

# Cavallo Ventures

Last year, I had the pleasure of meeting Paolo Martini and Mark Strong from Boston, Mass. They have developed a partnership called Cavallo Ventures, and their goal is to breed and raise championship Saddlebred bloodstock. They own an elite band of broodmares and their outstanding young crop of colts are showing great potential as future show ring stars. We wish them much success in their *venture*, and here, as told by Mark Strong, is their special story...

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I grew up in western Massachusetts, home of the Morgan Horse. From as far back as I can remember, I attended the famous New England Morgan Horse Show, and in my teenage years I worked for the show committee performing paddock duties. I experienced the fabled appearances of Noble Flaire and The Master's Touch, among many others, and witnessed the retirements of such greats as UVM Promise. I also worked as a show groom for several stables and at various shows including the Morgan Grand Nationals.

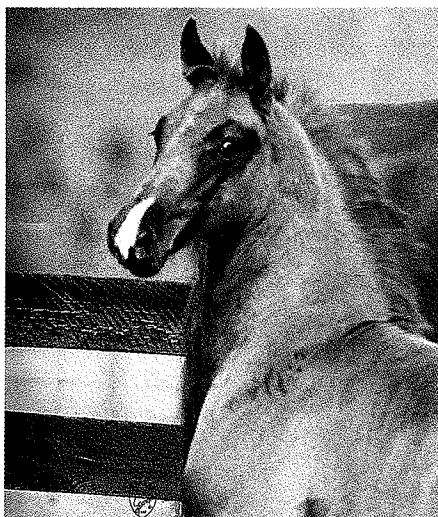
I was also actively involved in the 4-H Horse Program, showing my own leased and borrowed Morgans to numerous wins at the local and regional level. Never having had more than a few lessons from a professional instructor, I absorbed all that I could from the trainers I worked with and from being a spectator on the rail.

I left the Morgan world for several years as I began my professional career in biotech product development and finished my graduate studies in international marketing. It wasn't long before I had to get back involved, but showing Morgans was not what drew me back. It was my long fascination with the American Saddlebred. While I will always enjoy the Morgans, Saddlebreds represented a different style, energy, and excitement. And showing wasn't really what interested me any longer—I was now more interested in breeding. Nothing is more exciting to me as when a foal arrives and I get to see what my long thought-about breeding produced.

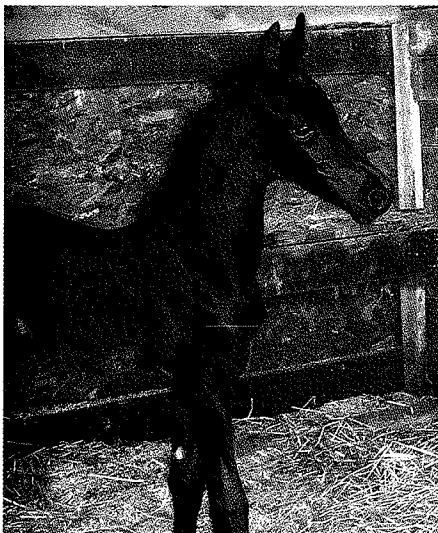
Paolo had a very different beginning, growing up in downtown Milan, Italy, and being very involved in its renowned fashion and music scene. Always one adept at using



2007 foal.



2007 foal.



A Surprising Lover.

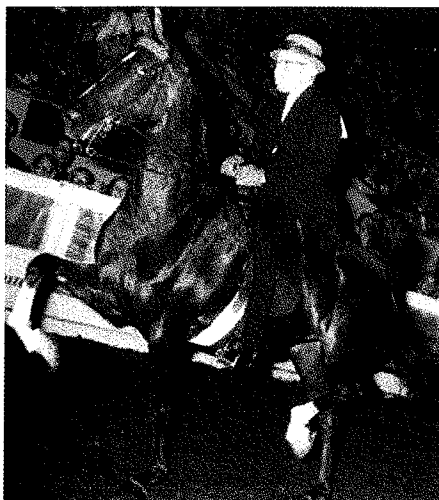
both sides of his brain, he also completed his PhD in Molecular Biology, doing fellowships in Italy, Germany, France and the U.S. Paolo is now a respected oncology and genetic disease researcher, instructor and lecturer.

His very first experience with horses was when I took him to the World's Championship Horse Show in Louisville several years ago. After watching just a few classes and asking some questions, he was hooked, placing all the classes exactly as the judges for the remainder of the week. He has since begun riding and driving, taking lessons from David and Kristen Cater at Cater Stables in New Hampshire and from Sandy Reed at Chardonnay Farms in Texas.

When we decided to get serious about our breeding adventure, we founded Cavallo Ventures, with the word "Cavallo" being Italian for horse. Our goal is to build upon the success of the many brilliant American Saddlebred breeding programs of the past as well as those still producing champions today, and to further these traditions of excellence. By maintaining a small group of select broodmares, we strive to cross these superior individuals with leading stallions that best represent the athleticism, tractability, and beauty that defines the American Saddlebred.

