

# The Bertaiola Lidia's

## Beautiful type, high genomics and... different bloodlines!

In this Hotspots we dive into the Bertaiola Lidia's. A well performing and respected deep Italian cow family, known for their stunning type and awesome udders. Thanks to high genomics and an outcross pedigree the Lidia's came to bloom in the Netherlands. "Ideal cows for the modern dairy breeder."

"It was in 1986, I think we were 16 or 17 years old. We just started to get passion for show cows and knew a bit about type and genetics. Our father gave us a free hand in buying Ronchi Mars Pamela at a sale. She was one of our first show type cows in the herd." Guiseppe Beltramoni can still remember how he and his family came into the Bertaiola Lidia's. "She was about 1000 euro more expensive than the average on that sale, but it was worth every cent." Pamela was for the Beltramino's the start of breeding their own strong cow family with high 'farmers satisfaction' that came -thanks to high genomics- in the picture of all major AI-centers in the world. The first feat of arms: Mincio, sired by Bolton, the number 14 in Italy with 2.92 for type and more than 4.0 for udders. And there is much more to come.

### Eyecatchers in the barn

Pamela was without a doubt a good catch. She scored 91 for type and was for a long period the eyecatcher in the barn. "She had the peak in her career in 1988 when she became reserve grand champion on our regional show", Guiseppe remembers. "The grand champion at that show was Alpag Chief Millymilk, the mother of Boss Iron." The Semenzoo sireanalyst laughs. "He is the bull that played a key role in

the further development of the Lidia's."

In combination with Inspiration, Pamela delivered Pamy who scored VG 85. "She lost one quarter and never could become excellent, but in potential she had huge show talent." The best thing Pamy did was to give birth to Mark Susanne, sired by Chief Mark. "She became grand champion on our provincial show and was nominated to represent Italy on the European show in 2002 in Brussels", tells Guiseppe about the VG 89 cow. What else could you wish for in a cowfamily? Guiseppe knows the answer: Bel Astre Unforgettable, the daughter of Mark Susanne. "The Astre was also an extreme producer. For a long time she was by far the best in our barn for production in milk and protein."

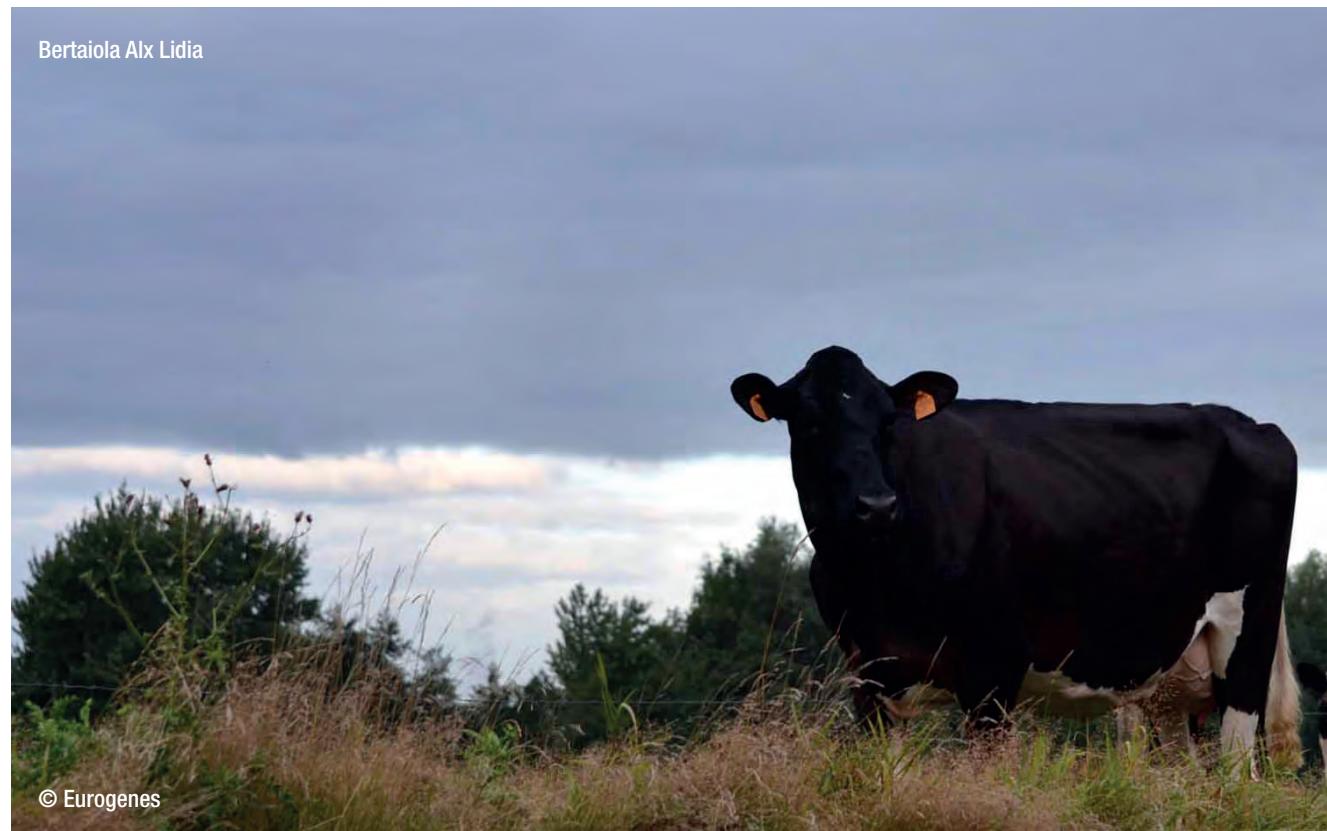
### *A hot cow family was born, thanks to the high genomics and the outcross pedigree*

