

BELVOIR BAY DOMINATES DOWN SANTA ANITA'S TOBOGGAN SLIDE COURSE ENGLISH IMPORT EXPLODES TO OPEN UP AND CRUISE TO DAYLIGHT SCORE UPS EARNINGS TO MORE THAN \$550,000 IN GRADE 2 MONROVIA STAKES WIN



Belvoir Bay, small in stature but not in breadth, speed or heart, once again dominated her rivals in a sprint down the hill at Santa Anita by taking her first career Grade 2 in the \$200,000 Monrovia on Memorial Day. It followed on the heels of a similarly easy tally against males in the Grade 3 San Simeon Stakes in her previous outing this season down the hillside infield turf course.

Owned and raced by Gary Barber in partnership with a Team Valor LLC, Belvoir Bay has won on dirt and turf, sprinting and routing at Santa Anita and Del Mar.

Although she is versatile and can win from 5 to 8 furlongs, either on the lead, stalking or coming from behind, it seems obvious that her best situation is sprinting between 5 and 6 ½ on grass when coming from off the pace. In the Monrovia, she improved her best Beyer figure by 5 points to a whopping 101.

Yesterday, Victor Espinoza—subbing for the injured Tyler Baze—rode to instructions. The filly broke like a Quarter Horse, but the jockey did not get lured into setting the pace, which turned out to be just average in terms of speed. Instead, Victor kept the filly on the fence, saving ground and energy. At the top of the lane, he slipped through a rapidly closing seam, bulled his way through and in a matter of a few strides the filly exploded to a 3-length lead. She cruised the rest of the way with pricked ears. Running time of 1:12 4/5 was the mare's best time down the course, which had been playing a bit slow of late.



Gary Barber and Peter Miller definitely got the memo: Pink on Monday!

In the process the mare achieved two milestones, one for herself and one for her syndicator:

- **EARNINGS:** She increased her earnings to more than \$558,000. In 20 career outings she has 9 wins (7 of them stakes).
- **STAKES WINS:** She was scoring in stakes win number 300 for a horse syndicated since 1987 by Barry Irwin, CEO and sole owner of Team Valor International.

BELVOIR BAY, who will likely make her next outing vs. males in the Breeders' Cup Win & You're In Grade 1 Highlander at the end of June at Woodbine over 6 furlongs, hails from the same female line as her third dam representative Redkirk, which most recently won the Group 1 Newmarket Handicap for a second consecutive year at Flemington Racecourse near Melbourne, Australia. He is set to represent Oz at Royal Ascot in his next start.

The replay is [here](#).

From *Daily Racing Form* comes the following:

Belvoir Bay Makes It Three in a Row in Monrovia Stakes



Belvoir Bay won her third consecutive stakes on the hillside turf course at Santa Anita in Monday's Grade 2 Monrovia Stakes even though jockey Victor Espinoza had a moment of concern.

A very brief moment.

Espinoza had Belvoir Bay positioned behind the leaders when the field approached the crossing from the hillside portion of the course to the main oval. Espinoza felt Belvoir Bay was running strongly, but needed racing room.

"I was tracking the leaders," he said. "I couldn't move out and couldn't move in. I was waiting for a little gap to appear.

"When she crossed the dirt, it was there."

Belvoir Bay rallied between pacesetter Algorhythmic and Mongolian Shopper and quickly took the lead. She held an advantage by a length with a furlong to go and won by 1 1/2 lengths. Sent off favored, Belvoir Bay ran about 6 1/2 furlongs on the hillside turf course in 1:12.80. She returned \$5.60.

"I didn't think she'd win that easy," Espinoza said.

Ancient Secret, the winner of the Grade 2 Lake George Stakes for 3-year-old fillies at Saratoga in 2016, finished second, 1 1/2 lengths in front of 7-1 Compelled, the winner of the Mardi Gras Stakes at Fair Grounds earlier this year.

Coniah finished fourth, followed by Blame It On Alphonie, Mongolian Shopper, Algorhythmic, Causeway Carolyn, and Miss Sugars.

Belvoir Bay, a 5-year-old British-bred mare by Equiano, has won 9 of 20 starts and earned \$558,361. Owned Gary Barber and the Team Valor International partnership and trained by Peter Miller, Belvoir Bay is unbeaten in three starts this year. She won the Mizdirection Stakes on March 25 and the Grade 3 San Simeon Stakes against males on April 29.

The Monrovia Stakes was her richest and most prestigious win and seventh career stakes win. Espinoza rode Belvoir Bay for the first time on Monday. Espinoza said after the race that he worked Belvoir Bay earlier this year at Del Mar, but was unable to ride her because of an out-of-town commitment. Tyler Baze rode Belvoir Bay in her first two starts this year, but has not ridden since May 19 because of body soreness from a one-horse spill.

From the *TDN* comes the following:

MONROVIA S.-GII, \$201,380, Santa Anita, 5-28, 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2fT, 1:12.80, fm. 1--BELVOIR BAY (GB), 123, m, 5, by Equiano (Fr)
1st Dam: Path of Peace (GB), by Rock of Gibraltar (Ire)
2nd Dam: Persian Song (GB), by Persian Bold (Ire)
3rd Dam: Arrangement (GB), by Floribunda (GB)
(20,000gns Ylg '14 TAOCT). O-Team Valor International & Gary Barber; B-Mrs R. D. Peacock (GB); T-Peter Miller; J-Victor Espinoza. \$120,000. Lifetime Record: 20-9-3-2, \$558,361. Werk Nick Rating: A++.



Belvoir Bay exploded to the lead and powered clear to win her third straight stakes race down the hill at Santa Anita in Monday's GII Monrovia S. The victory was the 300th stakes win for the Team Valor partnerships. Sent off the 9-5 favorite, Belvoir Bay chased the pacesetters down the hill before settling just in behind Algorhythmic (Vronsky) who set the tempo through splits of :21.76 and :44.15. In tight quarters crossing over the dirt track, Belvoir Bay surged through a narrow seam and grabbed the lead before scampering clear to the wire.

Belvoir Bay has now won four of five starts on the downhill turf course. Winner of the 2016 Unzip Me S., she opened 2018 with a victory in the Mar. 25 Mizdirection S. and added the Apr. 29 GIII San Simeon S. last time out.

Pedigree Notes:

Path of Peace is a half-sister to group-placed Raindancing (Ire) (Tirol {Ire}), Group 1 placed Mountain Song (GB) (Tirol {Ire}) and group winner Please Sing (GB) (Royal Applause). This is also the family of 1985 GI Kentucky Derby runner-up Bold Arrangement (GB) (Persian Bold {Ire}). Path of Peace produced a filly by Dream Ahead in 2017. Her Lethal Force (Ire) colt sold for 115,000gns at last year's Tattersalls October Yearling Sale and her Kyllachy (GB) filly sold for 230,000gns to John Ferguson at last year's Tattersalls April sale. She had been purchased for 120,000gns by Willie Browne at the 2016 Tattersalls October sale.