



HOMEBRED OCTAVE HITS RIGHT NOTE



Oisín Murphy, Count Octave and Holly Rose

Qatar Bloodstock homebred Count Octave made a winning return at Wolverhampton on April 10 and looks set for another good season.

Born and raised at Tweenhills, Count Octave was runner-up in the Gr. 2 Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot last term and also sixth in a strong Gr. 1 St Leger at Doncaster.

He's a laid-back colt – he spent his winter holiday back at Tweenhills, so we know him well – and will improve plenty for his comeback.

By Frankel, Count Octave is out of Mark of Esteem mare Honorine and thus closely related to Gr. 1 Irish Derby winner Treasure Beach. Honorine is now 18 and still owned by Qatar Bloodstock.

KINGS SHIELD LOOKS CLASS ACT

Kings Shield, bought by David Redvers at the Craven Breeze-Up Sale last year, maintained his unbeaten start at Kempton on April 7 and looks destined for big things.

As a 675,000-guinea sales-topper, Kings Shield has more to live up to than many other horses, but he's answered every question so far. His trainer John Gosden holds him in high regard, and he could run in the French 2,000 Guineas.

A physically stunning son of the late Scat Daddy, Kings Shield – along with Gr. 2-winning and Gr. 1-placed stable stablemate Roaring Lion – is a very exciting prospect for Qatar Racing.



Kings Shield makes it 2 from 2



STAFF PROFILE

Jason Curtin
Stallions

No one-trick pony...

I'm from Clare in Ireland. We had 15 acres at home so dad got me and my brother Michael a pony, then I started doing Pony Club when I was 10 or 11. I worked with hunters through my teens, getting a few going through the summer then moving them on.

Nursed along...

I did vet nursing at college before working for a small thoroughbred stud in Australia, where my sister lives. I then did a year in Rosssdales in Newmarket and last season worked in Fethard Equine Hospital – I learnt so much at both practices. I also worked recently at Rich Hill Stud in New Zealand.

Works like a Charm...

I joined Tweenhills in January. I'm assistant stallion man at present, helping with Havana Gold and Hot Streak's covers, though I'm also very interested in the broodmare/foaling side too. I watch lots of racing and, having seen Charm Spirit in New Zealand, will be watching his first 2-year-olds closely this year.

INTERNATIONAL STAKES DOUBLE



High-class dirt performer Great Pearl

There was plenty of reason to cheer on April 15 as Pearl Bloodstock's Great Pearl and Qatar Racing's Out of The Flames won Stakes races on different continents.

Five-year-old entire Great Pearl showed a fantastic attitude to win the Gr. 3 Antares Stakes at Hanshin, his first start for 11 months. He has now won his last five starts, all on dirt. Three-year-old filly Out of The Flames matched him for determination when winning the inaugural Listed Mizdirection Stakes at Aqueduct.

CHARM SPIRIT – FOUR TO FOLLOW

With Charm Spirit's first runners having hit the track recently, here are four of his offspring to follow in 2018.

We start with a colt out of Ysper trained by David Simcock. We also like the fillies out of Air Biscuit with Charlie Hills and out of Mill Guineas with Richard Hannon. Finally, there's a colt out of Shuttle Mission with Johnny Murtagh. All will be named shortly.