

NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC

CONNECTICUT DELAWARE MAINE MARYLAND MASSACHUSETTS
NEW HAMPSHIRE NEW JERSEY NEW YORK PENNSYLVANIA
RHODE ISLAND VERMONT VIRGINIA WEST VIRGINIA



Located about 10 minutes away from Saratoga Race Course, the small Avanti Stable operation of Dawn and Mario Martinez has enjoyed success in the New York-bred program

Owning It

SUCCESSFUL NY BREEDER AVANTI STABLE RACING MORE OF ITS HORSES

By CHARLIE McCARTHY

NOT ALL THOROUGHBRED owners can watch their horses work from the backyard.

Then again, not every owner lives near the half-mile pole at Saratoga Race Course's Oklahoma Training Track.

Avanti Stable's Dawn and Mario Martinez enjoy that luxury.

"I'll text them sometimes in the mornings and say, 'At 9:15, you'll have one of your horses galloping by,'" said trainer Jim Bond. "It's just lovely for them because they can see their horses train and see what we're doing."

ALL SIRE LISTS ARE THROUGH NOV. 1.

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2021 LEADING NORTHEAST SIRE

By Over *\$1,000,000*



SECOND LEADING FOURTH CROP SIRE OF 2021 ON DIRT

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THOROUGHBREDS

2021 LEADING SIRES IN MASSACHUSETTS

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2021 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Silk Broker (96, Pentelicus)	N/A	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Tropical Joy, \$17,914)	\$31,935	34	3	0.63	0.45
2	Dr. Rockett (99, Regal Classic)	Died, 2018	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Casper Joe, \$19,232)	\$19,862	13	0	0.52	0.62
3	Indian Ocean (02, Stormy Atlantic), Briar Hill Farm	\$1,000	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Indian's Getupngo, \$7,278)	\$9,476	*266	6	0.75	1.19
4	De Roode (03, Dixieland Band)	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Rusty De, \$2,064)	\$3,434	10	0	0.28	0.60

2021 LEADING SIRES IN NEW JERSEY

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2021 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Hey Chub (00, Carson City), Joe-Dan Farm	\$1,000	14/8	1/6	0/1	(Chub Wagon, \$487,400)	\$945,571	53	4	1.73	1.42
2	Il Postino (06, Distorted Humor), Colonial Farms	\$1,000	9/4	1/1	1/1	(Alta Velocita, \$221,940)	\$588,646	19	1	1.41	0.84
3	Private Interview (92, Nureyev)	Pnsd	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Roselba, \$112,262)	\$159,042	227	3	1.07	1.20
4	King Puma (06, Forest Wildcat)	N/A	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Rachel Caroline, \$66,438)	\$126,557	31	0	1.08	1.46
5	Don Six (00, Wild Escapade)	N/A	10/0	0/0	0/0	(Crafty Don, \$22,594)	\$67,277	94	3	1.12	1.28
6	Cable Boy (04, Jump Start)	Died, 2017	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Optic Way, \$58,840)	\$58,840	23	2	1.56	1.08
7	Chips Are Down (02, Distorted Humor)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Singleberybourbon, \$21,938)	\$21,938	12	0	0.60	0.60
8	Freud's Honour (08, Freud)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Jesters Honor, \$16,500)	\$16,500	3	0	1.10	0.29
9	Secret Getaway (05, Skip Away)	Pnsd	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Dreamer's Getaway, \$1,334)	\$1,334	4	0	0.41	1.51
10	Defrere (92, Deputy Minister)	Died, 2017	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Oak Bluffs, \$190)	\$190	*590	22	1.20	1.17

About 10 years ago the husband-and-wife Martinez team settled in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., from Staten Island, N.Y. Their farm, with two full-time employees, is located about 10 minutes away in Greenfield Center, N.Y.

Thanks to on-track performances of horses such as Tale of the Union and Make Mischieff the past two years, more people have become familiar with Avanti Stable's breeding capabilities,

which stem from two people working with horses from the time they were youngsters.

Dawn Martinez, a Brooklyn native, grew up "with everything from a pony to a Western horse" on her family's country home in upstate New York. Mario Martinez, born in Italy, was raised on Staten Island and as a kid cleaned stalls at a local stable.

