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Creating a Legacy

PETE AND EVELYN PARRELLA'S CALIFORNIA BREEDING OPERATION CONTINUES TO SHINE

By TRACY GANTZ

LUBHOUSE RIDE MAY HAVE BEGUN life in Kentucky, but he became a Californian at 2 and has contributed mightily to the state's racing and breeding industries ever since. Among California's leading sires, Clubhouse Ride is the cornerstone of Pete and Evelyn Parrella's Legacy Ranch, where he stands in Clements, about 45 miles southeast of Sacramento.

Advertisers' Index

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2024 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	SWnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals		A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Stay Thirsty (08, Bernardini), Lovacres Ranch	\$15,000	196/99	1/1	1/1	(Court Snort, \$157,700)	\$3,840,015	*817	21	1.09	1.24
2	Grazen (06, Benchmark), Eclipse Thoroughbred Farm	\$6,000	113/66	4/5	1/4	(Safa, \$230,500)	\$3,829,576	373	22	1.38	1.03
3	Smiling Tiger (07, Hold That Tiger), Harris Farms	Died, 2024	143/78	3/6	2/3	(Grand Slam Smile, \$291,500)	\$3,404,170	476	13	0.92	0.96
4	Clubhouse Ride (08, Candy Ride), Legacy Ranch	\$7,500	100/49	3/5	2/3	(Chismosa, \$271,500)	\$3,156,771	231	7	1.22	0.92
5	Sir Prancealot (IRE) (10, Tamayuz), Rancho San Miguel	\$8,500	111/43	2/2	0/2	(Pagan, \$201,440)	\$2,277,024	*615	15	1.07	0.93
6	I'll Have Another (09, Flower Alley), Ocean Breeze Ranch	Pnsd	110/55	2/3	0/2	(Win Marvel, \$597,893)	\$2,265,272	470	5	1.01	1.05
7	Mr. Big (03, Dynaformer), Legacy Ranch	Died, 2024	69/35	4/5	1/4	(Big City Lights, \$224,820)	\$1,951,093	227	12	1.20	0.91
8	Midnight Storm (11, Pioneerof the Nile), Milky Way Farm	\$4,000	99/46	1/1	1/1	(Reining Flowers, \$150,590)	\$1,906,407	207	4	0.89	1.07
9	Stanford (12, Malibu Moon), Harris Farms	\$5,000	95/52	1/1	1/1	(Man 0 Rose, \$237,640)	\$1,775,129	209	2	0.70	0.85
10	Danzing Candy (13, Twirling Candy), Rancho San Miguel	\$4,000	83/42	0/0	0/0	(Mystic Spirit, \$140,708)	\$1,643,433	226	2	0.79	1.00
11	Vronsky (99, Danzig)	Died	56/25	2/8	0/2	(The Chosen Vron, \$560,000)	\$1,519,031	396	14	1.18	0.98
12	Acclamation (06, Unusual Heat), Harris Farms	\$4,000	45/25	2/4	2/2	(Kings River Knight, \$223,820)	\$1,184,124	224	7	0.96	1.11
13	Square Eddie (06, Smart Strike)	Pnsd	41/24	1/2	1/1	(Stay and Scam, \$281,420)	\$1,163,774	285	20	1.33	1.09
14	Jack Milton (10, War Front), Gray Farms	Private	53/29	1/1	1/1	(Riding Pretty, \$134,180)	\$1,135,955	172	6	0.99	1.08
15	Curlin to Mischief (11, Curlin)	Pnsd	49/27	0/0	0/0	(See Through It, \$147,640)	\$1,084,457	156	4	0.77	0.83
16	Dads Caps (10, Discreet Cat), Barton Thoroughbreds	\$10,000	61/32	0/0	0/0	(Beer Money, \$62,360)	\$970,329	124	2	0.65	0.83
17	Mrazek (13, Square Eddie)	Died, 2021	18/12	1/1	1/1	(Tequilaandtherapy, \$164,067)	\$777,616	26	1	1.33	1.20
18	Cat Burglar (10, Unbridled's Song), Barton Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	43/20	0/0	0/0	(Baby Kristen, \$115,282)	\$749,917	85	0	0.65	0.80
19	Idiot Proof (04, Benchmark), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	31/18	0/0	0/0	(Proof He Rides, \$181,694)	\$680,213	161	2	0.97	0.87
20	Jersey Town (06, Speightstown), Daehling Ranch	\$3,000	33/17	0/0	0/0	(Regal Patriot, \$95,248)	\$678,180	*244	7	0.94	1.00
21	Misremembered (06, Candy Ride)	Pnsd	38/18	0/0	0/0	(Jessebear, \$107,320)	\$664,216	202	9	0.85	1.04
22	Empire Way (09, Empire Maker)	N/A	19/8	1/1	1/1	(Empire's Fire, \$176,405)	\$647,978	166	3	0.65	0.89
23	Richard's Kid (05, Lemon Drop Kid), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	39/17	0/0	0/0	(Bob's Blue Moon, \$70,880)	\$563,588	147	0	0.81	0.84
24	Tom's Tribute (10, Lion Heart), Kingfisher Farms	\$2,500	29/13	1/1	1/1	(Disko Tribute, \$132,548)	\$560,886	95	1	0.61	0.79
25	Graydar (09, Unbridled's Song), Milky Way Farm	\$4,000	43/18	0/0	0/0	(Graywing, \$63,540)	\$555,096	*365	7	0.87	1.23
26	Majestic Harbor (08, Rockport Harbor)	Died, 2022	24/12	1/1	1/1	(Diamond Solitaire, \$126,678)	\$551,733	57	2	1.06	0.95
27	Ministers Wild Cat (00, Deputy Minister)	Pnsd	34/18	0/0	0/0	(Willow Cove, \$59,040)	\$550,540	551	21	0.91	0.85
28	Om (12, Munnings), Harris Farms	\$6,000	35/14	0/0	0/0	(Headed for Om, \$94,616)	\$544,704	84	0	0.46	0.99
29	Tamarando (11, Bertrando), Harris Farms	\$2,500	30/14	0/0	0/0	(Tam's Little Angel, \$72,212)	\$538,647	64	4	0.81	1.24
30	Pavel (14, Creative Cause), Ocean Breeze Ranch	\$4,000	21/8	0/0	0/0	(Refocus, \$93,900)	\$527,624	27	1	0.99	1.26
31	Far From Over (12, Blame)	Died, 2021	23/14	2/2	1/2	(R Heisman, \$156,450)	\$504,762	36	2	0.56	1.13
32	Gig Harbor (08, City Zip), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	26/18	0/0	0/0	(Irish Corn, \$99,430)	\$491,126	95	0	0.65	0.79
33	Editorial (14, War Front), Rancho San Miguel	\$3,500	10/7	0/0	0/0	(Rough Draft, \$119,463)	\$456,008	*71	1	1.17	1.13
34	Northern Causeway (08, Giant's Causeway), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	44/14	0/0	0/0	(Chick's Dig It, \$66,500)	\$450,791	140	0	0.37	0.83
35	Bold Chieftain (03, Chief Seattle), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	21/11	0/0	0/0	(Red Cross Knight, \$123,476)	\$398,279	105	1	0.74	0.83

