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Angie and Mike Scully continue to expand the horizons of Eclipse Thoroughbred Farm in California's beautiful Santa Ynez Valley



Expanding Horizons

ECLIPSE THOROUGHBRED FARM ENTERS STALLION BUSINESS

By TRACY GANTZ

WHEN GRAZEN RESUMES HIS STUD duties in 2024, he won't recognize his new digs. But the leading California sire will be returning to his roots, standing where his sire, Benchmark, stood. Now called Eclipse Thoroughbred Farm, the property in California's Santa Ynez Valley was once River Edge Farm.

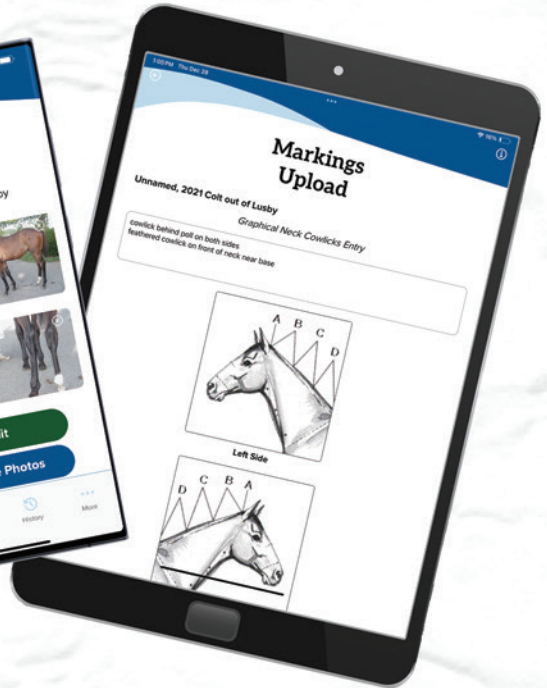
ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH DEC. 31, 2023

