

# WEST COAST

CALIFORNIA IDAHO NEVADA OREGON  
UTAH WASHINGTON WYOMING

It's a family affair at Barton Thoroughbreds with Richard and Beth Barton, joined by their daughter, Kate Barton Penner, working together at their 200-acre farm in Santa Ynez, Calif.



## Shining Brightly

***BARTON THOROUGHBREDS: SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS***

By TRACY GANTZ

**B**ARTON THOROUGHBREDS IS HAVING A breakout season in 2023, but it has been years in the making. A methodical plan of amassing a broodmare band and constant re-evaluation of those mares have put Barton atop the list of California breeders.

Those mares are producing stakes-caliber runners, and because Barton markets virtually all of its crop, the racehorses are coming from a wide variety of programs from coast to

ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH NOV. 6

COURTESY OF BARTON THOROUGHBREDS/ELIZABETH HAY PHOTOGRAPHY

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# 2023 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

For daily updated sire lists visit [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com)

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2023 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2023 Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Grazen (06, Benchmark), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$6,000	116/62	6/11	3/6	(Rose Maddox, \$244,470)	\$4,343,114	330	21	1.44	1.05
2	Stay Thirsty (08, Bernardini), Lovacres Ranch	\$15,000	182/77	2/2	2/2	(Bus Buzz, \$239,530)	\$3,627,631	*735	19	1.15	1.26
3	Smiling Tiger (07, Hold That Tiger), Harris Farms	\$7,500	126/60	2/3	1/2	(Grand Slam Smile, \$206,900)	\$3,098,929	407	11	0.95	0.96
4	Mr. Big (03, Dynaformer), Legacy Ranch	\$7,500	86/38	5/8	2/5	(Ceiling Crusher, \$898,200)	\$2,984,030	208	12	1.24	0.91
5	Midnight Storm (11, Pioneerof the Nile), Milky Way Farm	\$4,000	102/54	2/2	0/2	(Runaway Storm, \$288,525)	\$2,568,550	160	3	0.94	1.12
6	Vronsky (99, Danzig)	Died	64/32	3/13	0/3	(Closing Remarks, \$600,500)	\$2,538,532	368	13	1.19	1.00
7	I'll Have Another (09, Flower Alley), Ocean Breeze Ranch	\$10,000	138/64	1/1	0/1	(Omega Rainbow, \$205,525)	\$2,467,938	452	5	1.01	1.07
8	Clubhouse Ride (08, Candy Ride), Legacy Ranch	\$7,500	69/38	2/2	1/2	(Warrens Candy Girl, \$152,200)	\$1,953,966	181	5	1.30	0.92
9	Danzing Candy (13, Twirling Candy), Rancho San Miguel	\$5,000	81/41	1/1	0/1	(Moose Mitchell, \$202,040)	\$1,871,843	190	2	0.85	1.02
10	Square Eddie (06, Smart Strike)	Pnsd	63/35	1/2	1/1	(Eddie's New Dream, \$230,440)	\$1,784,470	285	19	1.36	1.10
11	Stanford (12, Malibu Moon), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	81/43	1/2	0/1	(Carmen Miranda, \$102,544)	\$1,616,541	159	1	0.69	0.91
12	Jack Milton (10, War Front), Gray Farms	\$5,000	60/29	0/0	0/0	(Bad Beat Brian, \$286,725)	\$1,557,131	164	3	1.00	1.11
13	Acclamation (06, Unusual Heat), Harris Farms	\$4,000	52/25	1/4	1/1	(Kings River Knight, \$281,750)	\$1,238,213	209	6	0.97	1.14
14	Curlin to Mischief (11, Curlin)	Pnsd	56/34	1/1	1/1	(See Through It, \$109,958)	\$1,197,988	143	4	0.77	0.83
15	Graydar (09, Unbridled's Song), Milky Way Farm	\$4,000	58/30	1/1	0/1	(Princess Kokachin, \$147,660)	\$1,176,501	*340	7	0.89	1.26
16	Sir Prancealot (IRE) (10, Tamayuz), Rancho San Miguel	\$10,000	80/27	2/2	1/2	(Perhaps Tonight, \$146,985)	\$1,126,385	*495	13	1.13	0.92
17	Dads Caps (10, Discreet Cat), Barton Thoroughbreds	\$10,000	46/23	2/2	2/2	(Kangaroo Court, \$145,200)	\$1,038,564	94	2	0.71	0.87
18	Jersey Town (06, Speightstown), Daehling Ranch	\$3,000	52/25	0/0	0/0	(No Sabe Nada, \$140,640)	\$814,012	*235	7	0.97	1.01
19	Ministers Wild Cat (00, Deputy Minister)	Pnsd	45/22	1/1	0/1	(Alberta Sun, \$100,770)	\$800,158	539	21	0.91	0.86
20	Straight Fire (14, Dominus), Legacy Ranch	\$7,500	28/13	1/1	0/1	(Sassy Nature, \$271,110)	\$785,411	45	4	1.10	1.39
21	Misremembered (06, Candy Ride), Barton Thoroughbreds	Pnsd	57/14	2/2	1/2	(Don't Get Pickled, \$99,060)	\$741,533	197	9	0.87	1.06
22	Empire Way (09, Empire Maker), Heinz & Michelle Steinmann Farms	\$2,500	23/16	0/0	0/0	(Starship Defiant, \$128,700)	\$739,767	165	2	0.62	0.90
23	Cat Burglar (10, Unbridled's Song), Barton Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	34/21	0/0	0/0	(Rodrigoknows, \$72,998)	\$733,526	76	0	0.71	0.84
24	Idiot Proof (04, Benchmark), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	26/18	0/0	0/0	(Proof She Zips, \$79,740)	\$720,514	148	2	1.01	0.90
25	Majestic Harbor (08, Rockport Harbor)	Died, 2022	25/13	0/0	0/0	(Manuelito, \$87,450)	\$627,226	44	1	1.15	0.92
26	Tamarando (11, Bertrando), Harris Farms	\$2,500	23/12	0/0	0/0	(Tamara Mine, \$98,990)	\$610,996	55	3	0.85	1.24
27	Richard's Kid (05, Lemon Drop Kid), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	33/16	0/0	0/0	(Cousin Richie, \$90,500)	\$602,667	127	0	0.89	0.88
28	Tom's Tribute (10, Lion Heart), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	35/17	1/1	1/1	(Tom's Regret, \$130,148)	\$600,032	88	1	0.61	0.81
29	Rousing Sermon (09, Lucky Pulpit), BG Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	21/11	0/0	0/0	(Slam Dunk Sermon, \$129,936)	\$588,161	60	0	0.72	1.07
30	Jeranimo (06, Congaree), Harris Farms	Private	24/12	0/0	0/0	(Reckoning Day, \$88,856)	\$486,456	66	0	0.54	0.83
31	Gig Harbor (08, City Zip), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	25/14	0/0	0/0	(Kerry Gold, \$83,050)	\$483,452	80	0	0.66	0.83
32	Bold Chieftain (03, Chief Seattle), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	22/11	0/0	0/0	(Seattle Bold, \$73,816)	\$463,124	102	1	0.74	0.84
33	Slew's Tiznow (05, Tiznow), Rancho San Miguel	\$3,000	25/12	1/2	0/1	(Mici's Express, \$126,530)	\$447,346	190	7	0.81	0.90
34	Desert Code (04, E Dubai), Harris Farms	\$2,000	20/9	0/0	0/0	(Unwritten Code, \$132,480)	\$444,076	186	4	0.80	1.00
35	Northern Causeway (08, Giant's Causeway), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	45/14	0/0	0/0	(Talbot Bay, \$85,230)	\$433,041	131	0	0.38	0.85

