

**MULTIPLE GRADED STAKES WINNER LA SARDANE RETIRED FROM RACING  
FRENCH IMPORT WON GROUP 2 IN HOMELAND, GRADE 3 IN NORTH AMERICA  
RETIREMENT PRECIPITATED BY INJURY SUFFERED IN SANTA ANITA SPRINT**



*La Sardane won a pair of stakes at Belmont in the summer of 2018 for her Southern California trainer Neil Drysdale*

La Sardane, which spectacularly crashed in a 2-horse fall sprinting down the hill at Santa Anita on March 31 of last year, has been retired from racing by Team Valor International today following a last-place finished in the Grade 2 Buena Vista.

“It is obvious that she is no longer comfortable enough on that foot she broke last year to put pressure on it in a race,” said Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin. “It is one thing to train well on it, quite another to exert pressure in a race.

“She was a truly fine racehorse, she gave us some wonderful moments and she was a pleasure to own. But she is no longer able to give her all and it is not fair to her to continue trying to race her.

“Neil Drysdale did a great job with her, but he is not gifted with divine powers of healing so we must call it a day.”

La Sardane was bought privately in the spring of her 3-year-old season in France after she had finished second in the Group 3 Prix de la Grotte. In her first outing for Team Valor, she scored a signature victory over subsequent French Oaks heroine Senga in the Group 2 Prix Sandringham at Chantilly for her French trainer Bruno de Montzey.

Imported to the United States and turned over to Neil Drysdale, whose wife bloodstock agent Shawn Dugan was involved in brokering the purchase of the filly, La Sardane won the Grade 3 Intercontinental Stakes and the Listed Perfect Sting Stakes in 2018 at Belmont Park. Most recently was she third beaten a length in the Grade 3 Megahertz Stakes at Santa Anita.

Irwin said "We are anxious to get her to Kentucky to be bred as she is 6 years old now and breeders prefer mares that do not get started in their new profession at too advanced an age. We plan to market her privately and failing a sale are likely to breed her to Noble Mission at Lane's End Farm."

La Sardane fell in the 2018 San Simeon Stakes against males when a horse in front of her broke down and fell, causing a 2-horse spill. She exited the pile up with a fractured coffin bone. She was given several months off before being cleared to return to training and eventual racing by Dr. Larry Bramlage of Rood & Riddle in Lexington, Kentucky.

She retired with a record in 18 starts of 5-3-2 and earnings of \$352,125.