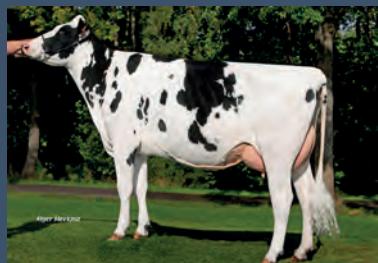
With EX-91she also continued the tradition of high type. "Her udder was tremendous", Guiseppe remembers. "On shows she always won the prices for best udder." Unforgettable was flushed several times, among others with Mtoto. It resulted in Bel Mtoto Elisa VG-85, the mother of the excellent Bel Iron Irene EX-90. Irene has 5 sons in AI, under which 2 Bolton sons, one of them is Mincio.

### Cow for modern breeders

Mincio can be found in the Semenzoo barns and is one of the best Bolton sons worldwide. "An easy to sell bull", describes Semenzoo

Bertaiola Alx Lidia





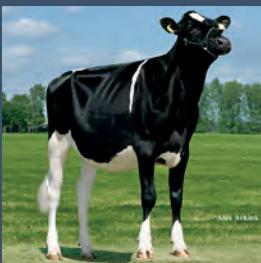
**Ven Dairy Lidia 4 VG-86-NL 2yr.**  
One of the most popular Snowman dtrs



**Bertaiola Bolton Lidia VG-86-NL 2yr.**  
Tremendous foundation for the next generation



**Bertaiola Mincio**  
Tremendous type & udder bull



**RZH Snowman Lynn**  
Snowman x Alexander - offspring with huge numbers

sireanalyst Giuseppe Mincio "If I show customers 15 to 20 Mincio daughters, they are convinced of his qualities. He is extremely consistent." Beltramino notices that the Bolton son with 2049 PFT was selected before the genomics era. "He was selected on his pedigree index, and specially because of the quality of his cow family."

The breeding power of the Lidia's is extremely recognizable in Mincio's offspring. "He is siring the kind of cows modern breeders are looking for", experiences Beltramino. "Wide, strong and long lasting cows with beautiful, beautiful udders." Mincio's are an example of dairy strength with wide rumps, wide rear udders and a wide front end. "Despite of that the cows have a very feminine head and a long smooth neck. Refine dairy character with enough strength and average size. The ideal cow, with not to extreme production, for the commercial breeder."

