

Stellar Day for Stone Farm

The Hancock family's Stone Farm had an excellent day, or to be more precise an excellent 10 minutes, at Keeneland Sunday with a pair of homebreds selling back-to-back with **Hip 97** bringing \$620,000 and **Hip 98** hitting \$1.05-million. Hip 97, a son of Quality Road, was purchased by Donato Lanni on behalf of SF/Starlight/Madaket and Hip 98, a War Front filly, was bought by Mike Ryan.

"That was a little stressful [selling 97 and 98 back-to-back]," Lynn Hancock said with a laugh of relief. "We are very happy. We knew coming up here we had two very nice individuals and people might like them. You breed them, raise them and do the best you can and hope for a good result. So, obviously, we are very happy with both of those."

Stone Farm principal Arthur Hancock purchased Hip 98's MSP dam Chatham (Maria's Mon) for \$190,000 back in 2009 at this venue's November Sale. She has proven to be quite a bargain with her past yearlings bringing prices ranging from \$70,000 to \$535,000 and now a seven-figure filly. Hip 98 is a full-sister to Irish Highweight and MG1SW Air Force Blue, whose first-crop of 2-year-olds are making an impression at the races.

"She is obviously a full-sister to Air Force Blue," Lynn Hancock said. "He was a champion. She is a lovely filly. She has been a queen from Day 1. We brought her up here and she has just continued to blossom and show well."

Ryan, who did his bidding by the back show ring, purchased the filly on behalf of an undisclosed client.

"This filly will probably go to Europe and start out there," Ryan said. "Being a full sister to champion Air Force Blue, you'd have to think she will love the turf. She looked to me like a filly that could run in the States on the dirt. She looks more to me like a dirt horse, but we know she'll handle grass very well." ([Click here for our interview with Mike Ryan](#))

He continued, "I thought she was an exceptional physical when I saw here at Stone Farm three weeks ago. She is a May foal. She is very well grown for her age. She's not lacking size or scope. They raise a great horse out there with Air Force Blue and three Kentucky Derby winners."

Hip 97's dam Chapel (Pulpit) is a third generation Stone Farm homebred. Her now-3-year-old daughter Gingham (Quality Road), a stakes winner and recently third against older females in the GIII Rancho Bernardo H., was purchased by Sarah Kelly for \$420,000 at this auction in 2018. Hip 97's second dam is MGSW Owsley (Harlan).

"The colt is obviously by Quality Road. It is a great family, great page," Hancock said. "Gingham is very live on the track. We love that colt. My dad [Arthur] always says, 'That's a racehorse!' In this market, we weren't really sure what to expect going in. The 97, 98 back-to-back was a little bit stressful, but we are thrilled."

--@CDeBernardisTDN



Stone Farm's Lynn Hancock | Keeneland photo