



# Record-Breaking Racemare Boosts January Mixed Sale

by LISA GROOTHEDDE

Although Thoroughbred mixed sales regularly include spirited bidding battles for in-foal broodmares and promising youngsters who have yet to begin their formal racetrack training, three of the last four sale-toppers of the Barretts January Mixed Sale have matched neither of these typical equine descriptions.

Last year, California-bred Texcess, a four-year-old state champion gelding at the time, sold at the vendue for \$300,000 and went on to reward his new connections by winning the \$250,000 California Cup Classic Handicap nine months later. During the sale's 2004 edition, five-year-old grade II winner Taste of Paradise was purchased as a racing or stallion prospect for a then-record \$425,000; the son of Conquistador Cielo raced for two more seasons before retiring to stud, ultimately earning more than \$1 million with victories such as the grade I Vosburgh Stakes and a second-place finish in the 2005 TVG Breeders' Cup Sprint (grade I).

Likewise, the 2007 Barretts January Mixed Sale was led by an exotic offering during its Jan. 22-23 stand at the Hinds Pavilion in Pomona. Six-year-old Selvatica, an attractive daughter of Forestry whose most recent start was only three weeks prior to the auction, was purchased by Narvick International Inc. for a record \$560,000, eclipsing the previous mark set by Taste of Paradise. The three-time stakes winner and earner of \$219,720 was consigned by Andy Havens' Havens Bloodstock Agency Inc., as agent on behalf of the complete dispersal of the late Bert Altfillisch's Granja Vista Del Rio, the sale-topping mare's breeder and owner.



**Selvatica, a six-year-old multiple stakes winner of \$219,720 by Forestry, was the record \$560,000 sale-topper at the 2007 Barretts January Mixed Sale.**

As the single six-figure offering, Selvatica's hefty pricetag helped boost the auction's overall results. From a total of 619 horses catalogued, including 38 supplemental entries, 438 sales were recorded from the 535 offerings led through the ring. The resultant gross of \$4,180,400 was 20.1 percent higher than last year's gross of \$3,481,300 from 441 head sold.

The 2007 sale also experienced an increase of 20.9 percent in its average price, from \$7,894 last year to \$9,544, while its \$4,500 median represented a 28.6 percent upswing from the \$3,500 median posted in 2006. In yet another positive development, the buy-back rate edged downward, from 18.5 percent last year to 18.1 percent in 2007.

In addition to Selvatica, Havens also consigned her dual stakes-winning, graded stakes-placed dam Pareja, the sale's second-highest overall offering and highest-selling broodmare who was bought by JMJ Racing Stables LLC for \$97,000. The 14-year-old Cal-bred daughter of Strawberry Road (Aus) out of two-time stakes winner Danzadar, by Gaelic Dancer, was sold in foal to Eclipse champion Lemon Drop Kid.

Leading her generation as the sale's most expensive two-year-old was Slamthedor, a Grand Slam half-sister to Cal-bred dual stakes winner Stage Player (\$488,157). Produced by state-bred Ole' Sis, by Ole', the filly was purchased by Thomas Capehart for \$80,000 from the Atwell Sales agency consignment.

A pair of Cal-bred colts shared the top price for yearlings at \$45,000 each. A son of River Edge Farm stallion Bertrando out of Anachristina, by Slewpy, went to Martin and Pam Wygod after being handled by agent Sam Hendricks as part of a complete dispersal for Edward Nahem. Meanwhile, a son of Pepper Oaks Farm sire Swiss Yodeler who was produced by the In Excess (Ire) mare Diamonds in Excess was acquired by agent Mike Harrington, the trainer who originally guided Swiss Yodeler to a grade I-winning campaign during the mid-1990s.

Buoyed by his \$995,900 in receipts for the 21-horse Granja Vista Del Rio dispersal, Havens led all consignors by gross sales, with a total of 108 horses sold for \$1,676,800. Narvick International topped all buyers, with two horses purchased for \$572,000.

Bertrando exhibited his commercial appeal as the sale's leading sire of yearlings, with five sold for an average of \$25,100. The Skywalker stallion also reigned as the leading covering sire, with three in-foal mares sold for an average of \$26,833.

For complete results of the 2007 Barretts January Mixed Sale, visit [www.barretts.com](http://www.barretts.com). 