

MID-ATLANTIC

DELAWARE MARYLAND NEW JERSEY PENNSYLVANIA
VIRGINIA WEST VIRGINIA



Maryland-bred Splendora knocks one out of the park for breeder Stuart Grant by winning the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint at Del Mar last year

Simply Splendid

OWNER/BREEDER STUART GRANT GREW HIS WINGS IN THE MID-ATLANTIC

By CHARLIE McCARTHY

FOR STUART GRANT, Splendora embodies both the thrill and the heartbreak of breeding.

After enjoying several Breeders' Cup victories as an owner, Grant watched Splendora win last year's Filly and Mare Sprint (G1) as the winning breeder under his banner, The Elkstone Group.

The now-5-year-old daughter of Audible out of the Frost Giant mare Miss Freeze was foaled in Maryland.

Grant, who sold the filly as a yearling for \$125,000 at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Select Yearling Sale, watched as

the new connections polished her into a grade 1 winner.

That emotional tension, between pride and the sting of watching someone else reap the reward, didn't bother Grant as much as one might think.

"This is the second time I've bred and sold a grade 1 winner," he said, noting he also sold a son of Eskendereya, Pennsylvania-bred Mor Spirit. "And while you may be a little disappointed—'Why didn't I keep that one?'—you're also super proud that somebody else took this horse and really

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Contact Lauren Biddle | lauren@toba.org | (859) 276-6793

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2025 LEADING SIRES IN MARYLAND

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2025 Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	
1	Great Notion (00, Elusive Quality)	Pnsd	116/68	7/13	4/7	(Future Is Now, \$366,000)	\$5,320,455	582	46	1.47	1.20
2	Cupid (13, Tapit), Atlanta Hall Farm	\$5,000	134/65	5/10	2/5	(Sterling Silver, \$390,925)	\$3,592,950	*386	9	1.10	1.08
3	Uncle Lino (13, Uncle Mo), Northview Stallion Station	\$1,500	109/62	1/1	1/1	(Nature's Candy, \$196,023)	\$3,558,460	283	6	1.05	1.27
4	Golden Lad (10, Medaglia d'Oro), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,500	119/61	1/2	0/1	(Takethemoneyhoney, \$221,770)	\$3,464,179	353	10	1.11	1.21
5	Blofeld (12, Quality Road), Murmur Farm	\$5,000	73/35	1/1	1/1	(Bold Diversion, \$187,690)	\$2,201,141	144	9	1.31	1.12
6	Mosler (11, War Front), Country Life Farm	\$2,000	58/32	3/4	1/3	(Quint's Brew, \$280,000)	\$2,117,804	195	8	1.08	1.15
7	Divining Rod (12, Tapit), Country Life Farm	\$1,500	75/36	3/3	2/3	(Next Girl, \$107,910)	\$1,924,384	188	8	0.99	1.18
8	Imagining (08, Giant's Causeway)	Died, 2022	45/21	0/0	0/0	(In the Dance, \$133,920)	\$1,116,424	200	1	0.87	1.22
9	Friesan Fire (06, A.P. Indy), Country Life Farm	\$1,000	38/19	0/0	0/0	(Passion Rules, \$190,775)	\$1,099,439	312	9	1.04	1.17
10	Bourbon Courage (09, Lion Heart), Anchor & Hope Farm	\$2,500	41/16	0/0	0/0	(Arise My Love, \$100,865)	\$892,249	194	5	1.00	1.17
11	Kobe's Back (11, Flatter), Bonita Farm	\$3,000	27/16	0/0	0/0	(Hitheroadjak, \$106,165)	\$807,375	58	0	0.90	0.91
12	Force the Pass (12, Speightstown)	N/A	35/14	1/2	0/1	(Had to Have Him, \$194,530)	\$720,089	55	1	0.63	0.90
13	First Mondays (15, Curlin), Northview Stallion Station	\$1,000	14/12	0/0	0/0	(Blue Kingdom, \$136,210)	\$705,275	26	0	1.28	1.13
14	Bandbox (08, Tapit)	Died	22/11	0/0	0/0	(You're the One, \$123,075)	\$670,845	134	7	1.26	1.21
15	Long River (10, A.P. Indy)	N/A	31/12	2/2	0/2	(Doc's Miracle, \$153,790)	\$653,712	*88	2	0.63	1.04
16	¶ Engage (15, Into Mischief), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,500	22/6	0/0	0/0	(Vita Mia, \$82,360)	\$356,743	40	0	0.52	1.29
17	Rainbow Heir (10, Wildcat Heir)	N/A	11/7	0/0	0/0	(Miss Vyvyanne, \$175,569)	\$317,786	40	0	0.61	1.14
18	Long On Value (11, Value Plus), K and K Stallions	\$2,500	10/6	0/0	0/0	(Good Long Cry, \$88,481)	\$265,255	40	0	0.88	0.85
19	¶ Galawi (IRE) (17, Dubawi), Northview Stallion Station	\$1,000	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Ginger Snap, \$62,315)	\$182,546	16	0	0.58	1.17
20	Outflanker (94, Danziger)	Died, 2023	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Tidewater, \$57,910)	\$160,736	*581	22	1.32	1.11