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals



Pete and Evelyn Parrella, who also have raced champion Quarter Horses, began Legacy Ranch in the 1980s

The Seidner family, which still owns a major interest in Clubhouse Ride, bought the colt for just \$22,000 at the 2010 Barretts Equine Limited January Mixed Sale in California. With trainer Craig Lewis at the helm, Clubhouse Ride went on to become a millionaire and multiple graded winner, racing primarily on the Southern California circuit, and then began siring a string of talented runners.

Lewis has trained many of Clubhouse Ride's offspring, and he and his brother, Larry, co-own the stallion with the Seidners.

"He was just a great horse to train," Lewis said. "He liked to train; he liked to run. He was very competitive—just a really neat horse."

Lewis and the Seidners travel to Legacy periodically to check in on the stallion and see the upcoming babies. There, Lewis can confer with former trainer Terry Knight, the Legacy manager, on what to expect with the next crop.

"Legacy is a magnificent ranch," Lewis said. "It's a terrific facility, they have really good help, and Terry Knight is as good as it gets. He really knows what he's doing."

Legacy Ranch began in the 1980s as a 30-acre property in Chino, a suburb of Los Angeles and near where Pete established his company, Parr Lumber, of which he remains owner and president. The Parrellas had early success in both the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse worlds, racing one of Pete's favorite horses, the Thoroughbred multiple stakes winner and graded-placed His Legacy, and Quarter Horse champions Griswold and Apprehend.