## Mincio's sisters

In the time Bolton became popular the AI's were searching for the best daughters. Jan de Vries of Diamond Genetics was on holiday in Italy and -off course- spent a few days seeing cows. "Bolton was used

**Giuseppe Beltramino**  
**"The genomics confirmed what we already knew about the cow family"**

a lot in Italy and especially on the better cows." When he visited the Bertaiola farm and saw the heifer sisters Lidia and Serena, both sired by Bolton, he was impressed. "They came from a deep cow family, had Mtoto and Boss Iron in the pedigree. That was rare at that time, while specially Boss Iron got more and more appreciated thanks to the high durability and lifetime production of his daughters in combination with strong type." But which of the two would be the best? "They were both different with their own qualities. Lidia was more luxury, longer with a beautiful dairy character. Serena was stronger, more solid and maybe had a bit better legs. It looked like she was going to be a better producer while Lidia had more style. I just couldn't choose."

Remember, it was just before the genomic era. Jan knew that the heifer with the highest genomics would become most popular. But he didn't have the time to test the genomics, the heifers were about to calve and he had to make a decision. "What if I choose the wrong one? I decided to take them both." So both Lidia and Serena came to The Netherlands and moved to dairy farmer Jan van der Ven ("I couldn't choose either, so I took them both") and calved from heifercalves from Alexander.

## High genetics

Unavoidable and fortunately, the heifers (both VG 86) and their offspring had to submit to a genomic test. It was good news: both Boltons scored high, although Lidia had better numbers than Serena and she had the talent to bring it on to the next generation. Her

Alexander daughter -Bertaiola Alexander Lidia VG 87- was the #1 Alexander in Europe. A 'hot' cow family was born, thanks to the high genomics and the outcross pedigree. No Goldwyn, O Man or Shottle means a huge potential in making combinations for Lidia. One of the most impressive was with Snowman. Ven Dairy Lidia 4 (s. Snowman) was sold for € 40.000 to Ponderosa and Diamond Genetics. As a heifer she came back to the Netherlands at Vekis Genetics for € 25.000. Embryo's from Lidia 4 even went to Japan, she has high scoring bulls

**Jan v.d. Ven**  
**"Could easily manage 200 of those Lidia's by myself"**

at the AI and her Fanatic daughter DG Lindsay was sold to Hul-Stein for € 22.000 at the Vente Drakker. Lidia 4 her success story keeps going on as her Meridian daughter DG Lizzy is the # 1 for GLPI, # 2 for TPI, #2 for RZG and #3gPFT of all Meridian daughters. In all these placings is her high score for udder remarkable, a family trait, Giuseppe would say.

And Alexander Lidia, already in her second lactation, makes her own interesting story. She has a Snowman daughter, RZH Lynn, who is about to calf this summer at Volmer Holsteins. Lynn already has sons at different AI's and Chevrolet daughters at Bouw Holsteins (2456 GTPI) and Anderstrup Holsteins (RZG 152). Her Willpower daughter is the highest Willpower with 160 RZG. With her red factor and polled Parma PP daughter at Oosterbrook Holsteins Alexander Lidia is filling a new chapter in the book of the Bertaiola Lidia's.

## Long lasting, easy handling

Although breeder Jan van der Ven sold a lot of Lidia's -'the highest ones'- he is happy milking some in his herd. "My breeding goal is hard working cows that produce easily and last long, the Lidia's cows fit in that picture. I could easily manage 200 of those Lidia's by myself." The 'old' Lidia left the farm after losing her calf to early. But Jan got her ovaries and made some embryo's thanks to IVF. "So we still have Chevrolet calves to come. I look forward to them." Serena has calved four times (and is again in calf of home bred sire Vendairy Wonder) and Jan mentions her as a potential excellent cow. "She has a beautiful frame, is complete with good feet and legs and a stunning udder. Bolton x Boss Iron is a golden cross. It's dairy type x power."

The success of the Bertaiola Lidia's is not a surprise to their founders. "The genomics confirmed what we already knew about the cow family", Giuseppe says and adds that they only have a few family members in the barn with AI interest. "We are paying more attention in our matings to indexes, but the base is that we like to breed a complete cow with great type and the ability to make a high lifetime production."

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