

# TONY MORRIS



**PEDIGREE  
ANALYSIS**  
**Kizuna**

**U**NTIL the late 1990s Europe could preserve doubts about the ability of Japanese-trained horses to compete successfully on the world stage.

Then came the victories of Seeking The Pearl in the Prix Maurice de Gheest, of Taiki Shuttle in the Prix Jacques le Marois, of El Condor Pasa in the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud and of Agnes World in both the Prix de l'Abbaye and the July Cup.

But all four of those successful pioneers were American-breds. While they advertised the quality of Japanese racing and training, they did nothing to promote the cause of Japanese breeding. We had to wait a little longer for that.

It has been the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the European championship event that Japanese stables now target regularly, that has given us most reasons to respect horses bred in Japan, and they have earned that respect without actually winning it.

That omission is surely going to be rectified some time soon and this year's Arc trials day indicated they will field two worthy challengers for the prize on Sunday week, Orfevre proving an easy winner of the Prix Foy and Kizuna claiming a narrow victory in the Prix Niel.

It was the near miss of El Condor Pasa, who attempted to make all and was caught only close home by Montjeu in 1999, that inspired the subsequent bids for Arc glory, and there have been some sterling efforts.

Deep Impact, a son of 12-time Japanese champion sire Sunday Silence, had won his home nation's Triple Crown in 2005. He started at odds-on for the 2006 renewal, performing nobly to reach a third place he later had to forfeit on account of the presence in his system of an illegal substance, supposedly derived from a nasal spray.

Nakayama Festa, by Sunday Silence's son Stay Gold, was relatively unfancied as a 22-1 chance in 2010, but he turned in a highly creditable display, better than anything he had shown at home, going under by only a head to Derby hero Workforce after a protracted struggle.

Another son of Stay Gold, and another Triple Crown victor, Orfevre came to last year's Arc after a smooth win in the Prix Foy and started a warm favourite.

By contriving to let Solemia get back up after he had sped by her and gone two lengths clear entering the final furlong, he in effect missed an open goal. He was assuredly the best horse in the race and ought to have won.

Orfevre looks like being sent off favourite this time around, but his

## Niel winner out to make an impact for sire in the Arc

### KIZUNA

**b c 5-3-2010**

		Hail To Reason	Turn-To
	Halo	Cosmah	Nothirchance
Sunday Silence		Understanding	Cosmic Bomb
	Wishing Well	Mountain Flower	Almahmoud
Deep Impact (b 2002)		Lyphard	Promised Land
	Alzao	Lady Rebecca	Pretty Ways
Wind In Her Hair		Busted	Montparnasse
	Burghclere	Highclere	Edelweiss
		<b>Northern Dancer</b>	<b>Northern Dancer</b>
	Storm Bird	South Ocean	Goofed
Storm Cat		Secretariat	Sir Ivor
	Terlingua	Crimson Saint	Pocahontas
Catequil (b 1990)		Sword Dancer	Crepello
	Damascus	Kerala	Sans Le Sou
Pacific Princess		Acropolis	Queen's Hussar
	Fiji	Riffi	Highlight

Bred by North Hills Co Ltd in Japan

#### VERDICT

- ▶▶An extremely well-bred colt, clearly up to competing with Europe's best
- ▶▶By an outstanding racehorse who is already achieving major success as a sire
- ▶▶Product of a family that has been thriving in Japan

countryman Kizuna also warrants respect. Off the course for four months after his victory in the Tokyo Yushun, Japan's Derby, the son of Deep Impact travelled sweetly under a hold-up ride

from Yutaka Take in the Prix Niel, quickened impressively to take command well inside the final furlong and held on gamely when Ryan Moore delivered a strong challenge on Derby

winner Ruler Of The World.

The horse will need to up his game again if he is to win the Arc, but if, as his trainer intimated, he was only 85 per cent fit for trials day, there may well be significant improvement to come.

Deep Impact is widely held to be the best horse ever bred in Japan, an assertion that his record of 12 wins from 14 starts, seven of them at Group 1 level, does nothing to contradict.

He was twice horse of the year, his only defeat at home coming by half a length against Heart's Cry in the 2005 Arima Kinen, a race he won the following year. Retired to Shadai Stallion Station in 2007, Deep Impact naturally attracted extensive patronage from breeders at home and abroad.

There was considerably more to him than an exceptional racing record and a sire of immense importance. His dam, Wind In Her Hair, was second in the Oaks and a Group 1 winner for John Hills in the Aral-Pokal at Gelsenkirchen, and she was out of Burghclere, a Busted three-parts sister to Height Of Fashion, the dam of Unfuwain, Nashwan and Nayef. Height Of Fashion's own dam was the 1,000 Guineas and Prix de Diane heroine, Highclere.

Deep Impact has been favoured with quality and quantity in the books he has been covering. His stock were understandably in huge demand when they reached the marketplace and his results – Kizuna is his second Derby winner from his first three crops – are justifying all the attention.

His second-crop daughter Gentildonna won the fillies' Triple Crown and the Japan Cup last year, and she is one of his three winners of the Oka Sho, Japan's 1,000 Guineas. He also made a mark in Europe in 2012 through Beauty Parlour, winner of the Poule d'Essai des Poulaches.

Kizuna isn't just the son of a highly successful sire. It's a fact his dam, Catequil, was an undistinguished runner, appearing just twice in modest

maidens at Warwick (fourth) and Salisbury (third) as a three-year-old for James Fanshawe.

On that scant evidence she was hardly above selling-plate calibre, but she had some pedigree, being by Storm Cat out of Pacific Princess, who had a Grade 1 victory to her name in the 1976 Delaware Oaks.

Pacific Princess's winning daughter by Northern Dancer, Pacificus, produced two Japanese horses of the year in Biwa Hayhide (by Sharrood) and Narita Brian (by Brian's Time), and Catequil had herself made quite an impression as a broodmare before Kizuna, her eighth foal, became a Classic winner.

Catequil's first produce was Phalaenopsis (by Brian's Time), winner of Japan's 1,000 Guineas and twice named her nation's champion filly. Her third foal was the Forty Niner colt Sunday Break, who was campaigned in the US, where he won the Grade 2 Peter Pan Stakes and was twice placed third at the top level, in the Wood Memorial Stakes and the Belmont Stakes.

Catequil also features as granddam of two smart performers, both runner-up in a Japanese Graded event. One was Ranunculus, by Special Week out of Phalaenopsis, the other Naked, by French Deputy out of Aranda, Catequil's winning daughter by Sunday Silence.

**P**ACIFIC PRINCESS won seven and was placed in eight of her 23 starts in a three-season career. In addition to her triumph in the Delaware Oaks, she was Grade 1-placed as a two-year-old in the Matron Stakes, and won the Grade 2 Hempstead Handicap at Belmont Park at four.

By 1967 horse of the year Damascus, she was a half-sister to Fleet Wahine, a daughter of Fleet Nasrullah who ranked joint-third among British three-year-old fillies of 1971, when Tom Jones saddled her for wins in the Ribblesdale Stakes and Yorkshire Oaks.

Fiji, the dam of Fleet Wahine and Pacific Princess, was also trained in Newmarket, by John Oxley. Unfortunately, she did not come to hand early enough to contest the 1,000 Guineas after the cold winter of 1962-63, and when she won the Coronation Stakes in fine style it was possible to believe she would at least have figured in the finish for the Classic.

Fiji was not seen out again after Royal Ascot, retiring a winner four times out of five.

**Kizuna (8) and Yutaka Take power up the outside to land the Prix Niel in style**

