

Dr Statz writes



STALLION ASSESSMENT

REDOUTE'S CHOICE

With the passing of any great stallion, there comes an opportunity for some other sire to step into his shoes. And that's what is happening right now in Australia as one hundred or so world-class mares seek an alternative to Coolmore's **Danehill**. It is not surprising that breeders look to a son to carry on the mantle and there are plenty of highly-qualified Danehills ready to jump into the breach. One though has succeeded in capturing that coveted number one commercial sire spot. He is **Redoute's Choice**, a highly-performed sprinter-miler with an international lineage. In due course there may be other sons of Danehill that come to the fore as stallions, but such has been the meteoric rise of Redoute's Choice that it will take a monumental performance by any other stallion to dislodge the Arrowfield stallion from pole position among Australian stallions.

His third crop are now two-year-olds and this bunch of youngsters already contains a major winner in the shape of **Nadeem**, who has won two of his four races so far, including the Gr.1 Blue Diamond Stakes, a race won by **Undoubtedly** – another Redoute's Choice – last year. Redoute's Choice really crossed over to superstar status with a phenomenal second crop. It is somewhat unusual that a stallion's career should develop this way. Normally, due to the market's preoccupation with first-season sires and the bigger book sizes sought these days, the first crop tends to have all of the advantages. Not so in the case of Redoute's Choice, although it must be said there is nothing wrong with his first batch of runners either.

So far the son of Danehill has sired 22 Stakes winners, 12 of them at Group level. Remarkably, nine are from his second crop, while two are from his first. And five of his seven Gr.1 winners are also from his all-conquering second crop. Little wonder then that Arrowfield have little difficulty filling the stallion at A\$220,000, his published stud fee for the 2005-2006 season.

His two Group stars from his first crop are the filly **Lotteria**, a winner of eight of her 16 races, including six Stakes races, and **Tahni Girl**, winner of three Stakes races over 1,000 and 1,200 metres. In terms of pure ability, perhaps the best runner from Redoute's Choice's first crop is the colt **Not A Single Doubt**, who may only be a Listed winner but has earned a Timeform rating of 121 for his victory in the 1,000-metre Canonbury Stakes at Randwick in Sydney. Surprisingly that form puts him ahead of the best of

119 achieved by Lotteria when second in the Gr.1 Cox Plate at Moonee Valley.

Whereas Redoute's Choice sired six runners good enough to earn a Timeform mark of 110 or higher from his first crop, his second includes 13 runners that have reached that level. Chief among them is the 124-rated **God's Own** who put up his best performances when winning the Gr.1 Caulfield Guineas over 1,600 metres. He franked that form and provided plenty of evidence of his own versatility by running second in the Gr.1 Lightning Stakes over 1,000 metres five months later. Next best on form among Redoute's Choice's second crop is the Gr.1 Golden Slipper winner **Stratum**. Although this son of the **Luskin Star** mare **Bourgeois** has not won again since that famous day at Rosehill Gardens, he has trained on well and showed his best form in Gr.2 and Gr.3 races over 1,200 metres at Flemington as a three-year-old. And he ran close to his best form recently when finishing third in the Gr.1 Newmarket Handicap.

The most recent runner by Redoute's Choice to gain Gr.1 status is **Snitzel**, who lifted the 1,100-metre Oakleigh Plate at Caulfield at the end of February. But he did not have to show his best form to land this prize. Previously, the son of **Snippets' Lass (Snippets)** had done even better to win a Gr.3 at Randwick and to finish second in the Gr.1 Newmarket, just ahead of Stratum.

Predictably, Redoute's Choice's weakest crops – judged by mare quality at least – are his current two-year-olds and yearlings. After that he provided the marketplace with plenty of evidence of his sire power and it responded in kind with plenty of choice mares. Consequently, there may not be any noticeable decline in the quality of his output in years to come and it would take a brave man to predict his fall from number one any time soon.

TOP HORSES BY REDOUTE'S CHOICE

TF	Name	Damsire	Best form
124	God's Own	Sky Chase	G1w
123	Stratum	Luskin Star	G1w
122	Snitzel	Snippets	G1w
121	Not A Single Doubt	Rory's Jester	LRwG3p
120	Fashions Afield	Wild Again	G1w
120	Undoubtedly	Don't Say Halo	G1w
120	Nadeem	Sound Reason	G1w
119	Lotteria	Sir Tristram	G1w
118	Bradbury's Luck	At Talaq	LRwG3p
117	Al Samer	Key To The Mint	G3w