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2023 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2023 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2023 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Grazen (06, Benchmark), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$6,000	123/68	6/11	3/6	(Rose Maddox, \$244,470)	\$4,747,077	332	21	1.42	1.04
2	Stay Thirsty (08, Bernardini), Lovacres Ranch	\$15,000	192/92	3/3	3/3	(Bus Buzz, \$239,530)	\$4,210,838	*735	20	1.14	1.25
3	Smiling Tiger (07, Hold That Tiger), Harris Farms	\$7,500	137/69	2/3	1/2	(Grand Slam Smile, \$219,900)	\$3,583,897	407	11	0.95	0.97
4	Mr. Big (03, Dynaformer), Legacy Ranch	\$7,500	88/41	5/10	2/5	(Ceiling Crusher, \$898,200)	\$3,351,749	209	12	1.25	0.91
5	I'll Have Another (09, Flower Alley), Ocean Breeze Ranch	\$10,000	138/70	2/2	0/2	(Win Marvel, \$511,100)	\$3,204,981	453	5	1.02	1.06
6	Midnight Storm (11, Pioneerof the Nile), Milky Way Farm	\$4,000	104/59	2/2	0/2	(Runaway Storm, \$288,525)	\$2,983,351	161	3	0.96	1.12
7	Vronsky (09, Danzig)	Died	65/32	4/15	0/4	(The Chosen Vron, \$627,000)	\$2,825,484	369	14	1.20	1.00
8	Clubhouse Ride (08, Candy Ride), Legacy Ranch	\$7,500	81/46	2/2	1/2	(Warrens Candy Girl, \$152,200)	\$2,382,806	183	5	1.27	0.92
9	Stanford (12, Malibu Moon), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	87/50	1/2	0/1	(Book Smart, \$150,220)	\$2,078,255	160	1	0.73	0.89
10	Dancing Candy (13, Twirling Candy), Rancho San Miguel	\$5,000	84/45	1/1	0/1	(Moose Mitchell, \$214,040)	\$2,058,771	190	2	0.84	1.03
11	Square Eddie (06, Smart Strike)	Pnsd	66/38	1/2	1/1	(Eddie's New Dream, \$230,440)	\$1,977,812	285	19	1.35	1.10
12	Jack Milton (10, War Front), Gray Farms	\$5,000	61/32	3/3	1/3	(Bad Beat Brian, \$288,345)	\$1,865,596	164	5	1.02	1.10
13	Acclamation (06, Unusual Heat), Harris Farms	\$4,000	54/26	1/4	1/1	(Kings River Knight, \$281,750)	\$1,439,426	209	6	0.97	1.14
14	Curlin to Mischieff (11, Curlin)	Pnsd	57/36	1/1	1/1	(See Through It, \$110,458)	\$1,342,808	143	4	0.77	0.83
15	Sir Prancealot (IRE) (10, Tamayuz), Rancho San Miguel	\$10,000	89/32	2/2	1/2	(Perhaps Tonight, \$146,985)	\$1,332,193	*504	13	1.11	0.92
16	Graydar (09, Unbridled's Song), Milky Way Farm	\$4,000	59/32	1/1	0/1	(Princess Kokachin, \$147,660)	\$1,299,400	*340	7	0.89	1.25
17	Dads Caps (10, Discreet Cat), Barton Thoroughbreds	\$10,000	48/25	2/2	2/2	(Kangaroo Court, \$145,200)	\$1,151,769	94	2	0.71	0.86
18	Ministers Wild Cat (00, Deputy Minister)	Pnsd	45/23	1/1	0/1	(Minister of Soul, \$118,352)	\$900,266	541	21	0.91	0.86
19	Misremembered (06, Candy Ride), Barton Thoroughbreds	Pnsd	57/19	2/2	1/2	(Don't Get Pickled, \$107,600)	\$886,654	197	9	0.87	1.06
20	Jersey Town (06, Speightstown), Daehling Ranch	\$3,000	53/26	0/0	0/0	(No Sabe Nada, \$142,740)	\$869,855	*235	7	0.96	1.01
21	Straight Fire (14, Dominus), Legacy Ranch	\$7,500	28/15	1/1	0/1	(Sassy Nature, \$271,110)	\$857,398	45	4	1.10	1.34
22	Cat Burglar (10, Unbridled's Song), Barton Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	37/22	0/0	0/0	(Rodrigoknows, \$82,898)	\$803,961	76	0	0.68	0.83
23	Tamarando (11, Bertrando), Harris Farms	\$2,500	24/14	1/2	0/1	(Wild Jewels, \$148,810)	\$784,222	55	4	0.90	1.25
24	Empire Way (09, Empire Maker), Heinz & Michelle Steinmann Farms	\$2,500	23/16	0/0	0/0	(Starship Defiant, \$147,100)	\$769,944	165	2	0.63	0.90
25	Idiot Proof (04, Benchmark), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	28/18	0/0	0/0	(Proof She Zips, \$79,740)	\$763,006	148	2	1.00	0.89
26	Majestic Harbor (08, Rockport Harbor)	Died, 2022	25/13	0/0	0/0	(Manuelito, \$119,110)	\$692,616	44	1	1.14	0.97
27	Richard's Kid (05, Lemon Drop Kid), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	36/16	0/0	0/0	(Cousin Richie, \$96,142)	\$670,339	127	0	0.87	0.88
28	Rousing Sermon (09, Lucky Pulpit), BG Thoroughbred Facility	\$2,500	21/12	0/0	0/0	(Slam Dunk Sermon, \$130,378)	\$650,664	60	0	0.74	1.03
29	Tom's Tribute (10, Lion Heart), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	35/17	1/1	1/1	(Tom's Regret, \$130,148)	\$640,880	88	1	0.60	0.81
30	Gig Harbor (08, City Zip), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	26/17	0/0	0/0	(Kerry Gold, \$120,850)	\$600,207	80	0	0.68	0.82

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals

Angie and Mike Scully operate Eclipse Thoroughbred Farm on acreage in Buellton, Calif., that they lease. When Grazen was foaled in 2006, Martin and Pam Wygod still owned the farm and stood such stallions as Benchmark. Under the longtime management of the late Russell Drake, River Edge produced some of California's finest runners, both for the Wygods and for clients such as Nick Alexander, Grazen's owner and breeder.

The 65 acres that make up Eclipse sits just up the road from Solvang, a tourist haven with Danish roots and great pastries. The Santa Ynez Valley has for decades produced fine Thoroughbred racehorses, and it is now also the home of many wineries, an industry showcased in such movies as "Sideways."

Eclipse Thoroughbred Farm consists of what was the central section of River Edge and includes the breeding facilities and major barns. The Scullys are adding to the amenities, having already built a training track. They are now working on a new breeding shed as part of their expansion from a lay-up, rehabilitation,



A new training track is one of the upgrades the Scullys have made to the property they lease

and training operation to the inclusion of standing stallions, foaling mares, and all else associated with a breeding farm.

They are also big proponents of aftercare and hope to eventually establish a California satellite division of Old Friends. They first need Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance certification, which

requires the aftercare portion to have been in place for at least three years.

"We started a 501(c)(3) about a year and a half ago," Angie said. "I was talking to the aftercare liaison at Santa Anita about the biggest need in California. They thought the biggest need was to have sanctuary care for horses that can't move on to a second career."

Angie called Michael Blown at Old Friends, which led to her visiting the Kentucky facility a year ago.

"It was wonderful—I flew out and spent about three days with him and his bookkeeper," she said. "We talked about their intake process and all of the things that have worked for them and haven't worked for them."