His Legacy won three editions of the California Cup Starter Handicap in the early 1990s 불 at Santa Anita. The hard-knocking gelding earned \$420,925 primarily in the claiming ranks.

Griswold also ran at Santa Anita once—when he competed against Thoroughbred Valiant Pete at a half-mile. The match race pitted a Thoroughbred sprinter against a Quarter Horse distance horse, the difference in the breeds meaning that both horses specialized over similar amounts of real estate. Though Griswold, a three-time Quarter Horse champion distance horse, lost by a neck, Valiant Pete had to equal the world record of :44% to beat him.

The Parrellas outgrew the Chino ranch and bought the 145-acre property in Clements, formerly Blooming Hills Ranch, in 2002. His Legacy and Griswold spent their long retirements together in a pasture at Legacy. It is a testament to Legacy's horse management that His Legacy lived to age 26 and Griswold lived to 33. Both are buried on the property.

Early additions to the Clements property included a five-furlong training track, and the farm consults with longtime racetrack superintendent Richard Tedesco a couple of times a year on maintenance procedures. The Parrellas also renovated and built barns, developing Legacy into one of the leading full-service farms in the state. More recently, they are converting longtime vineyard acreage into pasture.

"We took the grapes out because we're going to make more pasture for horses to graze on," said Pete, who sits on the board of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association. "We have a lot of grass up there."

Knight, son of the late trainer Chay Knight, is in his eighth year as manager at Legacy. A former trainer himself, Knight conditioned such runners as 1994 Hollywood Turf Cup Stakes (G1T) winner Frenchpark and 2001 Arlington-Washington Futurity (G2) winner Publication.

Parrella and Knight's relationship spans more than 30 years, Knight having trained for Parrella for decades before taking the farm manager position.

"He's been a godsend ever since," Parrella said. "He's the hardest working guy I've ever been around. He's meticulous about things. We're on the same page there. There's not a weed on the ground. He's good with the horses. He's taken so much of the burden off of me."

As for Knight, he is quick to credit others, saying, "It's a beautiful place. I have a wonderful staff. I'm blessed to have the people I have." (G1) as a 2-year-old in 2016, Straight Fire is a son of the Smart Strike sire Dominus out of the A.P. Indy mare Tricky Indy. The stallion's foals include stakes winners Sassy Nature, Smuggler's Run, and Straight Up G.

Straight Fire raced for a partnership headed by Jim and Janet Rome's Jungle Racing. The Romes bred Straight Up G in the name of Jungle Racing. Rome, a nationally known sports talk show host, retweeted an enthusiastic interview



Craig Lewis, who trained Clubhouse Ride through six seasons of racing, co-owns the sire with his brother, Larry, and the Seidner family

One of those is Knight's wife, Dru, the farm office manager.

"She does so much to keep this operation going," Parrella said.

For many years, Legacy produced Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horses. Parrella and Knight now are concentrating more on the Thoroughbred side, though Knight said they still have a few Quarter Horse mares.

In addition to Clubhouse Ride, Legacy stands Straight Fire and He Be Fire N Ice. The farm stood Mr. Big, another leading sire in California, prior to his death earlier this year at age 21.

Second in the Del Mar Futurity (G1) and third in the FrontRunner Stakes

he did with TVG to his more than 1.2 million followers after their homebred won the 2021 King Glorious Stakes at Los Alamitos.

He Be Fire N Ice is a son of longtime leading California sire Unusual Heat out of the Deputy Commander mare Deputy Tombe. He raced for Cicero Farms, winning the 2013 California Dreamin' Handicap, and earned \$332,580.

Mr. Big was a leading California sire by Dynaformer. His son Big Fish was voted 2020 champion California-bred 2-year-old male, and Big Fish won the 2020 Del Mar Juvenile Turf Stakes and 2021 California Cup Derby for Legacy. Five-year-old Big City Lights, another

