

WEDNESDAY, 03/04/24

R3 SALON-DE-PROVENCE [R-H]

C1 - PRIX DE LA COTE BLEUE - 1100m (a5f1/2) - TURF - Class 3 Race - Flat - EUR € 23,000

- 1. VIVRE LIBRE** - Ran on well to finish 2nd over 900m on debut at Lyon-Parilly on 17 March so should be better suited to this distance with the benefit of that experience
- 2. VHARQAM** - Elarqam colt to be ridden on debut Eddy Hardouin for trainer Brigitte Ré-Scandella. One to keep an eye on
- 3. PEPPONE CHOP** - Grégoire Legras rides this Gutaifan colt on debut for Manon Scandella-Lacaille. Best watched for now
- 4. AMORE MIA** - Didn't go unnoticed when finishing over 1000m on debut at Marseille-Borely on 20 March. Would've gained from that experience
- 5. SISSI IMPERATRICE** - Finished a promising 3rd on debut behind PASTISSE (6) over 1000m at Marseille-Borely on 20 March. Has a role to play
- 6. PASTISSE** - Showed pace on debut when finishing 2nd over 1000m at Marseille-Borely on 20 March. Can improve to go one better
- 7. BY SENSATION** - Christophe Escuder-trained Threat debutante to be ridden by Coralie Pacaut with the benefit of a 1,5kg allowance
- 8. AMERICADREAM** - Tony Piccone has been engaged to ride this Rémi Fradet-trained A Wukair filly on debut. Not taken lightly
- 9. PLACE PRINCIPALE** - Jérôme Andreu-trained Goken debutante with a speedy pedigree and from a family with an aptitude for soft ground. Antonio Orani rides

Summary: PASTISSE (6) finished a very promising 2nd on debut in the important Prix de Carqueiranne over 1000m and needn't improve a great deal to go one better in this opening event. VIVRE LIBRE (1) also caught the eye when finishing 2nd on his introduction over 900m and will be better suited to this extra 200m distance. Well-bred PLACE MAINPALE (9) shouldn't be underestimated on debut, along with SISSI IMPERATRICE (5) who didn't finish a long way adrift of the selection on debut at Marseille-Borely.

SELECTIONS

PASTISSE (6) - VIVRE LIBRE (1) - PLACE PRINCIPALE (9) - SISSI IMPERATRICE (5)

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C2 - PRIX DU JOURNAL "LE VEINARD" - 1100m (a5f1/2) - TURF - Handicap - Flat - EUR € 20,000

1. EMBRACE ADVERSITY - Inconsistent but versatile/capable performer. Won a 1500m PSF handicap at Marseille-Vivaux on 14 March but carries a 3kg penalty for that success, so has more to do back on turf off a career-high mark

2. JOJO JUNIOR - Debut winner over 1200m at Bordeaux-Le Bouscat in May 2023 and has remained consistent/competitive since. On handicap debut after finishing 2nd in a 1200m Class 1 conditions race at Toulouse on 11 March

3. MANGAKEN - Improved with each of five starts last year to open his account at Toulouse over 1200m and has acquitted himself well in both comeback outings on heavy ground. Finished 5th over that track and trip on 11 March

4. ZEPLACETOBÉ - Distance-suited unexposed filly who ran well in 3 starts on the turf last year before blotting her copybook in a 1400m PSF handicap at Chantilly on 21 November. Absent since but open to improvement on her return

5. BELLAELO - Consistent and versatile filly with references in handicap races on both surfaces. Finished 4th in a handicap (13th) and 3rd in a conditions race (27th) on very heavy ground over 1200m at Marseille-Borely in February

6. PRETTY BERRY - Has run well in two handicaps on both surfaces this year - finished 2nd over 1200m on very heavy ground back in February (Marseille-Borely) and was 4th over 1500m on PSF on 14 March at Marseille-Vivaux

7. HOUBI - Finished a 5th in the 1500m PSF handicap won by EMBRACE ADVERSITY (1) at Marseille-Vivaux on 14 March but is weighted to turn the tables on 3kg better terms

8. REVANCHE - Has improved in her two most recent outings, winning over this distance on heavy ground at Angoulême on 3 March before finishing 2nd in a 1200m claimer at Fontainebleau on 25 March. More needed

