

TONY MORRIS



Pedigree analysis **Spanish Moon**

AFTER his smooth debut victory in a 19-runner Newmarket maiden in October 2006, Spanish Moon was widely acclaimed as a colt with a bright future.

A handsome individual with ample scope and a pedigree that seemed to guarantee him stamina for middle distances as a three-year-old, he duly featured among the leaders on bookmakers' ante-post lists for the Derby over the winter, and his reappearance was eagerly awaited.

The wait turned out to be much longer than anticipated, however, because in March 2007 he suffered a cracked pelvis and did not return to action until his second season was nearly over, and then – in a competitive conditions event at York – his extended absence and need of experience clearly showed. But his promise remained intact, and he was fortunate to have an owner and trainer who were prepared to exercise patience.

Before that promise was finally, and gloriously, fulfilled at Saint-Cloud on Sunday, the patience of starters was sorely tried on several occasions, and after three refusals to load – twice last year and again before the Jockey Club Stakes this spring – Spanish Moon was banned from competition in Britain for six months. Having achieved notoriety at home, he had to go to France to attain real celebrity.

The quirky behaviour was intensely frustrating for connections, as his form in 2008 was strongly progressive, including Listed wins at Ascot, Windsor and on Kempton's Polytrack, and in his narrow reverse against Blue Monday in Newbury's Group 3 Arc Trial he provided ample evidence that there was a major victory in him if he could conquer his inhibitions over stalls entry.

That top-grade triumph almost came on his reappearance in 2009, when he was caught only in the shadow of the post in the Dubai Sheema Classic by Eastern Anthem, but after that career-best effort his recalcitrance returned at Newmarket, provoking his suspension.

It cannot be said that he has achieved complete redemption yet, as he was again less than fully co-operative with the stalls handlers at Saint-Cloud, but he caused less bother than fellow British challenger Scintillo, who needed a deal of coercion before consenting to line up. In the race itself there were no alarms, because Ryan Moore had Spanish Moon handily placed throughout, and in the final furlong he proved emphatically too strong for the gallant filly Alpine Rose.

It remains to be seen what the future holds for Spanish Moon, but the Arc seems likely to feature on his agenda, and the wider stalls in the US might prove inviting, with the Man o' War Stakes and Breeders' Cup Turf both feasible targets.

Home-bred by Juddmonte, and a brother to the talented Spanish Sun, who won the Ribblesdale Stakes on only her second racecourse appearance, Spanish Moon now ranks as the top performer in Europe for El Prado, one of the more surprising sire successes of recent times.

Bred at Vincent O'Brien's Lyonstown Stud and sold – or, more likely, part-sold – to Robert Sangster as a tip-top pedigree, being by Sadler's Wells out of Lady Capulet, heroine on her debut of the 1977 Irish 1,000 Guineas. He also had something to commend him as an athlete, being a



Spanish Moon beats Alpine Rose to record his first Group 1 win in the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud on Sunday

Patience pays off with stalls-shy star

Saint-Cloud hero is top European performer by surprise sire success

SIRE EL PRADO

Bred by Lyonstown Stud in Ireland. 330,000gns Tattersalls Highflyer yearling. Won 4 (6f-1m) of 9 races, viz. 4 (inc. Railway S.-Gr3, National S.-Gr1, Beresford S.-Gr2) out of 6 at 2 years, 0 out of 3 at 3 years. Earned £141,616.

Strong, well-made, 16.0hh. Joint-best 2yo in Ireland in International Classifications, best form at 1m on soft ground. Sprained a joint in spring at 3, unplaced in 3 starts from 1m-1m2f between July and October.

Very well bred. By a top middle-distance performer and exceptional sire out of a winner of Irish 1,000 Guineas who also produced Classic-placed Entitled (by Mill Reef). From a notable family on both sides of the Atlantic.

Stands at Adena Springs Kentucky, at a fee of \$75,000. Sire of 14 crops of racing age, inc. notable winners: Chindi (Gr3), El Cielo (Gr3), Nite Dreamer (Gr3), Shires Ende (Gr3), Sweet And Ready (Gr2), Air Rocket (Gr3), Swingin On Ice (Gr2), El Prado Essence (G3), Mr Livingston (Gr3), Medaglia D'Oro (Travers S.-Gr1, Whitney H.-Gr1, Donn H.-Gr1), Senor Swinger (Gr2), Shaconage (Gr3), Spanish Sun (Gr2), Artie Schiller (Breeders' Cup Mile-Gr1), Borrego (Pacific Classic-Gr1, Jockey Club Gold Cup-Gr1), Kitten's Joy (Secretariat S.-Gr1, Joe Hirsch Turf Classic S.-Gr1), Lord Admiral (Gr2), Timo (Gr3), Asi Siempre (Spinster S.-Gr1), Buffalo Man (Gr3), El Soprano (G2), Spanish Moon (Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud-Gr1), Dreaming Of Liz (Gr3), Wesley (Gr2), Article Rare (Gr3), Golden Century (Gr3).

DAM SHINING BRIGHT

Bred by Juddmonte Farms in Britain. Won 1 (1m2f) of 8 races, viz. 0 out of 2 at 2 years, 1 out of 2 at 3 years, 0 out of 4 at 4 years. Also placed 3 times, and distant 5th in Oaks. Earned \$32,613.

Tall, leggy individual, smart performer at best, but with delicate constitution. Best effort at 1m2f, probably stayed 1m4f. Modest form in 4 efforts on turf in US at 4.

