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SCHIAPARELLI'S SISTER IN DEAUVILLE

Last Sunday's German Derby result proved good news for the Deauville Sales, as the winner Schiaparelli's full sister Sortita, born on May 4th 2005, is listed as lot 93 in the August Deauville yearling sale catalogue. Bred in Germany by Gestüt Karlshof (Bruno Faust), the Monsun filly is consigned by Charles-Henri de Moussac's Haras du Mézeray. Sortita is also a full sister to another German Derby winner, Samum, a successful sire in Germany, and to German Oaks winner Salve Regina, who finished second in the Hamburg showpiece against the boys.

A picture of the filly, like every yearling consigned by the Haras du Mezeray at Deauville, can be seen on the stud's website, www.mezeray.com, in the sales section.

Winner of the €50,000 Prix Yacowlef and fourth in Sunday's Prix Robert Papin (Gr2), Beauty is Truth is related to another Mezeray graduate, lot 137, a colt by Rock of Gibraltar out of Zapping (Lycius), a sister to Beauty is Truth's mare, Prix Robert Papin third Zelding.

Fourth in Sunday's German Derby, Saddex was also a Deauville graduate, purchased at the October 2004 Deauville sales by FBA (Jean-Pierre Deroubaix) on behalf of actual owner Stal Avena for €115,000.

VICHY MEETING HITS NEW HEIGHTS

Vichy meeting came to a close on Saturday with **Poltava** (Fr-**Victory Note**) defeating **Candelabro** in the €50,000 Prix des Reves d'Or Jacques Bouchara Stakes (L) for Monaco-based owner Malcolm Parrish, who hadn't visited the racecourse since **French Falcon** won the same race 32 years ago... Poltava was claimed for €42,222 after her winning debut in early March at Saint-Cloud by trainer David Smaga. She had previously been bought back at the October 2005 Deauville yearling sales.

The first Listed race of the one week-long meeting, the €50,000 Prix Madame Jean Couturie, nicknamed the Vichy Oaks, went to Jean-Claude Rouget's **Ballet Pacifica**. The Pau handler has ended the meeting as champion trainer with 5 wins, one more than Henri-Alex Pantall, Didier Prod'Homme and Francois Rohaut.

The €80,000 Grand Prix de Vichy Auvergne (Gr3), run under floodlights, went for the second consecutive year to **Touch of Land** (Fr, by Haras d'Etreham sire **Lando**), ridden by Olivier Peslier for trainer Henri-Alex Pantall, despite **Ruwi**'s nice finish for second. The two horses passed the post in the same order in the Prix Dollar Lucien Barriere (Gr2) last October at Longchamp. Touch of Land had also won that race in 2004.

Peslier had not ridden Touch of Land since 2003, the year they finished fourth to **Dalakhani** in the Prix du Jockey Club (Gr1).

Touch of Land's trainer declared that he was looking forward to the Arlington Million on August 12, before another tilt at the Dollar and possibly a third trip to Hong Kong for the Cup in December, as Touch of Land finished an unlucky fifth in the Gr1 last winter.

The €50,000 Prix Frederic de Lagrange (L.), Vichy's Derby, went to **Irish Wells** (FR, **Poliglote**), who was sixth in the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby, Gr1) in





June and is owned by Berend Van Dalfsen and trained in Pau by Francois Rohaut. He has headed straight to Deauville so that he can settle down in Normandy before the August meeting which begins on Saturday, with the Prix d'Astarte Group One and the Prix de Cabourg (Gr 3) scheduled on the Sunday July 29.

Overall, the Vichy meeting was another stunning success. The racecourse organization has a partnership with the city's top hotels and had to find accommodation for those 3,200 who attended the week. Owners, trainers, jockeys and pressmen alike are all invited when they take part in the meeting, which features many sporting and dining activities throughout the week. No wonder the whole of French racing gathers by the Allier River every July, along with visitors from Germany and Britain who also enjoy the festive atmosphere surrounding the events.

FRENCH BREDS RALLY IN OCEANSIDE STAKES

Obrigado (FR-Enrique) and **Porto Santo (Fr-Kingsalsa)** came in first and second place respectively last Wednesday in the Oceanside Stakes (Second Division) of the on Del Mar Summer meet opening day. The two imports rallied from the back of the field to take top honours, only separated by a head at the end of a troubled finish. **New Joysey Jeff** veered to the right in the middle of the stretch when Porto Santo, a Stateside first timer, was about to pass him. His jockey had to check him and it could very well have cost him the winning spot.

Obrigado was bred in France by Didier Blot and Christian de Asis Trem, who also bred his sister, Gr3 winning mare **Coup de Champe**. Obrigado was sold €22,000 at the 2004 Deauville October Yearling sales to French trainer Carlos Laffon Parias. The colt's brother by **Take Risks** is consigned by the Haras d'Etreham at the 2006 Deauville August sale (Lot 240).