\* includes Southern Hemisphere foals

coast. Most remain in California, another key component because Barton fully supports the California-bred incentive program, which rewards breeders, owners, and stallion owners.

Pushiness embodies the scope of the Barton operation. The California-bred 2-year-old daughter of Kantharos won the California Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Stakes at Del Mar this past summer. Michael McCarthy trains her in California for New York-based owner Repole Stable, which bought her from Barton for \$115,000 at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton California Fall Yearlings and Horses of All Ages Sale. Mike Repole has a high national profile with such major runners as Eclipse Award winner Forte, owned in partnership with St. Elias Stable.

Kangaroo Court and Carmelita's Man, the latter bred in part-



Penner, married with two small children, manages most of the daily operations at the farm

nership with Robert Traynor, are 2023 California stakes winners from the Barton program, while One in Vermillion has won stakes in the Golden Gate State and elsewhere, and Spitten Kitten is a stakes winner in Canada. One in Vermillion is the leading Barton-bred earner, with \$564,220 this year. He is a five-time stakes winner, three of those in 2023, including the H. Allen Jerkens Memorial Stakes (G1) at Saratoga.

The Barton name stems from a family who all play major roles in the operation: Richard and Beth Barton and their daughter, Kate Barton Penner. The horses are bred in the name of Richard Barton Enterprises, having been raised and, in most cases, foaled at Barton Thoroughbreds, the family's 200-acre property in Santa Ynez, Calif.