After moving to Saratoga Springs,

the two equine lovers bought into a horse named Farawaycat with many of the same members of the Sackatoga Stable syndicate that owned Tiz the Law, though the couple did not own a share of the 2020 Belmont Stakes Presented by NYRA Bets (G1) and Runhappy Travers Stakes (G1) winner.

When Farawaycat's racing days ended, Avanti Stable—the name is an Italian word meaning "to go ahead"—purchased



Tale of the Union as a foal at Avanti Stable; later racing for prominent owner Michael Lund Petersen, the son of Union Rags won a debut maiden race at Del Mar and an allowance race at Belmont Park



Tale of the Union turned heads breezing ahead of the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-olds in training sale, where he would sell for \$925,000 to Petersen—the second-highest-priced juvenile sold

2021 LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2021 Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Central Banker (10, Speightstown), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$6,000	89/49	3/4	2/3	(Bankit, \$241,200)	\$3,580,364	228	7	1.43	1.19
2	Freud (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$5,000	85/39	4/6	1/4	(Dakota Gold, \$355,000)	\$2,535,202	*1380	58	1.46	1.21
3	Big Brown (05, Boundary), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$5,000	104/50	2/2	1/2	(Somelikeithotbrown, \$388,000)	\$2,438,061	*843	27	1.03	1.41
4	War Dancer (10, War Front), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$7,500	64/22	1/1	1/1	(Step Dancer, \$153,700)	\$1,725,300	123	1	1.02	1.18
5	Bellamy Road (02, Concerto), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	Pnsd	89/42	1/1	1/1	(Topper T, \$128,094)	\$1,675,109	*724	32	1.12	1.22
6	Bustin Stones (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$2,500	58/30	1/1	1/1	(Shaker Shack, \$212,395)	\$1,642,375	254	11	1.32	1.26
7	Mission Impazible (07, Unbridled's Song), Sequel Stallions New York	\$2,500	82/30	1/1	1/1	(Espresso Shot, \$114,520)	\$1,369,692	277	7	1.05	1.18
8	Effinex (11, Mineshaft)	Died, 2017	39/17	2/2	2/2	(Ocala Dream, \$188,850)	\$981,478	56	2	0.85	0.94
9	Courageous Cat (06, Storm Cat), Questroyal North	\$2,500	47/23	1/1	1/1	(Ifihadachance, \$101,555)	\$860,572	228	8	0.88	1.05
10	Honorable Dillon (10, Tapit)	N/A	27/13	1/1	1/1	(Awesome Debate, \$214,774)	\$728,030	114	1	0.63	1.06
11	Majestic City (09, City Zip), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$2,500	37/12	1/1	1/1	(The Important One, \$202,675)	\$711,747	79	1	0.65	1.02
12	Micromanager (10, Medaglia d'Oro), Rockridge Stud	Pnsd	38/16	0/0	0/0	(Takeitocomitee, \$79,375)	\$647,841	73	0	0.74	1.23
13	Giant Surprise (09, Giant's Causeway), Rockridge Stud	Pnsd	31/17	1/1	1/1	(Groovy Surprise, \$103,500)	\$621,964	128	3	1.24	1.22
14	Teuflesberg (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	35/14	0/0	0/0	(I'm Perfect Too, \$88,000)	\$580,812	179	4	1.12	1.05
15	Slumber (GB) (08, Cacique), Rockridge Stud	Private	13/6	1/1	0/1	(Fluffy Socks, \$204,000)	\$466,564	20	1	1.73	0.75

