



# PEDIGREE PROFILE

by Rommy Faversham

## French Derby winner's pedigree a recipe for success

Surely bred for such an occasion, Reliable Man bested a good field of his peers on Sunday to win the Prix du Jockey Club (Fr-G1) (French Derby) at Chantilly.

Reliable Man covered the 2,100 meters (10.44 furlongs) on soft ground in 2:07.70 to keep his record perfect in three lifetime starts.

Reliable Man represents a third consecutive generation of French Derby winners. His sire and paternal grandsire, Dalakhani and



**RELIABLE MAN**  
Frank Sorge photo

Darshaan, respectively, captured the classic in 2003 and 1984 for their owner and breeder, the Aga Khan. For good measure, Darshaan's victory came at the expense of runner-up Sadler's Wells, who is Reliable Man's broodmare sire.

Reliable Man inherited his gray coat from

the Caro (Ire) stallion Crystal Palace, sire of Dalakhani's second dam. Crystal Palace won the 1977 French Derby.

Reliable Man was bred in England by N.P. Bloodstock, also the breeder of his dam, the Sadler's Wells mare On Fair Stage, a minor stakes winner in Ireland who also produced French stakes winner Gale Force, by Sinnidar.

### Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred editor Acton dies

Lucy Acton, an award-winning journalist and longtime editor of *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, died at the age of 63 on Tuesday in Baltimore after a long battle with cancer.

The daughter of respected journalist Snowden Carter, Acton was a feature writer for the Baltimore *Evening Sun* prior to taking a job with *Maryland Horse*, the predecessor of *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, in 1985. Acton served as managing editor of *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* for more than 20 years and served as editor for the last decade.

"Lucy carried the title of managing editor during my time at [the Maryland Horse Breeders Association] and was named editor of the *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* subsequently, but always played an integral role as a planner, coordinator, and executor of all MHBA publications, especially the magazine, not to mention her ongoing work as its lead writer," Tim Capps, former executive vice president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association and executive vice president of the Maryland Jockey Club, said in a tribute to Acton on *The Equiery*. "The magazine, whether the *Maryland Horse* or *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, was the passion of her professional life, and she lived that passion with style, grace, and the joy of someone making a living doing something that was part of her lifestyle."

In addition to her roles at *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, Acton was secretary of the Maryland Racing Media Association and wrote the monthly newsletters for the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. The Maryland Racing Media Association presented Acton with its first Unsung Hero Award in 2005.

### Reliable Man, gr. c., 2008

=Dalakhani (Ire) 00 342 fls, 23 SWs SI 3.28 DI=0.93	=Darshaan (GB) 81 5 wins, \$226,979 Champion 835 fls, 97 SWs SI 2.74 DI=0.79	=Shirley Heights (GB) 75 694 fls, 64 SWs SI 2.24 DI=1.30	Mill Reef 68	Never Bend 60 Milan Mill 62
	=Daltawa (Ire) 89 2 wins, \$53,155, SW 10 fls, 4 SWs DI=1.48	=Delsy (Fr) 72 15 fls, 5 SWs DI=1.15	=Hardiemma (GB) 69	=Hardicanute (GB) 62 =Grand Cross (GB) 52
		Miswaki 78 1,154 fls, 101 SWs SI 2.02 DI=2.75	=Abdos (Fr) 59	=Arbar (Fr) 44 =Pretty Lady (GB) 42
=On Fair Stage (Ire) 93 10 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.21	Sadler's Wells 81 6 wins, \$713,690 Champion 2,190 fls, 324 SWs SI 3.88 DI=2.82	Damana (Fr) 81 11 fls, 1 SW DI=0.58	=Kelty (Fr) 65	=Venture (Fr) 57 =Marilla (Fr) 57
		Northern Dancer 61 636 fls, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62
	Fair Salinia (Ire) 75 4 wins, \$268,971, SW 11 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.57	Fairy Bridge 75 9 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.29	Hopespringseternal 71	=Crystal Palace (Fr) 74
			=Denia (Fr) 73	=Nearco (Ity) 35 *Lady Angela 44
			Natalma 57	Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
			Bold Reason 68	Hail to Reason 58 Lalun 52
			Special 69	*Forti 63 Thong 64
			=Petition (GB) 44	=Fair Trial (GB) 32 =Art Paper (GB) 33
			*Alcazar II 57	=Alycidon (GB) 45 =Quarterdeck (GB) 47
			Chateaugay 60	Swaps 52 Banquet Bell 51
			Locust Time 55	Spy Song 43 Snow Goose 44

On Fair Stage's dam was the outstanding runner Fair Salinia (Ire), winner of the 1978 Epsom Oaks (Eng-G1), Irish Guinness Oaks (Ire-G1), and Yorkshire Oaks (Eng-G1).

Further back, Reliable Man's tail-female line is an American one, developed by prominent horseman Walter M. Jeffords. It features our subject's fifth dam, the excellent gray filly Snow Goose, who twice knocked off Gallorette (1947 Beldame Stakes and Ladies Handicap at Aqueduct) and later beat males in the 1948 Saratoga Cup.

Sires descending from this family include 1971 French champion miler Faraway Son, multiple French Group 1 winner Bailamont, and multiple French group winner Liloy (Fr).

The powerful, ongoing affinity between the lines of Sadler's Wells and Never Bend enjoyed a truly exemplary weekend, certainly as far as this season's European classics are concerned.

Supported by the tenets of female family inbreeding, Sadler's Wells' broodmare sire, Bold Reason, is a half brother to Never Bend (Darshaan's paternal great grandsire), creating duplication of their common dam, 1955 Kentucky Oaks winner Lalun.

Quite remarkably, Reliable Man's pedigree represents a reversal of the cross that proved so prominent a day earlier in the Investec Epsom Derby when Pour Moi staged a furious late rally to outfinish Treasure Beach by a head.

More than coincidence, Pour Moi and Treasure Beach are both sired by sons of Sadler's Wells, both out of Darshaan-line broodmares.

Conversely, the Dalakhani/Darshaan sire line continues to get more prominent runners when crossed with the daughters of Sadler's Wells. So far, three of Dalakhani's four Group 1 or Grade 1 winners have been out of Sadler's Wells mares, including Conduit (Ire), two-time winner of the Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Turf (G1).

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

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