

# LOVE THE CHASE

BY EMILY SHIELDS

She has new owners and a new home, but Love the Chase is once again the California Broodmare of the Year. The daughter of Not For Love—Chase It Down, by Polish Numbers, became the first two-time winner of the award, as she also received the honor for the 2014 season. She is notable because her success has come entirely from her first foal, \$14,752,650-earner California Chrome.

After California Chrome won four major grade 1 events in a single season—the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, Santa Anita Derby, and Hollywood Derby—he garnered awards as California's Horse of the Year, champion 3-year-old male, and champion turf horse. It only made sense that his dam would follow, and after the Lucky Pulpit son added the Dubai World Cup (G1), Pacific Classic (G1), Awesome Again Stakes (G1), and two other stakes in 2016, there was no other broodmare more deserving.

Steve Coburn and Perry Martin, the men behind the Dumb Ass Partners moniker that campaigned California Chrome during his first two seasons on the track, also owned Love the Chase after buying her privately for \$8,000 in 2009. Martin bought out Coburn in 2016, and Taylor Made Sales Agency consigned her to the Fasig-Tipton November Sale last fall. The now-11-year-old chestnut brought \$1,950,000 via new owners SF Bloodstock, headed by Tom Ryan.

"Love the Chase deserves every accolade the industry offers," Ryan said. "California Chrome is a two-time Eclipse Horse of the Year and has done so much for our sport. He's a true rags-to-riches story; this game needs more heroes. Because he stayed in training, it gave the world a great opportunity to get to know the story of an inexpensive young mare being bred to an inexpensive young stallion with a future Hall of Fame horse being the result."

Although much has been made about California Chrome's "lack of pedigree," Ryan argues that Love the Chase is actually an exceptional purchase.

"She is young and already so accomplished," he said. "Her pedigree has genuine depth. People who want to question her pedigree should take the time to study it. It's far from obscure. She's a perfect physical type and will fit a broad range of Kentucky stallions."



California Broodmare of the Year Love the Chase and her 2017 Tapit colt

ANNE M. EBERHARDT

Love the Chase also produced Lucky Pulpit foals in 2013, 2014, and 2015, including the placed 4-year-old filly Hope's Love, who still races for Martin. On Jan. 25 Love the Chase foaled a Tapit colt at Atlas Farm in Nicholasville, Ky. Like his famous older brother, the foal sports a distinctive blaze, but one that resembles the state of California.

"We're thrilled with her Tapit," Ryan said. "He physically (has) everything you would want to see at this stage. He has quality and a lovely attitude. Love the Chase is, as expected, a very proud mom."

Love the Chase was booked to Pioneer of the Nile, sire of Triple Crown hero American Pharoah, for the 2017 breeding season. Ryan called the mating "a perfect fit." SF Bloodstock will offer the Tapit colt and all future foals as yearlings at public auction—"exciting times ahead," Ryan added. Even with her superstar son now standing stud at Taylor Made Stallions, the future is brighter still for Love the Chase. **CTB**