"The decisions on the breeding of these mares were made three

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to four years ago, so we're just starting to see everything come to fruition," said Penner. "Breeding takes a long time to see your efforts pay off. We've been working hard, and every year we up our quality in terms of the broodmares we've been buying."

Penner manages most of the day-to-day operations, a challenging task considering that she and her husband, Blair Penner, are raising two small children. But Richard and Beth continue to take active roles.

"They are involved, maybe even more so than they have been in the past few years," Penner said. "They enjoy visiting the farm often and are really looking at all the foals and yearlings. My dad has always been very involved, but my mom has become really active in everything that we do. She helps keep tabs on all of our current runners."

Beth knows where all of the Barton-bred horses are running each weekend, useful for managing the business and also for giving them rooting interests as they watch the races on television.

The Bartons and Penners live in the Riverside area, east of Los Angeles County, near California Packaging and Display, their cardboard packaging business. The farm is about 200 miles north in an area that has produced many good racehorses. In previous incarnations, the property was formerly Magali Farms and Mandysland Farm, two premier Thoroughbred operations.

The Bartons have also put together a team at the farm with decades of experience.

Farm manager Kevin Dickson managed Vessels Stallion Farm in Bonsall, Calif., for 21 years when it was a leading Quarter Horse breeding farm that also branched out into Thoroughbreds. In Excess and Free House were among



Penner said her parents "are involved, maybe even more so than they have been in the past few years."

the Thoroughbreds who stood at Vessels. Dickson continued to manage that property after Paul and Zillah Reddam bought it and it became Ocean Breeze Ranch, where leading California stallion Square Eddie stood.

Assisting Dickson at Barton is administrative director Lacey Coler, a daughter of jockey Jerry Lambert; broodmare manager Noel Ortiz-Perez, with more than 15 years of experience in the Thoroughbred industry; and lay-up manager Orlando Gonzalez, a former assistant to trainer Michael Machowsky.

"Kevin has been a key factor in our success," Penner said. "To manage all of these Thoroughbreds along with all of the people is no minor task. We're so grateful to have him on our team. We truly have, I think, the best team. Everyone is very qualified and is so invested in what we are trying to accomplish."

Barton Thoroughbreds now stands five stallions: Cat Burglar, Dads Caps,

One Bad Boy, Tap Back, and—new for 2024—Shaaz. Barton either owns the stallions or acquires an ownership interest in them.

"We do want some type of ownership as an incentive to offer our support from our broodmare band," Penner said. "We want them to succeed just as much as the stallions' owners do."

Dads Caps, a millionaire son of Discreet Cat, is the sire of Kangaroo Court, winner of this year's Echo Eddie Stakes, and stakes-placed Lily Pad Lake and Pops Awesome. Cat Burglar, a stakes-winning son of Unbridled's Song and an earner of \$538,720, is among California's leading sires of 2-year-olds and came from the program of owner Michael Lund Petersen and trainer Bob Baffert. That is the same combination behind Adare Manor, a leading contender for this year's Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1).

"One Bad Boy and Tap Back both have had their first crop of foals in 2023," Penner said. "We're really excited with how all of the weanlings look. We'll be bringing the first yearlings to market next year for both of those stallions."

One Bad Boy, a son of Twirling Candy, won the 2019 Queen's Plate and 2020 Lure Stakes. Tap Back is a Calbred son of Einstein—Tap Tap Ur It, by Tapit, and won the 2019 Golden State Juvenile Stakes. Richard Barton bred Tap Back with Adena Springs, and Barton raced him.

Baffert also trained Shaaz for Petersen. A son of Uncle Mo, Shaaz ran third in the 2022 Steve Sexton Mile Stakes (G3) at Lone Star Park after winning his first three races at Santa Anita.

