



## DAMON IN DEAUVILLE

Damon Gabbedy is at the Arqana Deauville August Yearling Sale



We have had such a gloomy cold winter in Melbourne, I was looking forward to getting on that plane and heading towards the European summer.

### Monday 9th August

I was lucky enough to get the brand new A380 from Melbourne all the way through to London and it was very smooth and quite an easy flight indeed.

I caught the train from Paris to Deauville, about a 2 hour journey and arrived in sunny Deauville on Tuesday.

### Tuesday 10th August

Deauville is abuzz and very busy with Parisian holiday makers getting out of Paris and heading to this beautiful seaside village for their summer vacation.

Deauville itself is a gorgeous town where you can walk everywhere; the hotels, restaurants, racecourse and sales ground are all within a 20 minute walk of each other.

On my first night I joined Olivier Delloye, Eric Hoyeau and Bernard Salvant from Arqana for dinner along with Paul McCartan of Croom House Stud in Ireland who bred Zoffany (Dansili), a Group 1 winning two-year-old this year. He offers three lots this week at the sale.

Dinner was at Le Comptoir et la Table where I enjoyed some delicious seafood: St Jacques followed by grilled sole. I thought I would start healthily at least!

### Wednesday 11th August

Wednesday was a full day of inspections in the brilliant Deauville sunshine. The yearlings are a little different to what we are used to in Australia. Overall, they are leaner and have less bone. They are however presented in magnificent order.

I was impressed by the Ecurie des Monceaux draft who have 18 yearlings under the care of Henri Bozo, who spent time at Arrowfield. They have a gorgeous filly, lot 77; a filly by Galileo who is a half-sister to a stakes winner. Their draft includes yearlings by Monsun, Street Cry, Dubawi, Holy Roman Emperor and Teofilo.

On Wednesday evening I had a fun dinner with Angus Gold, Kate Whitehouse (from Shadwell), Tania Henry-May and her sister at Le Garage. We enjoyed a lot of Chablis and had a lot of laughs.

### Thursday 12th August

Philippa Duncan from Sydney arrived on Thursday morning and we spent the day looking at more yearlings. French breeders Haras d'Etreham and Haras des Capucines have big drafts with something for everyone. The inspections were very busy today and there is a very big Irish contingent as well as the leading English agents. I bumped into French trainers Pascal Bary and Freddy Head who were casting their eyes over several lots.

I am just about to suit and tie up and head off to HH The Aga Khan Studs for a gala soiree to celebrate 50 years of racing and breeding success for HH The Aga Khan. I can't wait!

## FOXBRIDGE PLATE (Gr 3)

\$70,000, Te Rapa 2:10pm (NZ), 1200m.

- BULGINBAH** 7 58.5kg  
b g 10 Starjo (NZ) - Lady Tristimus (NZ) (Tristimus (NZ))
- RED RULER** 16 58.5kg  
b g 6 Viking Ruler - Ransom Bay (USA) (Red Ransom (USA))
- JACOWILS** 11 58.5kg  
gr g 8 Diamond Express (NZ) - Patch My Eye (Purple Patch (NZ))
- RUN LIKE AL** 13 58.5kg  
br g 6 Al Akbar - Night Mare (NZ) (Mercury)
- VONUSTI** 4 58.5kg  
br g 6 Ustinov - Reasonably (Sound Reason (CAN))
- STUPENDOUS** 12 58.5kg  
b g 6 Pentire (GB) - Flying Catalina (NZ) (Pre Catelan)
- WHO KNOWS** 3 58.5kg  
b g 9 Cape Cross (IRE) - Ricamo (NZ) (Kaaestad (NZ))
- SALVATORE** 17 58.5kg  
b g 6 Howbaddouwantit (USA) - Just Berceuse (NZ) (Oregon (USA))
- ALL IN TEMPO** 1 58.5kg  
b g 5 Shinko King (IRE) - All In Tune (NZ) (Grosvenor (NZ))
- IRISH COLLEEN** 8 56.5kg  
b m 6 Shinko King (IRE) - Fayette (NZ) (Grosvenor (NZ))
- BEAUTIFUL GIRL** 14 56.5kg  
br m 7 Black Minnaloushe (USA) - Piccadilly Lily (NZ) (Rubiton)
- MISS RAGGEDY ANN** 6 56.5kg  
b m 5 Faltaat (USA) - Miss Pollyanna (NZ) (Gold Brose)
- KATIE LEE** 2 56.5kg  
gr m 4 Pins - Miss Jessie Jay (NZ) (Spectacularphantom (USA))
- ST GERMAINE** 10 56.5kg  
b m 4 Keeper - Selenium (NZ) (Straight Strike (USA))
- LION TAMER** 9 51.5kg  
b c 3 Storming Home (GB) - Lioness (NZ) (Generous (IRE))
- CHIMICHANGAS** 15 58.5kg  
b g 8 Pins - Chillies (NZ) (Wild Rampage))
- LAMINGTON VEGAS** 5 56.5kg  
br m 4 Elusive City (USA) - Piece Of Cake (Snippets)

