The Top 10 Emerging Broodmare Sires in North America and Europe

While the broodmare sire represents just a name on a crowded catalog page, he can have a significant impact on the resulting foal. Since identifying successful broodmare sires early in their careers can help lift up a breeding program, we at TrueNicks profiled 10 young, emerging broodmare sires in North America and Europe. Broodmare sires in our top 10 were foaled no earlier than 1996, have at least 2% stakes winners to foals of racing age as broodmare sire, and are represented by two or more graded/group stakes winners in that role (see full charts at the end of this report).

1. Giant's Causeway (Storm Cat—Mariah's Storm, by Rahy)

In 2012, Giant's Causeway was the youngest sire in the top 50 broodmare sires by worldwide earnings with a total of 14 stakes winners in the calendar year. With another 14 stakes winners to date in 2013, “The Iron Horse” can certainly lay claim to being the preeminent broodmare sire of his generation and the leader on our list of top emerging broodmare sires.

Giant's Causeway has been either a model racehorse or a model sire his entire career. Sold in utero when Coolmore's John Magnier bought his dam for $2.6 million, Giant's Causeway won nine races at 2 and 3 years, including the Prix de la Salamandre (Fr-I), St. James's Palace (Eng-I), Coral Eclipse Stakes (Eng-I), Juddmonte International Stakes (Eng-I), Esat Digifone Irish Champion Stakes (Ire-I), and Champagne Lanson Sussex (Eng-I) on his way to being named European champion 3-year-old colt in 2000. In the 2000 Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I)—his only U.S. start and only start on dirt—Giant's Causeway earned respect in North America with a game second to Tiznow.

At stud he has proven just as prolific. He is the sire of 29 grade or group I winners on all surfaces and was North American champion sire in 2009, 2010, and 2012.

As a broodmare sire, Giant's Causeway has been, like his record as a racehorse and sire, at home as much on the turf as on the dirt. While his daughters are responsible for grade I winners Verrazano, Evening Jewel, and Eden’s Moon on the dirt, he is also broodmare sire of group I winners Planteur, Soft Falling Rain, Warhorse, Beauty Parlour; Escardo, and Loch Garman on the grass. While the odd horse seems to find itself racing at either end of the distance spectrum, in general Giant's Causeway's daughters are producing horses like him, effective 3- year-olds (and older horses) at distances between one mile (1600m) and 10 furlongs (2000m).

From a pedigree standpoint, his daughters have mixed with a wide variety of stallions, but in general they have done best with stallions that, like Giant's Causeway, have multiple sources of Almahmoud via Cosmah and Natalma. While on the expensive side, Giant's Causeway mares are still buyable, with 54 selling for an average of $73,089 in 2012. This compares well with yearlings out of his daughters, which averaged $77,586 in 2012 and $107,572 thus far in 2013. Certainly an average Giant's Causeway mare at auction has an above average chance of return in the sales ring, but more importantly she should also represent a real shot at producing a runner on the racetrack.
2. Galileo (Sadler’s Wells—Urban Sea, by Miswaki)

An outstanding racehorse, a great sire, and a highly-promising sire of sires, Galileo is no surprise as an emerging broodmare sire. He also owns a factor that we’ve long rated a considerable positive for a broodmare sire: He is out of an exceptional runner or producer. But in Galileo’s case he is out of Urban Sea, a mare who excelled in both categories as not only a heroine of the CIGA Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe (Fr-I) but also one of the most important broodmares of her era.

Galileo’s first stakes winner as a broodmare sire was a foal of 2008 and was one of three stakes winners (two of them group winners) out of Galileo mares born that year. The pace has quickened in subsequent foal crops as more daughters of Galileo have come into production. Six Galileo mares produced stakes-winning foals from the 2009 crop, and there are already eight stakes winners from the 2010 foal crop. If the growth is not yet exponential, it might soon be heading in that direction given that Galileo’s first daughters were only 5-year-olds in 2008, meaning that the majority of the resulting stakes winners are the first foals for their dams. Of course, we expect Galileo’s record as a broodmare sire to be augmented as his younger daughters become producers, and many of these mares are from some of the best families one could hope to find.