9. FACINATRICE - Placed once in five appearances and that was over 2000m at Marseille-Borely in October. Significantly back in trip for her handicap debut, having finished 8th over 1500m on the PSF at Marseille-Vivaux on 23 March

Summary: Having won and finished 2nd in two competitive conditions races this year, JOJO JUNIOR (2) is good value to make a winning handicap debut here. PRETTY BERRY (6), reverts to the turf in receipt of 6,5kg from the selection rival, so should pose a threat. BELLAELO (5) arrives in good form with proven references in sprint handicaps on both surfaces and is likely to be competitive too. Returning ZEPLACETOBÉ (4) completes the shortlist.

SELECTIONS

JOJO JUNIOR (2) - PRETTY BERRY (6) - BELLAELO (5) - ZEPLACETOBÉ (4)

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C3 - PRIX DU CENTRE D'ENTRAINEMENT DE CALAS - 2000m (a1m1/4) - TURF - Newcomers Race - Flat - EUR € 21,000

- 1. AL MUZAFFAR** - Yoann Bonnefoy-trained Almanzor colt to be ridden on debut by Thomas Trullier. Not to be underestimated
- 2. PIERREPONT** - French Fifteen gelding from the stable of Nicolas Perret, who has engaged Sylvain Ruis to ride. One to note
- 3. COMTE DE LA ROSE** - Machucambo gelding closely related to Back to Black, who placed at Listed level for the same connections. Anthony Crastus rides for Fabrice Vermeulen
- 4. KINGSALE** - Well-related Siyouni colt whose full-sister Dream and Do won the Group I Poule d'Essai des Pouliches. Aurélien Lemaitre rides for Fabrice Vermeulen
- 5. KIWICAT** - Eddy Hardouin rides this Whipper colt on debut for trainer Brigitte Ré-Scandella. One to keep an eye on
- 6. COMME QUOI** - Well-bred Mastercraftsman gelding to be ridden on debut by Antonio Orani for Jérôme Reynier, whose yard has been in good form this season. Warrants serious respect
- 7. VINO** - Yoann Bonnefoy-trained Herald The Dawn debutante to be ridden by Marvin Grandin. Just watch for now
- 8. ROAD TO ESCONDIDO** - Highly regarded Shalaa debutante related to Group III Prix Pénélope winner Cartiem (2019). Jean-Bernard Eyquem rides for Jean-Claude Rouget
- 9. NEVER LEAVE** - Reoletos filly owned and trained by Manon Scandella-Lacaille who has engaged Marina Brunelli to ride, with the aid of a 3,5kg allowance

Summary: This has the makings of a potential Rouget-Reynier rivalry being renewed. The former's well-related ROAD TO ESCONDIDO (8) is only marginally preferred to the latter's COMME QUOI (6), whose dam has already produced several well-performed runners. Fabrice Vermeulen has two strings to his bow, with KINGSALE (4), the full-brother to Group I winner Dream And Do, as well as COMTE DE LA ROSE (3), who is closely related to the stable's Listed-placed Back To Black, and both runners are likely to acquit themselves competitively debut too.

SELECTIONS

ROAD TO ESCONDIDO (8) - COMME QUOI (6) - KINGSALE (4) - COMTE DE LA ROSE (3)

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C4 - PRIX DE LA SOCIETE DES COURSES DE SALON-DE-PROVENCE - 2000m (a1m1/4) - TURF - Class 2 Race - Flat - EUR € 22,000

1. PASSEPARTOUT - Consistent colt who improved with each of three starts last year to open his account at Tarbes over 1500m. Has regained momentum with 2 pleasing comeback efforts - was 4th over 2150m at Cagnes on 17 February

2. EDOARDO - Improving last-start winner who showed an aptitude for heavy ground by opening his account over 2100m at Toulouse on 4 March in his first start on turf. Could have more to offer

3. ROLLERCOASTER - Debut winner over 2150m on the PSF at Lyon-La Soie on 15 March. Open to any amount of improvement with the benefit of that experience

4. TASHANKA - Revealed considerable means as a two-year-old last season and has remained consistent/competitive ever since. Finished 6th on a 1500m handicap on heavy ground at Cagnes on 26 February - not taken lightly

