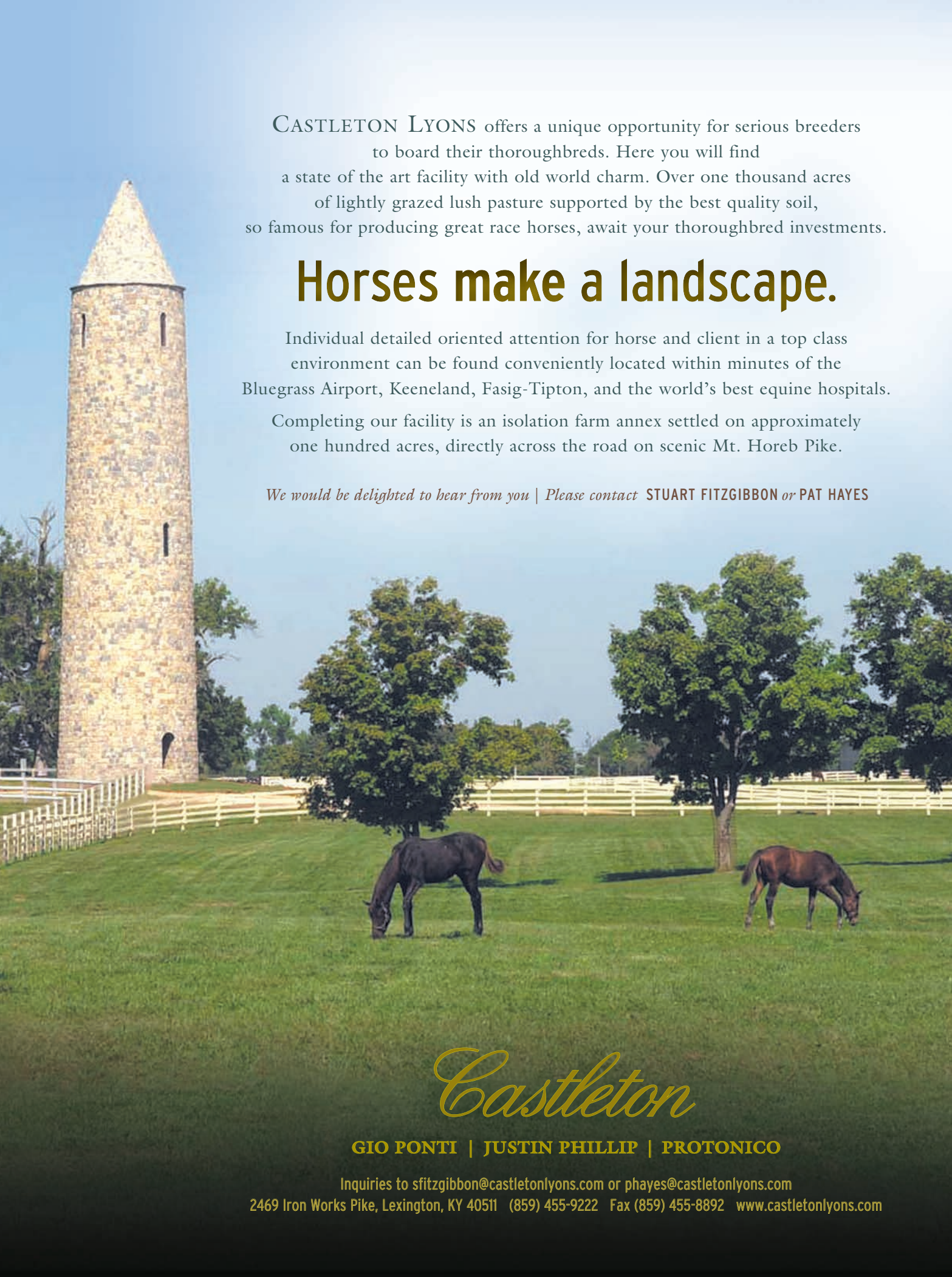
Nestled on more than a thousand acres of prime Central Kentucky bluegrass pasture, Castleton Lyons farm offers a unique boarding experience on a wonderfully historic parcel of land. Castleton has raised and nurtured horses on its turf since 1793. Many significant Thoroughbreds such as Domino, Spendthrift, Colin, Ben Brush, and Kingston have called this farm home. The history of Castleton is

also intertwined with legendary American Saddlebreds and Standardbreds such as Wing Commander and Bret Hanover.