Given Galileo’s own success with Danehill line mares, it probably won’t come as much surprise to learn that his first group I winner, La Collina, is by a Danehill line stallion (Strategic Prince, by Dansili); in fact, he’s already broodmare sire of eight Danehill line stakes winners. There is also a group II winner by Oasis Dream, from the Green Desert branch of Danzig. We’ll also note that he’s broodmare sire of classic-placed Rehn’s Nest, by Authorized, who is son of another Sadler’s Wells horse in Montjeu. Foals out of Galileo mares averaged $138,379 across all sales in 2012, while the average Galileo mare cost $108,177. They are certainly expensive to buy and may get more so in years to come, but they may well be worth it.

3. Lemon Drop Kid (Kingmambo—Charming Lassie, by Seattle Slew)

The first of two sons of Kingmambo on our list, Lemon Drop Kid is certainly not short of credentials to be a broodmare sire. A grade I winner at 2, classic winner at 3, and champion older horse at 4, he is not only by outstanding sire Kingmambo—also a highly-successful broodmare sire—but is also out of a three-quarter sister to A.P. Indy. Lemon Drop Kid has been a very consistent sire of stakes winners and has grade I winners on dirt, turf, and all-weather.

The first foal out of a Lemon Drop Kid mare wasn’t foaled until 2008, but Lemon Drop Kid has already been represented with 14 stakes winners as a broodmare sire,
including four group or graded winners and a champion. It’s that champion, Elusive Kate, who has been the best runner out of a Lemon Drop Kid mare so far, and the French-trained filly has won group I events at 2, 3, and 4. Elusive Kate has an intriguing pedigree, too. Her sire, Elusive Quality, stems from the same Mr. Prospector line as Lemon Drop Kid, and while Elusive Quality’s broodmare sire, Hero’s Honor, is by Northern Dancer out of a Graustark mare, Kingmambo’s dam, the mighty mare Miesque, is also a Northern Dancer/Graustark cross.

The inevitable ploy of trying Lemon Drop Kid mares with A.P. Indy line stallions (to combine A.P. Indy and his three-quarter sister Charming Lassie) seems to have some power for upgrading given that there are three stakes winners from only 15 starters on the cross. Furthermore, the three stakes winners are by Fisher Pond, Dance With Ravens, and Friends Lake, none of whom would rank among the elite of A.P. Indy line stallions.

At broodmare sales worldwide in 2012, daughters of Lemon Drop Kid averaged $91,887, which is higher than the average for yearlings out of his daughters ($73,464). While this balance is not ideal in a commercial sense, we’re sure that it will change in years to come as the yearling market picks up on Lemon Drop Kid’s role as a broodmare sire.

4. King’s Best (Kingmambo—Allegretta, by Lombard)

With stakes winners in Australia, England, Hong Kong, France, Italy, and Germany, Kingmambo’s son King’s Best has stamped himself as a versatile broodmare sire and one to follow in years to come.

King’s Best, a winner of the Sagitta Two Thousand Guineas (Eng-I), has without doubt one of the most royal pedigrees in the stud book, which some might argue makes him a natural for the role of broodmare sire. His own sire, Kingmambo, was a well bred son of Mr. Prospector and champion racemare Miesque. His dam, Allegretta, also produced CIGA Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe (Fr-I) winner and superior broodmare Urban Sea (by Miswaki), making King’s Best and Urban Sea three-quarter siblings.

At stud King’s Best has proven a solid stallion and has sired no fewer than seven group I winners, including Workforce, the fastest ever winner of the Investec Epsom Derby (Eng-I) who went on to land the Qatar Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe (Fr-I), and Eishin Flash, winner of the Tokyo Yushun-Japanese Derby (Jpn-I). While he does not yet appear as the broodmare sire of a group or grade I winner, King’s Best has proven to be rather interesting in that the progeny of his daughters are either speedy and able to win at up to seven furlongs (1400m) or stout, winning at 10 furlongs (2000m) and beyond, with very little in between.

As a sire King’s Best has done very well with mares by Sadler’s Wells and his sons, so it is not surprising to see one of his daughters produce a stakes winner to Authorized, a grandson of Sadler’s Wells, while another such stakes winner is by High
Chaparral, a son of Sadler’s Wells.

