

Rainbow Quest - River Dancer by Irish River

The arrival in South Africa of multiple Gr1 winner Spectrum is a fantastic opportunity for pedigree analysts to marry theory to reality. Here is a stallion with classic winning racing ability (rated 126), a pedigree full of internationally recognised bloodlines (the theory), and a host of Graded Stakes winning progeny on the track (the reality). So let's get cracking.

The career of Spectrum's sire Rainbow Quest shows the trials and tribulations of having to compete against a generation of crackerjacks. As a 2yo he won twice, before going down to El Gran Senor in the Dewhurst Stakes. As a 3yo he finished third to Darshaan and Sadler's Wells in the French Derby, and second to El Gran Senor in the Irish Derby. In the end he won just one race as a 3yo, but his seasonal 131 Timeform rating showed just what he'd been up against. History shows that all of his conquerors went on the carve themselves great careers as stallions. Kept in training at 4, Rainbow Quest finally bagged a big one, the Gr1 Arc de Triomphe - but only after an objection against narrow winner Sagace had been upheld. He finished the year with a 134 rating. At stud in the UK the next season, Rainbow Quest's first crop, ironically, yielded a 'proper' Arc winner, Saumarez.

Rainbow Quest has sired numerous Gr1 winners over the years, including several classic winners of which Spectrum is one. More recently, he has made his mark as broodmare sire as well, his daughters responsible for Epsom Derby winner North Light and Powerscourt in 2004, and Rakti in 2005.

The affinity shown at stud by Rainbow Quest appears to relate to the pedigree elements from his sire Blushing Groom, who is by Red God out of Runaway Bride. Red God's dam Spring Run is a noted genetic sibling of Tom Fool, often associated through Buckpasser or Nijinsky. Runaway Bride is by Wild Risk, whose career reads like a fairy-tale. Born with a clubfoot, Wild Risk became a useful stayer, both on the flat and over hurdles. He retired to stud as a dual-purpose sire, then exceeded all expectations by twice topping the French sirelist. His notable sons include Le Fabuleux, Worden and Vimy. The pedigree of Wild Risk shows that he is by Rialto (son of Rabelais, by St Simon) out of Wild Violet, by Blandford (Swynford) out of Wood Violet, by Ksar (Bruleur). We note that Blandford and Ksar come through a daughter - the pair are usually represented in pedigrees by sons. Also, the grandam of Wood Violet is a genetic sibling to Pharos & Fairway. So perhaps Wild Risk is important because he performs a balancing act. He certainly seems to have done so in Blushing Groom's pedigree.

On to Spectrum. Evaluating his dam's pedigree for elements from Wild Risk throws the spotlight on his third dam Sunny Valley. She's by Val de Loir, a son of Vieux Manoir, out of a mare by Charlottesville. Paydirt! Vieux Manoir is by Brantome (Blandford), his dam by Finglas. The latter's sire is Bruleur, his dam a daughter of Simone who is full sister to Rabelais. Simone also appears with her full brother Rabelais 4x3 in the dam of Charlottesville, the latter by Nearco (grandson of Pharos). All this gives an interesting perspective on the similarities between Wild Risk and Sunny Valley.

Elements of Wild Risk are also duplicated through Spectrum's damsire Irish River, whose dam is by Klairon. The latter and Wild Risk are close genetic relatives, Klairon carrying Tourbillon (Ksar & Rabelais), Karabe (genetic sibling to Ksar) and Sweet Lavender (daughter of Swynford).

So in Spectrum's pedigree, Wild Risk has a double link into the pedigree of Spectrum's dam, through Klairon, and the Vieux Manoir & Charlottesville combination.

And suddenly everything falls into place.

Rainbow Quest and his son Spectrum have a successful association especially with members of the female line of 2004 Derby winner North Light. Rainbow Quest got Gr1 winner Sought Out (dam of North Light), Gr2 winner Multicolored (out of Greektown, a half sister to Sought Out). Spectrum has Multicolored's 3-parts brother Gamut, and the best of them all, Golan and full brother Tartan Bearer, whose grandam Scotts Lass is a half sister to Sought Out. All of Sought Out, Greektown and Scotts Lass are daughters of French Gr3 winning mare Edinburgh (rated 117 at 2).

Edinburgh is a daughter of Charlottown (by Charlottesville), her grandam Country House is by Vieux Manoir.

Some other Graded stakes winners by Rainbow Quest.

Epsom Derby winner Quest For Fame: dam by Green Dancer (Nijinsky x Val de Loir by Vieux Manoir), dam with four lines of Rabelais.

Wagon Master: grandam Sunland (by Charlottesville) also is fourth dam of Spectrum.

Rainbow Dancer: grandam Babunia is daughter of Wild Risk.

Splash Of Colour: grandam Camanae by Vimy (Wild Risk).

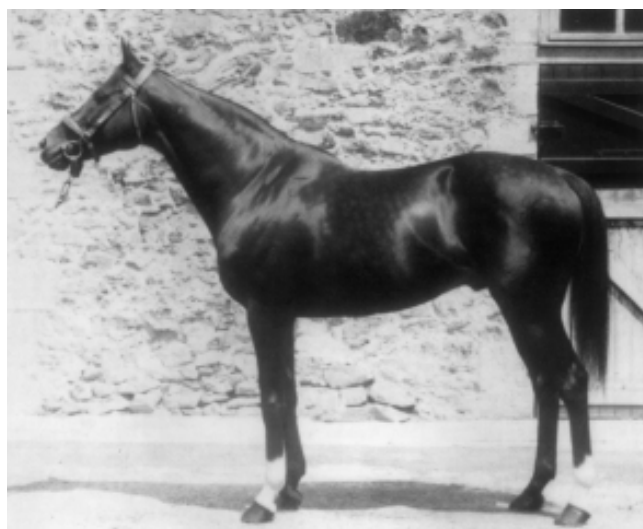
Spectrum fits the bill, too. He's inbred 4x4 to genetic siblings Wild Risk and Klairon, the latter appearing as the damsire of Irish River, who is Spectrum's damsire.

