# Old Friends

Eclipse Award-Winning Thoroughbred Retirement
Georgetown, Kentucky

Accredited by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)





Summer 2022

## A Message from Michael Blowen

Our tour guides are, quite literally, priceless. They are an all-volunteer force that provides invaluable service to Old Friends for the pure love of the horses. And that indescribable connection comes through every day, on every tour, from every guide. They are as close as we can get to hearing the voice of the horse. They are the connective tissue between our stars and those who love them.

When they tell the unique, compelling, dramatic tales of how our retirees are the core of the sport we love, their talents come through not because they've read it in a history book, but because they believe it



Photo © Melissa Bauer-Herzog-Pyrois Media

Silver Charm taking J.R. to the barn for dinner.

to their core. And that sincerity is what makes them all so compelling.

A team 21 members strong, including 16-year veteran Tom, each guide is unique in the way they approach each tour. So, if you go with Steve, an employee with TwinSpires and an excellent handicapper, you're likely to hear about some big scores associated with Sarava and Silver Charm. Others, like Lisa and Jane, emphasize the horses' unique personalities. Ken and Joyce are a great coupled entry and Charlie's good nature and bad jokes adds another diverse element.

Everyone brings their own personality to each and every tour. And, no matter how cold or how hot, or how snowy or rainy the weather, they show up.

Essentially, every time you visit, you get a different experience with a different guide even if the Thoroughbred residents are the same. It's like attending a Broadway show with a different star every time.

And, a bonus! Their familiarity with each of our retirees enables them to provide the invaluable service of catching early issues before they become big problems and reporting them to our horse-care staff.



Michael Blowen President & Founder

These dedicated volunteers work for no financial rewards and provide priceless service. And it's all for the horses. Thank you from all of your new and old friends!

Michael



## Old Friends Board of Directors

President: Michael Blowen Vice President: Bill Van Den Dool Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Fossum

#### **Members**

### Chairman: Cynthia Grisolia

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Newsletter Production: Barbara Fossum © 2022 Old Friends Inc.

> Old Friends, Inc. 1841 Payne's Depot Rd Georgetown, KY 40324 (502) 863-1775 www.oldfriendsequine.org

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Tour info can be found on the back cover of this newsletter.



## Meet Our Newest Old Friends

At Old Friends, Spring brought not only a fresh carpet of bluegrass to our paddocks, but also new retirees ready to begin the next chapter in their lives. They come from many circumstances with one thing in common—your commitment has helped make the dignified retirement they deserve a reality.

We are excited to introduce you

to these 4(!) new Old Friends:



Photo © Old Friends Farm Imprimis (8) won the G2 Shakertown at Keeneland, eight additional races, and \$883,483 in a four-year career. He arrived in May from the Belmont barn of trainer Joe Orseno.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

*US Ranger* (18), a son of Danzig, was a champion in Europe before coming to the U.S. in 2009. His stud career spanned Kentucky, California, and Australia before being pensioned in 2020. He arrived at Old Friends in June.

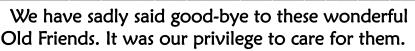


Photo © Mary E. Greene Adventist (9) started 50 times, winning \$661,130 and the G3 Greenwood Cup at Parx. He arrived in June from the barn of trainer Uriah St. Lewis.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

State Flag (13) won 6 races and \$246,000. He was bred by the famed Phipps Stable and is a grandson of Hall of Fame mare Personal Ensign. He arrived in June.



Photos © Laura Battles



*Slamming* 1993-2022



Mustanfar 2001-2022



You and I 1991-2022



Victor Cooley 1993-2022

## Farewell to Zippy Chippy and You and I

Zippy Chippy, racing's loveable loser, resided at Old Friends Cabin Creek in Greenfield Center, NY. He passed away in April.

I was on my way home from a much needed vacation when my phone rang, It was Cabin Creek's Joann Pepper,



with the call you hope to never receive. Our beloved Zippy Chippy had passed away.

One wonders how we connect to these majestic athletes. Zippy wasn't really an athlete though, he was more of character. A race-

horse descended from legends, destined for glory with greatness in his bloodlines and power in his pedigree. But he was a prankster. He would stick out his tongue at people, snatch hats, and lose races. 100 to be exact. In 2000, Zippy's owner, Felix Monserrate, set up a race against a minor-league baseball player. The score board trumpeted "Man Against Beast." But Zippy, true to form,



lost once more, beaten by the outfielder in a forty yard sprint.

