



### Christophe Clement

**Born:** Nov. 1, 1965 in Paris, France

#### Christophe Clement's record at Keeneland

**Total wins:** 54  
**Stakes wins:** 14

- Trained Gio Ponti, champion older male and champion turf male in 2009 and champion turf male in 2010.
- Saddled the 1,000th winner of his career when Vacare won the Dahlia Handicap (G2) at Hollywood Park on Dec. 21, 2008.
- Leading trainer at Keeneland's 2010 spring meet. Won three graded stakes at Keeneland during the year—the Transylvania (G3), Doubledogdare (G3) and Shadwell Turf Mile (G1).
- Has four seconds in Breeders' Cup races—Gio Ponti (2009 Classic and 2010 Mile), Forbidden Apple (2001 Mile) and Coretta (1999 Filly & Mare Turf).
- Has ranked in the top 15 nationally in earnings six times (eighth in 2001 with \$5.57 million; 11th in 2002 and 2003, with \$4.8 million and \$5.5 million, respectively; 12th in 2005 with \$5 million; eighth in 2009 with \$6.8 million and 12th in 2010 with \$5.7 million).
- Won the 1994 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (G1) at Keeneland with Danish (IRE).
- Won the 2009 Arlington Million (G1) with Gio Ponti.
- Two-time winner of the Beverly D. (G1) - in 2007 with Royal Highness (GER) and 2008 with Mauralakana.
- Won the 2005 Canadian International Stakes (Can-G1) with Relaxed Gesture

In 2010, 45-year-old Christophe Clement saddled the winners of 85 races and the earners of \$5,778,959, bringing his career earnings in North America to \$72 million. Among the stable's stakes successes last year were Grade 1 victories by Winchester (Woodford Reserve Manhattan Handicap and Joe Hirsch Turf Classic Invitational) and champion Gio Ponti (Man o'War and Shadwell Turf Mile) as well as graded scores by Nordic Truce, Haka, Funny Moon, Strike It Rich and Grassy.

The previous year, he saddled the winners of 91 races and the earners of a career-high \$6.8 million. Leading the way was his first Eclipse Award winner, Gio Ponti, who won four Grade 1 races on the turf and then ran second in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1). The stable won 22 stakes races, including other Grade 1 races in the Coaching Club American Oaks with Funny Moon and the Garden City Stakes with Miss World.

In 2008, Clement's stable accounted for 73 victories and earnings of \$5.6 million to rank 19th. His stable posted 22 stakes victories, including a second consecutive Beverly D., this time with Mauralakana, the Palos Verdes Handicap (G2) with In Summation, Jenny Wiley (G2) with Rutherienne, Virginia Derby (G2) with Gio Ponti and the Palomar Handicap (G2) with Vacare. Mauralakana, a stakes winner in her three previous seasons of campaigning, reached her peak during the year, winning four other graded stakes. And Clement recorded the 1,000th victory of his career in December.

The previous year, his stable ranked 17th by earnings with a total of \$5.3 million and Grade 1 victories were produced by Royal Highness in the Beverly D., In Summation in the Bing Crosby Handicap and Rutherienne in the Del Mar Oaks.

Other graded winners were Vacare, Naissance Royale (IRE) and Bayou's Lassie.

His stable earned \$4.2 million in 2006. He won three stakes at Keeneland, including the Sycamore Breeders' Cup (G3) with Revved Up and the Valley View (G3) with Meribel. He also won graded races with Snowdrops (GB), Ozone Bere (FR) and Saint Stephen.

Highlights of 2005, when his stable won 83 races and ranked 12th by earnings with \$5,070,697, were provided by graded stakes winners Snowdrops, Revved Up, Naissance Royale and Bright Abundance. While Revved Up won five stakes and Snowdrops added three, the stable's most lucrative victory came in the Canadian International which Relaxed Gesture won, taking home the winner's share of slightly more than \$1 million. In all, Clement's runners accounted for stakes wins at 11 different tracks.

Clement winters at Payson Park in Florida and his main base is at Belmont Park in New York. He keeps 60-80 horses in training year-round.

Well-known for his success as a trainer of turf horses, Clement explained it succinctly: "I receive more turf horses." It also reflects his clients. "I have mostly owners and breeders as clients. Therefore, I get more fillies."

Clement's father, Miguel, was a leading trainer in France and Christophe grew up in the business, exercising horses for his father. Among the horses conditioned by his father was Nelcius, winner of the 1966 French Derby. His brother, Nicolas, is also a successful trainer in France and conditioned 1990 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) winner Saumarez.

Christophe worked mornings for Alec and Christiane "Criquette" Head-Maarek while taking

classes at the University of Assas in Paris. After graduating with an economics degree, he came to the United States in 1986 and went through a six-month intern program at Taylor Made Farm. Then he worked for trainer Shug McGaughey for a year and a half.

"He had horses like Personal Ensign and Polish Navy," Clement told *The Blood-Horse* about his tenure with McGaughey, "and I was trying to immerse myself completely because no matter how much knowledge you have in Europe, you have to learn it all over in the U.S."

Returning to Europe, he worked for trainer Luca Cumani at Newmarket as his top assistant for four years. He credits Cumani with teaching him the level of discipline necessary to be a Thoroughbred trainer.

By 1991, he was ready to strike out on his own in the U.S. He won his first race that year with Spectaculaire on Oct. 20 at Belmont and his first stakes with Paul de Moussac's Passagere du Soir (GB) in 1992.

He told *The Blood-Horse*: "Winning (the Grade 2 Gulfstream Park Budweiser Breeders' Cup) with Passagere du Soir was by far the most important in my career. Since she was a filly who beat colts, it helped me greatly to get noticed. That was when I started to get more and better American owners."

His next stakes winner was The Aga Khan's Sardaniya (IRE), who won the La Prevoyante Stakes (G2).

"It's been much easier for me because of my father. I had the right connections," he said.

And his connections have continued to pay off with imported fillies.

"There is a very small program for older mares in Europe as compared to here," he told *The Blood-Horse*. "A horse that can't get black type in Europe can usually get it here with a little bit of improvement, while one that has already earned black type there can have a strong career here."

One of those imported fillies who did well in the U.S. was Danish, winner in 1994 of the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup, Clement's first stakes victory at Keeneland.

In 2000, his stable won 62 races and earned \$4.2 million to rank 17th nationally. The following year, he won 75 races while his runners stockpiled \$5,557,669 to rank eighth, and he won stakes at 13 different tracks. Among the high-profile horses in his stable in 2001 were Forbidden Apple, England's Legend (FR), Voodoo Dancer and Penny's Gold.

In 2002, his stable also ranked 11th by money earned, with \$4.8 million, while winning 80 races. His horses won stakes at 11 tracks and highlights included graded victories by Voodoo Dancer, Julie Jalouse, Fast Decision, England's Legend and Moon Queen (IRE).

With his excellent European connections and impressive American results, continued success seems inevitable.

Clement agrees with trainer Andre Fabre: "He always said let the horses do the talking," he told *Daily Racing Form*. And that is precisely what both Frenchmen are doing.