

August 16, 2017

## **RESPONSIBLEFORLOVE REELS IN STAKES WIN AT DEL MAR ON WEDNESDAY EUROPEAN IMPORT IMPROVES WITH CHANGE OF PACE IN CTT & TOC H. PERFECTLY TIMED RALLY UNDER JOE TALAMO FOR TRAINER DRYSDALE**

Responsibleforlove and Joe Talamo unleashed a perfectly timed rally to get up by a head in the \$75,000 CTT and TOC Handicap at Del Mar on August 17 as the 4-year-old European import landed her first stakes victory in the U.S.



*Responsibleforlove and Joe Talamo nail Place De Vosges at the wire in the \$75,000 CTT and TOC Handicap at Del Mar.*

The tactics were a new wrinkle and not necessarily by design. Responsibleforlove had been a frontrunner in her past two races, giving way grudgingly in deep stretch to finish second in both the Grade 3 Santa Barbara Stakes and Listed Possibly Perfect Stakes at Santa Anita.

Talamo and Hall of Fame trainer Neil Drysdale noted this summer that the Irish-bred filly was responding well in her morning work when she was asked to follow another horse and rally. In the 11-furlong CTT and TOC, she had no other choice but to sit off the pace once she broke a beat slowly at 4-to-1 odds.

Talamo had his hands full in the early going with Responsibleforlove pulling along the inside, and at one point as she flinched from the restraint, she even made contact with the rail. The filly finally settled going past the wire the first time with just two horses behind her in the field of nine. She got into a nice rhythm along the backstretch and bided her time about 7 lengths off the lead. Talamo switched her off the rail in the final turn, looking to turn her loose, but she was boxed in for a few strides before a seam opened. She shot through into fourth place and took aim on the leader, Place De Vosges, in deep stretch.

Track announcer Trevor Denman tracked her as follows approaching the wire: "Responsibleforlove like a rocket late. Responsible-for-love, ooh, super close. Responsibleforlove and Place De Vosges, they hit it together."

The camera angle of the turf finish line at Del Mar has been deceiving for many years, and in this case, Responsibleforlove actually got up by a head with a precise move under Talamo, who scored his third win on the day.

The daughter of Duke of Marmalade also was a stakes winner in Italy, scoring in the Listed Premio Mario Incisa della Rocchetta in her Team Valor debut in May 2016. She subsequently was favored in

the classic, Grade 2 Oaks d'Italia but struggled on a boggy course and finished down the field. Team Valor and partner Gaynor Rupert sent her to Drysdale in Southern California in March.

Rupert stands the sire Duke of Marmalade at her Drakenstein Stud in South Africa.

The stakes victory came about two weeks shy of the 30th anniversary of Lizzy Hare's triumph in the 1987 Del Mar Oaks, which was the first major score for one of Barry Irwin's public racing partnerships. The stable is now closing in on the milestone of 150 individual stakes winners, with Responsibleforlove among 147 to date.



From *Daily Racing Form* comes the following:

### **RESPONSIBLEFORLOVE SCORES FIRST U.S. STAKES WIN IN CTT & TOC HANDICAP**

Through the 1 3/8 miles of the \$80,980 CTT and TOC Handicap on turf at Del Mar on Wednesday, Responsibleforlove struck the rail in the first half-mile, raced unexpectedly toward the back of the field for the first mile, and was in traffic on the rail on the turn.

Then, Responsibleforlove found racing room in early stretch under jockey Joe Talamo and closed about five lengths in the final furlong to win by a head over 3-1 Place des Vosges.

"I didn't think she'd get through," trainer Neil Drysdale said.

Responsibleforlove (\$10.20) won her first stakes in the United States in the CTT and TOC Handicap. She was a stakes winner in Italy in 2016.

The result seemed in doubt until the final strides. Ridden by Joe Talamo, Responsibleforlove was expected to race closer to the front. She broke a stride slow, and settled in seventh in the field of nine. A 4-year-old, Responsibleforlove seemed comfortable even though she was well behind pacesetter Goldy Espony, the 3-2 favorite.

"She switched off going down the back," Drysdale said.

Responsibleforlove, who carried 120 pounds, was timed in 2:15.81. Place des Vosges, who carried 123 pounds after jockey Corey Nakatani posted five pounds overweight, finished three-quarters of a length in front of Dynamic Mizzes K, who was followed by Kiss Me Now, Goldy Espony, Dreamarcher, Ginga, You're A Goat, and Hiking.

Responsibleforlove races for the Team Valor International syndicate and Gaynor Rupert. An Irish-bred by Duke of Marmalade, Responsibleforlove has won 4 of 10 starts and earned \$134,879. In 2016, Responsibleforlove won a prep for the Italian Oaks, but was 10th of 14 as the 6-5 favorite in the Italian Oaks when ridden by Frankie Dettori. Responsibleforlove joined Drysdale's stable last winter. The CTT and TOC Handicap was her fourth start in this country.

At Santa Anita in the spring, Responsibleforlove was second in the Grade 3 Santa Barbara Stakes in April and second in the Possibly Perfect Stakes in early June. Drysdale said stakes at Santa Anita and Kentucky Downs will be considered for Responsibleforlove.