He was a bright spot in my life, I love an underdog or, in this case, an underhorse. I could relate to him and his

joking manner. He did have accomplishments. At the age of 30 he had three billboards in Massachusetts, wishing him a "Happy Birthday", and just last year he was nominated for the prestigious "Do-Gooders Award" by *Saratoga Living* magazine, the first time ever for a non-human. Most recently, Steve Hartman did a story, "Loveable Lost", which aired on CBS News in May.

While Zippy is gone, he will never be forgotten. Thank you Joann and Mark Pepper for sharing Zippy with all of his fans.

-Rosanne M. Frieri

You and I, Old Friends' most senior retiree, passed away in early June at age 31.

Multiple graded stakes winner You and I died in June at age 31 at our farm in Georgetown. An 11-year



Old Friends resident, and our oldest horse, he had battled the infirmities of old age for several weeks.

In 1993, as a two-yearold, You and I was a star right out of the box for owner Triumviri Stable, winning the G2 Cowdin Stakes at Aqueduct.

In 1994, You and I was sold to owner Edmund Gann and transferred to the barn of Hall-of-Fame trainer Bobby Frankel. The near coal-black colt went

on to capture the G1 Metropolitan Handicap, the G2 Brooklyn Handicap, the G3 Riva Ridge Stakes, and retired with lifetime career earnings of \$701,235.

You and I stood at stud at Airdrie Stud in Kentucky and Woodstead Farm in Washington, siring five-time

Grade One winning daughter You, before being retired from the breeding shed and donated to Old Friends.

When we lose a horse it's always difficult, but some are more difficult than others.



You and I was tough, confident, and haughty. Bobby Frankel and Gov. Brereton C. Jones, two early, generous supporters of Old Friends, took care of You and I during his racing and breeding career, but we were honored to care for him in his golden years. To say he will be missed is a monumental understatement.

-Michael Blowen



# Memory Lane: Brick by Brick Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends

Join us on Memory Lane and memorialize your loved ones, pets, or special occasions with your own custom brick in the Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends, where champions are celebrated.

Find out more and order your brick: www.oldfriendsequine.org/memorylane.html



## Meet the Shadwell Stallions

## by Cynthia Grisolia

When Lexington-based Shadwell Farm underwent a downsizing of operations in 2021, following the death of its founder, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the reshuffling included relocating some of their retired stallions. After some deliberation, the powers that be felt that there was no place better for them than Old Friends. (Let's face it, we know our way around a stallion and, more so, we know our way around a group of geriatric horses.) There was some concern about uprooting a bunch of old geezers. But we're happy to report that all of the stallions arrived safely over the course of about two months (they traveled two by two), they have adjusted well, and are even thriving in their new homes. Herewith, meet the Shadwell Six:

ALBERTUS MAXIMUS Albertus (18) is the youngest of the Shadwell transfers. He is a son of Old Friends retiree Albert the Great, who passed in 2021. Albertus



won the 2008 G1 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile and the 2009 G1 Donn Handicap. He stood stud at Shadwell until being pensioned last year. At Old Friends, Albertus has taken up residence in a paddock near his brother

of sorts, Nobiz Like Showbiz, who was also sired by Albert the Great. Unlike his cantankerous dad, Albertus is pretty chill and, like his bro, he's very handsome.

**DUMAANI** A Shadwell homebred, Dumaani (31) was no stranger to global travel. He had starts at Newmarket, Ascot, Nad Al Sheba, Tokyo, and the

U.S., among others, with victories in back-to-back runnings of the G3 Keeneland Breeders' Cup Mile Stakes. He retired with earnings of over \$1 million.



At Old Friends, Dumaani has earned the esteemed

paddock and stall once occupied by Alphabet Soup—it's close to the barn and allows us to pamper him, which, at the age of 31, he really needs.

