



GET YOUR HEAD AROUND FRENCH PREMIUMS

By Marilyn Charlton

It is becoming increasingly known that **France offers top-class premiums to its owners and breeders**, and it is always good to remind our readers how they may benefit from this generous & fruitful system. Indeed, French-bred (or assimilated) horses competing in France, can reap serious benefits for both their breeders and owners, provided a few rules are respected.

These incentives can really make the difference, on top of the economic sense that France already represents race-wise, with its healthy PMU betting system, which enables a fair return to the industry and consistently good levels of prize

money ; and an average 56 % return on investment for owners choosing to have their horses trained locally.

Indeed, training fees are competitive, especially in the provinces, French stallions represent excellent value and their quality has been consistently rising over the past years, under the impulse of an active French Breeders' Association and renewed investments. Reasons are aplenty for both owners and breeders to choose France.

This state of affairs is approved silently by the dozens of foreign-trained horses that compete daily on our Gallic racecourses.

So if your next step is to move over part or all of your activity to France, here is a reminder of what is in for you as an owner and/or breeder.

Owners' premiums

They represent a percentage of prize-money, paid on top of it, and dependent on the age of the horse.

At 2, the winner of a Class B maiden race will typically earn €17,000 in prize money + €12,500 (ie. 75% of prize money), hence a total of nearly €30,000 in just one successful outing.

Le Havre, Gr I winner Prix du Jockey Club in Chantilly on June 2009



Vision d'État wins the 2009 Gr. 1 Prix Ganay-Grand Prix Air Mauritius in Longchamp.



FRENCH PREMIUMS



Silver Frost's Gr. 1 Prix Poule d'Essai des Poulains in 2009

During its ambitious 3 year old campaign, a French-bred Listed winner will cash in €27,500 for his owner + €17,325 in owners' premiums (63%). At the ripe age of 4 and above, the percentage is still a generous 48%.

Breeders' premiums

They are calculated as a percentage of the sum of prize money + owners' premiums. They represent 14% of all prize money in all open French flat races (ie. not restricted to French-breds), 10% abroad, applicable to wins (and Gr1 2^{nds}) only, and provided the prize money is a minimum of € 4,600 * ; 15% of all prize money in all French jumps races and 15 % abroad, provided the prize money is a minimum of € 4,600*.

So, the question remains, how exactly does one qualify?

Before we start talking dates, please bear in mind that first and foremost, your intentions must be "pure", as the idea behind the premium system is to encourage breeders' to base their broodmares in France yearly,

whilst still benefiting from the possibility of being covered abroad if such is the desire of the breeder. For this, a broodmare will, when travelling abroad, always do so on a temporary breeding visa (which means that her export certificate must be in France before her departure), which does not exceed 9 months, as the rule has it.

A "born & bred" horse is of course born in France, therefore bearing the (FR) suffix, and must have stayed in France until the 1st June of his yearling year in order to qualify. A temporary exportation is however allowed, on condition that the correct documentation, related to birth and export, has been carried out, and it is exclusively to follow the mare if she is sent abroad to be covered.

An "assimilated" to French-bred is a horse born outside of France during the temporary absence of his dam from the country, limited to the covering season of the mare, who has been sent from France to be covered by a stallion outside the country. The dam must not leave before November 1st of the year preceding the birth of the foal in question.

In addition, the foal must be imported into France with its dam before September 1st

of the year of foaling ; he must be subsequently reared in France and have not left before June 1st of its yearling year and must fulfil passport formalities set out for horses born outside the country

These conditions also apply for the foal born during the temporary absence of the dam, when the dam has stayed more than a year outside of France, but only if she has had no other foal during that period.



The (FR) brand is gathering value fast, so make the best of your time in France this season, as French auction sales will have the best on offer ! Breeders are also year-round providers of such sought-out individuals, and our bloodstock agents can equally select noteworthy purchases for prospective buyers ; the FRBC is happy to point you to any of these good sources of sound investment.

* these sums are limited to a yearly € 15,000 for flat races, and € 46,000 for jumps races