



DOUG BURGE

CTBA PRESIDENT

Graded Stakes Bonanza

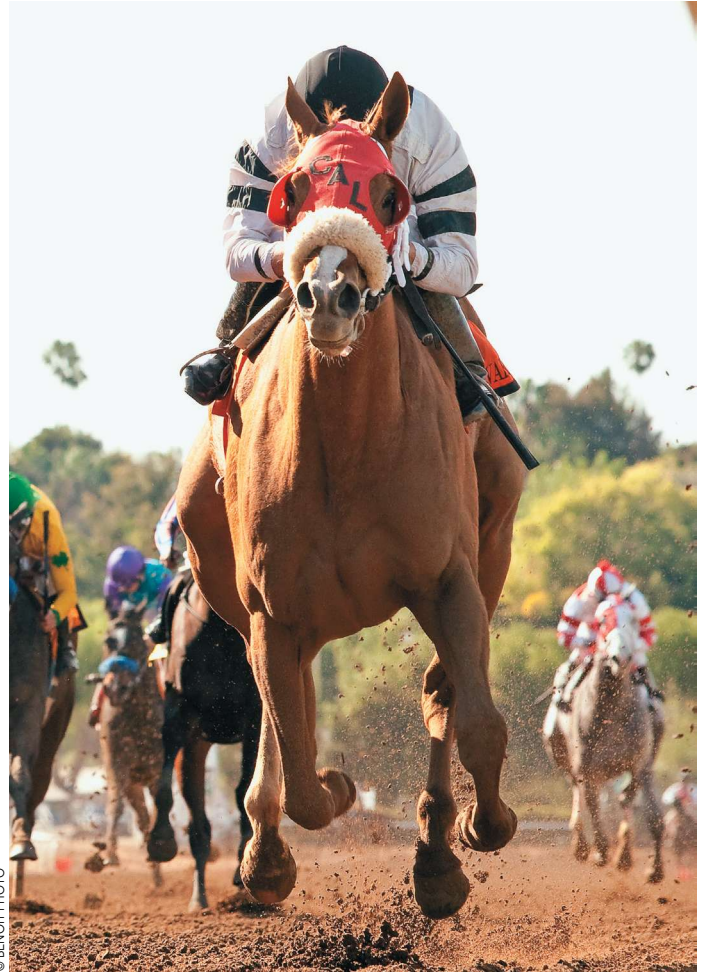
As the racing world continues to marvel the accomplishment of American Pharoah becoming the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years, California-breds are doing their own part, winning graded stakes races at a record pace compared to recent years. Specifically, through the middle of June, Cal-breds have already won 12 graded stakes races, compared to nine at this time last year and four through the middle of June in 2013. (See chart below.)

Two of the wins this year have come in grade I company: Warren's Veneda in the Santa Margarita and Spanish Queen (featured on the cover) in the American Oaks. And don't forget the second-place finish earlier in the year by California Chrome in the \$10 million Dubai World Cup. Each of these homebreds successfully competed in route races, erasing any past stigma that mainly speed horses are bred in the Golden State. Also, it is important to point out that the dozen graded wins this year have come on various surfaces: dirt, turf, and all-weather. This highlights the fact that the local breeding program is well balanced with the current sires and mares residing in the state.

In regard to the stallions currently standing, or those that have recently stood stud in California, four are listed among the top 50 leading sires per *Blood-Horse*. This is significantly more than any other state outside of Kentucky.

These positive trends further emphasize the investments and decisions made in the past several years by California breeders to focus on the quality production of foals. The commitments made by CTBA, the Thoroughbred Owners of California, and racing associations to provide greater incentive to upgrade breeding stock in the state has assisted in yielding these recent results. The addition of the Golden State Series, maiden bonus, and other incentives, as well as the overall increase in opportunities and rewards in restricted overnight races, are definitely leading the way.

With many stakes opportunities available in-state throughout the summer and fall, Cal-breds should continue to be in the spotlight. There is ample justification for investing in California, and we are optimistic that the positive trends realized thus far will continue. **CTB**



© BENJOT PHOTO

Grade I winner Warren's Veneda exemplifies the stellar year Cal-breds are having in graded stakes races this year

Cal-Bred Graded Stakes Wins Through June 14	Total Cal-Bred Graded Stakes Wins Per Year
2011 – 9	2011 – 19
2012 – 8	2012 – 11
2013 – 4	2013 – 12
2014 – 9	2014 – 19
2015 - 12	