## VAIN STAKES (Listed)

\$100,000, Caulfield 1:25pm (Vic), 3yo CG, 1100m.

- STAR WITNESS** 6 57.5kg  
ch c 3 Starcraft (NZ) - Leone Chiara (Lion Hunter)
- TOORAK TOFF** 10 57.5kg  
ch c 3 Show a Heart - Orong (Grand Lodge (USA))
- MARMAA** 3 56.5kg  
b/br c 3 General Nediym - Lady Jaguar (Last Tycoon (IRE))
- GENERAL TRUCE** 2 56.5kg  
b g 3 Brief Truce (USA) - General Resolve (General Nediym)
- SHRAPNEL** 4 56.5kg  
br c 3 Charge Forward - Fragmentation (Snippets)
- MASTER HARRY** 7 56.5kg  
ch c 3 Magic Albert - Sri Lanka (Sri Pekan (USA))
- BREITLING** 11 55kg  
b c 3 Lonhro - Spring Flyte (Flying Spur)
- SOUL** 1 55kg  
b g 3 Commands - Marvilha (Night Shift (USA))
- ULUNDI** 5 54kg  
b c 3 Helenus - Willow (Woodman (USA))
- ZAEEM** 9 54kg  
ch g 3 Magic Albert - Falconby (Last Tycoon (IRE))
- THOU SHALL CONQUER** 8 54kg  
b/br g 3 Elvstroem - Just Dance On (Amen Brother (USA))

## QUEZETTE STAKES (Listed)

\$100,000, Caulfield 2:00pm (Vic), 3yo F, 1100m.

- CRYSTAL LILY** 12 57.5kg  
b f 3 Stratum - Crystal Snip (Snippets)
- SHAAHEQ** 8 56.5kg  
b f 3 Redoute's Choice - Damaschino (Last Tycoon (IRE))





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APRH

There was something quite magical about going to HH The Aga Khan Stud's party on Thursday evening to celebrate 50 years of his racing and breeding success. The 500 or so guests were entertained in a marquee that was exquisitely decorated and looked simply stunning - there was no detail that had not been thought about. It will be an evening that I always remember; guests enjoyed a never ending supply of champagne, lobster and beef. Needless to say I pigged out. It is not often that a boy from Perth gets the opportunity to dine on HH The Aga Khan's Hermes china.

The surprise of the evening came when the music came to a crescendo and a truly magnificent grey horse galloped through the crowd within the marquee. Trained by world renowned stunt performer Mario Luraschi, the crowd watched in complete awe as Mario sat onboard his dancing mount. The show continued with medieval jousting.

That night I rolled into bed thinking back over the fantastic evening HH The Aga Khan had put on for his guests.

On Friday morning I arose to yet another sunny morning in Deauville and took a walk through the markets and over the bridge into Trouville where of all the people I bumped into Corey Brown. Corey is here to represent Australia in the jockey's challenge which is being held here in Deauville over the weekend, so I will

let you know how Australia does tomorrow.

With the start of the sale drawing closer, I made a few final inspections back at the sales ground before walking up the hill to the Villa Strassburger where Arqana were holding their annual drinks reception to celebrate the start of the sale.

Fellow Australians Peter Maher, Terry Henderson and Phillipa Duncan and myself enjoyed the shrimps, foie gras in calvados and yet more champagne on offer at the Villa Strassburger. The house itself is situated next to Arqana's sales ground and was built at the turn of the twentieth century in the timbered style that is so famous here in Normandy. It is a perfect setting for a drinks reception.

Before we all knew it the start of the sale was upon us. The first session saw a top lot of €600,000 being sold to British-based bloodstock agent Charlie Gordon-Watson. As has been seen at many other sales around the world over the last few years, the market was very strong for the horses that had a number of perspective buyers, however, it showed that without both Maktoum brothers active it is a very fragile market.