Irish businessman Dr. Tony Ryan purchased Castleton Lyons in 2001, and the farm returned to its Thoroughbred roots with the development of a quality broodmare band and stallion interests. Today the farm offers world-class facilities for Thoroughbred care as the boarding operation has professionally expanded to

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cater for an increasing clientele. Castleton provides a full service to its clients by boarding mares, preparing young horses for all the major public auction sales, and offering a lay-up service for racehorses. To achieve this, the farm's limestone-based soil supports 15 barns and 250 stalls and is ideally placed to cater for all its clients' needs. It is perfectly located close to the intersection of major interstate routes and the internationally renowned veterinary



CASTLETON LYONS offers a unique opportunity for serious breeders to board their thoroughbreds. Here you will find a state of the art facility with old world charm. Over one thousand acres of lightly grazed lush pasture supported by the best quality soil, so famous for producing great race horses, await your thoroughbred investments.

Horses make a landscape.

Individual detailed oriented attention for horse and client in a top class environment can be found conveniently located within minutes of the Bluegrass Airport, Keeneland, Fasig-Tipton, and the world's best equine hospitals.

Completing our facility is an isolation farm annex settled on approximately one hundred acres, directly across the road on scenic Mt. Horeb Pike.

We would be delighted to hear from you | Please contact **STUART FITZGIBBON** or **PAT HAYES**

Castleton

GIO PONTI | JUSTIN PHILLIP | PROTONICO

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practices of the Hagyard Equine Medical Institute and Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital. Castleton is known as an independent farm that strives to provide impartial advice and honest care to its clients' bloodstock interests. Under Shane Ryan, son of the late owner, the farm has already bred and raised triple Eclipse Award winner Gio Ponti and the grade 1-winning juvenile Gormley.

Castleton prides itself on providing the best possible attention for all horses entrusted to its care. Communication is important here, and the friendly, experienced staff endeavor to treat all clients as family.

Commercial manager Stuart Fitzgibbon states, "We like to welcome all our clients at any time to experience the beauty, tradition, and quality care of Castleton Lyons. Nothing pleases us more than when our clients drop in to visit their stock and enjoy time in the company of our horsemen and our wonderful land. Our equine manager is Pat Hayes who brings great knowledge to his position and provides excellent communication to all of our clients as we strive to offer a feel-good experience to everyone who encounters this wonderful farm."

Dr. Luke Fallon of Hagyard is the farm veterinarian, and he represents the fifth generation of his family in this profession. In addition to general veterinary skills, Fallon is renowned for his top-class reproductive care as the farm ensures all its mares receive the best attention possible.

Castleton stands three stallions: Gio Ponti; Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap (G1) winner Justin Phillip; and new for 2019, Protonico, a grade 2-winning son of Giant's Causeway.

HIDDEN BROOK

With state-of-the-art facilities near North America's two main Thoroughbred centers, Lexington, and Ocala, Fla., Hidden Brook Farm is exceptionally well-positioned to offer individualized care for horses at every stage of development.

"Our main focus is giving every horse a chance to be successful regardless of how they're bred," said Hidden Brook managing partner Sergio de Sousa.



Some clients, and most horses, prefer plenty of space and large paddocks

The full-service operation founded over a decade ago by partners de Sousa, Jack Brothers, Dan Hall, and Mark Roberts, is focused on the goal of racetrack performance. Hidden Brook Kentucky is located near Paris, Ky., on 600 acres of some of the world's most productive grazing land—the farm is located near the famed Hancock properties of Claiborne and Stone Farms. Among the more than 150 stakes winners foaled/raised at Hidden Brook Farm is multiple grade 1 winner and Eclipse Award finalist Paulassilverlining as well as additional grade 1 winners Ball Dancing, Dads Caps, and Finnegans Wake.

"Basically we want to raise athletic horses who will be able to race," de Sousa said, adding the farm has learned not to overdo things. "It's possible to do too much with a horse, and we've found that sometimes doing more is not always doing what's best. We believe that's our main strength; our team has so much experience—there's nothing we haven't seen—so we have the confidence to do what's in the best interest of each individual horse."

For those looking for a breaking, training, or lay-up facility, Hidden Brook operates a training center in Central Florida under Roberts called Hidden Brook South. The equally historic property is situated on 125 acres near Ocala and features a newly renovated three-quarter-mile dirt training track, 12 paddocks, and numer-

ous round pens. With the addition of a new 32-stall barn, Hidden Brook South can accommodate up to 80 horses. Future plans include installation of a turf course.

