



A Benchmark victory for filly Silent Sighs, Wygods

by Rommy Faversham

When a three-year-old California-bred filly moved into open company for the first time



Benoit & Associates photo

SILENT SIGHs

and outran a pair of undefeated rivals, including a champion two-year-old filly, it made for quite an afternoon for her owner-breeders, especially when they own her young sire and most of her immediate family as well.

Martin and Pam Wygod's homebred Silent Sighs upset previously undefeated juvenile champion filly Halfbridled and unbeaten Grade 1 winner A. P. Adventure to win the \$300,000 Santa Anita Oaks (G1) on March 13. Silent Sighs, a big dark bay or brown filly, was bred in California by the Wygods, who originally imported her third dam, Viga (Chi), winner of the 1980 Polla de Potrancas (Chi-G1) (Chilean One Thousand Guineas).

Silent Sighs is from the second crop of the Alydar stallion Benchmark, whom the Wygods purchased as a weanling for \$475,000 at the 1991 Keeneland November breeding stock sale. On the track, Benchmark would not peak until age six, when he captured a trio of Grade 2 stakes on the Southern California

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Lion Tamer, ch. c., 2000

Will's Way 93 112 fls, 2 SWs SI 1.30 DI=2.56	Easy Goer 86 14 wins, \$4,873,770 Champion 133 fls, 9 SWs SI 3.25 DI=2.07	Alydar 75 689 fls, 77 SWs SI 5.54 DI=3.94	Raise a Native 61
		Relaxing 76 12 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.38	Sweet Tooth 65
	Willamae 80 4 wins, \$41,585, SW 14 fls, 3 SWs DI=2.78	Tentam 69 213 fls, 35 SWs SI 2.69 DI=3.00	Buckpasser 63
		Raclette 76 10 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.86	Marking Time 63
Tippecanoe Creek 94 3 fls, 1 SW DI=7.00	Olympio 88 9 wins, \$1,456,315, SW 375 fls, 21 SWs SI 1.50 DI=4.60	Naskra 67 619 fls, 67 SWs SI 2.02 DI=2.71	Intentionally 56
		Carols Christmas 77 10 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.50	Tamerett 62
	Country Delight 78 4 wins, \$14,693, Spl 11 fls, 0 SWs DI=3.00	Real Value 72 307 fls, 6 SWs SI 0.79 DI=3.27	Hoist the Flag 68
	Gentility 61 12 fls, 1 SW DI=1.00	Lauries Dancer 68	Nasram 60
			*Iskra 61
			Whitesburg 69
			Light Verse 70
			In Reality 64
			Another Nell 65
			Armageddon 49
			Right Off 43

circuit. A half brother to multiple Grade 1 winner Tranquility Lake, he is from the family of 1983 Belmont Stakes (G1) winner and sire Caveat.

Silent Sighs is the second graded stakes winner for Benchmark, who also has sired 2003 Golden Gate Derby (G3) winner Standard Setter. Benchmark stands at the Wygods' River Edge Ranch in Buellton, California, for \$7,500.

Silent Sighs is the first winner out of the unraced Bertrando mare Quiet Romance, who also has produced two-year-old and yearling full sisters to Silent Sighs. Silent Sighs is scheduled to race next at Churchill Downs in the Kentucky Oaks (G1) on April 30.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles. More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>.