Although I was not active myself in the first session the Hong Kong Jockey Club have a strong contingent here this year with Winfred Engelbrecht-Bresges, Mark Player and Mark Richards, who purchased a very athletic colt by Cape Cross (lot 2) for €155,000.

In my third year here now, I am becoming far more accustomed to the style of the selling. The majority of the auction is in French, but can easily be followed; even by a boy from down under. Some fantastic opportunities remain here for Australian clients to buy good quality outcross fillies giving them access to European pedigrees which only become harder to buy as a racehorse or mare.

When the sales had finished and after a quick costume change, I went off to L'Essential with Peter Maher, Michael O'Hagan (Irish Thoroughbred Marketing), Laurent Benoit (Broadhurst Agency) and Mark Player. I thought that my weeks of French tutorials had been working a treat. However, after ordering what I thought was Seabass, a pigs cheek arrived. I had better continue working at those lessons!

## SALES NEWS DAY TWO AT DEAUVILLE

The second day of the Arqana August Yearling Sale in Deauville on Saturday evening saw figures recover from Friday but was still down slightly on 2009. The €7,854,000 achieved for 64 horses sold fell by 15 per cent on the €9,235,000 for 76 horses last year, but the average rose by 1 per cent compared to the same day in 2009 and the median of €100,000 was unchanged.

Topping the session was lot 130, a chestnut filly from the first crop of Darley shuttle sire Teofilo consigned by Ecurie des Monceaux. The filly is a half-sister to the Prix du Jockey Club (Gr 1) winner Blue Canari, Listed winner Blue Ksar and Group-placed Crabapple, and sold to Sir Robert Ogden for €400,000.

The second highest priced lot of the day was lot 144, a chestnut colt by Shamardal consigned by Haras des Granges. The colt is a three-quarter brother to the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (Gr 1) third Shamalgan, and was the first purchase of the evening for John Ferguson, who secured the colt for €360,000 on behalf of Sheikh Mohammed.

Other feature lots included a daughter of Monsun out of a half-sister to dual Group 1 winner and Champion 2YO Rumplestiltskin from the immediate family of Kingmambo, who sold for €350,000 to Charlie Gordon-Watson from the consignment of Ecurie des Monceaux.

Meanwhile, agent Michael Goodbody purchased two lots who will race in France on behalf of Australian owners. Lot 129 is a colt by Montjeu out of the Group 3 winning mare Dancing Lady sold for €300,000 from the consignment of Haras des Sablonnets; and lot 119 is a son of Danehill Dancer who fetched €200,000 from Goodbody from the Coulonces Consignment.

### SALE STATISTICS - DAY 2

	2010	2009
<b>Offered:</b>	91	105
<b>Sold (%):</b>	64	76 (72%)
<b>Gross (€):</b>	7,854,000 (-14.9%)	9,235,000
<b>Average (€):</b>	122,719 (-1%)	121,513
<b>Median (€):</b>	100,000 (0%)	100,000





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APRH

Overnight the weather changed and Deauville has been drenched.

The annual Weatherbys & Racing Post luncheon is held at the Royal Barriere hotel which is rather handily placed across the road from the vast expanse of sand that is Deauville's beach. With the weather as it was however, there was no opportunity to enjoy the sea air and instead guests were entertained inside.

As with any party here in Deauville, or so it would seem, there was no shortage of champagne and foie gras. A buffet meant that no ordering was required and consequently there were no 'surprises on my plate'.

The weather put off a good number of potential race goers, however, a small shower or as it was in reality - a torrential downpour - was not going to scare me off and I walked down to the racecourse where we were treated to two Group races.

Fellow Australian Philippa Duncan noted how good it was that we were able to actually get close to the horses in both the pre-parade and parade rings. Back in Australia, even as an owner, you do not get the opportunity to get close to the horses.

Over here the FRBC gave us paddock/mounting enclosure passes and we were able to stand under the trees in the parade ring as the runners walked around us. No only do you feel part of the action, but you stand alongside the leading owners, breeders and trainers in Europe. Surely in Australia 'health and safety' has gone a little too far. I don't think I have read too many reports from Europe of owners being kicked, trodden on or flattened by their thoroughbreds in the parade ring. The AJC and VRC could really take a lesson from France Galop on this.

