



*The 2008 TOBA
State Breeder of the Year
for California*

by LARRY BORTSTEIN

Rich and Gaby Sulpizio's 238-acre Magali Farms in Santa Ynez, California, which has become one of the state's major forces in Thoroughbred breeding and racing in less than eight years, has been named the 2008 TOBA (Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association) State Breeder of the Year for California.

Along with TOBA award winners from 27 other states and Canada, the Sulpizios will be honored in Lexington, Kentucky, during a ceremony at Keeneland Racecourse on Thursday, Sept. 10, and during a dinner at Spendthrift Farms the following night.

Tom Hudson, the Farm Manager at Magali since its inception in late 2001, will represent the Sulpizios in Kentucky.

"They are thrilled to get this honor," Hudson said. "They've really come a long way since they started this place with no horses."

The Sulpizios have been married for 37 years. Magali Farms is named for Gaby, whose full name is Maria Gabriela, but was called "Magali" as a girl growing up in Costa Rica. A native of Kenilworth, Utah, Rich is a retired chief executive of Qualcomm, Inc., the San Diego-based wireless communications giant, after which the home stadium of the National Football League's San Diego Chargers is named.

Magali Farms occupies the land in the shadow of the Santa Ynez Mountains that was once home to Mandysland Farm and later to Magness Racing Ventures.

It is a full-service facility, offering breeding, boarding, breaking, training, lay-up and sales preparation services, and is home to more than 400 horses, including six stallions.

The roster of stallions is headed by 12-year-old Decarchy (Distant View—Tousaud, by El Gran Senor), who won or placed in seven graded stakes and is a half-brother to 2003 Belmont Stakes (grade I) winner Empire Maker.



Rich and Gary Sulpizio (left) with Tom Hudson

Magali Farms: A Growing Force

The top first-crop sire in California in 2007, Decarchy also was the leading second-crop sire last year and heads the list of third-crop sires this year. His major winner has been Harlene (out of stakes winner Tiara Glow) who, as a three-year-old, captured the \$250,000 Cal National Snow Chief Stakes at Hollywood Park and accounted for \$183,337 of Magali's \$803,234 purse earnings total for 2008.

Ten Most Wanted, a grade I winner of \$1,718,460, joined the Magali lineup as a nine-year-old this year and his first crop of California-breds will be foaled in 2010. He won the 2003 Travers Stakes at Saratoga by 4 1/2 lengths, posting a 112 Beyer speed figure, the highest that year for a three-year-old at 1 1/4 miles.

Venerable 19-year-old Lit de Justice, the grade I Breeders' Cup Sprint champion in 1996, and a millionaire, was Magali's first major stallion, coming to the farm in 2002. To date, he has produced 43 stakes horses among the earners of more than \$19 million.

Good Journey, a 13-year-old grade I-winning son of international sire of sires Nureyev, has produced a couple of group winners in Australia, and is performing as a shuttle stallion between that country and Magali.

Atticus, 17, another son of Nureyev, is a grade I-winning millionaire and a world record-setting miler on the turf, and Event of the Year, 14, a dual grade II-winning son of 1977 Triple Crown champion Seattle Slew, are also highly regarded Magali residents.

Magali Farms has also been the recent home of the eight-year-old retired gelding Lava Man, winner of three straight runnings of the Hollywood Gold Cup (2005 to 2007) and who is being prepared for his future life as an honored guest at the Old Friends retirement center in Georgetown, Kentucky.

"That has a lot to do with the long relationship we've had with Doug O'Neill," Hudson said. 🐾