2025 LEADING SIRES IN NEW JERSEY

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2025 Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	
1	Sea Wizard (13, Uncle Mo), Pegasus Stud	\$5,000	28/13	1/1	1/1	(Great Navigator, \$159,985)	\$1,183,104	41	4	1.47	1.35
2	Hey Chub (00, Carson City)	N/A	11/6	0/0	0/0	(Grouch, \$73,524)	\$325,578	71	4	1.63	1.28
3	Il Postino (06, Distorted Humor)	N/A	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Salt and Light, \$91,118)	\$181,347	26	1	1.45	0.94
4	King Puma (06, Forest Wildcat)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(T V Man, \$41,187)	\$56,137	36	0	0.92	1.46
5	¶ Aguero (15, Quality Road)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Spherification, \$3,860)	\$3,860	1	0	0.12	0.10

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

developed it into its full potential."

After admitting that "if I knew what was going to happen, when the yearling sales came around I probably wouldn't have sold (Splendor),” Grant-turned-realistic said.

"You have to sell some to stay in the business," he added. "And you never know who you're selling."

Grant was present to see the Bob Baffert-trained Splendor's Breeders' Cup victory at Del Mar for owner By

Talla Racing. She settled off the early pace instead of utilizing her typical front-running style.

"She won by (4¾ lengths). Blew the field away at the top of the stretch," Grant said. "It was a wonderful ride by



Splendor is Grant's first Breeders' Cup winner as a breeder, but the native of Brooklyn also co-owned three horses who reached the winner's circle at the World Championships, including 2019 Juvenile Fillies winner British Idiom



Grant's C-Dog Farm operated out of Chesapeake City, Md. The attorney sold the farm last year as a means of consolidating his bloodstock interests into one location

LEFT: COURTESY OF STUART GRANT; RIGHT: MAGGIE KIMMITT

2025 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2025		Cumulative		
							Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Cloud Computing (14, Maclean's Music), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$3,500	172/103	2/2	2/2	(McAfee, \$287,000)	\$4,376,386	*403	7	0.91	1.04
2	Warrior's Reward (06, Medaglia d'Oro)	Pnsd	108/56	3/4	2/3	(Candy Reward, \$192,900)	\$3,426,451	*842	25	0.92	1.18
3	Enticed (15, Medaglia d'Oro), Mountain Springs Farm	\$5,000	103/63	1/1	0/1	(Patricia Ann, \$174,125)	\$3,355,452	204	4	1.06	1.03
4	Uptowncharlybrown (07, Limehouse), Mountain Springs Farm	\$2,500	72/36	1/1	1/1	(Carousel Queen, \$201,665)	\$2,656,043	234	6	1.20	1.02
5	Weigelia (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	Private	61/38	3/4	1/3	(Harp's Hot Corner, \$190,390)	\$2,351,770	*254	12	1.34	1.06
6	Brody's Cause (13, Giant's Causeway), Equestar Training and Breeding	\$3,500	110/46	1/1	0/1	(Causeway Benny, \$74,380)	\$1,742,576	307	6	0.73	1.05
7	Wicked Strong (11, Hard Spun)	Pnsd	88/37	1/3	0/1	(Highly Wicked, \$223,000)	\$1,588,080	*406	8	0.77	1.24
8	Winchill (08, Tapit), Monte Cristo Farm	\$3,000	33/11	0/0	0/0	(Chinesemai, \$84,624)	\$582,670	109	3	0.84	1.20
9	Desert Party (06, Street Cry)	N/A	24/5	0/0	0/0	(S S Sinatra, \$146,530)	\$475,554	290	6	0.87	1.21
10	Eastwood (10, Speightstown), Mountain Springs Farm	\$2,500	17/8	0/0	0/0	(John Dutton, \$122,110)	\$444,731	32	0	0.96	1.29
11	Well Spelled (09, Spellbinder)	N/A	21/8	1/1	1/1	(Come Prima, \$180,388)	\$406,833	92	3	0.76	1.05
12	Smarty Jones (01, Elusive Quality), Equestar Training and Breeding	\$3,500	23/8	0/0	0/0	(Miss Jones, \$47,950)	\$360,097	*928	29	1.26	1.55
13	Red Vine (10, Candy Ride)	N/A	13/4	0/0	0/0	(Wild Vine, \$202,020)	\$336,576	33	0	0.86	1.06
14	Pat On the Back (14, Congrats), Bonner Hill Farms	\$3,500	8/5	0/0	0/0	(Reelin N Dealin, \$62,744)	\$249,829	20	1	1.04	1.51
15	Il Villano (09, Pollard's Vision)	N/A	6/4	0/0	0/0	(Lil Sally, \$64,606)	\$196,734	22	1	1.17	0.70

