

# PEDIGREE ANALYSIS by Rommy Faversham

## *Crossing strains from the most classic of families*

# DOUBLING UP ON ALLEGRETTA *or her priceless daughter Urban Sea*

**C**ONSIDERING the consistent expression of excellence from the internationally renowned family of Allegretta (GB), it would seem to be worthwhile to evaluate the effectiveness when complementary strains of this remarkable tribe are crossed. A limited number of individuals whose pedigrees demonstrate these inbreeding patterns are now racing worldwide.

As depicted in the accompanying family tree, Allegretta's direct tail-female descendants currently include 27 Group-Graded stakes winners (in bold), 11 of these are classic or Gr.1 winners (underlined).

Since her son King's Best's triumph in the 2000 English 2000 Guineas-Gr.1, four more of Allegretta's tail-female descendants have followed in becoming major European classic winners. A further seven are classic-placed. Just as remarkable, this relatively young clan has already yielded six different sires who have themselves sired classic winners, including Europe's finest Galileo.

In essence, no other modern thoroughbred family anywhere can come close to such a bastion of classic excellence, both as runners and producers. Born in England in 1978, Allegretta (Lombard-Anatevka by Espresso) represented a seventh generation descendant of a family developed throughout most of the last century by Germany's oldest (established

1869) and arguably most influential private stud, Gestut Schlenderhan. Horses don't come much more stoutly bred than Allegretta as her sire, Schlenderhan-bred Lombard, a grandson of Arc winner and champion sire Tantieme, was a dual classic winner and twice Horse of the Year in Germany. Lombard sired 14 stakes winners including Allegretta's brother Anno, a classic-winning three year-old champion. Of particular note, Lombard's dam, Promised Lady (Prince Chevalier-Belle Sauvage by Big Game) is a half-sister to Noble Lassie (Nearco), dam the international breed shaper Vaguely Noble (Vienna), which may help to explain the active affinity between the descendants of Allegretta and the blood of Vaguely Noble.

Allegretta was a product of auspicious family ties as well. Lombard's sire, German classic winner Agio, is a grandson of Aster (Oleander-Arkebus by Wallenstein), inbred 3mx3m to Dark Ronald and a key Gestut Schlenderhan matriarch, who also served as Allegretta's fifth dam. As such, Allegretta (and Anno) have pedigrees demonstrating 4fx5f inbreeding to Aster, a reinforcement of the tail-female line, historically, a well-practiced recipe for success. Allegretta is also 4fx4m to German Derby winner Alchimist, a horse inbred 3fx3f to Ard Patrick, who defeated champion filly Sceptre in the

English Derby of 1902 and later in the Eclipse Stakes, before becoming a three-time champion sire in Germany.

The first of her family to be foaled and raced outside of Germany, Allegretta failed to live up to the promise shown in her first two victories at two. Her best effort the following season was a second in the Oaks Trial Stakes-Gr.3 before a dismal 11th of 12 in the English Oaks-Gr.1 at Epsom. Purchased for only 24,000 Guineas by US interests at the 1981 Tattersalls December Sale, Allegretta made several more unsuccessful starts Stateside. After two barren seasons at stud, she changed hands once more, this time for a similar figure of \$55,000 at the 1984 Keeneland November Sale on behalf of Michel Henochsberg's Marystead Farm.

Allegretta's first good producer was her 1986 daughter Anzille (Plugged Nickle), dam of Anzillero, a German Gr.1 winner and a useful sire of hurdlers. Following two unremarkable geldings, Allegretta foaled her prize of all prizes, Urban Sea (Miswaki) in 1989 (see below).

Having prematurely culled Allegretta, Gestut Schlenderhan bought back into her branch of the family by purchasing her 1990 Listed-placed Trempolino filly Turbaine at the 1994 Keeneland November sale for \$360,000. The young mare was at the time carrying her first foal Tertullian, by Miswaki, who would become a five-time Group winner in France, Italy and Germany before enjoying a successful career at stud at his ancestral home.

Tetullian sired a pair of German 2000 Guineas winners in addition to Mawingo (GER) (ex Montfleur by Sadler's Wells), who captured a controversial running of Brisbane's Doomben Cup-Gr.1 in 2012 and now stands at Graeme McCulloch's Grenville Stud in Tasmania. The Turbaine branch has also yielded Group winners Terek and Tusked Wings.

