

# QATAR ARC TRIALS

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Press Release

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## QATAR PRIX NIEL - PARISLONGCHAMP **Fantastic Moon shines for Germany in the Qatar Prix Niel** Results and quotes from connections

Following on from France's success in the Qatar Prix Foy, and Ireland's victory in the Qatar Prix Vermeille, it was Germany's turn to shine in the Group 2 Qatar Prix Niel, the final of the three Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe preps which adorned this card.

Fantastic Moon, the top German 3-y-old, as evidenced by his victory in the Deutsches Derby, left his rivals for dead in the final stages. He beat French-trained favourite Feed the Flame by two and a half lengths, whereas Bravais, another French-trained colt, was third. Fantastic Moon is not entered in the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. A colt with a liking for fast tracks, races such as the Breeders' Cup, in the US, or the Japan Cup, in Japon, are likely to figure high on his agenda.



## The technical result

- 1<sup>st</sup> FANTASTIC MOON  
Trainer : Sarah Steinberg – Jockey : René Piechulek
- 2<sup>nd</sup> FEED THE FLAME  
Trainer : Pascal Bary – Jockey : Christophe Soumillon
- 3<sup>rd</sup> BRAVAIS  
Trainer : André Fabre – Jockey : Bauyrzhan Murzabayev

Distances: 2 ½l - ½l – 2l. Time : 2'33"20s  
Ground : 3,4 (good to soft)

## What connections said:

### **Lars-Wilhem Baumgarten, the Liberty Racing 2022 representative, the owner of Fantastic Moon (1<sup>st</sup>) – Germany**

*"We made the right decision not to run him last time at Baden-Baden because the ground was over watered. He needs good ground, as he shows in the morning. He's a great horse. Both the trainer and the jockey have done a great job. The race lacked pace and it wasn't straight forward. However, he's easy to handle and very talented. In my opinion, he's the best winner of the German Derby since Sea the Moon. The difference is that he's still in going strong at the end of his 3-year-old campaign, whereas his sire was being packed off to stud [at this stage of his career]. We're so happy for our syndicate, Liberty Racing. Just think, we have four horses, and two of them are group class! We'll be making a decision as to where the colt goes next on Monday."*

### **Sarah Steinberg, the trainer of Fantastic Moon (1<sup>st</sup>)**

*"Rather than the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, we're thinking thinking about other possibilities. These include the Japan Cup and the Breeders' Cup..."*

### **Pascal Bary, the trainer of Feed the Flame (2<sup>nd</sup>) – Chantilly (Oise region)**

*"He wasn't quite as ready as I thought. With the heat, Feed The Flame asked for a breather during the race. He picked up well, even if the last 100 metres perhaps seemed a bit of an eternity for him. Christophe Soumillon made sure of the fact that the colt was given a lesson when it came to racing between horses, which is a good form of preparation. Furthermore, he wasn't hard on him. Of course, it's always better to win than to be second. That said, the winner, Fantastic Moon, has every right to be considered a good colt. Feed The Flame will line up in the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. If the ground were to ease that would be even better."*

### **Claude Beniada, the French representative of Juddmonte, the owner of Bravais (3<sup>rd</sup>) – Chantilly (Oise region)**

*"Obviously, this is the best performance of Bravais' career. He's certainly more relaxed when he waits during a race. At Deauville, on his last outing over 2,000 metres, he showed that he wouldn't be bothered by a longer distance. He's proved that today and it's very encouraging. This is a colt who didn't run at 2 and, at the start of the year, he won his first two races, and progressing to boot. He hasn't stopped improving thus far. He's certainly a late developer. If all goes well, he'll make a good 4-year-old. The 'Juddmonte' candidate in the Arc is Westover, and I have no idea whether he will run again this year, and whether it will be in the Arc."*

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