

## China Visit gives Usha Stud Farm reason to celebrate

News: By: Sharan Kumar  
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The Usha Stud Farm took its Indian Derby tally to a record 12 winners when the daughter of China Visit, Moonlight Romance accomplished the rare Derby double of winning the Gr 1 Kingfisher Derby and Gr 1 McDowell Indian Derby. Moonlight Romance held off the challenge of Ocean And Beyond, Xisca, Macchupicchu to win the most coveted event of Indian racing calendar in thrilling fashion. The victory of Moonlight Romance was in keeping with the raising status of Usha Stud Farm's resident stallion China Visit, who after a hesitant start, has been firing classic winners to enjoy a near sweep this year. Apart from Moonlight Romance, Xisca is also the winner of two individual Derbys namely the Deccan Derby and the Calcutta Derby Stakes.

The son of Red Ransom, China Visit was expected to continue the legacy of all time sire sensation in India Razeen who is in the twilight of his career but when his progeny did not fire in the manner expected, there was panic. The Usha Stud Farm had always dominated classics in Indian racing calendar and when this did not happen with only Ruby Queen among the first batch winning a classic, there was fear that China Visit may have been a wrong choice for the leading nursery of the country. However, a series of good quality sprinters coupled with good performers in the second year gave hope that China Visit might well be a late bloomer. The amazing string of Derbys won by the progeny of China Visit, the highest by any stallion in India in the current year, has clearly enhanced the value of the stallion.

The Usha Stud Farm has already imported Multidimensional (Danehill) to boost its operations. China Visit did not get the usual number of coverings last year but with Moonlight Romance winning the Indian Derby, his importance in the scheme of things of the stud farm is bound to gain more importance. Interestingly, Ameeta Mehra who is the Managing Director of the Usha Stud Farm had predicted soon after the victory of Moonlight Romance in the Bangalore Derby that this was only a precursor to many such wins in the future and her prediction came true with the performance of Xisca and Moonlight Romance who both went on to achieve fame and glory.

At the presentation ceremony of Indian Derby, Ameeta said: "People were sceptical about the produce of China Visit but this year's results would surely silence such critics. China Visit has proved his worth and more importantly helped us to break the jinx. We were stuck on 11 for a number of years. Moonlight Romance has helped us to break this barrier and hopefully we will see many China Visit progeny scaling new heights. I am sure China Visit has convinced a lot of people of his ability."

China Visit has also sired outstanding sprinters in Kia Ora, Violetta and Attila apart from many other top notch performers over varying trips.

Usha Stud Farm's Razeen who has sired four individual Indian Derby winners through Indictment, Star Supreme, Southern Regent and Psychic Flame, also gets the unique distinction of having an Indian Derby winner through his daughter Wandering Star, herself a Derby winner. Moonlight Romance is by a gutsy race horse Wandering Star who won the Gr 1 Deccan Derby in her shortened racing career. Razeen incidentally had a hand in the winners of third, fourth and fifth placed horses in the Indian Derby through his daughters.



China Visit