



*California-Breds
Worldwide*

The Best Of Both Worlds

Article & Photos
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The lush fields of the Iburi Province of Hokkaido, Japan could easily be confused with Kentucky if it were not for the Pacific Ocean and mountain ranges that frame it. Tucked between the mountains is the Yoshida brothers' illustrious breeding and racing empire, made up of Teruya's Shadai Farm, Katsumi's Northern Farm, Haruya's Oiwake Farm and the jointly managed Shiraoi Farm.

Visiting just one of their dozens of broodmare barns feels like a Who's Who of international stakes winners. Over the past decade, the Yoshidas have bought some of the best bloodstock the world has to offer in their quest to breed a better racehorse, so it is understandable that they would be drawn to California as they diversify their bloodlines.

Currently, there are six well known California-bred mares in Japan. The allure of soon to be five-time leading California stallion Unusual Heat (Harris Farms) led to the purchase of three of his best daughters. Naohiro Hosoda, a Shadai Corporation employee, commented on how underrated this stallion is. Unusual Heat's ability to produce top runners on dirt, all-weather and turf, makes his bloodline a valuable addition to the Yoshidas' operation.

California's richest female of all time, Moscow Burning is probably one of the best-known Cal-breds sold to Japan; after a stellar four-year-old campaign, when the daughter of the late Moscow Ballet was on-the-board in all but one of her 11 starts, she was named the 2004 California Horse of the Year, Champion Turf Horse and Champion Older Female. Moscow Burning was purchased by Teruya Yoshida's Shadai Farm at the 2006 Keeneland November Sale for \$1,000,000.

Her first mating in 2007 was with future leading sire and son of Sunday Silence, Agnes Tachyon (Jpn), but she was unable to conceive. In 2008, she was bred to Heart's Cry (Jpn), another son of Sunday Silence, and winner of the 2006 group I Dubai Duty Free. He is also the only horse in Japan to beat the legendary Deep Impact (Jpn), in the 2005 grade I Arima Kinen. The result was the colt Burning Zeal (Jpn), now owned by the Shadai Race Horse syndicate; from 11 starts to date, he has finished third four times, including his most recent start on Aug. 11. Moscow Burning was bred back to Heart's Cry in 2009, a pairing that led to the birth of a filly who should be preparing for her debut in the coming months. In 2011, she foaled a filly by Daiwa Major (Jpn), another champion son of Sunday Silence, and a five-time grade I winner. This spring, she had a third Heart's Cry foal, a colt, and she is now in-foal to Daiwa Major again.

Golden Doc A, a 2008 grade I winner and full sister to 2010 grade I winner Unusual Suspect, won \$580,126 during her career as a racehorse. She was privately purchased by Shiraoi Farm in



California-bred Moscow Burning, the 2004 California Horse of the Year, with her 2012 colt by Heart's Cry (Jpn) at Teruya Yoshida's Shadai Farm.

2010, and she gave birth to a Smart Strike filly in 2011. Later that spring, the daughter of Unusual Heat was bred to the two-time Horse of the Year and Triple Crown-winning son of Sunday Silence, Deep Impact. She had a colt this January, and has been confirmed back in-foal to that same sire.

The 2011 California Champion Older Female, Ultra Blend, by Richly Blended, was bought by Katsumi Yoshida's Northern Farm for \$700,000 at the 2011 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale. She had previously won 11 races and \$1,015,646 at the track. This spring, the grade I-winning mare was successfully bred for the first time to Deep Impact.

Shadai Farm purchased 2006 grade I winner Dancing Edie, by Moscow Ballet, privately after her retirement in 2007. The winner of \$782,535 was first bred to Fuji Kiseki (Jpn), a perennially top Sunday Silence stallion, resulting in a filly named Kochi Bijin (Jpn), which translates to Delicate Beauty. The three-year-old is currently owned by Teruya Yoshida's wife, Chizu, but has yet to make her debut. Dancing Edie's 2010 filly by Agnes Tachyon, who should also be preparing for her debut in the months to come, is not named yet. Her 2011 filly was by another son of Sunday Silence, Zenno Rob Roy (Jpn), one of only two horses to win the "Fall Triple Crown," which consists of three grade I races, the Emperor's Cup Fall, the Japan Cup and the Arima Kinen. As a yearling, the filly sold for

26 million yen at this year's JRHA (Japan Racing Horse Association) Select Sale. Her new owner is Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co. Ltd., who once owned Deep Impact. In 2012, Dancing Edie had another Zenno Rob Roy filly before being unsuccessfully bred to him for a third time.