Allegretta's 1991 daughter, the French Gr.3-winning Riverman filly Allez les Trois produced 2001 French Derby-Gr.1 winner Anabaa Blue (by Anabaa (USA)), whose dam is by a son of Vaguely Noble), inbred 4fx2f to Riverman. That sire's best offspring has been Arlington Million-Gr.1 winner Spirit One (Riverman 5f, 3fx4m). Allez les Trois also served as the second dam of Tamayuz (Nayef-Al Ishq by Nureyev), a dual French Gr.1-winning miler and sire of 2017 French 2000 Guineas winner Precieuse (ex Zut Alors by Pivotal; Nureyev 3fx4m). So far, the Allez les Trois branch has issued four additional Group stakes winners.

| ALLEGRETTA (GB) Chestnut filly, 1978 |                  |                  |                               |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
|                                      |                  | Deux pour Cent   | Deiri<br>Dix pour Cent        |
|                                      | Tantieme         |                  | 14<br>11d                     |
| Agio                                 |                  | Terka            | Indus<br>La Furka             |
| LOMBARD<br>Ch 1967                   | 1 Aralia         | <b>Alchimist</b> | Herold<br>Aversion            |
|                                      |                  | <b>Aster</b>     | Oleander<br>Arkebus           |
| Promised Lady                        | Prince Chevalier | Prince Rose      | Rose Prince<br>Indolence      |
|                                      |                  | Chevalerie       | Abbot's Speed<br>Kassala      |
|                                      | Belle Sauvage    | Big Game         | <b>Bahram</b><br>Myrobella    |
|                                      |                  | Tropical Sun     | <b>Hyperion</b><br>Brulette   |
| Espresso                             | Acropolis        | Donatello        | Blenheim<br>Delleana          |
|                                      |                  | Aurora           | <b>Hyperion</b><br>Rose Red   |
| ANATEVKA<br>Ch 1969                  | Babylon          | <b>Bahram</b>    | Blandford<br>Friar's Daughter |
|                                      |                  | Clairvoyante     | Clarissimus<br>Doddles        |
| Almyra                               | Birkhahn         | <b>Alchimist</b> | Herold<br>Aversion            |
|                                      |                  | Bramouse         | Cappiello<br>Peregrine        |
|                                      | Alameda          | Magnat           | Asterus<br>Mafalda            |
|                                      |                  | 1 Asterblute     | Pharis<br><b>Aster</b>        |
|                                      |                  |                  | 20a<br>9h                     |



The first of Allegretta's classic winning descendants was her Kingmambo colt King's Best who in 2000 upset Giant's Causeway to score a decisive victory in the English 2000 Guineas-Gr.1. (Sir) Michael Stoute (previously the trainer of Allegretta) described King's Best as the best miler he'd ever trained. Not coincidentally, the large majority of King's Best's best performers are out of mares carrying the blood of Sadler's Wells, a three-quarter brother to Nureyev, Kingmambo's broodmare sire. Overall, the well-travelled Darley stallion has had mixed results, siring almost all of his best runners while standing in Ireland. He is the sire of Workforce (Nureyev-Sadler's Wells 4x2), winner of the English Derby-Gr.1 in record time and later that season the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe-Gr.1. King's Best also sired Japanese Derby-Gr.1 winner Eishin Flash (Birkhahn 5fx5m).

The last of Allegretta's progeny was the unraced 1999 Diesis filly Altruiste (4mx4m Tantieme; 5mx5m Donatello) who became the dam of French Gr.2 winner Terrubi (Dalakhani) and second dam of French Gr.3 winner Armande (Sea The Stars; Allegretta 3fx3f). Pensioned after coming up barren in 2000 and 2001, Allegretta died in 2005 at the age of 27.

Returning to Allegretta's family crown jewel Urban Sea, she has in recent years become widely regarded as one of the greatest broodmares of all time. Purchased as a yearling at Deauville for 280,000 francs (roughly \$50,000), Urban Sea was, soon thereafter, acquired in whole by Hong Kong businessman David Tsui. This globe-trotting daughter of Miswaki campaigned in France, Germany, England, Japan, Canada and the US, but all seven of her stakes victories were run in France, highlighted by her stunning 37/1 upset victory in the 1993 Prix de l' Arc de Triomphe-Gr.1. As a broodmare, Urban Sea has become virtually without peer, producing eight stakes winners from 11 foals, four of these at the highest level. For good measure, in a relatively short period of time she has proven to be her own foundation matriarch.