Arqana graduate and last year's Hong Kong Cup and 2008 French Derby winner Vision D'Etat won the Prix Contaut-Biron (Gr 3). In the next, Peinture Rare, by the immortal Sadler's Wells earned valuable black type when winning the Prix de Pomone (Gr 2) beating High Heeled (High Chaparral) and Burne The Breeze who is bred and owned by 'Lady T' who we all know from Bloomsbury Stud in New Zealand.

My punting prowess has reached international shores as I decided to follow Corey Brown in the Hermes Jockey's Challenge where my first three bets on French shores were a total wipe out. After a 'damp' afternoon at the races and the ruin of a rather fine suit, we returned to the sales ground where the evening session began. There was very lively trade in the ring. Australian interests were represented by Michael Goodbody, who bought a pair of colts by Montjeu and Danehill Dancer for €300,000 and €200,000 respectively on behalf of Paul Fudge of Warratagh Holdings. Both colts are set to remain in training in France.

At the end of the sale Angus Gold kindly invited 'the Australian's' - myself, Terry Henderson, Philippa Duncan, Peter Maher and the gorgeous Kate Brideoake; daughter of Melbourne trainer David who is studying law in Denmark (she clearly takes after her mother) to join him for dinner at 21, a rather good restaurant a mere stones throw from the sales. Angus assembled a truly international group with Diego and Dolores from South America who have a small farm of 19,000 hectares, the delightful Ariane from Chile and Newmarket's leading vet John McVeigh.

Not only is the food and wine in 21 some of the best on offer in Deauville but when the desert plates are cleared the music is cranked up, tables are pushed back and the dancing and singing begins. I did my best Robbie Williams impersonation where at 2.30 in the morning I really believed I could sing like him. My audience was less convinced. I think the music ground to a halt at half past something and I found my way back to the hotel by way of my Arqana bike. I have discovered that drinking and cycling is a dangerous combination and have the grazes to prove it.

I awoke on Sunday morning, stumbled over my bike which had somehow made its way to my room. The mini bar was open, empty of all food items and there was an axe in my head that had to be removed. Several strong coffees later, I am feeling human again and off to the most fantastic days racing to watch the wonder mare Goldikova attempt her 11th Group 1 win and enjoy a lunch courtesy of the Niarchos family's Haras de Fresnay-Le-Buffard.

Life is tough in Deauville, but it is surely one of the must do things for anyone involved in the bloodstock industry.

## INTERNATIONAL SALES NEWS DAY THREE AT DEAUVILLE

The third session of the Arqana August Yearling Sale at Deauville yesterday saw 66 of the 94 horses offered for sale change hands for a gross of €4,761,000, a figure down almost 20% on the same day in 2009. The average of €72,136 had decreased by 7.5% on last year, but the median rose by 8% to €65,000.

Topping Sunday's session was lot 294, a colt by Dubawi sold to Sylvain Vidal for €240,000. The colt is the first foal out of the Listed winner Samya from the family of Irish 2000 Guineas (Gr 1) third Soul City and New Zealand stakeswinner Oakfield, and was consigned by Ecurie des Monceaux. Other feature lots included a colt from the first crop of Dutch Art sold to Sir Robert Ogden for €180,000; and a daughter of Dubawi who fetched €140,000 from Francois Rohaut.

Lot 237 meanwhile provided Australian pinhooker Gary Mudgeway with a good return on the €38,000 he paid for the filly at the Arqana December Sale last year. The filly is by Coolmore shuttle sire High Chaparral out of a half-sister to the three-time Group 1 winner Crimplene, and sold to Sylvain Vidal for €130,000.

### SALE STATISTICS - DAY 3

	2010	2009
<b>Offered:</b>	94	104
<b>Sold (%):</b>	66 (70%)	76 (73%)
<b>Gross (€):</b>	4,761,000 (-19.7%)	5,929,000
<b>Average (€):</b>	72,136 (-7.5%)	78,013
<b>Median (€):</b>	65,000 (+8.3%)	60,000





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APRH

I can't quite believe that my time in Deauville this August is almost over. This is probably good news for my body as it will give me the opportunity to sleep and dry out before Arqana's December Breeding Stock sale rolls around all too quickly.

I was lucky enough to witness a fantastic days racing on Sunday. Before the racing began the Niarchos family's Haras De Fresnay-Le-Buffard were kind enough to entertain me for lunch. I was obviously not going to hold back; especially as my favourite champagne - Pol Roger - was the order of the day. Maria Niarchos herself was in attendance. I decided not to embarrass every Australian by attempting a conversation.