We thank Wyatt and Christine DeHart of Hart to Hart Stables in Finchville, Ky., for helping us find our first few broodmares. We were fortunate enough to purchase Callaway's Intoxication (Five-Gaited World's Grand Champion, CH Will Shriver x CH Sherry My Sherry by CH Colonel Boyle, two-time Triple Crown Winner in Fine Harness and five-time World's Grand Champion in Fine Harness). A half sister to Panacea (dam of World's Champion Callaway's Hakuna Mattata and Reserve World's Champion Callaway's No Problem), she has already produced a number of remarkable offspring, including the talented five-gaited mare Callaway's Serif, Callaway's Anticipation and several members of the Callaway Hills and Kalarama Farm broodmare bands.

Callaway's Intoxication foaled Bella di Giorno, a gorgeous black filly in May, 2007, sired by Powerful Charm, LCC (sire of World's Champion Weanling My Charming



Lover's Sensation.

has already produced a number of talented horses, and in June, 2006, she produced an exquisite, solid black filly by Powerful Charm, LCC, named A Surprising Lover. This stunning filly is currently being conditioned for the ASR Yearling Futurity. In May, 2007, Heiress produced yet another gorgeous filly, this one named Here Is My Heart and also by Powerful Charm LCC.

For 2008, Heiress has been bred to the fine harness sensation World's Champion Gothic Revival (WC Revival x Allusion [out of World's Champion five-gaited mare CH Comedienne]) for what will surely be another thrilling foal.

From the incredibly successful dam line of World's Champion CH Eleanor Rigby, we

2006. In April of 2007, Opal produced the stunningly handsome and athletic colt, An Ideal Husband, by Powerful Charm, LCC.

For 2008, Opal is in foal to the gorgeous, black, WC sire Rifles And Roses (Carey's Night Of Love x Symbol Song) for an All American Cup eligible foal.

And finally, courtesy of Jeff and Debbie Clinebell in Waterloo, Ill., we leased the mare Cattitude (Catalyst x Sheer Radiance by Radiant Sultan) for the 2006-07 breeding season. Her second dam, CH Golden Cherry, produced numerous Champions as well as the Hall of Fame Broodmare, Columbia's Cherry Blossom (dam of World's Grand Champion Five-Gaited and Three-Gaited CH Memories' Citation, the only horse to accomplish this feat). Cattitude's third dam is Black Cherry, a Hall of Fame Broodmare.

In March, 2007, Cattitude foaled a gorgeous filly named Cat On A Hot Tin Roof by The Mystery Writer (World's Champion Callaway's Blue Norther x BHF Callaway's Agatha Christie).

For the 2007-08 breeding season we have leased My Phine Dancer (Phi Slama Jama x CH Shadow Dancer) from Chardonnay Farms Saddlebreds. We have bred this special mare to WC Designed (CH Caramac x BHF Sultan's Dianna). The resulting foal will be a full-blood sibling to Dance by Design, who was the reserve Three-Gaited Two-Year-Old at the 2006 American Royal Horse Show.

We also would like to extend many thanks to Judy and Roy Werner at Redwing Farm in Waterloo, Ill., who care for some of our mares and foals and offer never-ending support and advice. We are also very grateful to Monica and Jeff Hagerman of Foxrun Farm in Shelbyville, Ky., who provide unparalleled care for others in our growing herd.



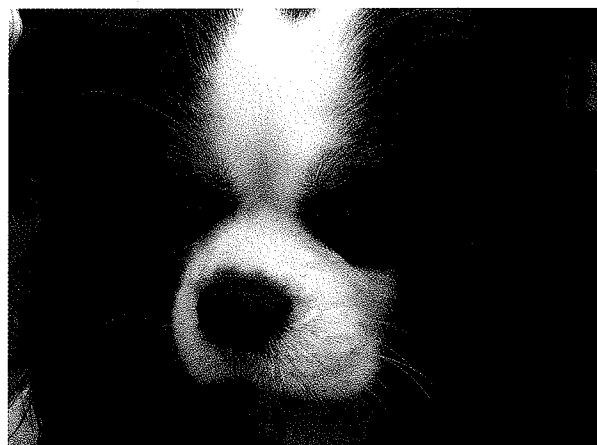
Heart To Heart.

Christina). Intoxication has been bred to WC and WC sire Designed (CH Caramac x BHF Sultan's Dianna) for a 2008 foal.

Our next mare is Lover's Heiress (Sultan's Starmaker x Tango Time by Flight Time). Lover's Heiress boasts as her second dam the Three-Gaited World's Grand Champion and eight-time Three-Gaited World's Champion CH Lover's Sensation. Heiress' third dam is CH Lover's Lane, full sister to the legendary Five-Gaited Triple Crown Winner and six-time World's Grand Champion Five-Gaited CH Wing Commander, whose name is synonymous with success.

With 20 Hall of Fame Broodmares in her five-generation pedigree, Lover's Heiress

added our third mare, Excelsior's Fire Opal (CH Fancy Brass x World's Champion three-gaited mare CH Heart To Heart). She is a half sister to Peregrine, who produced CH Eleanor Rigby and is the second dam of World's Champion sire Exalted Effect and World's Champion Call Me Ringo. She is also a half sister to Just Maggie, who produced World's Champion Cats Don't Dance. Opal produced a wonderful filly, Opalescent Charm, by Powerful Charm, LCC in May,



Cavallo's mascot.