



PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

Saturday, Aqueduct

QUEENS COUNTY S.-GIII, \$100,000, AQU, 12-11, 3yo/up, 1 3/16m, 1:57 3/5, ft.

1--#@**MORE THAN A REASON**, 117, h, 5, by [More Than Ready](#)

1st Dam: **Sab's Reason**, by Sabona

2nd Dam: **Reasoning**, by Naskra

3rd Dam: **Bactu Reason**, by Bold Reason

(\$9,500 RNA yr1 '06 KEESEP). O-Anthony Calabrese; B-Ron & Tom Kirby (KY); T-Randi Persaud; J-Eddie Castro; \$60,000. Lifetime Record: 60-12-9-11, \$477,720. **Werk Nick Rating: C.**

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When More Than A Reason finished powerfully in the Queen's County S. to record his first graded victory in his 60th appearance, this tough five-year-old added further luster to a glittering year for his sire More Than Ready.

The 13-year-old Vinery stallion ranks highly on several of 2010's leading lists. He is currently the leading sire of two-year-olds, the second-leading sire of turf runners and he's sixth on the general sires list. He's also a top-20 sire in terms of number of graded winners (six) and by number of black-type horses (23).

You'll hardly need me to remind you that he owes his high positions on the two-year-old and turf tables to his outstanding double with Pluck and More Than Real in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf events.

The Juvenile Turf for the males will deservedly carry Grade I status next year, but it was still a Grade II event this year, which means that More Than Ready--with 688 named foals of racing age--is still awaiting his first Grade I success in the Northern Hemisphere (leaving aside his Puerto Rican champion Forbidden Prince).

This lack of a Grade I success has hardly proved a handicap to the son of Southern Halo. He covered 136 mares at \$40,000 in 2007, 113 at \$60,000 in 2008, 120 at \$45,000 in 2009 and 131 at \$30,000 earlier this year. His fee is back up to \$40,000 next year. These books aren't of the supersized variety often seen in today's industry, but don't forget that More Than Ready has also been very popular at Vinery Australia, where his fee this year stands at AUS\$121,000--the fifth highest in Australia--behind Redoute's Choice, Encosta de Lago, Street Cry and Fastnet Rock.

He covered 163 mares in Australia in 2007 (for an annual total of 299), 175 in 2008 (total 288) and 160 in 2009 (total 280).

Of course there are many ways of assessing a stallion other than his number of Grade I winners. I have always been an admirer of Halling, a champion son of Diesis based at Dalham Hall Stud in England, but he was already 18 years old by the time his son Cavalryman supplied his first Group 1 success in the 2009 Grand Prix de Paris. Once the duck was broken, another Group 1 winner quickly followed, with Cutlass Bay taking the 2010 Prix Ganay.

As More Than Ready's record demonstrates, breeders and buyers are sometimes prepared to overlook a shortage of performers at the very highest level if a stallion shows that he's a reliable source of durable, fast performers which often pay their way in the sales ring and on the track.

Durable and fast are two adjectives which could just as easily have been applied to More Than Ready. Even though he matured quickly enough to record the first of his four juvenile stakes successes as early as May 1, More Than Ready was sound enough--and correct enough--to cope with a 10-race second season, which featured a courageous front-running fourth in the GI Kentucky Derby, a victory in the GI King's Bishop S. and a close second to Trippi in the GI Vosburgh S.

It is also well worth mentioning that More Than Ready's 2008 crop--the one containing two Breeders' Cup winners--is his first sired at a fee of more than \$30,000. His first five crops were sired at fees between \$15,000 and \$25,000, but the emergence of 10 stakes winners from his first crop of only 61 named foals was a considerable eye-opener. He backed this up with nine stakes winners in each of his next three crops, with his early achievements boosting his fee to \$30,000 in 2006 and then to \$40,000 in 2007. It is going to be fascinating to see how his 2009 crop--conceived at \$60,000--performs over the next few years. Judging by his first \$40,000 crop, it should see the American Grade I winners starting to flow. In addition to producing Pluck and More Than Real, that \$40,000 crop has also made its mark with the GIII Arlington-Washington Futurity winner Major Gain (later a good third in the GII Kentucky Jockey Club S.) and the stakes-winning Road Ready.

More Than Ready's best days may also be ahead of him in Australia, where his fee peaked at A\$148,500 in 2009. He started his Australian career with four seasons at fees between A\$16,500 and \$22,000, but was an instant hit, with the two-year-old Carry On Cutie becoming the first of three Group 1 winners in his initial crop. His tally of Australian Group 1 winners now stands at six, the latest--the excellent mare More Joyous--being a member of his fifth Australian crop, sired at an increased fee of A\$44,000. His six-figure crops should be well worth waiting for.



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Incidentally, More Joyous is inbred 3x3 to Halo. More Than Ready's sire Southern Halo was inbred 3x4 to Almahmoud, through her daughters Cosmah (dam of Halo) and Natalma. Australian breeders have been keen to build more lines to Almahmoud in More Than Ready's progeny, the most popular route being through Danehill, a horse inbred 3x3 to Natalma. It is therefore no surprise that Danehill appears in several of his Group 1 winners. More Joyous has a Danehill second dam (and therefore has five lines to Almahmoud), whereas Benicio and Perfectly Ready are out of Danehill mares and Sebring is out of a grand-daughter of Danehill.

One of More Than Ready's American graded winners, Ready To Please, is also inbred to Halo 3x4, but she is also inbred 4x4 to Northern Dancer and 4x4 to Naskra. The inbreeding to Naskra is interesting, as it also appears in the pedigrees of Ready's Gal (4x3) and More Than A Reason (4x3).

MORE THAN A REASON

More Than Ready	Southern Halo	Halo	Hail To Reason
			Cosmah
		Northern Sea	Northern Dancer
			Sea Saga
	Woodman's Girl	Woodman	Mr. Prospector
			Playmate
	Becky Be Good	Naskra	
		Good Landing	
Sab's Reason 6FIs, 3 Wnrs, 1GSW	Sabona	Exclusive Native	Raise A Native
			Exclusive
		Hail Maggie	Hail To Reason
			Margarethen
	Reasoning 9FIs, 1 GSW, 1 SW, 1 GSP	Naskra	Nasram
			Iskra
		Bactu Reason	Bold Reason
			Bacchian