Hidden Brook South graduates have had an especially strong year in 2018. Stakes winners who were prepared or freshened there include grade 1 Frizette Stakes winner Jaywalk; Tiger Moth, winner of the grade 3 Houston Ladies Classic Stakes; and A Different Style, Fiesta, Lipstick City, and Offering Plan.

Hidden Brook's success certainly hasn't been lost on North America's leading trainers and owners. Among the trainers who have utilized the facilities at Hidden Brook South are Chad Brown, Brad Cox, Bret Calhoun, Graham Motion, John Servis, and Ian Wilkes. The owners who have entrusted their horses to Hidden Brook South include DJ Stable, Marc Holiday, Steve Laymon, McMahon & Hill, Cash is King Stables, Leonard Green, and Treadway Stables.

Hidden Brook invites you to discover the difference.

MILLENNIUM FARMS

Let Us Help You...

Located in the heart of the Bluegrass in close proximity to the best stallions, veterinary care, and auction houses in the country, Millennium Farms is a full-service Thoroughbred nursery offering

boarding, lay-ups, and sales prep services.

“Every customer relationship is different, just like every horse is different. We tailor our services and approach to each horse to ensure they are afforded every possible opportunity to meet their potential,” said Millennium Farms’ general manager J. Ted Neel.

“The same goes for our clients. Whether it’s how often and in what format they prefer to receive updates on their horses to working with them to define, refine, and meet their goals, we work hard to provide the same level of individualized attention to our customers that we do for their horses.”

When you are driving through Millennium Farms, it’s hard not to notice how lush and healthy the pastures stay throughout the growing season. Farm management works with local extension agents to test the pastures regularly, ensuring horses receive the optimum vitamin and mineral content from their forage.



The staff, and how they handle horses, is a key component to a top-level operation

This information is then used in collaboration with Hallway Feeds to blend custom feed to provide the optimum nutrition plan for each horse at every stage of its life, whether it be a gestating or nursing mare, weanling, yearling, breeding stallion, or

horse on lay-up or transitioning away from the racetrack and onto the next phase of its life.

“Raising a healthy, sound, competitive athlete is at the core of our entire program. From what they eat to how they’re cared



HIDDEN **H** BROOK

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for and handled, we take very seriously the decision that was made by each of our customers to place their horses in our care,” said Neel.

OAK LODGE USA

Dedication to the land and to the well-being of the horse is paramount when it comes time for owners to search for the perfect spot to board their mares.

The land in Bourbon County in Central Kentucky is known as some of the best ground on the planet to raise a Thoroughbred. Oak Lodge USA spreads across 120 acres of prime bluegrass in Bourbon County and is nestled among the best stallion operations found anywhere.

“We don’t overuse the land,” said Alan Fitzsimons, who operates Oak Lodge with his wife, Suzy. “There is plenty of space for every individual who is out on the farm eating grass year around. The land is outstanding, and we try to minimize the time the horses stay inside. The more they are outside the better. Better to be out running around in the paddock.”

In all, the land at Oak Lodge has produced more than 130 stakes horses, including top sire Medaglia d’Oro.

While the Fitzsimonses have run Oak Lodge for a decade, they had years of dedicated service to the industry under their



Time outside is important to allow a horse to “be a horse”

belt before they opened the gates.

Alan Fitzsimons, a graduate of both the English and Irish National Stud’s Management Diploma Course, has had an extensive learning curve, having worked in Australia, New Zealand, as well as in the U.K. and the U.S.

In New Zealand he had the good fortune to work with Sir Patrick Hogan at Cambridge Stud as well as work as the stallion manager at Eliza Park in Australia before coming to Kentucky to work for Robert Clay at Three Chimneys Farm for two years. That service was followed by another two-year stint at Coolmore’s Ashford Stud.

Suzy Fitzsimons attended the Univer-

sity of Limerick Equine Degree Course and has since spent more than 10 years working for Coolmore in Ireland, Australia, and the U.S.

Continuity is key to any successful operation, and the crew at Oak Lodge has been together seven years and knows the farm inside and out.

Come foaling time, Fitzsimons attends every birth, along with the assistant manager, and should an issue arise, Dr. Tina Cassar of Cassar Equine Clinic is just minutes away.

“She’s very good at what she does,” Fitzsimons said. “The treatment and care she provides are absolutely top-notch.” **BN**

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**Please contact Alan Fitzsimons
to schedule an appoint to view
the farm and facilities.**



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