5. ARIGATO - Consistent and versatile performer whose greater experience should stand him in good stead. Finished 2nd in a 2000m Class 1 conditions race at Marseille-Borely on March, so cannot be underestimated

6. CITY GIRL - Finished 2nd to an exciting prospect (colt) in the Class 1 Prix Policeman over 2150m at Cagnes-sur-Mer on 17 February. Has leading claims

7. DARLING DARLING - Highly regarded filly as a two-year-old. Made no impression in a 1600m Listed race on very heavy ground at Saint-Cloud on her reappearance (16 March) but is capable of better - blinkers fitted for the first time

Summary: DARLING DARLING (7) outclassed in a Listed race on very heavy ground at Saint-Cloud on her reappearance but will fare better at this level with improved fitness on her side and first-time blinkers fitted. She gets the nod here ahead of CITY GIRL (6), who is more effective on turf than on PSF, and PASSEPARTOUT (1) who was probably stretched by the 2150m in a Class 1 at Cagnes last time. The latter's stable companion EDOARDO (2) ought to remain competitive after a last-start success on heavy ground at Toulouse in his first outing on turf.

SELECTIONS

DARLING DARLING (7) - CITY GIRL (6) - PASSEPARTOUT (1) - EDOARDO (2)

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**C5 - PRIX D'EYGUIERES - 2400m (a1m1/2) - TURF - Maiden Race - Flat -
EUR € 21,000**

1. LEGEND RACE - Was more than 8 lengths adrift of IL CAPO (2) when only 7th of 10 runners on debut at Nîmes over 1900m on 18 February. Needs to improve, so best watched for now

2. IL CAPO - Runner-up on debut over 1900m on yielding ground at Nîmes but disappointing, although not disgraced, when only 5th over 2600m on PSF at Marseille-Vivau on 14 March - finished 5 lengths behind GALIGERA (6)

3. LAVENDIN - Finished 6th of 7 runners on debut at Marseille-Borely over 2000m on 20 March, although wasn't beaten far despite a slow start. Would have gained plenty with the benefit of that experience - improvement expected

4. MARIUS CHOP - Made no impression on debut when finishing a well-beaten 8th of 11 runners over 2100m on heavy ground at Toulouse on 11 March. Improvement needed

5. LUNA ROCK - Caught the eye when finishing 3rd on debut over 2150m at Cagnes in February and confirmed that promise with a staying-on 3rd at Toulouse over 2100m on 4 March (both on heavy ground). Will enjoy trip (2400m)

6. GALIGERA - Runner-up on debut over 2600m on PSF but failed to confirm that promise when only 8th of 9 runners over this distance on heavy ground at Saint-Cloud on 26 March. Supplemented to run here, so better is expected

7. AMERICAN GLORY - Unplaced in both starts but over shorter distances but open to improvement over this extended trip - 7th of 12 on PSF over 2000m on debut; and 6th of 12 over 1800m (very heavy) at Marseille-Borely on 27 February

Summary: LUNA ROCK (5) has shown promise in both outings and, with improvement expected over this extended trip, seems capable of opening her account. GALIGERA (6) failed to confirm the promise of her debut 2nd on the PSF when finishing 8th over this trip on heavy ground at Saint-Cloud last time but cannot be written off just yet and could bounce back to pose a threat. LAVENDIN (3) made a pleasing introduction, despite a tardy start, and would've gained from that experience, so could make his presence felt, along with IL CAPO (2) who has also shown enough to be competitive for the places.

SELECTIONS

LUNA ROCK (5) - GALIGERA (6) - LAVENDIN (3) - IL CAPO (2)

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C6 - PRIX D'ARLES - 1800m (a1m1/8) - TURF - Maiden Race - Flat - EUR € 21,000

1. UPSIDE DOWN - Made an encouraging introduction last year, when finishing 5th over 1600m at Bordeaux on 17 September. Open to any amount of improvement on his reappearance

2. BRUANT - Improved with the experience of a pleasing (5th) introduction to finish 2nd over 1600m on heavy ground at Toulouse on 4 March. Further progress expected

3. MAITRE DU JEU - Consistent colt with sound references/form credentials to play a leading role in a race of this nature. Didn't go unnoticed when finishing 3rd over 1500m on PSF at Marseille-Vivaux on 14 March