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

Flavien Prat because Splendora had always won from up front and this time she was taken back.

"It was like, 'What the hell is he doing?' But, you know, the jock was exactly right."

Grant, the attorney-turned-Thoroughbred magnate, previously had stood in the Breeders' Cup winner's circle four times as a co-owner. But Splendora's victory represented the culmination of nearly two decades of Grant's immersion in Mid-Atlantic breeding, an operation built, refined, and reshaped in Maryland and the surrounding region before consolidating recently in Kentucky.

Grant likes to joke that few people "decide" to get into breeding.

"Most of us got involved by accident," he said. "You had some fillies, they did well on the track, and then it was time to retire them. I was like, 'Well, what do I do?' And you say, 'Well, I guess I should breed them.'"

That decision led to the creation of one of the most influential broodmare programs in the Mid-Atlantic and beyond.

Before Splendora, the Elkstone breeding program produced such horses as millionaire Mor Spirit, grade 2 winner Lady Fog Horn, and grade 3 winner Edge of Reality.

The Brooklyn, N.Y.-born Grant once told BloodHorse that his grandfather took him to Prospect Park, so he "grew up with horses. They just all had cops on them."

In the early 2000s, Delaware Park, down the road from where Grant lived, became one of the nation's first racinos. Suddenly, racing's economics looked on firm footing.

In 2002, Grant claimed his first horse.

After the horse won, Grant bought more racehorses. Within a few years, he was competing at the highest levels of the sport.

Grant purchased Camden Training Center in South Carolina in 2004, but

“WE BUILT SOMETHING REAL (IN MARYLAND).”

—OWNER/BREEDER STUART GRANT

his breeding identity crystallized in Maryland.

His C-Dog Farm in Chesapeake City became the backbone of his broodmare band and central to the state's breeding landscape.

Over roughly 15 years, Grant produced Maryland-breds who competed at the sport's upper reaches and helped elevate the region's national reputation.

Cricket Goodall, executive director of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, said her group was "very happy to have that commitment" Grant made to the state and the Mid-Atlantic. His mares were not just placeholders in the state-bred system; they were part of one

of the country's most curated and forward-thinking broodmare portfolios.

"Over the years, he's consistently bred nice, good racehorses," Goodall said. "Just really reliably good racehorses, which is, of course, what we hope everybody's trying to do, but I think he was a success."

Grant lived in Delaware for more than 30 years. Racing in the Mid-Atlantic wasn't just proximity it was identity. Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia formed a triangle of racetracks, training sites, and sales grounds that fit his philosophy.

For an operation focused on yearlings purchased in the \$75,000–\$150,000 range and broodmares bred to stallions standing for \$20,000–\$50,000, the region offered competitive racing and realistic paths for return on investment.

"What Maryland gives you," he explained, "is good, solid racing, day in and day out, with a purse structure where you can shine with your horses that may not be the five-star recruits, but they're good, solid horses."

But the Mid-Atlantic also helped Grant identify and cultivate human talent. And no story better illustrates that than the rise of trainer Brittany Russell.

Grant speaks about Russell with admiration, pride, and an unmistakable sense that their success is intertwined.

"We went to her when she was still relatively starting out and gave her some good horses," he explained. "She's really done a marvelous job."