"We're excited to be partners with Michael Lund Petersen again on a second stallion with Shaaz," said Dickson. "He is a stunning individual—he was a

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									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Harbor the Gold (01, Seeking the Gold)	Died, 2021	55/29	1/2	0/1	(Zabracadabra, \$160,150)	\$1,071,759	465	27	0.60	0.68
2	Sixthirteen (04, Dixie Union), Bar C Racing Stables	\$1,000	13/7	0/0	0/0	(Ms Parkside, \$54,373)	\$184,835	74	0	0.32	0.56
3	Dynamic Impact (11, Tiznow), Bar C Racing Stables	\$1,500	8/4	0/0	0/0	(How About a Fresca, \$45,940)	\$118,206	18	1	0.60	0.96
4	Slew's Saga (02, Seattle Slew)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Saxon Saga, \$81,491)	\$86,956	38	1	0.34	0.66
5	↑ Rise Up (11, Rockport Harbor), Ruah Ranch	\$1,500	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Whiskey Harbor, \$54,858)	\$71,058	5	0	0.64	0.39
6	Giacomo (02, Holy Bull)	N/A	13/3	0/0	0/0	(General Thayer, \$26,743)	\$63,136	*395	10	0.92	1.01
7	Understatement (05, Distorted Humor)	N/A	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Lucinda Rella, \$19,460)	\$41,989	58	0	0.36	0.45
8	Why Not Be Perfect (07, Whywhywhy), Keizer Equestrian Center	\$750	4/0	0/0	0/0	(Zee Carrot Eagle, \$2,040)	\$4,830	24	0	0.08	0.38
9	Outlash (12, Unbridled's Song), Bar C Racing Stables	Private	4/0	0/0	0/0	(Tudie Lu, \$1,391)	\$3,545	7	0	0.04	0.84
10	Man of Faith (06, Essence of Dubai)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Light of Faith, \$2,300)	\$2,300	2	0	0.04	0.50
11	Al Faatik (09, Invasor), Windfall Farms	\$1,000	3/0	0/0	0/0	(Twenty Two Deal, \$210)	\$372	5	0	0.01	0.14

\* includes Southern Hemisphere foals



Farm manager Kevin Dickson previously managed Vessels Stallion Farm in Bonsall, Calif.



Virginia-bred Shaaz enters stud in 2024 at Barton Thoroughbreds with a listed fee of \$5,000

\$1.1 million 2-year-old—he is fabulous looking and has such poise and presence. He really is a classy horse.”

All of these stallions benefit from Barton's large broodmare band, which numbers about 175. Richard Barton, who “loves to find a good deal,” Penner said, has claimed some of them and also found several at bargain prices. Barton has stepped up to buy more expensive mares as well.

They found Given Star, who was carrying One in Vermillion at the time, for just \$4,500 at the 2019 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale. Bonus Spin, the dam of Kangaroo Court, cost \$7,000 not in foal at the 2017 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale. Imperial Pippin sold for \$16,000 while carrying Pushiness at the 2020 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale.

Barton markets its horses, usually keeping and racing only those that don't meet their reserves. At the Fasig-Tipton California Fall Yearlings and Horses of Racing Age Sale in September, they sold five horses for six figures each, including the top-priced filly, a daughter of Improbable—Diva's Tribute, by Henny Hughes, for \$200,000.

Barton was the leading consignor at the Fasig-Tipton sale, with 30 horses grossing \$1,378,000 and averaging \$45,933.

“We had our highest yearling average and gross to date,” Penner said.

Barton also took a large consignment to the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association's Northern California sale. They were the third-leading consignor there, behind only Lovacres Ranch and Harris Farms, two longtime

leading California operations.

Barton sells with other consignors at sales in Arizona and Washington and occasionally at Keeneland in September and November. Through Few Acre Farm, Barton sold three stakes winners at the 2021 Arizona Thoroughbred Breeders Association Fall Mixed Sale: One in Vermillion to Jonathan Kalman for \$26,000, Kangaroo Court to George Sharp for \$7,500, and Spitten Kitten to Marvin and Deb Buffalo for \$2,500.

“Everyone at the farm looks forward to sale season,” Penner said. “They take so much pride in the babies that we take to the sales. It's really fun to see everyone's hard work pay off because no corners are cut. It's nice for the guys to know that what they do matters.”

Sending yearlings to several sales has worked well for Barton.

THIS PAGE, LEFT: FASIG-TIPTON PHOTOS; RIGHT: COURTESY OF BARTON THOROGBREDS/CECILIA GUSTAFSSON; OPPOSITE PAGE: COGLIANESE PHOTOS/WALTER WLODARCZYK