Porto Santo (Kingsalsa), a half brother to Gr1 winning filly **Gorella**, he was also purchased at the Agence Francaise sales for €105,000 by French bloodstock agent Frederic Sauque. His sire, Kingsalsa, a freshman sire last season, did so well in 2005 that his stud fee went from €4,500 to €12,000 in 2006. Seven yearlings bred by the son of Kingmambo are catalogued at the Deauville sales

in August. As for Enrique (€3,000), he's got a filly catalogued, (Lot 346) who is consigned by the Haras des Capucines.

BIRTH OF A MAJOR EUROPEAN AUCTION HOUSE GROUP

His Highness the Aga Khan, the Artcurial Group, and a number of French racehorse breeders have joined hands to acquire Ventes de Deauville, and then to subsequently merge this company with Goffs France. This merger will establish one of the major auction houses in Europe, with an annual turnover of more than 75 million euros.

The Ventes de Deauville Group, with a turnover of 46 million euros, is one of the largest auction houses in France. Through its subsidiaries, Agence Française de Vente du Pur-Sang and Agence Française du Trot, the company organises eleven auctions per year for horse sales. Its August yearling sales, which attracts the world's leading investors, is the most important and prestigious of the company's activities. The company also organises significant auctions for modern paintings, jewellery and fine wines.

His Highness the Aga Khan, a long-established owner and breeder of thoroughbreds, who has a keen interest in racing and breeding originating from a long family tradition in Europe, is committed to promoting the development and continuity of horse racing and breeding in France. Having acquired Jean-Luc Lagardère's breeding operation in 2005, the Aga Khan is now France's leading owner breeder.

For many years, the Aga Khan has been a major shareholder in Goffs Ireland, the bloodstock sales company responsible for organising the recent highly successful Goffs Million Sale. Consequently he also has interests in the French subsidiary, Goffs France. This firm of auctioneers and valuers has a turnover in the region of 25 million euros. It operates mainly from the Saint Cloud racecourse. The sales calendar includes:

- Horses in training sales, of which the most prestigious is the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe Sale





- National Hunt Sales.
- Trotters sales conducted by its subsidiary Trotting Promotion, organiser of the Expo Etalon (Stallion Exhibition) held during the Prix d'Amérique at Vincennes.

At Chantilly, the Aga Khan's commitment has taken on a whole different dimension since the establishment in August 2005 of the Chantilly Protection and Development Foundation. Its aim is to restore the Château de Chantilly, its Lenôtre park and, in due course, the Grandes Ecuries, and to revive the Musée Condé, with its art collection and its prestigious library. It is in this context that the new association with the Artcurial Group, whose members are Francis Briest, Rémy Le Fur, Hervé Poulain and François F. Tajan, is significant. It represents a new departure for the group and is among the initiatives launched by the new research and development committee chaired by Laurent Dassault. Artcurial, whose head office is the Hôtel Marcel Dassault, is a unique place for art lovers in the heart of Paris with a bookshop, a private sales room devoted to prints, cultural exhibitions and an auction room. Artcurial, comprising Messrs. Briest, Le Fur, Poulain and Tajan, is the leading French auction house, with Francis Briest and François Tajan as joint presidents. With more than 100 sales organised each year, Artcurial is active in more than 20 different fields. (Turnover for 2005, 77.6 million euros)

The creation of this new large European auction house and the reputation of its shareholders testify to the group's confidence in French horseracing and breeding and its willingness to support the industry in line with the initiatives launched by France's official racing authorities. The association of culture with the world of horse racing also illustrates the group's interest in cultural development.

The combination of complementary areas of expertise brought by the members of the group gives reason to hope for significant and sustainable development in both bloodstock and fine art markets.

This synergy will boost:

- The level of confidence of the various players in the thoroughbred market in the face of stiff international competition.

- The development and modernisation of the fine art business which will benefit from the experience and reputation of the Artcurial team.

The company's Board of Directors will be chaired by Georges Rimaud, representing His Highness the Aga Khan and Nicolas Orłowski, chairman and managing director of the Artcurial group, and also a bloodstock breeder nominated by colleagues in the racing industry.

The company's management team will include Eric Hoyeau, as Chairman and Managing Director, Olivier Delloye and a representative of Artcurial. Development policy will be overseen by a supervisory board chaired by Philippe Augier. Members will include Laurent Dassault, Michel Pastor, Francis Briest, a representative of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and other figures from the racing industry.

Meanwhile, Agence Française du Trot and Trotting Promotion will continue independently with their specialist activities within the French trotting market.