2021 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2021 Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Wicked Strong (11, Hard Spun), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$3,500	178/77	2/2	0/2	(Jilted Bride, \$176,880)	\$3,365,791	*276	4	0.88	1.25
2	Jump Start (99, A.P. Indy)	Died, 2019	129/57	3/3	2/3	(Vault, \$267,000)	\$3,201,713	*1494	55	1.38	1.25
3	Flashback (10, Tapit), Diamond B Farm	\$3,500	117/66	2/2	2/2	(Temper Tantrum, \$137,396)	\$2,302,045	264	4	0.97	1.49
4	Warrior's Reward (06, Medaglia d'Oro), WynOaks Farm	\$5,000	125/62	1/1	1/1	(Night Ops, \$283,700)	\$2,301,092	*649	21	0.99	1.29
5	El Padrino (09, Pulpit)	Died, 2017	72/34	3/4	1/3	(Don't Call Me Mary, \$178,750)	\$2,160,216	190	5	1.30	1.24
6	Poseidon's Warrior (08, Speightstown), Equistar Training and Breeding	\$3,000	77/35	2/4	0/2	(Firenze Fire, \$473,500)	\$1,985,422	*243	3	0.98	1.05
7	Weigelia (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	Private	50/31	1/5	0/1	(Beren, \$422,790)	\$1,733,032	*177	8	1.38	1.05
8	Boisterous (07, Distorted Humor), Diamond B Farm	\$3,000	52/35	2/2	1/2	(Loud Mouth, \$128,160)	\$1,201,317	139	3	0.87	1.03
9	Smarty Jones (01, Elusive Quality), Equistar Training and Breeding	\$3,500	42/27	0/0	0/0	(Li'lbito' charm, \$172,134)	\$1,141,920	*827	27	1.34	1.64
10	Talent Search (03, Catienus), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	34/19	1/1	0/1	(Hollywood Talent, \$186,342)	\$1,122,150	*193	3	1.06	1.15
11	Uptowncharlybrown (07, Limehouse), Diamond B Farm	\$7,500	35/9	1/2	1/1	(Wait for It, \$209,205)	\$833,197	93	4	1.56	1.06
12	Normandy Invasion (10, Tapit), Pin Oak Lane Farm	Pnsd	45/23	0/0	0/0	(Purple Hearted, \$109,540)	\$831,879	89	0	0.60	1.13
13	Peace and Justice (10, War Front), Blackstone Farm PA	\$3,500	34/11	0/0	0/0	(Diesel, \$65,100)	\$501,332	58	1	0.67	1.33
14	Ice Box (07, Pulpit)	N/A	42/16	0/0	0/0	(Its Cold in Dehere, \$137,207)	\$492,731	301	2	0.61	0.96
15	Social Inclusion (11, Pioneerof the Nile), Diamond B Farm	\$5,000	29/11	0/0	0/0	(Big Venezuela, \$57,130)	\$470,870	52	0	0.66	1.05

the E Dubai mare, who had been 0-5-3 in 12 career starts, for breeding purposes.

Avanti Stable also claimed horses to race for a while and had a small barn at the track.

"That proved to be too difficult," Mario said. "It's very difficult as a small stable at the track to get the stalls you need, whatever you need, so that's why we don't do that anymore."

The Martinezes then decided to focus on breeding. They came across two fruitful broodmares: Speightful Lady, a daughter of Speightstown; and Tanglewood Tale, a daughter of Storm Cat son Tale of the Cat.

"We bought Speightful Lady at auction—at the time she was already bred to Uncle Mo—and she produced some really nice horses for us," Mario said. "We claimed Tanglewood Tale for racing. She had a good track record, but she got injured so she became a broodmare and

proved to be a good one."

Make Mischief, one of the top-earning New York-breds for 2021, is out of Speightful Lady. She was sold for \$285,000 at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga preferred New York bred yearling sale. The Into Mischief daughter, a multiple graded-stakes-placed stakes winner trained by Mark Casse, finished third in the Acorn Stakes (G1) in June at Belmont Park.

"That's one we're really sorry we sold. But having said that, at the time we bred her, Into Mischief's stud fee was \$50,000," Mario said. "Now it's like \$175,000, so it's cost prohibitive to go back to Into Mischief."

As for Tanglewood Tale, her top offspring has been Tale of the Union, a son of Union Rags who sold for \$90,000 as a yearling and \$925,000 as a 2-year-old. The now 5-year-old bay went 1-3-1 in six starts for trainer Bob Baffert in 2020. Tale of the Union ran once this year,

finishing third in an allowance race at Belmont Park. Recently retired, he was bought privately and gelded to live out his life at Avanti Stable.

"We talked about trying him as a sire, but given the track record, or lack thereof, we didn't think it was worth going in that direction," Mario said. "Since he's going to be retired at the farm, and we have a lot of mares around, we gelded him."