INTIDAB Intidab (29) was bred and raced by Shadwell. He was stakes-placed in England and Dubai



before coming to the U.S where he posted graded stakes wins in the 1999 G2 A Phenomenon Handicap at Saratoga, the Eillo Stakes at Gulfstream, and the 2000 G2 True North Handicap at Belmont Park. After spend-

ing some time at Gallagher's Stud in New York, Intidab returned to Shadwell's Nashwan Stud in Kentucky. He is the sire of multiple graded stakes winner Greater Good.

At Old Friends, despite his big ole stallion status, Intidab can't resist a good hug and a few warm pats. It's possible he'll develop the nickname 'Ol Softy.

KAYRAWAN Kayrawan (30) is a Shadwell homebred by Mr. Prospector who placed in the 1996 G3 Maryland Breeders' Cup Handicap and then captured the 1996 G2 Tom Fool Handicap at Belmont Park. Standing stud at Shadwell, he has sired 52 winners, including stakes winner Dubai Sheikh and four stakes-



placed runners.
At Old Friends, Kayrawan has been described as kind, easy, and sweet. He loves a pat and a tasty carrot. He has been spotted cantering energetically around his

new paddock just for the sheer fun of it—as if to say, "Thirty-schmirty."

**MUSTANFAR** Mustanfar (21) is an earner of \$625,010 on the track. With 27 lifetime starts, the son of Unbridled raced on dirt, turf, and synthetic surfaces.

He won the G3 Sycamore Breeders' Cup at Keeneland and the G3 Lexington Stakes at Belmont Park. Spending his stallion career at Indiana Stallion Station, he has sired winners on both dirt and turf. At Old Friends, Mustanfar, became known as the blaze-faced chestnut with the friendly eyes, always looking for a carrot and kind word. Sadly, we didn't have the privilege of knowing Mustanfar long.



privilege of knowing Mustanfar long. He passed away in late June from a chronic illness.

**SWAIN** Now 30, Swain was a champion in both



England and Ireland, He placed in two Breeders' Cup events-the 1996 Turf (at Woodbine, where Alphabet Soup would capture the Classic just minutes later) and the 1998 Breeders' Cup Classic, where he finished 3rd behind winner Awesome Again and runner-up Silver Charm, who, as fate would have it, is now a neighbor in an adjoining paddock. At Old Friends, if we didn't know

better, we'd say Swain translates as *Sweeeeet*. Swain's unbelievably kind demeanor has won us over. He'll win you over, too.

## He Got Here by Cynthia Grisolia

Everybody calls him Norman. The twenty-six-year-old gelding Gottagoallday earned the monikeral reference to Alfred Hitchcock's creepy protagonist Norman Bates in the horror classic *Psycho-*-thanks to his sire, multiple graded stakes-winner Bates Motel. Though as far as anyone could see, this Norman had no homicidal tendencies. In fact, he was gentle as a kitten. Still, maybe a little like his eerie namesake, Norman had fallen through the shadowy cracks.

After a modest career in the claiming ranks in the late '90s (16 starts, two wins, and a meager \$12,485 in earnings), Norman seem to vanish after his last start in April 2001 at Charles Town.

Two decades later, he resurfaced in a kill pen in Shippensburg, PA., discovered by Beth Walker of Life Horse, Inc., a Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) accredited organization that helps equines find sanctuary, rehabilitation, or adoption. From there, the aftercare engine went full throttle.

Looking for refuge, Walker contacted Marlene Murray, co-founder and President of the R.A.C.E. Fund, a Pennsylvania-based non-profit dedicated to helping Thoroughbreds post-career. "He was, at this time, 25-years-old and in need of a permanent sanctuary," says Murray. "So I contacted Staci Hancock to see if she could offer any help."

Hancock, owner of the Paris, KY-based Stone Farm, had fond recollections of Bates Motel. "While I didn't know any of Gottagoallday's connections, I am friends with John Gosden, who trained Bates Motel," says Hancock. "Thinking back, it brought memories of those golden years in Southern California during racing's heyday. Norman represented those times to me. And it broke my heart to see him in such poor condition."

Given his age and need of a lasting safe landing, Hancock reached out to Old Friends's Michael Blowen, and. "He graciously agreed to help," adds Hancock.

Murray and others raised the funds to allow Norman some down time where he was able to gain some weight and mend from his trauma. On the road to full recovery, the son of Bates Motel joined Old Friends in October 2021 and, thanks to some new friends --like Easy Grades, a one-time Derby contender and fellow vicenarian--life for this Norman is no longer like a horror movie.







