



## AURELIUS MAXIMUS

Thanks in no small part to the great success of American Pharoah as a racer and sire, the male line of 2003 Belmont Stakes (G1) winner Empire Maker is now a hot item. This year, Louisiana is welcoming its first member of that line in Aurelius Maximus, who is standing for \$2,000 at Jay Adcock's Red River Farms near Coushatta. Sired by American Pharoah's sire Pioneerof the Nile (a son of Empire Maker who was a winner of the Santa Anita Derby, G1, and runner-up in the 2009 Kentucky Derby—Presented byYum! Brands, G1), this young stallion offers an attractive blend of performance, pedigree, and conformation.

Both top-class as 3-year-olds, Pioneerof the Nile and Empire Maker were advanced enough developmentally to race in major stakes at 2, with Pioneerof the Nile taking the 2008 CashCall Futurity (G1) and Empire Maker running a promising third in the 2002 Remsen Stakes (G2). Aurelius Maximus similarly showed ability at 2, winning a one-mile maiden special weight at Belmont by 7¾ lengths and earning a solid BRIS speed figure of 91 for his effort. He was sidelined due to physical issues after one start at 3 but came back at 4 to run multiple graded stakes winner Mr Freeze to a neck in the Hagyard Fayette Stakes (G2) at Keeneland, a race that some experts felt he might have won with a better trip. He was equally impressive in a Churchill Downs allowance race that year, defeating future Clark Handicap (G1) winner Bodexpress and Grade 2 winner Signalman.

Adding to his appeal, Aurelius Maximus springs from a deep family tracing back to 1962 Oaks Stakes winner Monade, the champion 3-year-old filly of her year in both England and France. As a broodmare for the King Ranch, Monade produced only one stakes winner, grade 1-placed Pressing Date, but she had seven stakes producers among her daughters, including three that produced grade or group 1 winners.

The most important of Monade's daughters was Remedia, an allowance-winning mare by one of the fastest horses in American racing history, 1968 Horse of the Year Dr. Fager. Remedia produced four stakes horses from nine named foals, headed by 1982 Maskette Stakes (G1) winner Too Chic. An extremely

	Unbridled	Fappiano
Empire Maker		Gana Facil
	Toussaud	El Gran Senior
Pioneerof the Nile '06		Image of Reality
	Lord at War (ARG)	General (FR)
Star of Goshen		Luna De Miel (ARG)
	Castle Eight	Key to the Kingdom
AURELIUS MAXIMUS 2016		Her Native
	Seattle Slew	Bold Reasoning
A.P. Indy		My Charmer
	Weekend Surprise	Secretariat
La Reina '01		Lassie Dear
	Mr. Prospector	Raise a Native
Queena		Gold Digger
	Too Chic	Blushing Groom (FR)
		Remedia

fast daughter of the excellent sire Blushing Groom (himself a champion 2-year-old and miler in Europe), Too Chic in turn produced 1987 Ashland Stakes winner Chic Shirine and 1991 champion older female Queena as her first two foals, both by Mr. Prospector.

Chic Shirine did well as a broodmare, producing 1995 True North Handicap (G2) winner Waldboro and 1994 Ladies' Handicap (G2) winner Tara Roma, both by Northern Dancer's excellent sire son Lyphard. Tara Roma, in turn, is the dam of 2001 Go for Wand Handicap (G1) winner Serra Lake (by Seattle Slew) and grade 3 winner Cappuchino (by Capote) and the second dam of grade 1-placed grade 3 winner Coal Play (by Mineshaft). Through other daughters, Chic Shirine is also the second dam of multiple grade 1 winner Verrazano (by More Than Ready), 2014 TVG Diana Stakes (G1) winner Somali Lemonade (by Lemon Drop Kid), multiple grade 2 winner Hungry Island (by More Than Ready), grade 2 winner El Padrino (by Pulpit), and grade 3 winner Soaring Empire (by Empire Maker).

Not to be outdone, Queena is the dam of 2000 Hollywood Derby (G1) winner Brahms and stakes winner Olympic (both by Danzig) and of La Reina (by A.P. Indy), winner of the 2003 Tempted Stakes (G3). La Reina, in turn, is the dam of seven winners including 2013 Swaps Stakes (G2) winner Chief Havoc (by



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Giant's Causeway), multiple grade 3-placed Special Event (by Arch), and Aurelius Maximus.

Given the affinity shown by both Empire Maker and Aurelius Maximus' female family for the Seattle Slew line, mares returning Seattle Slew through sources other than A. P. Indy and mares carrying strains of the Missy Baba family to which A.P. Indy and Kingmambo both belong may be good choices for Aurelius Maximus. Grand-daughters or great-grand-daughters of A.P. Indy need not be ruled out provided that the conformation match seems suitable and the mare has good feet (avoiding doubling up on the foot issues that troubled both Empire Maker and A.P. Indy), and other pedigree strains with potential for a good outcome may include Storm Cat, Arch, Danzig, and More Than Ready.

The regard with which Aurelius Maximus was held by his breeders (Martell Bloodstock and Fifth Avenue Bloodstock) can be gauged by the fact that as a yearling, a bid of \$625,000 was not enough to reach his reserve. While some of this was based on his stellar pedigree, his conformation was also a factor.

"Steve Asmussen [who trained the horse in his last four starts] described him as having 'an amazing phys-

ical,'" says co-owner Nathan Granger. "He's so balanced and has all the parts: huge hip, smooth shoulder, and beautiful neck. Mentally, he was a dream to train. Our stallion manager, Jay Adcock, says he has been all class in learning how to be a stallion. He's settled his first mares and they've been pronounced in foal."

An additional plus for the young stallion is the support he is getting from his connections. "I believe in the Louisiana breeding program and I've been in it virtually my entire life," says Granger. "Jay has a group of stakes producing mares, and he and I have acquired several other nice mares that we will throw at him to give him a chance to be successful. The response to him from other breeders has been wonderful, and we are thankful for that. We are also very thankful that Stonestreet Stables, George Bolton, and Peter Leidel have retained an interest in him and want to be part of the Louisiana program."

With that kind of support, plus a terrific package of ability, pedigree, and conformation, Aurelius Maximus will get every chance to prove he can be, as Granger hopes, "a game changer in the Louisiana program."