For once my focus was turned to the desert platter, which had the most amazing selection of macaroons, Norman tart and chocolate mousse.

The feature race of the card was the Haras De Fresnay-Le-Buffard sponsored Prix Jacques Le Marois (Gr 1) and the field included the wonder-mare Goldikova who was bidding to win her 11th Group 1 race. She received the most wonderful reception as she came into the parade ring and it was great to see the French crowd get behind their champion.

Goldikova, who would not have been suited by the rain soaked ground, ran a fantastic race to finish second to the English 2,000 Guineas winner Makfi. Previously trained in the UK by Marcus Tregoning, Makfi was sold for a mere 26,000gns in Newmarket last year. How a trainer was unaware that they had a classic winner in their string is slightly beyond me, however, the colt is now trained slightly more successfully in France by Mikel Delzangles. The English raider Paco Boy finished in third.

Back to the sales Sunday's sale session saw a very successful pinhooking operation from Gary Mudgway, as a filly by High Chaparral that he had purchased as a foal at Arqana's Breeding

Stock Sale last December sold for €120,000. The buyer was Frenchman Sylvain Vidal, acting on behalf of Gérard Augustin-Normand, who owns – and now stands at his Haras de la Cauvinière – last year's French Derby winner Le Havre.

Meanwhile, I enjoyed a sales celebration with the team from Haras des Capucine who were toasting Veuve Clicquot to the yearlings they had sold as well as those passed in. Boy do the French know how to celebrate in style, not that it would appear that they need too much encouragement for a celebration.

I was determined to have a quiet night, however, it did not take much of an arm twist when the delightful Elodie Garamond, who as you should all know spent time in Sydney working for Inglis, invited me to join her for a girls supper at Le Drakkar. We were joined by 'other girls' including Marilyn Charlton, formerly with the FRBC but now working for HH The Aga Khan Studs, and Amanda Zetterholm who spent time learning what a bloodstock agent does with none other than myself.

Determined that I would not make another ordering mistake, Elodie kindly ordered me a fillet of beef. It appeared from the kitchen just like the French prefer it – still mooing. Nonetheless it was one of the best fillets I have had in a long time. Encouraged by my girls, I attempted to order something in French. "Je voudrais une autre bouteille de vin blanc", which translates directly into "I would like another bottle of white wine." It worked and many bottles duly followed.

I had heard a lot of fuss about some Argentinean polo players from various girls in Deauville who frequent the well-known Brok Café. I can see how some people might find them attractive or to put it simply become addicted to polo. Keen not to let the boys from South America have all the fun, the girls and I drank Mojitos, which the Brok is famous for. I am sure that someone once told me white rum is cleansing?

I decided that it was perhaps not sensible to drink and cycle again (I must take that borrowed Arqana bike to a repair shop before I leave), and got a taxi back to my hotel.

I am staying in Deauville until Wednesday to watch Chantilly Rock, who I bought for Ron Sayers a couple of years ago at the sale, run in Deauville. With the majority of people now heading home, I can only imagine that I will have a slightly quieter few days. On the recommendation of a local, I headed off to Honfleur to be a tourist. I surely cannot get into any more trouble out here?

PS - If anyone knows of a detox centre in the Normandy area, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## SALES NEWS DEAUVILLE CONCLUDES

The Arqana August Yearling Sale came to a close yesterday evening, and at the time of going to press, 80 horses had sold for an aggregate of €3,376,000 at an average price of €43,225, which was only marginally down on the €46,250 average achieved during day four of the sale last year. The median of €35,000 was also running slightly down on the €40,000 posted in 2009.

Topping the final session so far was lot 339, a filly by Elusive City, who shuttles from the Irish National Stud to Haunui Farm in New Zealand. The filly is a full-sister to the stakes performer Mister

Hughie, and was purchased for €190,000 by Sir Robert Ogden from the consignment of Haras de Grandcamp.

Also featuring was lot 392, a filly by Lawman out of a half-sister to Listed winner Law Of Chance from the family of Prix Saint Alary (Gr 1) Ask For The Moon. The filly sold to Peter Doyle for €110,000 and was consigned to the sale by Haras d'Omméel.

Full results and statistics from the sale will appear in tomorrow's issue.