2025 LEADING SIRES IN VIRGINIA

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							2025 Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Cross Traffic (09, Unbridled's Song), Mt. Airy Farm	\$4,000	112/64	2/3	1/2	(Here Mi Song, \$179,548)	\$2,544,801	*437	19	1.04	1.10
2	Street Magician (04, Street Cry)	N/A	25/12	2/4	1/2	(Onyx Ten, \$249,000)	\$1,081,571	198	9	1.10	1.25
3	Hello Broadway (06, Broken Vow), Foxwoode Farm	\$2,000	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Cryptonym, \$45,900)	\$57,968	51	1	0.93	0.79
4	Friend Or Foe (07, Friends Lake), Smallwood Farm	\$1,000	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Hello Foxy, \$34,903)	\$50,901	51	1	1.54	1.25
5	Cosa Vera (05, Dynaformer)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Heart Light, \$44,574)	\$45,939	45	0	0.60	1.15
6	Big Picture (02, Pioneering)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Goodluckchuck, \$36,793)	\$36,793	9	0	1.05	1.23
7	Ali (15, Pioneerof the Nile)	N/A	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Rumaway, \$22,235)	\$32,537	7	0	0.43	0.60
8	¶ Fortune Ticket (17, Candy Ride)	N/A	8/0	0/0	0/0	(Fortune Hill, \$11,305)	\$30,675	13	0	0.12	0.58
9	Gone Clubbing (07, Gone West)	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Serious Moment, \$3,600)	\$6,640	11	0	0.44	0.22
10	Lord of Greatness (06, Greatness)	N/A	3/0	0/0	0/0	(Mark of Greatness, \$2,303)	\$2,791	8	0	0.19	0.69

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

His early trust in Russell mirrors an earlier investment he made in Brad Cox, long before the Louisville, Ky., native became an Eclipse Award-winning trainer.

Cox trained Monomoy Girl, who Grant owned in partnership with several others after coming on board for her 2018-20 campaigns. The Tapizan daughter went on to win seven grade 1 races, including two runnings of the Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1), and Kentucky Oaks (G1). She secured two Eclipse Awards and retired with more than \$4.7 million in earnings.

Russell, he believed, had that same spark.

A former assistant to Cox, she possessed the pedigree and the work ethic, but what resonated most with Grant was the human connection: Russell and her husband, jockey Sheldon Russell, were the same age as Grant's daughter and son-in-law who also lived in Maryland.

"We really like and respect them not only as trainer and jockey, but also as good people, and as parents," he said. "Just nice young folks."

In 2023, Grant was recognized as Maryland's leading owner—a milestone he ranks among his proudest moments in the Mid-Atlantic. Elkstone-owned horses made 98 starts on the racetrack in Maryland that year for a 23% win rate and finished among the top three in races at a 55% clip. The operation was among the top money-earners in the state with earnings just above \$1 million. Grant's mare Hybrid Eclipse, purchased for \$107,000 at auction in 2022, won three stakes in Maryland in 2023—the Nellie Morse Stakes, Caesar's Wish Stakes, and Thirty Eight Go Go Stakes—and finished second



Hybrid Eclipse, trained by Maryland-based Brittany Russell, was a multiple stakes winner for Grant's The Elkstone Group



One of Grant's early successes in racing came with grade 1 winner Condo Commando, a horse he owned in partnership

in the Carousel Stakes. Nationally, The Elkstone Group won 41 races for earnings in excess of \$1.9 million.

"That meant something," he said. "We

built something real (in Maryland)."

If Maryland grounded his identity as a breeder, South Carolina deepened his love of the sport.

Grant discovered the Camden Training Center while trying a case in Columbia. The trial lasted 12 weeks. Saturday mornings were the only downtime he allowed his legal team—each person required to spend that time alone, recharging however they chose.

Grant chose Camden.

"I'd go out early in the morning and watch the horses train," he said. "It was my happy place. My blood pressure went down."

When he learned the center was for sale, and that the initial deal had fallen through, he acted with characteristic speed. Within a week of securing a massive verdict for his client, he hired the

