

MEET THE CONTENDERS

2026

SANTA ANITA DERBY

1



CHEROKEE NATION



TRNR: BOB BAFFERT

PRO: Light bulb went on when earning big fig for 10-length maiden win.

CON: Was overmatched in two prior Derby prep attempts.

2



POTENTE



TRNR: BOB BAFFERT

PRO: Made swift advancement from sprint maiden win to San Felipe (G2) success.

CON: San Felipe field wasn't overly deep; regression possible.

3



VITRUVIAN MAN



TRNR: DOUG O'NEILL

PRO: Best form has been in his two previous starts on dirt.

CON: Unraced since December and faced softer in Kentucky.

4



ROBUSTA



TRNR: DOUG O'NEILL

PRO: Photo finish loss in San Felipe was highly unexpected; improving.

CON: Supporters likely to accept lowest price on him to date.

5



SO HAPPY



TRNR: MARK GLATT

PRO: San Vicente (G2) winner pressed fast pace in San Felipe before yielding.

CON: Might simply be more effective around one turn.

6



START THE RIDE



TRNR: DAN BLACKER

PRO: Stakes winner over this track, albeit versus California-breds.

CON: Made no impact in San Felipe despite brisk pace; likely not good enough.

7



INTREPIDO



TRNR: JEFF MULLINS

PRO: G1 winner at two and comeback in Robert B. Lewis (G3) was solid.

CON: Has not been as active of late as most of the field.