



QATAR PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE LE SPECTACLE TRIOMPHE TOUJOURS

30 SEPTEMBRE - 1^{ER} OCTOBRE

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Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

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The world's top jockeys are expected to feature in the 2023 edition

It's the pinnacle of international horse racing: as the world's best racehorses will go head to head in the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the world's greatest horse race, on Sunday 1 October (the off time is 16.05pm local time).

The exceptional racehorses in question will be ridden by jockeys who represent the international elite of their profession. Their services are much sought after by trainers and owners all over the world because they possess exceptional qualities and namely: good 'hands', i.e. a perfect connection with their horse, and the *savoir faire* when comes to asking their mounts to quicken; they also have fine tactical acumen when it comes to positioning and switching their mounts at speeds of nearly 70 kms per hour; plus the necessary *sang froid* when it comes to asking their horses for the final decisive push at the right time in a race. It's all about precision!

Given that it is almost standard practice for a jockey who has won aboard a horse in his/her previous race(s) to retain the ride in the coveted Parisian feature, it is sometimes the case that the horse's entourage decides otherwise. So we'll have to wait until Thursday 28 September, which marks the official declaration stage, when it comes to discovering the identities of the elite jockeys in the race. In the meantime, here are pen portraits of the some the top riders who are expected to feature in the Arc on Sunday 1 October.

ITALY - Lanfranco Dettori: the Arc record winning bows out on his swansong season

Nationality: Italian

Country where primarily based: UK

Intended mount in the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe 2023 : To be confirmed

Lanfranco Dettori, known to all his fans as "Frankie", is the undisputed star of international circuit! This is quite simply because his talent as a horseman is unrivalled, having won all the world's

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greatest races, including a record six wins in the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. The public also love his flying dismounts which take place in the aftermath of his big wins.

After a career spanning 35 years, the jockey has announced that he will retire at the end of 2023, so this season is very much an international farewell tour. A tribute to Frankie Dettori will be held at the racecourse on Sunday.

At the age of 53, he has ridden a bonanza 3,000 winners. When racing, his composure enables him to extricate himself from difficult situations as manifest in the 2015 Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe aboard the British colt Golden Horn. Despite being drawn 14 in a field of 16 (an unenviable place to be given that you are practically on the wide outside when the gates open, and that every centimetre of ground is precious when it comes to making up ground), and yet Lanfranco Dettori managed to steer his mount into a handy position, on the heels of the leaders, before going on to win the race.



Born in Sardinia, he's the son of jockey Gianfranco Dettori. At the age of 14, he emigrated to Britain so as to serve his apprenticeship with the successful Italian trainer based at Newmarket (the Mecca of British racing), Luca Cumani. He has never ceased to fill his trophy cabinet and to thrill the crowds ever since, and his verve and good humour have proved infectious... Above all, he has secured four Longines World's Best Jockey titles. However, his most notable achievement was undoubtedly his 'Magnificent Seven' exploit at Ascot in 1996. On that occasion, Frankie won all seven races on the card! It's a feat that no jockey has managed to emulate.

Lanfranco Dettori's career in VIDEO : [HERE](#)

ITALY - Cristian Demuro: the jockey with a 1000 French victories to his name

Nationality: Italian

Country where primarily based: France

Intended mount in the 2023 Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe: Ace Impact (FR), trained at Deauville (the country where the horse is trained defines the nation it represents)

During the course of the summer, Cristian Demuro, the Italian rider based in France for around ten years, reached the 1,000 French winners' landmark. If all his victories are taken into account, Cristian Demuro has ridden over 2,000 winners, including 866 in Italy and 199 in Japan. The latter country frequently calls upon his services, and his brother Mirco, ten years his senior and also a jockey, is well established in the Land of the Rising Sun where he is based.

The greatest victory of Cristian Demuro's career is, of course, his victory with Sottsass in the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe 2020. He brought his first victory in this challenge to the trainer Jean-

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Claude Rouget (Deauville), one of the few missing from this French and European record-holder for the number of victories (over 7,000).

He will ride the unbeaten Ace Impact, one of two horses at the head of the antepost betting, in the Arc on October 1. The above colt is based at Deauville and handled by Jean-Claude Rouget. The prolific Demuro-Rouget tandem could again hit the jackpot on the first Sunday in October, almost ten years to the day since the beginning of their partnership which was forged on 24 October 2013 at Deauville.



GREAT-BRITAIN - Ryan Moore: The author of 100 plus G1 wins, including 2 Arcs

Nationality: *British*

Principal countries where based: *Britain/Ireland*

Intended mount in the 2023 Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe: *To be confirmed*



He could have become a star of the round ball game, having had a trial for Brighton (Britain) Football Club. Yet history will record that Ryan Moore, the son of a racehorse trainer and great-grandson of a jump jockey, made the right choice in opting for the Sport of Kings: as he has enjoyed an exceptional career.

He has ridden an incredible 100 plus Group 1 winners which marks the pinnacle of excellence in horse racing. The British professional is the number

one jockey to Coolmore: the Irish racing operation which is considered to be the world's top stable. The jockey, having recently celebrated his 40th birthday, boasts two prior wins in the world's most prestigious prize, the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

Ryan Moore is expected to ride one of the horses trained by Ireland's Aidan O'Brien, and himself one of the world's leading handlers, having enjoyed 390 Group 1 victories in nine different countries. The trainer, whose reputation extends globally, boasts two prior wins in the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and namely: Dylan Thomas (2007) and the filly Found whom Ryan Moore rode to victory in 2016.