4. HOUSTON STREET - Finished 3rd on debut over 1800m on PSF at Lyon-La Soie in October. Confirmed that promise by finishing 3rd over 2000m on the PSF at Marseille-Vivaux on 14 March

5. NADYROSE - Wasn't disgraced when finishing 6th on debut over 2000m on the turf at Marseille-Borély on 20 March. Will have benefited from that experience

6. FEET OF FEAR - Highly regarded filly with a Group I Prix de Diane entry. Confirmed her reputation by finishing 2nd on debut over 1500m at Tarbes on 23 September - would have improved appreciably over the winter, one to follow

7. SISTERLAND - Acquitted herself well on debut, despite stumbling badly (her rider narrowly avoided falling), to finish 5th over 2000m at Marseille-Borely on 20 March. Ought to be a lot better than that bare form suggests

Summary: FEET OF FEAR (6) made a good impression when finishing 2nd on debut last year to a filly who placed in a Listed race. It could pay to follow her progress, with improvement expected on her reappearance, although she will be tested by SISTERLAND (7) who was unlucky not to have achieved a better result on her introduction (5th) at Marseille-Borély. BRUANT (2) caught the eye when finishing an improved 2nd last time and also seems capable of building on that progress to play another leading role. The shortlist is completed by MAITRE DU JEU (3) who has the form and experience to make his presence felt too.

SELECTIONS

FEET OF FEAR (6) - SISTERLAND (7) - BRUANT (2) - MAITRE DU JEU (3)

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C7 - PRIX CHRISTIAN FORNAROLI - 1800m (a1m1/8) - TURF - Class 3 Handicap - Flat - EUR € 20,000

- 1. MAMAMOUCHI** - Consistent last year but has struggled (unplaced) in all 4 starts this term - dropped in the weights/ratings as a result, so will resurface sooner rather than later - 8th in 1800m PSF handicap at Lyon-La Soie on 24 March
- 2. JOH SPIRIT** - Won a 1600m handicap on heavy ground at Lyon-Parilly in November but has struggled (finished unplaced) in four subsequent outings. Dropped 1kg after finishing 7th in a 2000m handicap at Lyon-Parilly (17 March)
- 3. RIO D'OCTOBRE** - Capable but unreliable handicapper who went off the boil late last year. Absent since finishing 10th in a 2000m handicap on heavy ground at Marseille-Borely on 12 November
- 4. LEPARD** - Caught the eye when improving with first-time blinkers to finish 2nd in a 1600m handicap on heavy ground at Fontainebleau on 2 March. Winning chance
- 5. POP LIFE** - Last-start winner of a 2000m PSF handicap at Marseille-Vivzux on 14 March. Has more to do now under her 3kg penalty
- 6. BLANC BLEU** - Consistent handicapper with sound form references off his current mark, including a good 5th in a Quinte+ over 2000m on heavy ground (February) as well as a last-start 2nd in a 1500m PSF handicap on 14 March
- 7. ETERNEL** - Hard-knocking handicapper with sufficient means to stake a claim in a race of this nature, after a last-start 5th on a 1500m handicap on very heavy ground at Cagnes on 26 February. Place chance
- 8. DAMASK BLADE** - Consistent, lightly raced veteran handicapper with proven references/competitiveness off his current mark on both surfaces. Held his own (5th) in an 1800m PSF handicap at Lyon-La Soie on 24 March
- 9. PRINCESS ZIZOU** - Debut winner over 2000m on PSF at Marseille-Vivieux in December 2022 but has lost her way since. Hasn't been seen since finishing 7th in a 2000m PSF handicap at Marseille-Vivieux on 4 January - dropped 1kg
- 10. LEPTI PRINSADI** - Out of sorts but has dropped to a dangerous lowly mark and confirmed as much with a reassuring 3rd in a 2500m conditions race at Hyères on 16 March. Keep safe
- 11. KENZAL** - Went off the boil in the second half of 2023 but has dropped in the weights/ratings and didn't go unnoticed in 3 handicaps earlier this year. Has to reaffirm after a disappointing 9th (2000m PSF) on 27 February
- 12. THREE DREAMS** - Consistent and versatile handicapper with sound references on both surfaces. Shown form and well-being on PSF recently, finished 3rd over 1800m at Lyon-La Soie on 24 March. Should have a role to play on turf

