



Octave hits all the right notes in CCA Oaks triumph

by Rommy Faversham

Octave's sharp half-length victory in the 1¼-mile Coaching Club American Oaks (G1) certainly supports the notion that she is not only the second best three-year-old filly in trainer Todd Pletcher's barn but in the nation as well.



Adam Coglianese/NYRA photo

Filling in for her stablemate, ailing Belmont Stakes (G1) heroine and divisional leader Rags to Riches, Octave recorded her second Grade 1 victory at Belmont Park in three weeks following a 1½-length triumph in the Mother Goose Stakes (G1) on June 30.

OCTAVE

Before Octave's consecutive Grade 1 victories, the ultra-consistent gray or roan Unbridled's Song filly was the runner-up in four consecutive starts, including the Kentucky Oaks (G1), Ashland Stakes (G1), Fair Grounds Oaks (G2), and last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1).

Octave has finished first or second in all ten of her career starts and earned \$1,227,934.

Bred in Kentucky by Marty and Pam Wygod, Octave was a \$350,000 purchase at the 2005 Keeneland September yearling sale. She is the fourth winner out of Grade 3-placed stakes winner Belle Nuit, by Dr. Carter.

To date, Dr. Carter fillies have produced nine graded stakes winners, including 2005 champion sprinter Lost in the Fog.

Belle Nuit, whose pedigree features a 3x2 cross to half brothers Chieftain and Tom Rolfe, already has produced two stakes winners sired by Belong to Me, including four-time graded stakes winner Belle Cherie. Belle Nuit's half sister, Ms. Eloise, won the Top Flight (G1) and Shuvee (G1) Handicaps.

The American branch of this family was initiated by Octave's third dam, *Christmas Belle II, who was imported from Ireland in 1971.

Octave hails from the seventh crop of the popular Unbridled stallion Unbridled's Song, who stood the 2007 season at Taylor Made Stallions in Nicholasville, Kentucky, for \$200,000.

Unbridled's Song is the sire of 21 graded or group stakes winners, including eight American Grade 1 winners.

The most prominent inbreeding pattern in Octave's pedigree is the

Octave, gr. or ro. f., 2004

Unbridled's Song 93 800 fls, 54 SWs SI 2.44 DI=2.13	Unbridled 87 8 wins, \$4,489,475 Champion 566 fls, 48 SWs SI 3.75 DI=1.70	Fappiano 77 410 fls, 48 SWs SI 4.79 DI=4.78	Mr. Prospector 70 Killaloe 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62 Dr. Fager 64 Grand Splendor 62
	Trolley Song 83 1 win, \$25,914 12 fls, 1 SW DI=3.00	Gana Facil 81 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.50	*Le Fabuleux 61 Charedi 76	=Wild Risk (Fr) 40 =Anguar (Fr) 50 In Reality 64 Magic 69
	Dr. Carter 81 6 wins, \$890,562, SW 416 fls, 14 SWs SI 1.23 DI=3.22	Caro (Ire) 67 599 fls, 78 SWs SI 3.70 DI=1.26	=Fortino II (Fr) 59 =Chambord (GB) 55	=Grey Sovereign(GB)48 =Ranavalo III (Fr) 54 =Chamossaire (GB) 42 =Life Hill (GB) 40
Belle Nuit 90 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.22	Belle Noel 77 Placed 14 fls, 3 SWs DI=0.46	Lucky Spell 71 14 fls, 3 SWs DI=5.40	Lucky Mel 54 Incantation 65	Olympia 46 *Royal Mink 48 Prince Blessed 57 Magic Spell 54
		Gentle Touch 76 3 fls, 1 SW DI=3.24	=Fortino II (Fr) 59 =Chambord (GB) 55	=Grey Sovereign(GB)48 =Ranavalo III (Fr) 54 =Chamossaire (GB) 42 =Life Hill (GB) 40
		Tom Rolfe 62 654 fls, 49 SWs SI 2.57 DI=1.00	Chieftain 61 My Dear Girl 57	Bold Ruler 54 Pocahontas 55 Rough'n Tumble 48 Ittis 47
		*Christmas Belle II 68 9 fls, 0 SWs DI=0.30	*Ribot 52 Pocahontas 55	=Tenerani (Ity) 44 =Romanela (Ity) 43 Roman 37 How 48
			=Santa Claus (GB) 61 The Blonde 58	=Chamossaire (GB) 42 =Aunt Clara (GB) 53 =Wild Risk (Fr) 40 *Kisaki 47

3x3 duplication of Caro (Ire). This rather unusual configuration also can be found in the pedigree of 2002 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1) winner Starine (Fr).

Octave inherited her silver coat color from her paternal strain of the temperamental gray stallion, Caro.

At stud, Unbridled's Song has done particularly well with mares carrying their own strains of In Reality (the sire of Unbridled's third dam). In Octave's pedigree, her broodmare sire, Dr. Carter, is out of Gentle Touch, In Reality's half sister, creating inbreeding to this superior family.

With the CCA Oaks and Mother Goose now on her resumé, Octave will compete for New York's prestigious Triple Tiara when, and if, she runs in the Alabama Stakes (G1) on August 18 at Saratoga Race Course.

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