Blown was equally enthusiastic about the Scullys' proposal and looks forward to the day that Eclipse can become an Old Friends satellite.

"Part of our charter says that they have to belong to the TAA," Blown said. "Once that happens, it's going to be great. It's a beautiful spot. I'm very, very excited about this. A lot of our solid financial support

comes from California, but we've never had a facility out there. Angie came here, really studied the place, and asked really good questions. She's very smart."

The Scullys already have a nexus of retirees at Eclipse, headed by 2010 Santa Anita Handicap (G1) winner Misremembered and graded stakes winner Bob and Jackie. More recently, they have added 2021 California Cup Derby winner and California-bred champion Big Fish.

Misremembered and Bob and Jackie, whose pasture is near the arena used for legging up youngsters, like to keep tabs on the farm's activity. Angie says that the veterans "enjoy getting the yearlings quite wound up" as they go by.

The Scullys have been starting Thoroughbreds for about 13 years, and graduates of their program have included many of Grazen's offspring over the past four years for Alexander. Grazen stakes winners to have benefited from the Scullys' tutelage include Alice Marble, Carole Lombard, Connie Swingle, Rose Dawson, and Rose Maddox.

Angie is also eagerly following another Alexander runner they started, Tom Seaver. He is a 2021 son of Sir Prancealot and the second foal out of the Grazen mare Enola Gray, a Calbred champion and graded stakes winner. Tom Seaver won his racing debut in October at Santa Anita.

"The Scullys run a great training center," said Alexander. "My yearlings are prepped there, and my trainers like the way they adapt quickly to the racetrack."

Alexander also praised the new training track the Scullys built "that is kind to young legs," as well as the group of exercise riders that work at Eclipse. The Scullys help Alexander assess whether a young horse would fit better in Northern or Southern California.

"Beyond all that, they love horses and they can be trusted," Alexander said.

The Scullys started about 120 horses last year, a number that Angie expects to grow to about 150 this year. Other clients include Barton Thoroughbred Farm, which led the California breeders' list in 2023, as well as Don Valpredo, Steve Gasparelli's Slugo Racing, and trainers Mark



The Scullys have put the wheels in motion for their farm to become an Old Friends' satellite division

Glatt, Phil D'Amato, and Mike Puype.

Eclipse Thoroughbred Farm is also known as Eclipse Equine Sports Therapy Center (eclipse-equine.com), a name that reflects the Scullys' background and their route into the Thoroughbred world.

"I grew up on the East Coast in Maryland," Angie said. "I had an uncle who was a Thoroughbred trainer in Pennsylvania, and I was a three-day event rider."

A third-generation horseman whose father and grandfather were steeplechase trainers in Ireland, Mike grew up in the Arabian world of Scottsdale, Ariz. He and Angie met after each had moved to California, and together they began importing show jumpers from Europe. That led to developing a lay-up and rehabilitation facility, first for sport horses and then for racehorses.

Through the evolution of their business, the Scullys have operated on some of the finest Thoroughbred farmland in the state, from the old Cardiff Stud Farm in Paso Robles to Monty Roberts' Flag Is Up Farms in the Santa Ynez Valley, and now River Edge.

They have been on the current property for about three years, and Angie recalls being able to show it to Drake before he passed away in mid-2022.

"He thought of everything," Angie said. "Everything is set up so wonderfully for the horses. It's double-fenced, just far

enough away so no one can get in trouble."

In the mid-1970s, Drake had turned acres of tomato farmland into River Edge. He was able to create just what he needed to stand such leading California sires as Pirate's Bounty and Pass the Glass. Drake picked out Benchmark, a Kentucky-bred son of Alydar—Winters' Love (by Danzig), as a weanling for the Wygods and returned to Kentucky for Benchmark's half sister Tranquility Lake as a yearling. Tranquility Lake earned more than \$1.6 million on the racetrack and became a broodmare whose foals sold for millions.

Benchmark led to Grazen, one of the great bootstrap stories in California breeding history. Alexander claimed Hazen, the dam of Grazen, for \$40,000. He lost her in a claiming race, but ultimately bought her back as a broodmare prospect. Bloodstock agent Kathy Berkey recommended Benchmark as a good cross, and Grazen won four of seven races, including the 2009 Affirmed Handicap (G3), and ran second to none other than Misremembered in that year's Swaps Stakes (G2).