**Allegretta (GB)**  
(Lombard-Anatevka by Espresso)

Urban Sea's first foal was the 1996 Bering colt Urban Ocean, winner of the Gallinule Stakes-Gr.2 to earn him three-year old Irish high weight status (9.5f-11f). Mediocre at stud, he has sired just one French Group winner. Urban Sea's first daughter Melikah was sired by Lammtarra and this made her one of the very few thoroughbreds (less than a dozen) whose parents were both Arc winners. She sold as a Deauville yearling to Godolphin for an auction record price of 10m francs (about 1.5m euros). A classy runner, Melikah was a Listed

winner with placings in the English-Gr.1 and Irish Oaks-Gr.1. In turn, Melikah's son by Monsun, Masterstroke, was a Gr.2 winner in France and third in the Arc and his offspring are just beginning to race. To date, the Melikah branch has produced a total of five Group winners.

Urban Sea's next four matings were with the legendary stallion Sadler's Wells, leading sire in Great Britain and Ireland a record-setting 14 times. The first was the best. Galileo, Europe's champion three year-old of 2001 scored epic victories in both the English-Gr.1 and Irish Derby-Gr.1 before conquering older stars in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes-Gr.1 at Ascot. Retired to Coolmore Stud in Ireland, Galileo (Native Dancer 4fx5m) has become a most worthy successor to his illustrious sire and is today widely considered the world's greatest living stallion.

In 2017 at age 19, he won his ninth British and Irish sires' championship. He is sire of the unbeaten Frankel, rated by Timeform as the best racehorse seen in Europe in that publication's 70-year history. A final superlative, Galileo is the sire of an astounding 30 English and Irish classics while his sons are already responsible for another seven.

Galileo's brother Black Sam Bellamy won the Gran Premio del Jockey Club-Gr.1 en route to Italy's three year-old championship. At four he captured the Tattersalls Gold Cup-Gr.1 at the Curragh. Black Sam Bellamy's best seasons at stud were his early years in Germany where he sired Earl of Tinsdal, a three-time Gr.1 winner and German St. Leger-Gr.3 winner Valdino.

The celebrated exploits of Urban Sea's first four foals would make her subsequent offspring some of the most valuable in the world. Her 2001 foal, Galileo's Gr.3-winning sister All Too Beautiful started making headlines when she was sold ➤



**Sword of Light**  
(New Approach (IRE)-Joyeuse by King's Best (USA))

M.G.

## PEDIGREE ANALYSIS Doubling up on Allegretta or her priceless daughter Urban Sea

to Coolmore for a record European price of 1.1m guineas (\$US1.8m) at Tattersalls late in 2001. At three, she ran a distant second to the outstanding Ouija Board in the English Oaks-Gr.1. At stud, the best of her offspring is the Kingmambo filly Wonder of Wonders, like her dam a runner-up in the English Oaks-Gr.1 as well as third in the Irish Oaks-Gr.1.

Urban Sea's next foal was the Giant's Causeway filly My Typhoon who set a world record as a weanling when sold for \$1.8m guineas (almost \$US3m) at the 2002 Tattersalls November foal sale. My Typhoon did all her racing in the United States, earning more than \$1.65m and winning six graded stakes including the Diana Stakes-Gr.1 at Saratoga as a five year-old.

The last of Urban Sea's four daughters Cherry Hinton, by Green Desert, was Irish group stakes-placed. Enjoying early success as a broodmare, she is the dam of 2014 Irish Oaks-Gr.1 winner Bracelet and English Gr.2 winner Wading, both by Montjeu (Sadler's Wells).