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							2025 Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	
1	Juba (11, Tapit), Casey's Legacy	\$1,500	69/46	1/1	1/1	(No Love for Juba, \$124,248)	\$2,139,152	147	10	1.00	1.05
2	Fiber Sonde (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	53/33	2/2	2/2	(Duncan Idaho, \$133,065)	\$1,597,222	374	24	1.24	0.81
3	Barbados (12, Speightstown), Pellinor Lane	\$1,000	19/17	1/6	0/1	(Barbadian Runner, \$733,185)	\$1,492,388	45	2	1.38	0.88
4	Golden Years (12, Not For Love), O'Sullivan Farms	Private	40/23	0/0	0/0	(Ray of Sunshine, \$92,717)	\$1,117,112	94	1	0.90	0.80
5	Candygram (15, Candy Ride), Casey's Legacy	Private	32/14	2/3	2/2	(Petty Perfect, \$138,851)	\$831,392	53	2	0.78	1.07
6	Curlin's Honor (15, Curlin), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,500	33/17	0/0	0/0	(Latch the Hatch, \$89,850)	\$738,067	61	1	0.62	0.96
7	Bullsbay (04, Tiznow), Pellinor Lane	\$1,500	28/18	0/0	0/0	(Holiday Cash, \$68,619)	\$676,975	176	4	0.92	1.12
8	Denis of Cork (05, Harlan's Holiday)	N/A	25/12	0/0	0/0	(Ivyleaguedropout, \$76,775)	\$597,852	*175	6	0.71	0.97
9	Aldrin (12, Malibu Moon), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,000	34/14	0/0	0/0	(Marilyn Monroe, \$71,154)	\$514,077	78	0	0.45	0.86
10	Limehouse (01, Grand Slam)	Pnsd	28/15	0/0	0/0	(Little Roo Roo, \$59,256)	\$448,709	*525	24	1.04	1.08
11	Redirect (16, Speightstown), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	17/7	0/0	0/0	(Direct Appeal, \$119,004)	\$440,179	28	2	1.05	0.79
12	Mr. Monomoy (17, Palace Malice), Pellinor Lane	\$1,500	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Hangover Heaven, \$107,798)	\$311,735	19	0	0.72	0.89
13	Talent Search (03, Catnus)	Pnsd	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Tara's Talent, \$87,628)	\$279,906	*224	5	1.02	1.08
14	Sweetontheladies (14, Twirling Candy), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,500	13/7	0/0	0/0	(Song So Sweet, \$56,420)	\$266,690	18	0	0.49	0.53
15	Capo Bastone (10, Street Boss), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,500	22/6	0/0	0/0	(Pit Stop Man, \$63,825)	\$256,929	88	0	0.76	0.99

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

opposing law firm to represent him in the real estate transaction.

The deal closed before the trial's paperwork was even complete.

Today, Camden serves as the starting point for both his homebreds and many horses he acquires at yearling sales. Its multiple tracks, polo fields, training barns, and carefully structured routine mirror the precision that defines Grant's professional life.

Grant sold his Maryland farm in 2025. It wasn't so much financial or philosophical. It was personal.

He no longer lived full-time in Delaware. Winters were spent in Florida. Summers in Saratoga. And the farm, once an easy weekend commute, became harder to maintain.

He also had an existing, long-term business relationship with Bev Grovert of Windham Hill Farm in Kentucky. Consolidating the broodmare band, currently near 30, solved logistical challenges and aligned with market realities: There remains a strong buyer bias for Kentucky-breds, and Kentucky's incentive structures, such as Kentucky Downs' increased purses for horses bred in the Bluegrass State, are powerful.

Still, Grant emphasizes that the restructuring doesn't sever his Mid-Atlantic roots.

"We will still have Maryland-breds," he said. "If I want to bring four or five mares,

I can send them to (Tom and Chris Bowman of Dance Forth Farm). It's not worth keeping a farm for only four or five. But the connection continues."

He estimates Elkstone-bred Maryland foals will continue hitting the track through the end of the decade.

"We're still very active in Maryland racing," he added. "Every year, the goal is to be the number one owner."



Grant (center) with his British Idiom partners from Madaket Stables, Sol Kumin (left) and Steve Cohen

Ask Grant to name a favorite among the horses he has bred, and he hesitates.

"It's like asking who's your favorite child," he said.

But one story does stand out: J W Blue, a Kentucky-bred who finished third in the 2011 Travers Stakes (G1). Grant remembers him as a talented but quirky horse who needed his regular exercise rider.

"A new rider would get on, and he'd look at them like, 'I'm going to show you

who's boss,'" Grant recalled, laughing. "He'd dip and flip you right off. And when you got back on, he'd never do it again."

Even after the sale of the Maryland farm, Grant's racing and breeding empire remains largely unchanged in structure, ambition, and identity.

He still buys yearlings, especially fillies, in that sweet spot between \$35,000 and \$150,000. He still has about 18–20 foals born a year, selling only a handful. He still partners strategically with trainers he believes in. And he still spends most mornings at his "happy place" watching horses develop.

Splendor's Breeders' Cup win didn't change his direction. It clarified it.

Breeding, at its core, is long-term work. You plant seeds you may never see grow. You make decisions that won't bear fruit for years. You sell some. You keep some. You hope the racing gods smile.

Sometimes they do. Sometimes they don't.

But when they do, when a filly you bred storms home at Del Mar against the fastest mares in the world, you remember why you started.

"You sort of take a step back," Grant said. "You let the owners have the glory of their moment. But inside, you know: I was part of that. I helped create that moment." **BH**