Generally speaking, King’s Best has been viewed by breeders as a foil for the Danzig tribe, with his daughters providing stakes winners by Nadeem, Desert Style, Danehill Dancer, Hard Spun, Baltic King, Masterful, and Invincible Spirit. With many of these stallions on the speedy end of the spectrum as runners and sires, it may begin to explain the distance disparity mentioned above.

Yearlings out of King’s Best’s daughters averaged $79,117 in 2012 and $76,092 in 2013 to date, which compares very favorably with his 28 daughters selling in 2012 for an average of just $58,745.

5. More Than Ready (Southern Halo—Woodman’s Girl, by Woodman)

A son of record-breaking South American sire Southern Halo, More Than Ready made his own bit of history by becoming the first stallion to top the list of sires of 2-year-olds in both Australia (a feat he’s achieved twice) and North America. He now appears to be emerging as a broodmare sire on both continents, with 11 stakes winners appearing from crops foaled in 2008, 2009, 2010.

Of course, More Than Ready made his name in Australia as a tremendous cross for Danehill line mares (he’s actually good with Danzig in general), and there are already three stakes winners on the reverse cross, including group I winners Miracles of Life and Rebel Dane.

Three of the stakes winners out of More Than Ready mares are by A.P. Indy sons: the graded stakes-winning sisters Kauai Katie and Winding Way, both by Malibu Moon, and Silver Tongued, by the similarly-bred Flatter. We’ll also note two stakes winners by Storm Cat line horses, a graded winner by Distorted Humor, and a stakes winner by Kitten’s Joy (a grandson of Sadler’s Wells, another strain that has worked well under More Than Ready as seen in Breeders’ Cup winner Pluck).

Daughters of More Than Ready might also be valuable commercial prospects. In 2012 they averaged just $60,233, yet yearlings out of these mares averaged $91,998 during the same year. Given his versatility and commercial appeal, More Than Ready certainly looks a broodmare sire to value.

6. Orpen (Lure—Bonita Francita, by Devil’s Bag)

Few stallions have served in as wide a range of locations as Orpen, who began his career in Ireland but also served Northern Hemisphere seasons in France and Italy and shuttled to Australia and Argentina. The transient sire has performed creditably in all of these locations, siring at least 76 stakes winners—and without ever covering the best of mares—among them Argentina Horse of the Year Lingote de Oro; Australian-bred War Artist, a winner of good races in South Africa, France, Germany, and Dubai; Gainsborough Poule d’Essai des Pouliches-French One Thousand
Guineas (Fr-I) victress Torrestrella; as well as champions in Italy, Argentina, and South Africa.

Orpen is the lone significant stallion son of Lure, a brilliant miler by Danzig who proved to be subfertile. Orpen’s dam, Bonita Francita, is a granddaughter of Natalma, which means that Orpen is from the same immediate sire and dam line as Danehill and owns similar inbreeding to Natalma. He’s also out a mare by Halo’s son Devil’s Bag, giving a third cross of Natalma’s dam, Almahmoud.

This pedigree clearly served him well as a sire, and early signs are that it will do likewise for him as a broodmare sire. Orpen’s daughters have already produced three group or grade 1 winners: 2013 Etihad Airways Falmouth Stakes (Eng-I) captress Giofra (by Danehill son Dansili, and with five crosses of Natalma), South American classic winner Empress Jackie (by Southern Halo, who is by Halo out of a Northern Dancer mare, again adding to the Natalma/Almahmoud mix), and the South African group I winner Doctor Doom (by Red Ransom’s Australian son Domesday).

Orpen’s stakes winners as a broodmare sire also include two by sons of Sadler’s Wells and one by Titus Livius, by Machiavellian, whose own dam, Coup de Folie, is by Halo and is a three-quarter sister to the dam of Orpen.

In 2012 broodmares by Orpen sold for an average of $39,242, while yearlings out of his daughters averaged $33,245. That’s probably not the commercial ratio that one would ideally like to see, but Orpen is getting it done on the racetrack, and that’s ultimate determination of worth.

7. Sinndar (Grand Lodge—Sinntara, by Lashkari)

With Poule d’Essai des Pouliches-French One Thousand Guineas (Fr-I) winner Flotilla and Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby (Ire-I) winner Trading Leather, the 2013 season has proved to be a breakout year for the well bred Sinndar as a broodmare sire.