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Summary: LEPARD (4) made encouragement improvement with first-time headgear fitted to finish 2nd in a 1600m handicap at this level on heavy ground last month, so need only produce a similar performance (with blinkers unsurprisingly retained) to reconnect with success. THREE DREAMS (12) lines up in good form and physical condition with the benefit of starting from stall No 1, and is likely to pose/emerge as the biggest threat. DAMASK BLADE (8) has maintained a consistent/competitive level on PSF lately and ought to acquit himself well once more reverting to the turf. LEPTI PRINSADI (10) completes the shortlist and could have a role to play if confirming the improvement of his latest outing.

SELECTIONS

LEPARD (4) - THREE DREAMS (12) - DAMASK BLADE (8) - LEPTI PRINSADI (10)

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C8 - PRIX DE MIRAMAS - 2400m (a1m1/2) - TURF - Class 3 Handicap - Flat - EUR € 20,000

- 1. LAOS** - Boasts a victory and a 2nd from three course-and-distance appearances. Didn't go unnoticed when 5th in a 2600m PSF handicap at Marseille-Vivux on 14 March - keep safe
- 2. LA SAUZEE** - Completed a hat-trick of PSF handicap victories in January and proved her competitiveness off her current mark (4kg penalty) by finishing 3rd in a 2000m PSF claimer at Cagnes on 19 February. Will be a factor
- 3. A BETTER WORLD** - Improved with the benefit of a comeback run under his belt to win a 2400m handicap on heavy ground at Toulouse on 11 March. Ought to remain competitive under a 2,5kg penalty
- 4. DIANE'S STAR** - Unexposed over this distance, having only raced up to 2150m (in a Chantilly Quinte+ on PSF). Showed form and well-being recently by finishing 6th in consecutive PSF handicaps, latest at Marseille-Vivux (14 March)
- 5. BAILEYS ECLAIR** - Consistent for the most part and caught the eye when bouncing back from a Quinte+ failure (10th) to finish 2nd in a 2600m PSF handicap at Marseille-Vivux on 14 March. Dark horse
- 6. ISLA DEL SOL** - Bounced back to form after a Quinte+ failure (12th) over 2150m at Cagnes in January with a reassuring 3rd in a 2100m PSF handicap at Chantilly on 1 March. Needs to confirm that form/improvement to have a say
- 7. JOEY UP** - Resurgent veteran who finished a reassuring 2nd in a 2500m conditions race at Hyères on 16 March. Back in a handicap with a legitimate winning chance
- 8. KAYRAT** - Won a 3200m PSF handicap in January and proved his competitiveness under a 2kg penalty by winning a 2600m PSF handicap at Marseille-Vivux on 14 March. Has to defy another 3kg penalty to be competitive
- 9. AIXELLENCÉ** - Consistent for the most part and seldom finishes far off the mark. Needs to improve off a 1kg reduced mark to have a say, having only finished 7th over 2150m in a handicap on heavy ground at Cagnes on 29 January
- 10. MOZART DES BRIERES** - Has regained momentum recently back on the flat, finishing 3rd in consecutive conditions races - the latest over 3000m at Saint-Cloud on 12 March. Outsider on his return to the handicaps off this mark
- 11. DOWN TOWN** - Won a 2400m handicap at Bordeaux in October but struggled (10th) under a resultant penalty in her only subsequent outing over 2400m at Toulouse on 11 November. Best watched for now

Summary: JOEY UP (7) returned to form with a reassuring 2nd over 2500m at Hyères and is making an ambitious return to the handicaps. He could be worth siding with here on the evidence of that recent improvement and is given the nod ahead of LA SAUZEE (2), who has been completely transformed this year on the PSF and seems capable of replicating that form reverting to turf. LAOS (1) has been inconsistent for some time now but has references at a higher level and returns to a track he enjoys off a reduced mark, so also has a role to play. DIANE'S STAR (4) will be competitive for a place on the podium.

SELECTIONS

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JOEY UP (7) - LA SAUZEE (2) - LAOS (1) - DIANE'S STAR (4)