Gottagoallday With Easy Grades Photos Laura © Battles





In 2020 Old Friends opened a facility at Ashton Grove, combining horse retirement with a full-care senior living community. I always thought that retired horses and retired people belong with each other because I was retired and I liked it. Retired horses. Retired people. A match made in heaven. -- Michael Blowen

### How We Started

Horses brought our friends John and Bev Passerello to Kentucky. The people they met kept them here. When age and health issues surfaced, they discovered Ashton Grove Senior Living, located in Georgetown. Much to their surprise, they found that the property

had 30 acres and a 12-stall barn that had at one time been part of Hill 'N Dale Farm. John and Bev reached out to Michael, and a novel, partnership was formed.



Today, Ashton Grove is home to 13 Old Friends retirees, making it a working horse farm once again. A handicap-accessible feeding deck, benches, tables, and twice monthly transportation to the barn for folks with wheelchairs enable residents to enjoy visiting the horses, and perhaps recover memories from days gone by.

#### News

Ashton Grove hosted Gallop at the Grove on April 30. A total of \$3,000 was raised for feed, medical supplies, run-in sheds and an additional handicapaccessible feeding deck. On July 16, just one day after National I Love Horses Day, Ashton Grove mascot, Winston, hosted his own birthday party. Residents wore their Winston t-shirts & gave him birthday pats.

#### Featured Horse



Brilliant Decision is a grandson of a much-loved Old Friends retiree, the late Ogygian. His intelligence and capacity for affection are perfectly suited to interacting with the residents of Ashton Grove. Brilliant Decision was largely unsuccessful as a racehorse, but this sweet guy has found a second career at which he is truly brilliant.

Ashton Grove is not open to the general public for tours.

## Silver Charm's 25th Kentucky Derby Anniversary



Interviewing with Kathy Parks for NBC Nightly News



A multi-page spread in The Washington Post.



Hanging out with friends at Homecoming.



Medina Spirit Laid to Rest at Old Friends, Georgetown, KY April 6, 2022







Join us in Saratoga!

Party on the Porch

Thursday, August 4, 2022

Anne's Washington Inn

111 S Broadway

5:30—??

Free Admission

Food · Drink · Fun!



## Breeders' Cup Party November 6, 2022

12 noon to 4 pm Barbecue · Live Music Silent and Live Auction

Tickets: \$40

(Discounted to Old Friends Members) Reserve online: oldfriendsequine.org

Thanks to all who attended our 17th Annual



# HOMECOMING

## Starring

Proud Mary's Barbecue Music by Steve Norman Group Art by Robert Clark

Birdstone ...

... and all of his Old Friends!







## Old Friends at Cabin Creek Greenfield Center, NY



Old Friends at Cabin Creek: the Bobby Frankel Division, located just minutes from Saratoga Race Course, is Saratoga County's only thoroughbred retirement farm and one of the few that will take thoroughbred stallions. Cabin Creek provides a dignified retirement for all racehorses, both known and unknown, and is open to the public year round.

### Featured Horse

10-year-old **Bold Illusion** is Cabin Creek's new kid on the block. Bo raced mostly in claiming races at tracks in New York and New England, wining three races and \$82,056.

Retired from racing in 2018, Bo lived for a time on a farm with Standardbred race horses before coming to Cabin Creek earlier this year. We're still getting to know Bo, but he seems to be a friendly guy who enjoys the attention of visitors, He and roommate, Red Down South, are still trying to figure out the

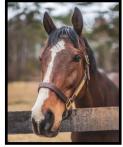


Photo © Samantha Decker

"pecking order," but it seems like Red is more insistent on being in charge. Oh, and Bo says his favorite treats are carrots, just in case you were intending to visit!

#### Visit

Our summer tour season is in full swing! Meet two-time Whitney Handicap winner Commentator; West Point Thoroughbreds star King Congie; 2007 New York Horse of the Year Naughty New Yorker; millionaire Be Bullish; and more!

Dates: July 5 through September 3

Days: Tuesday—Thursday—Friday—Saturday

Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm No reservations required.

No admission charge, but donations gratefully accepted.

