

# NICK

BY TERRY JARCHOW

# BREEDING



Mascara with her foal by \*HNS Domingo+, RDLF Crecencia.  
This filly went on to be the dam of champion RDLF Sol Peruano.

**IN THE HORSE WORLD** a Nick might be defined as the ability of certain crosses to consistently produce high quality offspring. For example, a stallion might sire outstanding foals primarily when mated to the daughters of a certain unrelated stallion.

In the Thoroughbred racing industry, the nick between a stallion and mare is of great importance. Many breeders will not breed their mares until they have consulted a “nickmiester” and determine that there is a good nick between their mare and the stallion they are considering breeding to her. They, of course, are breeding for speed. The horses that have what the buyer considers a good nick are sold for more money at the yearling sales. Thoroughbred breeders who call for booking to stallions don’t ask about the horse’s conformation, size, or temperament; they just ask about the nick. We don’t completely agree with this because sometimes nicks work and sometimes they don’t.

If you want to nick breed your horses, it is of primary importance to breed intelligently and have the proper information on the bloodlines that you are contemplating crossing. One can never have too much information when breeding. When we are trying for a nick – or the best possible cross – we study pedigrees and then the physical match between stallion and mare. We do this with every breeding we do on our ranch. One can have a terrific pedigree match but if the horses are not physically compatible, you are wasting your time.

On our ranch we have several examples of successful “nick” breedings. These horses are the result of crossing \*HNS Domingo+ and Auerola de la Florecita (\*HNS Aureo x La Christianita). They are RDLF Seniorita+, RDLF Bugambilia+, RDLF Resonante and RDLF Avenal. The foundation mare of this nick, Auerola, was not a show mare but she was certainly an incredible broodmare.

Seniorita+ has won five Laureadas in both the breeding and performance divisions. We started showing her at 2 and now at 14 she is still going strong. She and her sister, Bugambilia+, are horses that can do absolutely anything and everything – shows, parades, long trail rides, camping trips and demonstrations. We think that every good Peruvian Horse should be able to do all these things and with many different riders. We can put a novice rider on them and they will perform appropriately and then we can have another rider ride them to Champion of Champions.

Resonante has been a National Reserve Champion Breeding Stallion. He also has been Champion Breeding Stallion and Best Gaited Horse of Show regionally. Resonante unfortunately could not settle mares so he was gelded. He has carried on as a superb pleasure horse and has won numerous titles since his gelding.

Avenal has done very well in the show ring, having won many Champion Stallion and Best Gaited titles. Although we show him several times a year, his true value to us is as a breeding stallion. He is producing very, very well. His foals sell very quickly because they have excellent gait, are strong, have great brio and are beautiful. He is definitely reproducing his quality and better, which is what every stallion owner hopes for.

Of the four horses that have resulted from this nick breeding, three are incredible producers themselves. Both Seniorita+ and Bugambilia+ have had Champions. The Bugambilia+ and \*Carbon de la Palizada cross was excellent having produced RDLF Alundero, Champion Breeding Stallion and RDLF Penumbra, third in her gait class at the Nationals at only four years of age and first in Mares Gait regionally.

Another nick that worked extremely well was \*HNS Domingo+ with \*Mantequilla daughters. RDS Me Llamu Peru++ was the result of that cross. We crossed \*HNS Domingo+ with our \*Mantequilla



Top: RDLF Seniorita+, a product of the \*HNS Domingo+ and Aureola de la Florecita nick that has been so successful for Rancho de la Florecita.

Right: RDLF Bugambilia+, a full sister of Seniorita, on a victory lap for one of her many Champion of Champion titles. Photo by Lee Locke.

Below: RDLF Penumbra, by \*Carbon de la Palizada out of Bugambilia, the next generation of one of the Florecita nicks. Photo by Lee Locke.



**FOR US THERE ARE THREE ELEMENTS THAT ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT – GAIT, STRENGTH AND BRIO. YOU NEED ALL THREE TO PRODUCE A HIGH QUALITY, WELL-GAITED, RESPONSIVE PERUVIAN HORSE.**



Left: RDLF Celene, from the \*HNS Domingo+ /Mascara nick. This was a very successful nick for Florecita. Photo by Kim Jasserie. Above: RDLF Lando, the next generation of a Florecita nick, this time, out of RDLF Celene by \*Carbon de la Palizada. All photos courtesy of Rancho de la Florecita.

daughter Mascara and got RDLF Celene: five time National Champion, RDLF Crecencia: Champion of Champions Breeding Mare and Best Gaited Horse of Show and RDLF Genoveva: Best Gaited Horse of Show. From them we have RDLF Sol Peruano (by \*HNS Domingo+), RDLF Lando (by \*Carbon de la Palizada), RDLF Candente (by \*Carbon de la Palizada), RDLF Mi Ilusion (by \*Carbon de la Palizada) and RDLF Mariana (by \*Carbon de la Palizada), all first place winners and Champions.