Of Spectrum's five Gr1 winners to date, three follow the 'Wild Risk pattern'. Golan and Gamut, both from the same female line (through the mare Edinburgh), and Spectatorial, whose dam comes with another line of Klairon (sex balanced, through Luthier) and also carries a genetic double of Wild Risk's dam Wild Violet (Bastia, dam of Right Royal V). Others who have Klairon in their damline are Gr3 winners Marionnaud and Rum Charger, the latter

also with a sex balanced Val de Loir from the dam (coming through Green Dancer) - while that dam was already inbred to Val de Loir's sire Vieux Manoir.

Green Dancer could well have fulfilled a dual role here, as he's a son of Nijinsky. The latter is one of a select group of horses who show a distinct affinity for each other (not always, but certainly through certain of their offspring): Nijinsky, Blushing Groom (grandsire of Spectrum), Buckpasser, Admiral's Voyage and the mare Dinner Partner. The fifth of Spectrum's Gr1 winners is bred that way, 3x4 Blushing Groom & Nijinsky. So are Gr2 winner Diffraction, the earlier mentioned Gr3 winner Rum Charger, Gr3 runner-up Feabhas, Gr1 3rd Spetto, Gr3 3rd's Benicio and Bon Espresso. There are more black-type Spectrum offspring with the same.

A third way to breed a highclass Spectrum foal seems to be through exploiting the affinities of Riverman (sire of Spectrum's damsire Irish River). Riverman's noted affinities involve Sir Ivor (Sir Gaylord), Bold Reason, Mill Reef, Run The Gantlet, Blue Prince, and the much rarer Rio Bravo.



Wild Risk, twice-champion sire in France, is a key influence in Spectrum's pedigree

Where From Here

Clearly, mares with elements from the female line of Spectrum (Sunny Valley) or Edinburgh (as in Golan, Gamut) are first prize. New sire Tamburlaine is from the latter female line, but it will be

some time before that cross can be tried. The same female line is represented through sire Reform, found in the female line of Tara's Halls, whose sire Fairy King contributes Bold Reason (Riverman affinity) in the bargain.

Wild Risk is quite widespread in South African pedigrees, most notably in Elliodor's second damsire Vimy. Elliodor's sire Lyphard has as his second dam the mare Barra, who is a Wild Risk genetic sibling, giving a 3x4 double in Elliodor! Lyphard is said to have a Wild Risk affinity. Interesting to note in this context Nashwan, inbred to Wild Risk through his sire Blushing Groom and damsire Bustino, the

latter by Busted who is a full brother to Elliodor's dam. Nashwan can be had through new sire Rabah. Bustino, incidentally, also pops up in the sire of Gr1 winning mare Petrushka, whose dam is a half sister to Spectrum. Another half sister to Spectrum, the unraced Well Head by Sadler's Wells, bred multiple stakes placed Spray Gun, by Octagonal - the latter with lines of Val de Loir (from Zabeel) and Klairon.

Another interesting one is Jamaica, whose dam is by Wild Risk and inbred 2x3 to Wild Risk's sire Rienzo. Then there's Free Ride, dam by Wild Risk, inbred to Rialto, with the dam of his sire Free Man carrying Rabelais 4x3x4. A thorough evaluation of your mare could well throw up many other instances.

Klairon can be found (West Man), but more common are two of his genetic siblings, Turn To (especially through Hail To Reason) and Missy Baba (Sportsworld, Al Mufti, etc.).

The Nijinsky, Blushing Groom, Buckpasser, Admiral's Voyage (Danzig & Danehill) affinities can be exploited through a vast array of available lines. The same goes for the Riverman affinities.

SUNNY VALLEY <i>3rd dam of SPECTRUM</i>	sire	Val de Loir	<i>son of Vieux Manoir</i> 3rd dam Carpet Slipper
	dam	Sunland	<i>daughter of Charlottesville</i> dam by Persian Gulf

EDINBURGH <i>grandam of GAMUT</i> <i>3rd dam of GOLAN</i>	sire	Charlottown	<i>son of Charlottesville</i> 3rd dam Doubleton (full sister to Persian Gulf)
	grandam	Country House	<i>daughter of Vieux Manoir</i> 3rd dam Carpet Slipper

Sunny Valley, the third dam of Spectrum, and Edinburgh, ancestress of Spectrum's best sons Golan and Gamut.

The balanced sex similarities are striking and go a long way to explain the brilliance of the colts.

Interestingly, the dam of sensational new sire Montjeu is by Top Ville (damsire: Charlottesville) out a mare by Tennyson (sire: Vieux Manoir). Montjeu is a son of Sadler's Wells.

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for Spectrum could incl.

1. Mares with lines of Vieux Manoir and/or Charlottesville (Reform, Tara's Halls, Tamburlaine)
2. Mares with Wild Risk (esp Lyphard, Elliodor; Busted, Bustino; Jamaica; Free Ride; Top Ville, High Top; etc.)
3. Mares with Klairon (West Man) or genetic siblings Turn-To (Hail to Reason, Roberto, Bold Reason, etc. - widespread) or Missy Baba (Al Mufti, Sportsworld, Wolfhound, etc.)
4. Mares with Nijinsky, Blushing Groom, Buckpasser, Admiral's Voyage (Danzig, Danehill), Dinner Partner (Caesour) - widespread
5. Mares with Riverman, Bold Reason (Sadler's Wells, Fairy King), Mill Reef, Sir Ivor (Zabeel)