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	SWnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Harbor the Gold (01, Seeking the Gold)	Died, 2021	48/29	0/0	0/0	(Top Harbor, \$64,740)	\$493,422	479	27	0.59	0.68
2	Dynamic Impact (11, Tiznow), Bar C Racing Stables	\$1,500	11/5	1/1	0/1	(Dynamic Secret, \$55,446)	\$141,535	29	2	0.51	0.90
3	Giacomo (02, Holy Bull), Oakhurst Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	11/4	0/0	0/0	(Rocky Bay Rae, \$55,360)	\$123,857	*401	10	0.91	1.01
4	Sixthirteen (04, Dixie Union), Bar C Racing Stables	\$1,000	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Rodeo Rose, \$45,211)	\$104,493	75	0	0.32	0.56
5	Rise Up (11, Rockport Harbor), Ruah Ranch	\$2,000	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Whiskeyjack, \$38,203)	\$42,378	12	0	0.49	0.35
6	Slew's Saga (02, Seattle Slew)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Saxon Saga, \$35,194)	\$36,644	38	1	0.36	0.66
7	Understatement (05, Distorted Humor)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Lucinda Rella, \$11,195)	\$11,195	58	0	0.35	0.44
8	Outlash (12, Unbridled's Song), Bar C Racing Stables	Private	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Unbridled Violet, \$9,213)	\$9,213	8	0	0.08	0.85
9	Al Faatik (09, Invasor)	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Yankee Pankee, \$6,440)	\$6,665	9	0	0.03	0.10
10	Why Not Be Perfect (07, Whywhywhy), Keizer Equestrian Center	\$750	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Zee Perfect Run, \$1,200)	\$1,200	29	0	0.08	0.38
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includes Southern Hemisphere foals



Clubhouse Ride, the winner of back-to-back runnings of the Californian Stakes. retired in 2015 with earnings of \$1.3 million and a 5-9-10 record from 43 starts

Mr. Big Cal-bred, won this year's Palos Verdes Stakes (G3) at Santa Anita and has total earnings of \$446,420.

Legacy could eventually get another stallion, Forbidden Kingdom, who is currently in training with Richard Mandella for a return to racing. Owners MyRacehorse and Spendthrift Farm sold Forbidden Kingdom earlier this year through Taylor Made Sales Agency at the Fasig-Tipton May Digital Selected Sale, and Legacy Ranch bought him for \$310,000, the top price of that sale.

Knight said that Mandella had recommended Forbidden Kingdom to Parrella as a horse who might ultimately make a good stallion for the farm. A 5-year-

old son of Triple Crown winner American Pharoah out of the graded winner Just Louise, by Five Star Day, Forbidden Kingdom has earned \$680,000 and won the 2022 San Vicente Stakes (G2) and San Felipe Stakes (G2) and 2023 Joe Hernandez Stakes (G2) at Santa Anita.

But it is Clubhouse Ride who is the current star of the Legacy stallion ranks.

"He's a sturdy horse-he just gets racehorses," said Knight. "They're very sound. They come in all shapes and sizes and colors. His success is definitely on the racetrack, which is where you want it. A person who is breeding to race-I don't think you can beat the horse for California."

Adds Parrella, "He's just been a solid sire, whether it's been turf, dirt, short, long. They just seem to keep running."

Brickyard Ride, who in 2025 will stand his first season at stud at Rancho San Miguel in California, is Clubhouse Ride's leading earner to date, with \$925,477. Lewis trained Brickyard Ride for owner/breeder Alfred Pais and calls him "a phenomenally fast horse."

Racing from 2019 to early 2024, Brickyard Ride won eight stakes, including the 2021 San Carlos Stakes (G2), two editions of the Kona Gold Stakes (G₃), and two editions of the California Cup Sprint Stakes. His early fractions were often blistering-in the 2022 Sensational Star Stakes, he ran a half-mile in :42.76.

Warren's Showtime will always hold a special place in Lewis' heart because he trained both her sire, Clubhouse Ride, and her dam, Warren's Veneda.

"What a nice filly she was," Lewis said. "Ill-fated, but during her career, she was fantastic. When the race was on, she was all business."

Racing for Ben and Sally Warren, Warren's Showtime won seven stakes, including the 2021 Wilshire Stakes (G3T) and 2020 Autumn Miss Stakes (G3T), and earned \$843,431. She was named champion Cal-bred 3-year-old female of 2020 and champion Cal-bred older female of 2021, the latter award given just a month after her death.