To ensure horses are well-cared for after racing, Avanti Stable has claimed or bought back other horses that it bred or sold.

"We're very much about the horse, and the horses' quality of life," Dawn said.

"They just truly care about their horses, and it's so wonderful to see that quality in people," said Tina Bond, wife of Avanti's sole trainer. "I know a lot of people can say it, but these two people really walk the walk. They take care of their

2021 LEADING SIRES IN VIRGINIA

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2021 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Friend Or Foe (07, Friends Lake), Smallwood Farm	\$1,000	7/2	1/2	0/1	(Mr. Buff, \$162,750)	\$190,178	30	1	2.18	1.49
2	Mr. Sidney (04, Storm Cat)	N/A	18/5	0/0	0/0	(Danang, \$27,450)	\$136,815	*135	1	1.04	1.57
3	Cosa Vera (05, Dynaformer)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Heart Light, \$32,500)	\$42,888	42	0	0.58	1.27
4	Gone Clubbing (07, Gone West)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Tempting Moment, \$20,000)	\$40,250	10	0	0.30	0.22
5	Fierce Wind (05, Dixie Union)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Tolaga Bay, \$18,600)	\$39,321	31	0	0.56	0.36
6	Pivot (97, Pleasant Colony)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(All the Way Mae, \$1,375)	\$1,375	14	0	0.23	0.51
7	Remarquez (04, Racey Remarque), Orchard View Farm	\$2,500	1/0	0/0	0/0	(R H F Spectre, \$979)	\$979	34	0	0.10	0.64

horses from the time that they're born, for a lot of them, until they're gone."

As of mid-October, Tanglewood Tale is in foal to Curlin's son Vino Rosso, and Speightful Lady is in foal to Golden-cents—a son of Into Mischief.

Avanti Stable has also added a third broodmare: City Zip's daughter Josephine's Moment, who is in foal to Bernardini.

"We claimed her sight unseen," Mario said. "We claimed her on her performance—she had a nice track record."

The Martinezes said Avanti Stable's "niche" is to be a New York stable that breeds to Kentucky sires. "Unfortunately, we don't really have in New York the types of horses they have in Kentucky," Mario said. "Neither does Florida. Neither does Maryland. Neither does anybody."

The couple also said they're tired of selling their best horses and now are breeding to race. They've put themselves in position to do that through success in commercial and residential real estate and banking. Mario is chairman and CEO at Catskill Hudson Bank; Dawn is a marketing director.

"When COVID hit, the Saratoga sales were canceled and we decided not to go far to sell anything, so we kept them," said Mario, who added that Avanti Stable had been a fixture at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sales and the New York Spring Select Sale. "This year we kept them. So now, we've decided really not to be selling; just racing our own."

That goes for the broodmares, too.

"We had phone calls to buy Tanglewood Tale," Dawn said. "We had somebody come from Texas to look at her, but



Consigned by Paramount Sales, Make Mischief sold to Flamingo Bloodstock for \$285,000 at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton New York-bred yearling sale in Saratoga Springs—the sixth-highest price at the sale



Racing for classic-winning owner Gary Barber, Make Mischief won this year's Maddie May Stakes at Aqueduct