Shiraoi Farm privately purchased Lethal Heat, the 2008 California Champion Three-Year-Old Female, 2009 Champion Older Female and winner of \$655,988, in 2010. She was initially left in the United States, where she gave birth to her first foal, a filly by Street Cry (Ire), who was later imported to Japan. While in the U. S., she was covered by Smart Strike for the 2011 breeding season, before being sent to Japan, where she gave birth to a colt this April. She is currently expecting a foal by Stay Gold (Jpn), the sire of 2011 Triple Crown winner and Japanese Horse of the Year Orfevre (Jpn).

Bel Air Sizzle, runner-up in the 2008 grade I Del Mar Oaks and the earner of \$515,646 from 29 lifetime starts, was purchased privately by Shiraoi Farm in 2010, like the other Unusual Heat mares. She gave birth to an Awesome Again colt in 2011, and was then bred to Zenno Rob Roy. Sadly, she lost the foal and she is not in-foal this spring after being bred to Stay Gold. Bel Air Sizzle is currently stabled in War Emblem's infamous broodmare harem, where she is supposedly helping boost his non-existent stallion-like confidence.

Teruya and Katsumi Yoshida have purchased many other high-profile fillies and mares over the years from the the



Cal-bred Ultra Blend, the 2011 California Champion Older Female, in-foal to Deep Impact (Jpn) at Katsumi Yoshida's Northern Farm.



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Americas and Europe. The 2002 Eclipse Horse of the Year, Azeri, was purchased by Katsumi Yoshida for \$2,250,000 at Keeneland in November of 2009. She is still making headlines in the U. S. with her Kentucky-bred offspring, Take Control and Wine Princess, and she has two foals in Japan. A two-year-old filly, who is rumored to be named Amelie, by Distorted Humor, is preparing for her debut. The filly is owned by Sunday Racing Co. Ltd., the same racing syndicate that owns Orfevre and 2012 Japanese Derby winner, Deep Brillante (Jpn). Her second Japanese-bred foal, a colt by Zenno Rob Roy, sold for 80 million yen at this year's JRHA Select Sale. She wasn't bred in 2011, but she is currently in-foal to Deep Impact; a mating the whole world will be watching.

The 2008 Eclipse champion two-year-old filly Stardom Bound was bought privately by Katsumi Yoshida from IEAH in 2010. She has a Big Brown yearling colt and a 2011 colt by King Kamehameha, Japan's leading sire for the past two years. She was bred to Deep Impact this year, but unfortunately the pairing was unsuccessful. Laragh, the 2008 grade I Hollywood Starlet Stakes winner, was bought by Teruya Yoshida for \$850,000 at the 2009 Fasig-Tipton November Sale. She has a 2011 yearling filly by Zenno Rob Roy, a 2012 colt by Deep Impact and was successfully bred back to the latter this spring.

Katsumi Yoshida purchased Ginger Punch, the 2007 Eclipse Champion Older Female, for \$1,600,000 at the same auction that his brother acquired Stardom Bound. Her two-year-old Bernardini filly, Ginger Mist, is preparing for her debut. She also has a 2011 Zenno Rob Roy filly and a 2012 filly by Manhattan Cafe (Jpn), another grade I-winning son of Sunday Silence and the 2009 leading sire. She is currently in-foal to Deep Impact.

Grade I winner Wickedly Perfect was bought by Katsumi Yoshida for \$800,000 at the 2011 Keeneland January Mixed Sale. She has a 2011 King Kamehameha (Jpn) colt and has been successfully bred to Deep Impact.

For 38 consecutive years, one of Yoshidas' farms has been the leading breeder in Japan, with all four routinely in the top 10 and even the top five. Together, they have about 18 different organizations that cover a horse's life from start to finish. With well-staffed breeding sheds containing 10 to 20 mares each, large paddocks, on-site clinics, yearling centers, training facilities, racing syndicates and retirement plans, the facilities are truly top-notch.

Year after year, these mares have access to a stallion roster that is literally a hall of fame. Their champion California blood will mix with the likes of Deep Impact, a stallion who has already sired six grade I winners from just his first two crops. The next few years should be very exciting for California breeders, as they watch some of their most talented horses participate in what is likely the world's greatest breeding experiment. 🐾



Cal-bred Lethal Heat, a California champion in both 2008 and 2009, with her 2012 colt by Smart Strike at Teruya, Katsumi and Haruya Yoshida's Shiraoi Farm.