



PRIX TROYTOWN (Group 3 - 4.400 metres (2m 6f) – penetrometer reading 4,2, heavy)
Second leg of the Grand Steeple-Chase Masters 2023

►► **ROSARIO BARON: THE SURPRISE GUEST!**

This is one of the charms of racing and jumping in particular: as even in the big events, anything is possible. Few people had bet on the 6-year-old Rosario Baron, who had just won a coveted race over fences at Pau (64). However, his connections had every right to believe in him, as he went pillar to post at odds of 12-1. Soon at the head of affairs, he didn't let any of his rivals get a look in. And Baptiste Le Clerc, who was riding him for the first time, took advantage of this situation to score an easy victory on his mount. Rosario Baron is trained at Maisons-Laffitte (78). He is the first group winner and the first Auteuil winner of his breeder, Jean-Yves Baron (53). Thanks to this victory in the second leg of the Grand Steeple-Chase Masters, the combination sealed their passage for Sunday 21 May for the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris on Sunday 21 May! He shone the spotlight on the colours of Mauricette and Frédéric de Sousa, themselves the co-owners of the group winning La Danza. Second place in Prix Troytown went to the surprising Suroit, a horse bred in France, but trained in the Czech Republic by Josef Vana Junior. The Gr1 winning Figuero was third...

►► **RESULT AND DISTANCES :**

- 1 – ROSARIO BARON (B. Le Clerc)
- 2 – SUROIT (J. Bartos)
- 3 – FIGUERO (A. Zuliani)
- 4 - STARLET DU MESNIL (F. de Giles)
- 5 - GESSY RAISELLE (J. Charron)

Distances : 3 L – 3 1/2 L – 6 L – 3 1/2 L – 3 L

►► **QUOTES :**

Daniela Mele (Maisons-Laffitte (78/Yvelines region), the trainer of Rosario Baron, 1st

« He's a superhorse. You have to ride him at the front end of the race. If he gets behind, the horse tends to switch off. He's a horse that does what you ask of him. Today, it was Rosario Baron who wanted to go on. He attacked the fences like an experienced pro. I was afraid that he wouldn't get home – being loathe to setting up the race for the other horses. I would be tempted to head straight for Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris!»

Josef Vana Junior (based at Žlutice, Czech Republic), the trainer of Suroit, 2nd

«Going to the last fence, Suroit almost fell and I almost fell over in the stands... I'm very happy with his race. According to his jockey, Jo Bartos, he would have won had he not made that mistake, because he found the courage to claw his way back into the race. He negotiated the big obstacles on the far side of the course where he fell last time, and that is very important pointer

for the Grande Steeple - Chase de Paris. Physically speaking, he's a big horse and he's error prone when it comes to the smaller obstacles. He exudes class and deserves to take his chance most coveted race of the French [jumping] programme. I think he will skip the Prix Murat (Gr2) and will have his final prep in the Prix Ingré (Gr3) ».

François Nicolle (Saint Augustin (17 Charente Maritime region)), the trainer of Figuro, 3rd)

« It's a good comeback effort – given the weight he was carrying. He's peaking steadily. The horses which finished in front of him in this race had already run this year. He will now head to the Prix Ingré. »

➤ SEASON 2 OF THE GRAND STEEPLE-CHASE MASTERS:

Following the success of the inaugural 2022 Grand Steeple-Chase Masters, a series of races that lead to the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris, France Galop is pleased to renew the Masters in 2023.

France Galop launches the 2023 Grand Steeple-Chase Masters, which highlights the most important prep races leading to the greatest challenge in the jump racing calendar, at the end of February. The Masters effectively start with the first prep race for horses aiming to run in the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris.

The Masters were created to allow racing enthusiasts to increase their knowledge of jump racing by exploring in more detail how horses are trained for the legendary Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris, the greatest challenge and ultimate target: 6000m long, peppered with 23 formidable obstacles to jump and record prizemoney of €900 000.

During the Grand Steeple-Chase Masters, regular press releases and immersive media on the France Galop social media platforms, which can be found by using hashtag **#GRANDSTEEPLECHASE**, will focus on the different events.

**THE COUNTDOWN IS ON TO
THE GRAND
STEEPLE-CHASE
DE PARIS !**

**GRAND
STEEPLE-CHASE
MASTERS**

**25TH
FEBRUARY**
PRIX R. DE
C. TONNERRE
GR3

**19TH
MARCH**
PRIX TROYTOWN
GR3

**08TH
APRIL**
PRIX MURAT
GR2

**29TH
APRIL**
PRIX INGRÉ
GR3

**21ST
MAY**
GRAND
STEEPLE-CHASE
DE PARIS

#GRANDSTEEPLECHASE

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