

QATAR PRIX DU JOCKEY CLUB

La crème de la crème de Chantilly

PRESS RELEASE

Sunday 2nd June 2024

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Qatar Prix du Jockey Club

Results and quotes from connections + access to video images (royalty free)



The 184th edition of the Qatar Prix du Jockey Club went to the French colt Look de Vega, owned by the Haras de la Morsanglière (owned by Joëlle Mestrallet – the wife of Gérard Mestrallet, the former boss of Engie - formerly GDF/Suez), the Écurie des Charmes Patrick Madar and his co-trainers, Carlos and Yann Lerner. Look de Vega is currently unbeaten in three career outings.

In a race run in which the favourite, Fast Tracker, set the pace, Look de Vega took the lead 350m from the finish and he cruised his way to an easy victory, having left André Fabre's First Look three and a half lengths in his wake. Sosie, also trained by André Fabre, was a neck further back in third.

Look de Vega is trained at Maisons-Laffitte by Carlos Lerner and his son Yann. Born in Argentina, and having set up shop as a trainer in France in the late 1980s, Carlos Lerner was having his first runner in the Qatar Prix du Jockey-Club on since landing the classic in 2001 with Anabaa Blue. The latter, incidentally, was the previous horse trained at Maisons-Laffitte to win this race.

It marked the first French Group 1 one (the pinnacle of excellence in racing) win of jockey Ronan Thomas. Look de Vega's sire, Lope de Vega, also won the Qatar Prix du Jockey-Club before retiring to stud, as did his sire, Shamardal, five years before him. Lope de Vega is based at the Ballylinch Stud in Ireland, and he has the distinction of siring both the first and second.

The technical result

Qatar Prix du Jockey-Club

1st LOOK DE VEGA (R. Thomas)

2nd FIRST LOOK (A. Pouchin)

3rd SOSIE (M. Guyon)

Time : 2m'9. 81s. Distances: 2l – Nk, – 1 1/2l

What connections said:



Yann Lerner – co-trainer and co-owner of Look de Vega (1st) – Maisons-Laffitte (Yvelines)

« I was confident. Everything was perfect. There's something incredible about this horse. Breeders, trainers and owners sometimes take a lifetime to win the Jockey-Club, so to win it at 38 is fantastic. This horse has an extraordinary mindset. The only time we had any doubts was at the start: as, given his low draw (three), he had to get off to a good start. That's what he did, and since then I've never experienced a race in such a tranquil frame of mind! As for the rest of his programme, nothing has yet been decided. Of course, he's entered in the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe! I have no doubts about his ability to stay 2,400m. He's also shown that he can cope with testing ground. And today, we saw the level that he's at... he has a lot of things going for him! »

Carlos Lerner – co-trainer and co-owner of Look de Vega (1st) – Maisons-Laffitte (Yvelines)

« It's an extraordinary moment in my life. To come across a horse like this at the end of my career is extraordinary. I've never trained a horse like this. He's a crack. Every time we go to the Arqana Sales (the Sales where Look de Vega was bought), we seem to find a good horse! »

Ronan Thomas – the jockey of Look de Vega (1st)

« It's an enormous source of pride to be able to add my name to the roll of honour of this race. I did win the German Derby in the past, but to win a domestic Derby is extremely satisfying. I was never afraid to say how much I thought of the colt. As he ticks all the boxes. I haven't ridden many champions in my career but he's one of them! He's a colt in full bloom. »

Joëlle Mestrallet - co-breeder and co-owner of Look de Vega (1st)

« It all goes back to the day when I fell in love with the colt's dam at the stud of Madame O'Reilly's - just before she went up for sale. That's how Mr Urano and I bought her. A race like this is a terrible ordeal when you have to live through it. I was breathless. I've experienced some great victories with show jumpers, but I don't think that I've ever experienced anything as strong (in terms of emotion) as this classic win. I wasn't expecting the colt to win with such ease. I'm simply bowled over. »

Alexis Pouchin – the jockey of First Look (2nd) – trained at Chantilly (Oise region)

«He ran really well and was cherry ripe for this race. We were beaten by a very good horse. My horse is a very good colt. However, he's still tender and needs to learn. »

Pierre-Yves Bureau – racing manager of the Écurie Wertheimer & Frère: the owners of Sosie (3rd) and Atlas (14th) – trained at Chantilly (Oise region)

« Sosie put in a great performance. It was just his fourth career outing, and second of the current season. He should continue to progress. The colt should be able to go longer. In fact, the Grand Prix de Paris naturally springs to mind as regarding his next race. If all goes well, that could be our next objective. As for Atlas, he was never in the hunt. We don't have any immediate explanations. There must be something wrong. We'll have to get to the bottom of it.

Clive Cox – the trainer of Ghostwriter (4th) – trained in Great Britain

« He ran very well in what seems to be a quality field. We're really pleased with his performance but the ground was perhaps a little softer than ideal. Nevertheless, he put in a great performance. And we're going to take the time as regards seeing on how he comes out of the race before making any plans for the future. »

Pia Brandt – the co-trainer of Mondo Man (5th) – Chantilly (Oise region)

« He's still a tender colt who's going to continue to progress. He ran very well. He always comes out of the stalls quite slowly, and you mustn't rush him as he needs to stay in his own bubble before finding his feet. His jockey said stepping up to 2,400 metres isn't going to be a problem. As for the future, he's entered in the King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot. »



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