#### **Events**

Cabin Creek's 13th Annual After the Races Gala Sunday, August 7, 2022; 6:00pm Saratoga National Golf Course 458 Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 Tickets are \$150 and available by calling 518-698-2377

#### To Donate:

Old Friends at Cabin Creek 483 Sandhill Road Greenfield Center, NY 12833 518-698-2377 oldfriendsatcabincreek.com

## The Ide and George Show

Thank you to all who have expressed love, support and concern for Gorgeous George on the loss of his best friend, Alphabet Soup. As George has learned, out of sorrow can spring new friendships. Hope you enjoy these photos of Gorgeous George with his new friend, Ide.





🕈 Pyrois Media © Laura Battles 🛡





# Horses Healthy at Home: Spring Celebration Photos © Laura Battles



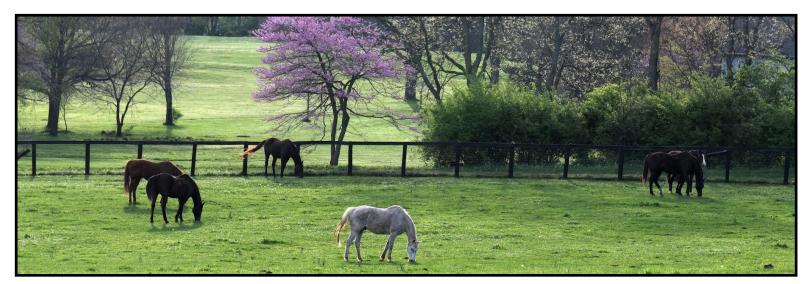
Big Blue Nation Runs



Special Ring and Stubbins Silhouette



Dumaani's Clover



Paddock 62: Hussonfirst, Comma to the Top, Marshall Rooster, Sokitumi Samurai, Fantastic Day, Fabulous Strike



Swain's Nose

## The World according to Sittle Silver Charm

When people read my book, A Charmed Life, the first question they ask me is, "Is there anything you haven't done?" It's a valid question. Being an in-demand little horse, I sometimes forget to stop and smell the roses.



Photos © Laura Battles

Never one to let the grass grow under my hooves, I spent an evening in my run-in shed and came up with:

### My Bucket List

- A private tour of Mrs. Pasture's horse cookie factory;
- Visit my dear friend, Angie Dickinson, in Beverly Hills so I can graze on her lawn;
- A secret rendezvous with the magnificent Zenyatta, always and ever the love of my life;
- A hoof-friendly computer keyboard:
- A Sunbrella awning for my paddock;
- Time to finish my novel, a stunning roman á clef eagerly awaited by my fans;
- Visit Del Mar so I can inventigate exactly where the surf meets the turf,
- Live long enough to collect residuals from my bestselling memoir A Charmed Life;
- Manolo Blahnik designer horse shoes.

LSC

## **GUIDING GURUS**

If you have visited Old Friends and taken a tour, you have met one of our wonderful volunteer tour guides. They are unrivaled when it comes to greeting visitors, showing them around the farm, and sharing—with compassion and enthusiasm, not to mention great aplomb--the tales of victories, agonies of defeats, and human narratives behind the careers of our equine athletes. Come out for a tour and let them introduce you to our fabulous retirees!

I first read about Old Friends in Barbara Livingston's book More Old Friends. So the next trip my husband and I took



from southeast Texas to Indiana to see family we made a detour to Georgetown, KY to visit the farm. After that, I was hooked and couldn't wait to visit again. In 2017 we retired and moved to Lexington specifically so I could volunteer at Old Becky with one of her favorites, Gulch. Friends. It has been an ongoing joy: to be outdoors,

seeing the beauty of the farm and most especially the horses. The best part is being a tour guide, sharing knowledge and stories about our great retirees. Meeting people who are interested in seeing the horses and getting a chance to feed them carrots just makes my heart sing.

— Becky Pietras, Tour Guide

## Healthy in Their Paddocks



Under the supervision of Silver Charm

Thanks to our lead veterinarian, Dr. Bryan Waldridge, vet students from Mississippi State University, and a grant from the great folks at After The Finish Line, our spring program of preventative vaccinations and worming was completed in record time!

