

'Dream mating' between Arc winners in the works

by Rommy Faversham

Last week's announcements from the owners of Sea The Stars and Zarkava paves the way for those two sensational Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (Fr-G1) winners to be united in the breeding shed early next spring.

Such regal plans were initiated when the Hong Kong-based Tsui family acknowledged they were retaining ownership of 2009 Arc winner Sea The Stars while standing their star homebred at the Aga Khan's Gilltown Stud in County Kildare, Ireland.

The Aga Khan, long one of the world's great breeders, quickly responded with news that his own great homebred, last year's undefeated Arc winner, Zarkava, would be among Sea The Stars' first book of mares.

Sea The Stars' initial stud fee of 85,000 euros (approximately \$125,470) makes him Europe's most expensive first-season stallion in 22 years.

The Cape Cross (Ire) colt, a half brother to European champion and leading sire Galileo (Ire), is the first horse to capture the Two Thousand Guineas (Eng-G1), the Epsom Derby (Eng-G1), and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in the same season.

Out of the Tsui's 1993 Arc winner Urban Sea, Sea The Stars is the second Arc winner foaled by an Arc-winning broodmare. The first was 1994 winner Carnegie (Ire) out of 1980 winner Detroit (Fr), by Riverman.

To date, as shown in the adjoining chart, there have been only eight

The offspring of Arc winners									
Horse	sex	YOB	sire	dam	race record				
Sarny	f.	1941	Mon Talisman	Samos	placed in 8 starts.				
MARVEIL	C.	1946	Djebel	Samos	Prix Jean Prat (twice), King George VI S.				
Draya	f.	1947	Djebel	Samos	unraced				
Shahanshah	C.	1948	Le Pacha	*Nikellora	winner, multiple stakes-placed				
MALIZA	C.	1952	*Migoli	*Nikellora	Grand Prix de Compiegne				
ALONG ALL	C.	1986	Mill Reef	All Along (Fr)	Prix Greffulhe (Fr-G2) Prix des Chenes (Fr-G3)				
All Dancing	f.	1988	Dancing Brave	All Along (Fr)	unplaced in 1 start				
MELIKAH (IRE)	f.	1997	Lammtarra	Urban Sea	Pretty Polly S., 2nd Irish Oaks (Ire-G1), 3rd Epsom Oaks (Eng-G1)				

Hypothetical foal, 2011									
=Sea The Stars (Ire)	Cape Cross (Ire) 94	Green Desert 83 5 wins, \$308,015, SW	Danzig 7	Northern Dancer 61 Pas de Nom 68					
	1079 fls, 58 SWs	1081 fls, 95 SWs	Foreign Courier 79	Sir Ivor 65 Courtly Dee 68					
	SI 2.00 DI=3.44	Park Appeal (Ire) 82 5 wins, \$153,693 Champion	=Ahonoora (GB) 75	*Lorenzaccio 65 =Helen Nichols (GB) 66					
			Balidaress (Ire) 73	=Balidar (GB) 66 =Innocence (GB) 68					
	Urban Sea 89	Miswaki 78 6 wins, \$232,320, SW	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62					
	10 fls, 7 SWs	1153 fls, 101 SWs	Hopespringseternal 71	Buckpasser 63 Rose Bower 58					
	DI=1.95	Allegretta (GB) 78 2 wins, \$22,088, Spl 12 fls, 3 SWs	=Lombard (Ger) 67	=Agio (Ger) 55 =Promised Lady (GB) 61					
			=Anatevka (Ger) 69	*Espresso 58 =Almyra (Ger) 62					
=Zarkava (Ire)	Zamindar 94	Gone West 84 6 wins, \$682,251, SW	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62					
	361 fls, 16 SWs	1178 fls, 98 SWs	Secrettame 78	Secretariat 70 Tamerett 62					
	SI 2.34 DI=4.20	Zaizafon 82 2 wins, \$50,196, SW	The Minstrel 74	Northern Dancer 61 Fleur 64					
		13 fls, 3 SWs	Mofida (GB) 74	=Right Tack (GB) 66 =Wold Lass (GB) 60					
	=Zarkasha (Ire) 99	=Kahyasi (Ire) 85 5 wins, \$1,207,908	lle de Bourbon 75	Nijinsky II 67 *Roseliere 65					
	4 fls, 1 SW DI=1.11	Champion670 fls, 55 SWs	Kadissya 79	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74 Kalkeen (Ire) 74					
	DI=1.11	=Zarkana (Ire) 92 2 wins, \$34,968	=Doyoun (Ire) 85	Mill Reef 68 =Dumka (Fr) 71					
		9 fls, 1 SW	=Zarna (Ire) 87	Shernazar (Ire) 81 Zahra (Ire) 74					

foals of racing age whose parents both were Arc winners.

Zarkava's first foal, due in late February, is by her owner's 2003 Arc winner, Dalakhani. Our subject, then, the 2011 Sea The Stars-Zarkava foal figures to be the tenth Thoroughbred to make this elite list.

British bookmakers are currently offering odds as high as 100-to-1 that this, as of yet, hypothetical foal will win the 2014 Arc.

On paper, the mating does not create any special patterns or affinities—just the increasingly ubiquitous duplications of Mr. Prospector and Northern Dancer in his fourth and fifth generations, respectively.

Then again, as the Aga Khan said, "I believe [these two] were made for each other both in terms of ability, temperament, and conformation. The best needs to be bred to the best."

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