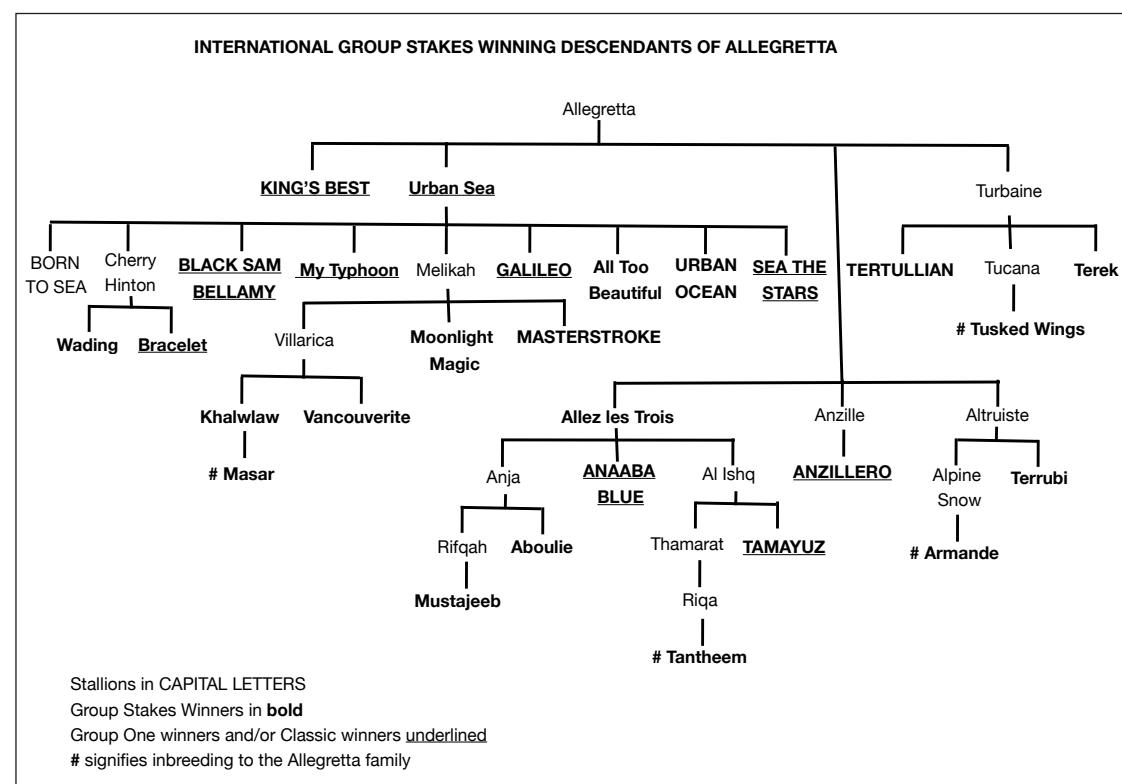
Urban Sea's 2006 Cape Cross colt Sea the Stars would become one of the best racehorses of the 21st century. A superstar at three as he won the English 2000 Guineas-Gr.1 and Derby-Gr.1 before beating older horses in the Eclipse Stakes-Gr.1, Irish Champion Stakes-Gr.1 and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe-Gr.1. Timeform ranked Sea the Stars as a joint seventh best runner in its history. Standing at the Aga Khan's Gilltown Stud in Ireland, Sea the Stars has made a brilliant start at stud siring eight European Gr.1 winners including Harzand (English & Irish Derbys-Gr.1) and Taghrooda (English Oaks-Gr.1).

In both 2014 and 2016, Urban Sea's sons Galileo and Sea The Stars combined to (alternatively) sire winners of the English Derby and Oaks. Not since the eternal Pocahontas in 1866 had the Epsom Classics fallen to the progeny of two stallions (Stockwell and King Tom) who shared the same dam.

Urban Sea died at the age of 20 in March 2009 due to complications during the delivery of her final foal, the Invincible Spirit colt Born to Sea. A Listed stakes winner at two, Born To Sea was a game second to Camelot in the 2012 Irish Derby-Gr.1. He currently stands at Gilltown Stud alongside his three quarter brother Sea the Stars. So far, the best of his progeny is Sea of Grace, an Irish Gr.3 winner who is French classic-placed.

This, then, highlights the current legacy of a truly classic clan. So far, there have been a total of about 120 foals of racing age with patterns of inbreeding to Allegretta or Urban Sea. Six of these have become Group winners (see chart) beginning two years ago when Sword of Light captured the Blue Diamond Preview-Gr.3 at Caulfield.

As illustrated in Allegretta's family tree, four of these first six Group winners involve the tail-female line (with the # symbol). It might also be worth noting the first two Group winners of this latest fifth generation (Masar and Tantheem) are both inbred to their clan. Going forward, one might do well in anticipating continued success with this promising pattern of female family inbreeding to this very special family. ■



### Group winners inbred to the Allegretta-Urban Sea family

| Winner                     | Sire                | Inbreeding Pattern          | Top accomplishment            |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Armande (IRE).....         | Sea The Stars ..... | Allegretta 3fx3f.....       | Prix Corrida (Fr-Gr.3)        |
| Masar (IRE).....           | New Approach.....   | Urban Sea 3mx4f .....       | Solario S. (GB-Gr.3)          |
| Meergorl (GER) .....       | Adlerflug.....      | Alya/Allegretta 3x4.....    | Diana-Trial (Ger-Gr.2)        |
| Sword of Light (AUS) ..... | New Approach.....   | Allegretta 4fx3m.....       | VRC Let's Elope S. (Aus-Gr.2) |
| Tantheem (GB) .....        | Teofilo .....       | Allegretta 4fx5f.....       | Pr. de Cabourg (Fr-Gr.3)      |
| Tusked Wings (IRE).....    | Adlerflug.....      | Alya & Allegretta 3x3 ..... | Diana-Trial (Ger-Gr.2)        |