Alexander began Grazen's stud career as virtually a private stallion because an injury curtailed the colt's racing career before he could prove himself enough to be commercial. Grazen clicked with so many of Alexander's mares that he became very commercial and often leads a

2023 LEADING SIRES IN OREGON

For daily updated sire lists visit 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)	2023 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									BT SWS	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Harbor the Gold (01, Seeking the Gold)	Died, 2021	55/29	1/2	0/1	(Top Harbor, \$165,790)	\$1,112,529	466	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	0.31	0.56
3	Dynamic Impact (11, Tiznow), Bar C Racing Stables	\$1,500	9/4	0/0	0/0	(How About a Fresca, \$45,940)	\$118,866	18	1	0.54	0.95
4	Slew's Saga (02, Seattle Slew)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Saxon Saga, \$81,491)	\$88,276	38	1	0.35	0.65
5	↑ Rise Up (11, Rockport Harbor), Ruah Ranch	\$1,500	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Whiskey Harbor, \$54,858)	\$71,058	5	0	0.59	0.35
6	Giacomo (02, Holy Bull)	N/A	13/3	0/0	0/0	(General Thayer, \$26,743)	\$63,136	*396	10	0.91	1.01
7	Understatement (05, Distorted Humor)	N/A	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Lucinda Rella, \$19,460)	\$41,989	58	0	0.35	0.45
8	Why Not Be Perfect (07, Whywhywhy), Keizer Equestrian Center	\$750	4/0	0/0	0/0	(Zee Carrot Eagle, \$3,270)	\$6,960	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	0.03	0.85
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	0.47

2023 LEADING SIRES IN WASHINGTON

For daily updated sire lists visit 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)	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)	\$968,654	98	5	1.07	1.03
2	Coast Guard (05, Stormy Atlantic), El Dorado Farms	\$2,000	41/19	1/1	0/1	(Asena, \$86,958)	\$710,181	134	8	0.52	0.52
3	Gallant Son (06, Malabar Gold)	N/A	21/13	1/1	0/1	(Fast Buck, \$119,150)	\$689,812	38	1	0.83	0.64
4	Abraaj (03, Carson City)	Died, 2019	30/20	0/0	0/0	(Ms Flashy Harbor, \$39,641)	\$388,947	135	9	0.51	0.63
5	Raised a Secret (10, Songandaprayer), El Dorado Farms	\$1,500	12/7	1/1	1/1	(Rimrock Lake, \$37,284)	\$166,179	26	1	0.30	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	0.52
7	Nationhood (02, Cherokee Run)	Died, 2020	13/6	0/0	0/0	(Lonesome Boy, \$46,594)	\$149,660	90	3	0.43	0.62
8	Private Gold (00, Seeking the Gold), El Dorado Farms	\$1,500	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Boss Like Beth, \$114,578)	\$143,369	198	4	0.48	0.55
9	Gold Rush Dancer (13, Private Gold), Blue Ribbon Farm	\$1,500	13/5	0/0	0/0	(Neissa, \$35,580)	\$125,744	22	1	0.33	0.42
10	Mr. Rancho Vista (05, Northern Afleet)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Young Life Laura, \$50,200)	\$73,380	8	0	0.42	0.44

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals



Left, leading California sire Grazen will stand his first season at Eclipse Thoroughbred Farm in 2024, after moving from Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, which is closing. Right, Cal-bred champion Unusual Heatwave also stands at the Scullys' farm

variety of California's sire lists.

Grazen previously stood at Tommy Town Thoroughbreds in the Santa Ynez Valley, but that operation is closing. Because the Scullys have done such a good job starting Alexander's runners, he asked them if they would stand Grazen in 2024.

Eclipse is also standing Unusual Heatwave, a son of Unusual Heat—Miss Alphie (by Candi's Gold), owned by Teresa McWilliams. An earner of \$488,752, Unusual Heatwave was the 2012 champion Cal-bred 3-year-old male and won the 2012 Snow Chief Stakes and Real Good Deal Stakes and the 2014 Crystal Water Stakes. His offspring include Silent Heat, an earner of \$98,200.

With the expansion of Eclipse into the breeding end, the Scullys have been updating many of the facilities in addition to building the new breeding shed.

"We covered some of the old pens so that they're protected, and we built a new round pen," Angie said.

One advantage to their location is how horse-centric the entire Santa Ynez Valley is.

"This valley loves horses," Angie said. "After we built our track, one of the first couple of days we were riding, you could see cars stopped along the road. People had their windows down just watching the horses on the track. It was really cool. People truly love the horse culture here."

It's one more reason Angie is looking forward to serving as a satellite facility for Old Friends. She and Mike already have nine retirees at the farm, and those horses are very popular with visitors.

Blowen of Old Friends knows the lure of former racing stars.

"One of the things we've proven here over the last 20 years is that people will come from all over the world to see these famous horses," Blowen said. "It's been a boon in Scott County to tourism."

Angie says she hopes to eventually conduct weekend tours so that people could come see the retirees.

"I love showing off our farm," she said. **BH**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE SCULLY/JUNE TABOR