We have been asked numerous times, “What is the most important characteristic of the Peruvian Horse that you are breeding for?” For us there are three elements that are equally important – gait, strength and brío. You need all three to produce a high quality, well-gaited, responsive Peruvian Horse. This is what we are breeding for in our Peruvian Horses. After you have achieved gait, strength and brío in your breeding program, you can consider breeding for beauty, color, a long mane and whatever else is important to

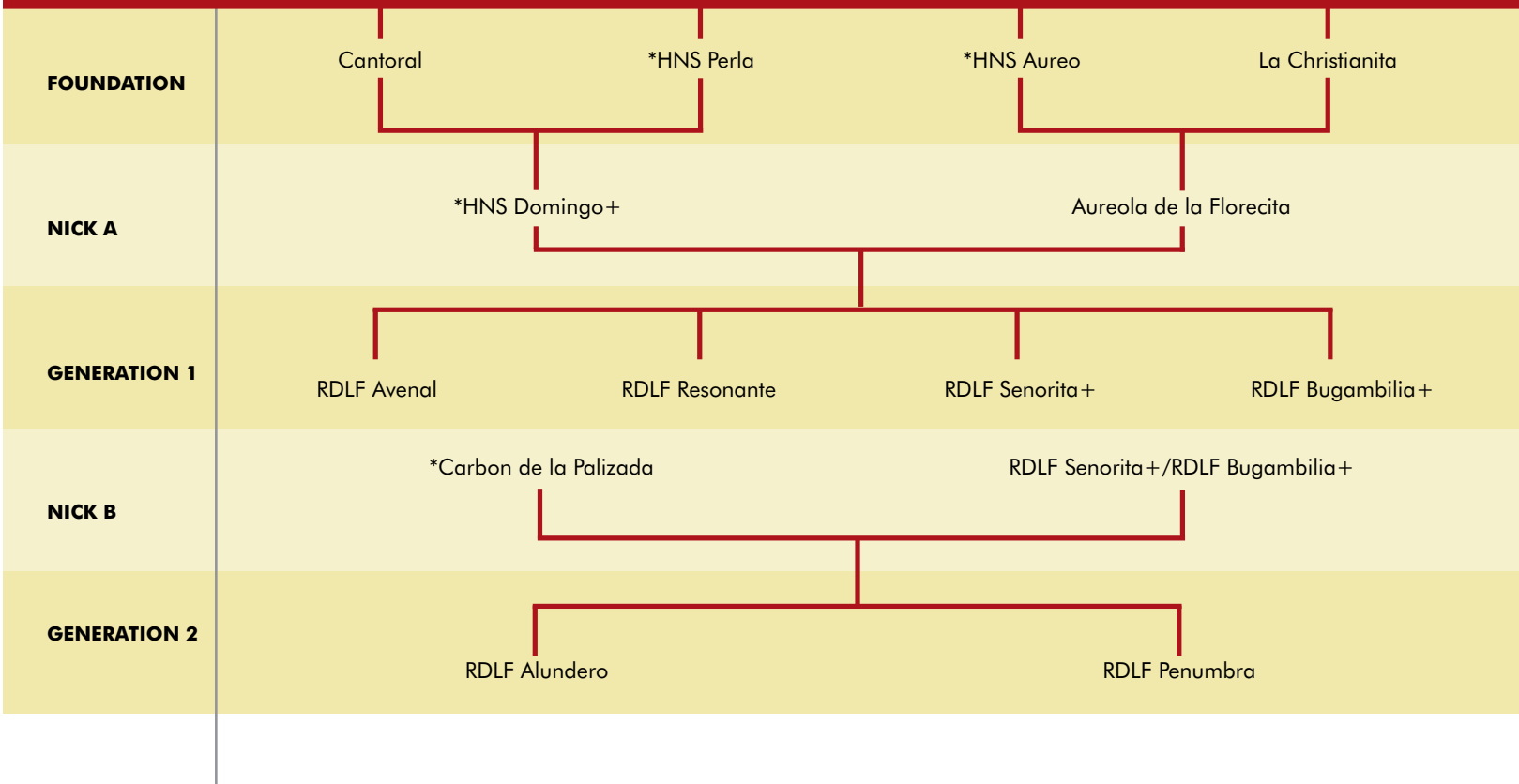
you. We feel we have achieved our requirements in our nick horses – and in most of our stock. We imported \*Carbon de la Palizada from Jose Antonio Otero in Peru in 1997 as an outcross for our mares. \*Carbon was totally different from our horses. This has been extremely successful. We achieved what we thought our mares needed – more bone and a lower tail set. The cross also enhanced the gait, brío and strength in our breeding program. We are now breeding our \*Carbon daughters and sons back to our original \*Domingo+ and \*Mantequilla bloodlines most successfully.

I cannot say strongly enough that if you get a mediocre foal from the mating of two horses, don’t do it again! People tend to do this especially if they own both the stallion and the mare. They think, “Maybe next time.” Don’t do it or you will have a ranch full of poor horses. If a breeding doesn’t work, it doesn’t work. Pull yourself together, go onward and try another cross. If you do your homework, you will find the cross that will work for you. TPC

# NICK BREEDING

Looking at multiple generations is important when creating a nick. Here are two examples of closely related nicks discussed herein.

## NICK 1



## NICK 2