Sinndar was a magnificent racehorse for his breeder, His Highness the Aga Khan. The colt didn’t hit the racetrack until September of his 2-year-old year, but he came back just two weeks later to win the Aga Khan Studs National Stakes (Ire-I). Sinndar flourished as a 3-year-old, winning the Vodafone Epsom Derby (Eng-I), Budweiser Irish Derby (Ire-I), and the Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe Lucien Barriere (Fr-I). As a sire he has been somewhat disappointing given his race record and stud patronage, but he is responsible for group I winners Shareta, Shawanda, Youmzain, and Rosanara.

Given his racing performance and the racing aptitude of mares he was bred to, it is no surprise to see that Sinndar is excelling as a broodmare sire of horses with classic pretensions. Indeed, Sinndar is yet to appear as broodmare sire of a stakes winner at less than seven furlongs (1400m), and he has two stakes winners at distances beyond 1 1/2 miles (2400m). While Sinndar has appeared as broodmare sire of a 2-year-old stakes winner, it is telling that 60% of his earnings as a broodmare sire are from horses in their 3-year-old season.

Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (gr. IT) winner Flotilla is out of a Sinndar mare.
Sinndar is the broodmare sire of two stakes winners by Kingmambo in Genius Beast, a horse of classic potential, and Encke, a classic winner of the Ladbrokes St. Leger (Eng-I). While Kingmambo is no longer available to Sinndar mares, one could quite easily see his son King’s Best proving an apt replacement, especially given that Trading Leather’s sire, Teofilo, is a son of Galileo, himself a close relation to King’s Best. Sinndar mares have also done well when mated to stallions carrying Caro, with two stakes winners by Maria’s Mon and one by Mizzen Mast.

The 2013 season might also prove a breakout year for Sinndar as a broodmare sire in the auction market. In 2012 his daughters sold for an average of $13,361 (12 sold), with yearlings out of his daughters averaging $43,039 (nine sold). Already in 2013, yearlings out of his daughters have averaged $86,800 (16 sold), a figure that no doubt will create demand for his daughters this broodmare sales season.

8. Orientate (Mt. Livermore—Dream Team, by Cox’s Ridge)

There was little doubt about the racing talent of Orientate, an Eclipse Award winner and the winner of the NAPA Breeders’ Cup Sprint (gr. I), when he retired to stud. A son of major sprinter and sire Mt. Livermore out of the top class mare Dream Team, Orientate never quite established himself as a top class sire despite siring 35 stakes winners, including grade or group I winners Lady Joanne, Intangaroo, and Lady Sprinter.

While he might have disappointed some as a sire, Orientate is off to a fast start as a broodmare sire, with his daughters having already produced two genuine grade I winners—champion 2-year-old colt Shanghai Bobby and the blisteringly quick Sweet Lulu—among his five stakes winners. Not surprisingly given his own speed, Orientate does not yet appear as broodmare sire of a winner beyond nine furlongs (1800m), although it must be added that with his daughters primarily based in North America and a few in Australia, there has been very little opportunity to stretch out beyond that distance. More interestingly, given Orientate’s own bias towards producing superior fillies rather than colts (quite possibly a reason for his rising success as a broodmare sire), his daughters are not showing any such bias, with an even splash of good runners between the sexes.

Orientate’s daughters are buyable propositions at auction, which makes him a particularly appealing emerging broodmare sire. Orientate mares averaged just $40,181 in 2012, although, given the performances of Shanghai Bobby and Sweet Lulu, it would be unwise to suggest that these figures should remain the same. In 2012 the yearlings out of his daughters averaged just $34,490, while in 2013 they have averaged a whopping $133,033 (19 sold).

With four of his five stakes winners as broodmare sire coming from the Mr. Prospector sire line and two of these specifically by sons of Unbridled’s Song, Orientate may have found himself in a nice position as a solid nick for an omnipresent sire line.
9. Tiznow (Cee's Tizzy—Cee's Song, by Seattle Song)

Just as he overcame formidable European challenges to take back-to-back renewals of the Breeders’ Cup Classic (gr. I), Tiznow has also overcome a less than fashionable pedigree to become a major sire. He was a success out of the gate, ending 2005 as the leading freshman sire following the victory of his daughter Folklore in the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies (gr. I). Folklore turned out to be a somewhat atypically precocious Tiznow (although he does have 2013 juvenile grade I winner Strong Mandate), but Tiznow has established himself as one of North America’s premier sires of middle/classic-distance dirt runners.