Well bred. By a top-class runner, sire and broodmare sire. Half-sister to 5 other winners, inc. Daring Miss (Gr2 winner, Gr1-placed, dam of Gr3-placed winner Quickfire) and Apogee (Gr3 winner, dam of Gr2 winner Dance Routine, Gr3 winner Apsis and Listed winners Concentric and Space Quest). Dam winner, 2nd in Oaks and Irish Oaks, half-sister to 7 other winners, inc. 1 Listed winner. Granddam won 2 races.

To stud at 5 and dam of: Eagle's Cross (1995 g by Trempolino; winner), Swancourt (1996 f by Cozzene; unplaced only start), unnamed (1997 c by Irish River; unraced), Febrile (1998 f by Trempolino; unraced), Cut Glass (1999 f by Diesis; winner), Spanish Sun (2000 f by El Prado; Gr2 winner), Galvanise (2001 f by Run Softly; winner), Spanish Moon (2004 c by El Prado; Gr1 winner), Certain Promise (2005 f by El Prado; winner), Phrase (2007 f by Royal Anthem; unraced to date). She has a yearling filly by Dansili and a colt-foal by Montjeu. Barren to Marquetry in 2002 and to Mizzen Mast in 2006. Slipped to El Prado in 2003.

CONCLUSION

Still quirky, but a top-class performer when he consents to load. Well suited by 1m4f, will stay further.

SPANISH MOON

b h 26-4-2004

	Nearctic	Nearco
		Lady Angela
Northern Dancer		.....
	Natalma	Native Dancer
		Almahmoud
Sadler's Wells		.....
	Bold Reason	Hail To Reason
		Lalun
Fairy Bridge		.....
	Special	Forli
		Thong
El Prado (gr 1989)		.....
	Sir Gaylord	Turn-to
		Somethingroyal
Sir Ivor		.....
	Attica	Mr Trouble
		Athenia
Lady Capulet		.....
	Tom Fool	Menow
		Gaga
Cap And Bells		.....
	Ghazni	Mahmoud
		Sun Miss
	
	Red God	Nasrullah
		Spring Run
Blushing Groom		.....
	Runaway Bride	Wild Risk
		Aimee
Rainbow Quest		.....
	Herbager	Vandale
		Flagette
I Will Follow		.....
	Where You Lead	Raise a Native
		Noblesse
Shining Bright (b 1989)		.....
	Nijinsky	Northern Dancer
		Flaming Page
	
	Ile De Bourbon	Misti
		Peace Rose
Bourbon Girl		.....
	Habitat	Sir Gaylord
		Little Hut
Fleet Girl		.....
	Fleet Noble	Vaguely Noble
		Limey's Moppet
	
	Bred by Juddmonte Farms in Kentucky	

winner of the Railway, National and Beresford Stakes as a juvenile, when he was acclaimed joint-best of his year (with St Jovite) in Ireland on the International Classifications.

But El Prado sprained a joint in the spring of 1992, did not return to action until July, and his three races as a three-year-old showed him in a much less favourable light, his best effort when only seventh in the Prix Jacques le Marois at Deauville. His reputation damaged, he was not wanted for stallion duties in Ireland, but remarkably he was wanted in Kentucky, where he was installed at Airdrie Stud at a fee of only \$7,500.

Sadler's Wells was already recognised as exclusively a sire of grass performers, so it was hard to see how El Prado, whose best form had been shown on soft turf at the Curragh, would find favour with Kentucky breeders. It came as no surprise that in his first few seasons he covered mares of no distinction.

But what was evident early was that he got sound stock, with a high proportion of runners and winners, and although his stock still had no successes at Graded level when he transferred to Adena Springs for the 1998 breeding season, it did seem that he was worthy of better opportunities. Sure enough, eight of his Airdrie-conceived products became winners at Graded level, and from his first crop at his new base came Medaglia D'Oro, who marked his breakthrough to the big time.

A Grade 1 winner for three consecutive seasons – in the Travers at three, the Whitney at four and the Donn at five – Medaglia D'Oro was also second in the Belmont Stakes, Breeders' Cup Classic (twice) and Dubai World Cup. Campaigned solely on dirt in a 17-race career, he was largely instrumental in propelling his sire to stardom. El Prado was North America's leading sire in 2002, and finished third on the list in each of the next two seasons.

EL PRADO got another top main-track performer from his third Adena Springs crop in Borrego, who notched Grade 1 victories in the Pacific Classic and Jockey Club Gold Cup, but that colt's contemporaries, Artie Schiller and Kitten's Joy, earned their laurels on grass, the former most notably in the Breeders' Cup Mile, the last-named in the Secretariat Stakes and Joe Hirsch Turf Classic.

The bias towards grass has become accentuated since then, as all five of El Prado's winners in Pattern or Graded company in 2008 and 2009 have gained their triumphs on that surface. Meanwhile, Medaglia D'Oro has risen to prominence at stud with the outstanding filly Rachel Alexandra from his first crop excelling on dirt.

Spanish Moon's family has been at Juddmonte since the early 1980s, when the acquisition of Ferrans Stud brought his third and fourth dams, Fleet Girl and Fleet Noble, into the fold. The female line had spent several generations in the doldrums to that point, but Fleet Noble had won two minor races in France, and Fleet Girl a couple in Ireland.

Upgrading of the family has proceeded apace since then through the descendants of Fleet Girl's daughter Bourbon Girl, runner-up in both the Oaks and Irish Oaks in 1987. Daring Miss, Bourbon Girl's daughter by Sadler's Wells, was second in the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud in 2000, and now her grandson Spanish Moon has raised the family to new heights with victory in the same event.