Lewis currently has another similar filly in Moment's Pleasure, a 3-yearold daughter of Clubhouse Ride-Lamazone, by Lemon Drop Kid. The Lewises' Rainmaker Racing, the Warrens, and Bret Lewis bred her, and

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1	Alternation (08, Distorted Humor), Blue Ribbon Farm	Private	79/39	0/0	0/0	(Ginger Girl, \$110,578)	\$1,752,683	*298	10	1.15	1.19
2	Coast Guard (05, Stormy Atlantic), El Dorado Farms	\$2,000	39/25	0/0	0/0	(Coastal Jazz, \$61,911)	\$668,767	144	8	0.52	0.53
3	Conveyance (07, Indian Charlie)	Died, 2023	27/14	0/0	0/0	(Angelofcanterbury, \$69,525)	\$656,197	118	5	1.04	1.00
4	Nationhood (02, Cherokee Run)	Died, 2020	13/10	1/1	0/1	(Lonesome Boy, \$155,470)	\$304,607	90	4	0.45	0.62
5	Raised a Secret (10, Songandaprayer), El Dorado Farms	\$1,500	16/7	0/0	0/0	(Secret Zipper, \$32,372)	\$156,652	31	1	0.32	0.58
6	Gold Aly (06, Medaglia d'Oro)	N/A	8/5	0/0	0/0	(Terry's Boy, \$60,080)	\$126,190	25	0	0.44	0.51
7	Gold Rush Dancer (13, Private Gold), Blue Ribbon Farm	\$1,500	12/6	0/0	0/0	(Neissa, \$31,223)	\$101,763	22	1	0.32	0.46
8	Private Gold (00, Seeking the Gold)	N/A	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Boss Like Beth, \$44,134)	\$93,429	198	4	0.48	0.55
9	¶ Barkley (13, Munnings), El Dorado Farms	\$2,000	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Beauty Bark, \$23,980)	\$79,926	14	0	0.34	0.46
10	Mr. Rancho Vista (05, Northern Afleet)	N/A	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Young Life Laura, \$48,976)	\$70,875	11	0	0.44	0.47
11	Raise the Bluff (03, Pine Bluff)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Hannahaza Hetty, \$51,473)	\$51,473	102	1	0.51	0.47
12	Running Tap (08, Tapit), Preston Boyd Farm	\$1,500	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Its Kraken Time, \$21,797)	\$39,338	27	0	0.22	0.37
13	Houseofroyalhearts (02, Chester House)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Kiss of Spice, \$19,110)	\$37,028	35	0	0.40	0.42
14	War Power (06, Pulpit), Frances Long	Private	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Pulpits Power, \$13,978)	\$26,876	36	1	0.36	0.40
15	Rallying Cry (04, War Chant)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Libby's Gambit, \$13,203)	\$18,148	57	0	0.24	0.49
16	Gotham City (98, Saint Ballado)	Died, 2019	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Gotham's Finale, \$860)	\$860	191	0	0.67	0.80

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		BT Rstrct						Cumulative			
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	SWnrs/ Wns	/ SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Trojan Nation (13, Street Cry), Golden Creek Equine	\$1,000	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Paddys Four Roses, \$13,705)	\$20,644	18	0	0.12	0.66
2	Chips All In (09, North Light), Ranwell Equine Center	\$1,000	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Lulas Lucky Chip, \$1,630)	\$1,630	3	0	0.06	0.33

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals

she races for Rainmaker and Bret Lewis. At Del Mar this past summer, Moment's Pleasure won the Solana Beach Stakes.

Homebred Clubhouse Ride runners that Lewis trains for Legacy include Two by Four and Asada Fries. Two by Four this year finished second in the Snow Chief Stakes and third in the Echo Eddie Stakes. Earlier this year, Asada Fries finished second in the California Cup Oaks and has just returned to the races after a sixmonth layoff.

Lewis isn't Legacy's only trainer. With about 12 in training and a full complement of 2-year-olds on the way for 2025, Legacy also usually has horses with Mandella, John Sadler, Brian Koriner, Dean Pederson, Tim Yakteen, and Andy Mathis.

Knight works with the trainers, often bringing horses back to Legacy for lay-ups. He also is very involved with purchasing horses for Legacy.

"We're buying a lot of fillies to upgrade our broodmare band," Parrella said. "We've got some really nice horses that are at the racetrack right now—an Arrogate, an American Pharoah, an Omaha Beach. Hopefully, we get lucky down the road."



Pete Parrella says of Legacy Ranch's farm manager, Terry Knight, "He's the hardest working guy l've ever been around. He's meticulous about things."



Forbidden Kingdom, a multiple graded stakes winner, will join Legacy Ranch's stallion roster when his racing career concludes. The 5-year-old son of American Pharoah was bought by the Parrellas as a stallion prospect at Fasig-Tipton's May Digital Selected Sale for \$310,000