Now Tiznow is looking as if he will have a future as a broodmare sire. He currently has five stakes winners in that role, and his long-term potential is underlined by the fact that none of that quintet is by what one would consider a top-tier stallion. Tiznow’s best so far as a broodmare sire has been Bernstein’s grade II-winning daughter Renee’s Titan, who is a product of the reverse Storm Cat/Tiznow cross to Folklore and also an extension of the successful Storm Cat/Relaunch cross.

Tiznow’s other stakes winners as broodmare sire are grade III scorer Went the Day Well (by Proud Citizen, a son of Gone West, another strain that has worked under Tiznow and which might point towards considering Speightstown, a Gone West/Storm Cat cross), Tiz the Argument (by Closing Argument, a member of the same In Reality sire line as Tiznow but via the very phenotypically different Valid Appeal branch), Dreamsrunwild (by Offlee Wild, who is out of a mare by Seattle Slew, the grandsire of Tiznow’s dam), and Miss Derek (by Brother Derek, who gives inbreeding to Relaunch and recreates the very successful Benchmark/Relaunch cross).

Broodmare daughters of Tiznow averaged just $46,995 across all sales in 2012, while yearlings out of his daughters averaged $60,009 during the same year. One has to think that these figures are only going to rise with his increasing popularity as a sire and the dearth of genuine two-turn stallions currently in North America.

10. Kyllachy (Pivotal—Pretty Poppy, by Song)

Kyllachy was the premier sprint specialist sired by the very successful Nureyev grandson Pivotal out of a mare by English champion sprinter Song. Himself a champion older sprinter in England, Kyllachy captured the Victor Chandler Nunthorpe Stakes (Eng-I), Tripleprint Temple Stakes (Eng-II), and Victor Chandler Palace House Stakes (Eng-III). Kyllachy has also been a very solid sire of speed with 22 stakes winners and nine group winners, including group I winners Krypton Factor and Sole Power over shorter distances.

Pure speed merchants are generally not among the first choices as potential broodmare sires, but Kyllachy is starting off as if he might break the mold and provide a good foil for the distance-oriented stallions that abound in Europe. The first stakes winner out of a Kyllachy mare wasn’t foaled until 2009, this being Moonstone Magic, winner of the Dubai Duty Free Fred Darling (Eng-III), a One Thousand Guineas (Eng-I) trial. In the same year that Moonstone Magic scored her group win, Garswood, a
juvenile out of a Kyllachy mare, captured the Shadwell Stud Harry Rosebery. This year, Garswood has gone on to prove himself a smart seven-furlong performer, adding the CSP European Free and Bet365 Lennox (Eng-II). Kyllachy's third stakes winner and another to win a group event is Saayerr, successful this year at 2 in the Audi Richmond Stakes (Eng-II). Two of Kyllachy's stakes winners are by Mr. Prospector line stallions: Moonstone Magic, by Trade Fair (by Zafonic, by Gone West), and Garswood, by Dutch Art (by Machiavellian's son Medicean). Saayerr is a son of another speed sire in Acclamation. Despite the success with speed, however, with Kyllachy's pedigree as it is, his daughters look well suited to sons and grandsons of Sadler's Wells, in particular the Galileo tribe that is gaining significant popularity.

With only five daughters sold in 2012, Kyllachy mares averaged $24,369, which compares favorably to the 18 yearlings out of his daughters averaging $33,812. Kyllachy might be a good play for those wanting to upgrade their broodmare band a little less expensively.

The Honorable Mentions List

There were a number of stallions that were very close to inclusion in this top 10 list of emerging broodmare sires. This group includes Malibu Moon, Vicar, Dixie Union, Stravinsky, El Corredor, Dansili, Fasliyev, Montjeu, Fusaichi Pegasus, and Yankee Victor, and all have some merit as young broodmare sires to consider as you evaluate mares in this year's breeding stock sales.