

BREEDING

Pedigree Analysis



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CALIFORNIA CHROME

One look and you can tell why he was named "California Chrome." The San Felipe Stakes (gr. II) winner's glinting copper coat is offset by four white legs and a blazed face, giving him the look of something very flashy and metallic, like a living, breathing street rod.

Bred in California by his owners, Steven Coburn and Perry Martin, California Chrome is a son of the stallion Lucky Pulpit, who is making a solid early showing standing at Harris Farms near Coalinga, Calif. Lucky Pulpit—like Tapit, Sky Mesa, and Stroll—is yet another successful sire son of Pulpit. His dam, Lucky Soph, is by turf champion Cozzene and out of the top California racemare Lucky Spell. Lucky Spell was a half sister to Seattle Song, a group/grade I winner on grass, who is better known today as the broodmare sire of Tiznow.

As a broodmare, Lucky Spell produced three stakes winners: the English group III winner

Merlins Charm (by Bold Bidder), Goldspell (by Caro), and Elegiac (by Nepal). Lucky Soph was bred on the same pattern as Goldspell, being by Caro's son Cozzene, and she won in England, showing a taste for turf like many other members of her family. The same cross also produced the French runner Trolley Song, full sister of Goldspell and the dam of the brilliant runner and great sire Unbridled's Song, by Unbridled.

Unbridled's Song's success is undoubtedly the reason Lucky Soph was bred first to Unbridled, producing a filly that did not win and a stakes-placed colt named Drewman. She was then bred twice to Pulpit, foaling Lucky Pulpit in 2001. A graded stakes-placed runner at 2 and 3, speedy Lucky Pulpit won the Smile Stakes, a five-furlong event on the grass at Arlington Park at 4. Retired to stud in 2007, his first crop included stakes winner Luckarack, and the second crop produced Rousing Sermon, win-

ner of the Bob Benoit California Cup Juvenile Stakes and second in the CashCall Futurity (gr. I) among his several graded placings. He's the one who put Lucky Pulpit on the map, although California Chrome was already in the pipeline when Rousing Sermon was earning his stakes credits.

Rousing Sermon is out of a mare by Awesome Again, and Luckarack is out of a mare by Dehere, so while evidence is pointing to a strong nick for Lucky Pulpit with Deputy Minister-line mares, California Chrome's pedigree goes another direction. He's out of the mare Love the Chase, by Not For Love, by Mr. Prospector. She's not just any daughter of Not For Love, however. Her sire and dam's sire are closely related, with some remarkable inbreeding to build on.

Not For Love is a stakes-placed full brother to the champion 2-year-old male Rhythm and also to the grade III winner Get Lucky, an outstanding broodmare who is the dam of four stakes winners, and granddam of Super Saver and Bluegrass Cat. Not For Love and his siblings were sired by Mr. Prospector out of the grade I winner Dance Number, a daughter of Northern Dancer out of champion Numbered Account, by Buckpasser. With this impeccable genetic background, it's no surprise that Not For Love has been a leading sire in Maryland for almost two decades.

Based at Northview Stallion Station, Not For Love stood for several years alongside another perennial leading sire in Maryland, Polish Numbers. He was by Danzig (by Northern Dancer) out of Numbered Account, so Polish Numbers was actually a half brother to Dance Number (who is by Northern Dancer), which also made him an uncle to Not For Love. Inevitably their bloodlines were going to cross, and in 2005, Polish Numbers' daughter, Chase It Down, was bred to Not For Love. The result was Love the Chase, with close inbreeding, 3x3 to Numbered Account, and 3x4 to Northern Dancer.

Still, there has to be more in a pedigree than just clever inbreeding, and Love the Chase is the link that ties California Chrome to a great American family. Love the Chase is a winner. Her dam Chase It Down is a winner. The next dam is stakes winner Chase the Dream, also dam of stakes winner Amourette. The next dam, La Belle Fleur, is a half sister to the champion older female Cascapedia and three other stakes winners.

Descending from the mare Uncle's Lassie, foaled in 1916, this female line has produced three Kentucky Derby winners: Clyde Van Dusen (1929), Swaps (1955), and Iron Liege (1957). Is California Chrome up to the family tradition in 2014? **BH**

LUCKY PULPIT, ch, 2001	Pulpit, 1994 6s, SW, \$728,200 870 f, 73 SW, 1.90 AEI	A.P. Indy, 1989 11s, SW, \$2,979,815 1,184 f, 154 SW, 2.86 AEI	Seattle Slew
		Preach, 1989 15s, SW, \$304,656 14 f, 11 r, 10 w, 1 SW	Weekend Surprise
CALIFORNIA CHROME ch, c February 18, 2011	Lucky Soph, 1992 6s, wnr, \$9,865 10 f, 10 r, 7 w, 1 SW	Cozzene, 1980 24s, SW, \$978,152 964 f, 93 SW, 2.20 AEI	Mr. Prospector
		Lucky Spell, 1971 69s, SW, \$253,655 14 f, 12 r, 8 w, 3 SW	Narrate
LOVE THE CHASE, ch, 2006	Not For Love, 1990 29s, wnr, \$178,870 876 f, 75 SW, 1.73 AEI	Mr. Prospector, 1970 14s, SW, \$112,171 1,178 f, 181 SW, 3.98 AEI	Caro
		Dance Number, 1979 21s, SW, \$415,418 6 f, 6 r, 6 w, 2 SW	Ride the Trails
	Chase It Down, 1997 9s, wnr, \$12,790 6 f, 5 r, 3 w	Polish Numbers, 1987 11s, wnr, \$80,493 513 f, 53 SW, 1.54 AEI	Lucky Mel
		Chase the Dream, 1984 17s, SW, \$208,118 5 f, 4 r, 4 w, 1 SW	Incantation
			Raise a Native
			Gold Digger
			Northern Dancer
			Numbered Account
			Danzig
			Numbered Account
			Sir Ivor
			La Belle Fleur

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