# 2023 LEADING SIRES IN WASHINGTON

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2023 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2023 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Conveyance (07, Indian Charlie), Blue Ribbon Farm	Died, 2023	31/17	1/4	0/1	(Nobody Listens, \$339,740)	\$896,896	98	5	1.08	1.07
2	Coast Guard (05, Stormy Atlantic), El Dorado Farms	\$2,000	41/18	1/1	0/1	(Asena, \$86,958)	\$672,831	134	8	0.52	0.52
3	Gallant Son (06, Malabar Gold)	N/A	21/13	1/1	0/1	(Fast Buck, \$119,150)	\$643,722	38	1	0.83	0.64
4	Abraaj (03, Carson City)	Died, 2019	30/20	0/0	0/0	(Ms Flashy Harbor, \$39,641)	\$375,847	135	9	0.51	0.63
5	Raised a Secret (10, Songandaprayer), El Dorado Farms	\$1,500	11/7	1/1	1/1	(Rimrock Lake, \$37,284)	\$165,879	26	1	0.32	0.59
6	Gold Aly (06, Medaglia d'Oro)	N/A	8/6	0/0	0/0	(Terry's Boy, \$73,030)	\$158,195	23	0	0.43	0.53
7	Private Gold (00, Seeking the Gold), El Dorado Farms	\$1,500	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Boss Like Beth, \$114,328)	\$131,469	198	4	0.48	0.55
8	Gold Rush Dancer (13, Private Gold), Blue Ribbon Farm	\$1,500	13/5	0/0	0/0	(Neissa, \$30,820)	\$120,104	22	1	0.34	0.41
9	Nationhood (02, Cherokee Run)	Died, 2020	13/5	0/0	0/0	(Time 'er Too, \$18,890)	\$115,880	90	3	0.42	0.62
10	Mr. Rancho Vista (05, Northern Afleet)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Young Life Laura, \$49,300)	\$70,850	8	0	0.42	0.44
11	War Power (06, Pulpit), Frances Long	Private	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Pistol Power, \$25,756)	\$60,134	36	1	0.37	0.40
12	Parker's Storm Cat (00, Storm Cat)	N/A	7/4	0/0	0/0	(Bourbon Bandit, \$24,755)	\$59,117	*337	4	0.79	0.97
13	Running Tap (08, Tapit)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Its Kraken Time, \$31,140)	\$33,885	23	0	0.21	0.42
14	Raise the Bluff (03, Pine Bluff)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Continue On Victor, \$10,435)	\$29,555	102	1	0.51	0.47
15	Houseofroyalhearts (02, Chester House)	N/A	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Aliceshouseofheart, \$19,480)	\$28,320	33	0	0.40	0.42
16	Primal Instinct (11, Giant's Causeway)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Timberlake Gage, \$16,999)	\$16,999	6	0	0.48	0.35
17	Rallying Cry (04, War Chant)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Amanda's Beach Boy, \$5,352)	\$10,981	56	0	0.24	0.50
18	Gotham City (98, Saint Ballado)	Died, 2019	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Gotham's Finale, \$3,410)	\$3,410	191	0	0.68	0.80
19	Trickey Trevor (99, Demaloot Demashoot)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Iknowyourface, \$2,160)	\$2,160	79	0	0.28	0.45

\* includes Southern Hemisphere foals

“We like to split up our yearlings because it’s hard to put so many in one sale,” Penner said.

Because not all of the Barton offerings reached their reserves, Penner noted that “we’ll have some nice horses to race.”

While the Bartons acquired one of the top farms in California, they are continuously making improvements. They eliminated the training track and have redone about 30 acres of pasture on the lay-up side. Penner said they have added many therapeutic regimens for their lay-up clients.

“We have an AquaTred, a European walker, and a whole vibe stall,” she said. “It’s a great place for R&R, to get up to the valley.”

Dickson said that about 160 acres are devoted to the breeding side, while about 40 acres are used for lay-ups.

“We’ve listened to the trainers,” said Dickson about the farm improvements. “Several of them said that they wanted sand pens for horses that come up here with feet issues. So, we converted a couple of small paddocks into sand-pen paddocks. We have a lot of grass, and a lot of folks obviously like to turn a horse



Grade 1 winner **One in Vermillion** was in utero when the Bartons purchased her dam, **Given Star**, for a bargain **\$4,500** at auction in 2019

out for some time away from the track.”

Dickson and the Bartons have varied the sizes of the grass paddocks so that the farm can accommodate whatever a lay-up needs. The farm is often the next step in the post-surgery recuperation process for horses from many of Southern California’s equine hospitals, including Alamo Pintado Equine Medical Center just a few miles away.

Still, it is the breeding side that keeps everyone the busiest. With sales

about done for this year, the Bartons, Dickson, and the rest of the farm personnel are gearing up for another big breeding season, not to mention monitoring how this year’s sale horses turn out for the buyers.

“My mom always talks about how she’s just as happy to see them succeed even when we aren’t owning them as when we do own them ourselves,” Penner said. “We’re just honored to be a part of their journey to where they are now.” **BH**