FRANCE – Christophe-Patrice Lemaire: The French rider who became a star in Japan

Nationality : French

Principal country where based: Japan

Intended mount in the 2023 Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe: Through Seven Seas, (trained in Japan)

In 2015, following a brilliant French career, Christophe-Patrice Lemaire, who hails from Chantilly and is the son of former jump jockey, broke new ground by becoming the first French jockey to obtain a permanent licence in Japan. Ensclosed in a country which loves its horse racing, he has become a veritable star in his adopted homeland, having enjoyed considerable Group 1 success there. This is additional to his record number of wins in a single season and jockeys' championships: determined by most wins collected in a season. He boasts two wins in the Japan Cup (the country's biggest race). He has even launched his own fashion label.



Christophe-Patrice Lemaire will have the honour of riding Japan's Through Seven Seas in the 2023 Arc. And this with the aim of securing a long-awaited first Japanese victory in the prestigious French race.

The jockey has yet to win the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, despite having ridden in the race on 12 occasions. However, in 2006, he came within inches of breaking the ice on the mare Pride.

FRANCE - Alexis Pouchin: the revelation of the 2023 French season

Nationality: French

Principal country where based: France

Intended mount in the 2023 Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe: Simca Mille (France), trained at Deauville.

Succeeding in forging a name for yourself when you are a young jockey is quite an achievement. In fact, nearly 600 jockeys ply their trade in France and only around 20 are considered stars. Alexis Pouchin, aged just 23, is the revelation of the 2023 season thanks to his immense talent.

His career took off in the space of a few months. In June, thanks to Simca Mille, his expected mount in this year's edition of the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, and trained at Deauville by Stéphane Wattel, the jockey won his first Group 2 race: the level of competition just below elite class. Further down the line, and namely in August, Alexis Pouchin rode



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three Group 1 winners (the pinnacle of excellence): having set the ball rolling at the Deauville Barrière Meeting (Prix Rothschild and Sumbe Prix Jean Romanet) - in addition to experiencing German glory at Hoppegarten - again aboard Simca Mille (Grosser Preis Von Berlin). It's worth noting that the German feature was annexed – prior to Simca Mille – by the previous two winners of the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe: namely the mare Alpinista (2022) and the then four-year-old colt Torquator Tasso in 2021...

The trainer Stéphane Wattel has full confidence in Alexis Pouchin, the young sportsman boasting a long-standing involvement in horse racing (his father is a "travelling head lad": the role attributed to the person who accompanies horses on their journeys to the racecourses, and who watches over them once they arrive at the racecourse). This year the trainer is providing the rider with his very first 'Arc' ride on Simca Mille, and a horse that holds a special place in his affections. This tandem are primed to make their Arc debuts on October 1!

FRANCE - Mickael Barzalona still seeking his first Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe victory

Nationality: French

Country where primarily based: France

Intended mount in the 2023 Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe: *To be confirmed*



Although Mickaël Barzalona has won almost practically every major French race during a 14 year career, he has yet to break his hoodoo in the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in ten attempts, having come closest to victory in 2017 when second on Cloth of Stars.

Mickaël Barzalona, 32, has been ranked among the top-five French jockeys for a number of years, and he continues to win races in most parts of the world.

Mickaël Barzalona hails from a family steeped in the racing tradition: as his uncle and grandfather were also jockeys. He became interested in thoroughbreds as a ten-year-old, having attended several race meetings with his grandfather. At the time, Mickaël Barzalona was still just a young horse-ball player in the south-east of France, a discipline in which he was a dual French champion aboard his trusty steed from

the Camargue region.

After learning his trade at the horse racing academy AFASEC, which prepared him for the road ahead, he signed a contract at the age of 18 as second jockey to the prestigious Wertheimer & Frère stable (2011). This coincided with his first Group 1 victory (the highest grade in flat racing), having ridden a filly trained by André Fabre to win the Prix Saint-Alary. On that occasion, he wore the colours of Sheikh Mohamed Al Maktoum, the man behind the global powerhouse Godolphin, having become that owner's number one jockey in France a year later (2012). This partnership is still going strong.

BELGIUM - Christophe Soumillon: an unquenchable thirst for victory

Nationality: *Belgian*

Country where based: *France*

Intended mount in the 2023 Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe: *To be confirmed*

Christophe Soumillon, 42, was born in Schaerbeek, Belgium, but he has been exclusively French-based during his career. He's the son of a former jump jockey. From a very young age, he was interested in horse racing, having initially cut his teeth in pony racing. His passion for ponies has never left him, and the rider has just launched the Soumillon International Pony Academy (SIPA), a unique Europe academy for pony-racing riders, and open to youngsters from the ages of eight to 16.

Christophe Soumillon has won prestigious races at the world's greatest racecourses. His continuing success has seen him snare the Cravache d'Or [the French Jockeys' Championship] on ten occasions. He even set a new record European record for wins in a single season, in 2017, having ridden 306 winners that year.



He's a regular presence in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, having tasted success on two champions which have marked the history of racing: Dalakhani and Zarkava. He is expected to secure a ride in the 2023 renewal.

On the matter of his private life, Christophe Soumillon married Sophie Thalmann (the winner of the 1998 Miss France Beauty Pageant), in 2006. Very much a family man, his three children are his greatest source of pride.

MEDIA INFO:

Media department on the France Galop Live website: [Click HERE](#)

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