COGLIANESE PHOTOS/SUSIE RAISHER

2021 LEADING SIRES IN WEST VIRGINIA

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2019 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Fiber Sonde (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	86/50	2/3	2/2	(Muad'dib, \$236,486)	\$2,369,486	297	19	1.32	0.80
2	Windsor Castle (98, Lord Carson)	N/A	85/48	1/1	1/1	(Our Diamond Girl, \$145,831)	\$1,910,762	417	16	0.99	0.99
3	Bullsbay (04, Tiznow), Pellinor Lane	\$1,500	31/17	1/1	0/1	(Maythehorsewithu, \$104,750)	\$706,968	119	4	1.04	1.16
4	Limehouse (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,500	49/19	0/0	0/0	(Boss E Boogs, \$65,604)	\$697,829	*492	23	1.09	1.11
5	Despite the Odds (06, Speightstown), Bybee Road Farm on Avonwood	\$1,500	33/19	0/0	0/0	(Oddsondustymiller, \$89,450)	\$694,987	80	0	1.03	1.18
6	Exclusive Quality (03, Elusive Quality)	Died	33/13	1/1	1/1	(Pro Quality, \$179,110)	\$537,843	354	8	0.88	1.04
7	Juba (11, Tapit), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$1,500	25/11	1/1	1/1	(Fancy Her Up, \$75,237)	\$489,996	45	2	0.87	1.13
8	Machen (08, Distorted Humor)	N/A	32/15	0/0	0/0	(Northern Ridge, \$63,278)	\$426,253	92	0	0.65	0.75
9	Master Rick (09, Master Command)	N/A	13/9	0/0	0/0	(Privately, \$91,627)	\$363,270	31	0	0.73	0.84
10	Capo Bastone (10, Street Boss), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,000	22/7	0/0	0/0	(Azzurra, \$81,865)	\$315,482	52	0	0.76	1.26
11	Officer Rocket (GB) (04, Officer)	Died, 2019	17/8	0/0	0/0	(Rocket Appeal, \$63,382)	\$234,575	52	0	0.67	0.63
12	Swiss Yodeler (94, Eastern Echo)	N/A	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Alpine Moon, \$57,256)	\$204,180	795	15	0.96	1.01
13	Garnered (98, Holy Bull)	N/A	7/4	0/0	0/0	(Super Garner, \$113,055)	\$194,689	107	0	0.69	0.70
14	Gattopardo (05, Johannesburg), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,500	15/6	0/0	0/0	(Unaquoi, \$37,335)	\$170,078	48	1	0.93	0.77
15	Bobalicious (06, Chapel Royal)	N/A	5/4	0/0	0/0	(Be Be Bop, \$85,657)	\$149,043	15	0	0.64	0.59

we're not selling her. It's not an option."

Mario referred to Avanti Stable as a "boutique shop," aiming to breed its broodmares to "sires of sires."

"We're never going to have more than four or five mares," he said. "I'd like to see one of the young ones become a broodmare down the road...If we see something exceptional, we'll get it. We see more value in claiming a good horse to develop a broodmare than going to the auctions where you pay a fortune for them."

As they spoke on a Zoom call in early October, the Martinezes were hopeful the horses they had on the track could make noise on the NYRA circuit (Belmont Park, Aqueduct, and Saratoga Race Course).

Baldizar, a gelded son of Honor Code—Josephine's Moment, by City Zip; and Tiffany Tale, a full sister to Tale of the Union (Union Rags—Tanglewood Tale, by Tale of the Cat) are promising 2-year-olds trained by Bond.

"I thought they would have raced at Saratoga. We were hoping they would race at Saratoga, but they weren't ready," Mario said. "So, they'll race (soon). Tiffany Tale is really doing well in training, so we have high hopes for her."



Winter is again approaching at Avanti Stable

Avanti Stable also has 4-year-old Lucky Girl, a Lookin At Lucky filly out of the Holy Bull mare Celebrity Sighting. After being sidelined due to illness, she was being targeted for Belmont in the fall.

Two promising yearlings recently were sent to the Bonds' Song Hill Farm to be broken. One is Caldo Candy, a Candy Ride son out of Tanglewood Tale.

"That was probably our most expensive stud we bred from, Candy Ride," Mario said. "So, we have high hopes for that one."

The other yearling is Speightful Lily, by Union Rags and out of Speightful Lady.

Although Mario did more talking than Dawn during a 40-minute interview, it's clear they both play significant roles in the Avanti Stable operations. They also share a patient approach with the horses.

"We take our time," Mario said. "We've seen too many really good horses that we have sold at auction (struggle) as 2-year-olds...people were all in a rush to get them to the track, especially because of Saratoga. Everybody wants to race at Saratoga, but these horses are not necessarily ready to race at Saratoga. But there's money pressure; there's other pressures—and a lot of them end up running and a lot of them get hurt."

While Tale of the Union and Make Mischief have impressed for other owners, Avanti Stable still has racing dreams of its own.

"We're still waiting for that big one," Mario said. "Our dream is to win a big race here at Saratoga with one of our homebred horses." **BH**