



Another brilliant performance by La Traviata in Victory Ride

by Rommy Faversham

Ultrafleet sophomore filly La Traviata remained unbeaten and untested when she overwhelmed a talented field of her peers by 9½ lengths in the \$114,700 Victory Ride Stakes (G3) on Saturday at Saratoga Race Course.



Adam Coglianese/NYRA photo

The win marked the first graded stakes triumph for the dark bay or brown Johannesburg filly, who has won her three lifetime starts by a combined 27½ lengths.

La Traviata captured the Post Deb Stakes by five lengths on July 22 at Monmouth Park prior to the six-furlong Victory Ride. Before that, she posted a 13¼-length romp in her career debut on June 8 at Churchill Downs.

La Traviata was bred in California by John and Marsha Antonelli. She was the most expensive filly sold at the 2006 Fasig-Tipton Calder sale of selected two-year-olds in training when fetching \$1.1-million.

Named after the popular 19th-century Italian opera by Giuseppe Verdi, La Traviata is the first foal out of the unraced Unbridled mare Piedras Negras.

Unbridled broodmares are enjoying particular success during the ongoing Saratoga meeting, having also produced Alabama Stakes (G1) winner Lady Joanne, by Orientate, and Darley Test Stakes (G1) winner Dream Rush, by Wild Rush. The latter could be a key challenger for La Traviata in the inaugural Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint at Monmouth on October 26.

Piedras Negras is a half sister to Jack Sullivan, by Belong to Me, a multiple Group 3 winner in the United Arab Emirates. Their dam, Provisions, won a stakes at Ellis Park at age three. Amazingly, she represents the only black-type earner along La Traviata's tail-female line since Kate Allen, our subject's 14th dam.

La Traviata has a two-year-old half brother by Holy Bull, a yearling full brother, and a weanling half brother by Tale of the Cat.

La Traviata hails from the first crop of the Hennessy stallion Johannesburg, an undefeated international champion at age two, who stood for \$65,000 in 2007 at Ashford Stud in Versailles, Kentucky.

Johannesburg's initial crop also includes Florida Derby (G1) and Champagne Stakes (G1) winner Scat Daddy as well as graded stakes winners Teuflesberg, Marcavelly, and Baroness Thatcher.

La Traviata, dk. b. or br. f., 2004

Johannesburg 99 356 fls, 10 SWs SI 1.91 DI=3.67	Hennessy 93 4 wins, \$580,400, SW 991 fls, 57 SWs SI 1.76 DI=3.80	Storm Cat 83 1183 fls, 155 SWs SI 4.24 DI=4.00	Storm Bird 78	Northern Dancer 61 South Ocean 67 Secretariat 70 Crimson Saint 69
	Myth 93 1 win, \$25,110 6 fls, 1 SW DI=3.92	Island Kitty 76 13 fls, 4 SWs DI=1.40	*Hawaii 64	=Utrillo II (It) 58 =Ethane (SAI) 47
		Ogygian 83 685 fls, 24 SWs SI 1.25 DI=3.92	T. C. Kitten 69	Tom Cat 60 Needlebug 61
	Yarn 87 6 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.52	Damascus 64	Gonfalon 75	Sword Dancer 56 Kerala 58 Francis S. 57 Grand Splendor 62
Piedras Negras 99 2 fls, 1 SW DI=1.52	Unbridled 87 8 wins, \$4,489,475 Champion 566 fls, 48 SWs SI 3.75 DI=1.70	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62 Honest Pleasure 73 State 74	
		Narrate 80		
	Provisions 93 4 wins, \$144,945, SW 4 fls, 1 SW DI=1.61	Fappiano 77 410 fls, 48 SWs SI 4.79 DI=4.78	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62 Dr. Fager 64 Grand Splendor 62
		Gana Facil 81 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.50	Killaloe 70	=Wild Risk (Fr) 40 =Anguar (Fr) 50
Atzimba 86 2 fls, 1 SW DI=3.00	Devil's Bag 81 951 fls, 45 SWs SI 1.99 DI=1.42	*Le Fabuleux 61	In Reality 64 Magic 69	
	Halo 69	Charedi 76	Hail to Reason 58 Cosmah 53	
	Ballade 72	Miswaki 78	*Herbager 56 Miss Swapsco 65	
	Novara 80		Mr. Prospector 70 Hopespringseternal 71 Dance Spell 73 Syzygy 65	

La Traviata is inbred 4x4x5 to Mr. Prospector. So far, six of her sire's seven graded or group stakes winners have demonstrated inbreeding to that contemporary breed shaper.

Another interesting pattern in La Traviata's pedigree is the 3x3 cross of Ogygian and Fappiano, who both share the common granddam Grand Splendor. Valuable duplications of the family's strains also appear in the pedigrees of recent graded stakes-winning sprinters Smokey Stover and Keyed Entry.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles. More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>.

Looking ahead

Sales

September 4—Washington Thoroughbred Breeders Association summer yearling sale at the Morris J. Alhadeff sales pavilion