## Old Friends Press

#### Old Friends: Silver Charm



Limited Edition photobook of 500, signed by Old Friends Founder Michael Blowen. Thirty pages with over 50 photos chronicling the story of Silver Charm's life in retirement, reflections

on his personality, what he means to Michael, and so much more. Contributing photographers Laura Battles, Rick Capone, Mary E. Greene, Cindy Grisolia, Steve Haskin, and Joyce Patci.

Price: \$29.00 (includes shipping)

#### Old Friends: Early Years



Limited Edition photobook, signed by Old Friends Founder Michael Blowen. Twenty pages featuring the founding stallions of Old Friends: Awad,

Creator, Sunshine Forever, Ogygian, Kiri's Clown, Fortunate Prospect, Ruhlmann, Precisionist, and Taylor's Special. Contributing photographers Laura Battles, Rick Capone, Mary E. Greene, Beth Shannon, Kate Dunn, John McDaniel, Evyonne Baker.

**Price: \$24.00** (includes shipping)

oldfriendsequine.org/store/



## How You Can Help Old Friends

## Memory Lane: Brick by Brick Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends

Choose your brick size, color, graphic and text to create a lasting legacy!





www.oldfriendsequine.org

#### Clubhouse Annual Membership

Your \$150 membership includes leather & brass keytag, free tours, discount admission to Homecoming in May, and free general admission to Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, KY and National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, NY.





#### The Hoof Patrol

Support the 500+ hooves of Old Friends retirees who have short/long-term hoof issues. Hoof Patrol keychain, email updates, videos, and more!

Bronze (\$50) Silver (\$125) • Gold (\$250) Membership levels

## Old girlFriends Society

Do you appreciate great mares? Your \$100 lifetime membership donation includes an 8 x 10 photo of one of our *Old girlFriends*, an annual visit to the mares paddock, and your name on the *Old girlFriends* web page!





#### Shares for Life

Show your love for an Old Friends horse! Donate \$100 to support your favorite horse and you'll receive a photo of your horse and a certificate suitable for framing.

#### Friends for All Seasons

Is monthly giving right for you?
Do you believe in dignified equine retirement to a forever home and the value of steadfast, reliable partnerships? Sign up as a monthly donor and receive a gift of Old Friends bookmarks.



## Thank You for Supporting Our Horses!

Date:		
Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email Address:		
General Use Dona	ition \$	
Old Friends Photo Silver Charm (		rly Years (\$24.00)
Clubhouse Annual	Membership (\$	150.00)
The Hoof Patrol \$ Gold (\$250) Silv	 ver (\$125) Bronze (:	\$50)
Shares for Life (\$10 Little Silver Char	00.00) Horse: _ rm & Gorgeous Geor	
Old girlFriends Society (\$100.00)		
Friend for All Seas Indicate amour		onor (credit card) nthly \$
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TOTAL \$		

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. EIN 20-0049798

1841 Paynes Depot Road, Georgetown, KY 40324 (502) 863-1775 • oldfriendsequine.org

## Old Friends

1841 Paynes Depot Road Georgetown, KY 40324 (502) 863-1775

Old Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe harbor and dignified retirement to Thoroughbreds whose racing and breeding careers have come to an end.



# Old Friends 2022 Tours

Old Friends tours are outdoors and comply with Commonwealth of Kentucky public health COVID-19 safety guidelines.

## Old Friends Tour Menu thru November 5, 2022

Reservations Required For All Tours
Book General Tours and Founder's Tours on our website:
www.oldfriendsequine.org/tours.html

#### **General Tours**

Thursday-Friday-Saturday-Sunday 10:00am · 11:00am · 1:00pm Limited Availability · \$25 per person 90 minutes · Meet 12-15 horses

#### Breeders' Cup Week

Monday, Oct 31 to Friday, Nov 4 10:00am · 11:00am · 1:00pm Saturday, Nov 5 · 10:00am only Limited Availability · \$25 per person 90 minutes · Meet 12-15 horses



#### Founder's Tours with Michael

Fridays · 12:00 pm (Not Available July 15-August 26) 90 minutes · Meet 12-15 horses \$75 per person

#### **Private Tours**

Single-party tour for groups of 10 and under Limited availability · \$50 per person Children 11 and under free For information and to book:

Call 502-863-1775