



DRU KNIGHT

Broodmare of the Year Warren's Veneda and her 2021 full brother to 2020 Cal-bred champion 3-year-old female Warren's Showtime

# WARREN'S VENEDA

BY TRACY GANTZ

California's Broodmare of the Year honorees have come from around the globe and with a wide range of expertise. What matters is the quality of California-bred runners they produce.

Warren's Veneda brings a rare combination to her title as the 2020 California Broodmare of the Year. She follows only Variety Queen as a Cal-bred racing champion who also earned a California Broodmare of the Year title.

Variety Queen harkens back to the early years of Cal-bred champions. She was named champion 3-year-old female of 1979 and Broodmare of the Year in 1988, the year after her daughter Variety Baby was named champion Cal-bred 2-year-old filly. Variety Queen also produced Cal-bred Variety Road, a near-millionaire who only missed a Cal-bred title because he ran during the

same time as Snow Chief and Best Pal.

It took Warren's Veneda just five years to go from a champion runner to a champion producer. Trained by Craig Lewis, she competed for three seasons for owner/breeder Benjamin Warren,

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— Craig Lewis

earning \$932,112. Warren's Veneda won three stakes in 2015, including the Santa Margarita Stakes (G1), and that season's champion older female Cal-bred title.

“She was a really nice mare who had a lot of ability,” said Lewis. “She steadily improved as she went on and could run

on any surface.”

Warren called Warren's Veneda “the best horse we've had so far” following her Santa Margarita victory, though her daughter Warren's Showtime could eventually eclipse her dam.

Lewis also trained Clubhouse Ride, a millionaire multiple graded winner who went to stud in California late in the 2015 breeding season. The trainer has known Warren and Warren's wife, Sally, for many years. So when it came time for the Warrens to decide which stallion to breed Warren's Veneda to, they naturally chose Clubhouse Ride.

Warren's Veneda has produced four foals to date, all by Clubhouse Ride. Warren's Showtime became the mare's first stakes winner and first Cal-bred champion.

A listed stakes winner at 2 in 2019, Warren's Showtime won the Autumn Miss Stakes (G3T) and three other stakes in 2020. She placed in five others, including the Del Mar Oaks (G1T). Already twice stakes-placed in 2021, Warren's Showtime has earned \$593,431 through early March. She was voted champion 3-year-old Cal-bred female of 2020.

Lewis also trains Warrens Candy Man, a 3-year-old full brother to Warren's Showtime who has placed multiple times. The trainer recently got in the 2-year-old full sister, to be named Warren's Showgirl, according to Sally Warren.

“She's a beautiful filly,” said Lewis. “I hope she's as good as her sister.”

The Warrens keep their mares at Legacy Ranch, where Clubhouse Ride stands. In February, Warren's Veneda foaled a full brother to Warren's Showtime.

“He is a show-stopper,” said Sally Warren.

The Warrens were planning to breed Warren's Veneda back to Clubhouse Ride. After all, with Warren's Showtime, the first foal by Clubhouse Ride—Warren's Veneda, becoming a champion, more could certainly be on the way. **CTB**