

## ANOTHER ELITE SPRINTER FOR

# Anita Vale

Anita Vale Stud's Group 1 mare Elite Ateates (Exceed and Excel) has another very promising sprinter rising through ranks in Melbourne.

Her lightly-raced 3yo Elite Icon had broken his maiden by four lengths over 1200m at Moonee Valley and went right on with the job at the same venue last month for first-time rider John Allen and trainers Tony & Calvin McEvoy.

Elite Icon (Nicconi) is a half-brother to G1 Winterbottom Stakes winner Elite Street (Street Boss) and he led throughout to coast home in the Lawn Rules Hcp (1200m).

"We've got big ambitions for this horse," Calvin McEvoy claimed.

"He's very exciting and could be just about unbeaten.

"If you look at his runs, the times he has been beaten, it hasn't been very far. They probably went a little bit quick tonight but he dropped them for a really nice win. I told Johnny he didn't need to lead but, if you want, he's got the speed.

"It is a really good ownership group headed by Suman Hedge, Rob Chapman, Dave Barham and Simon George and it's also a great result for our whole team at Ballarat."

Anita Vale's Robert and Anne Anderson sourced Elite Ateates for \$65,000 as a broodmare prospect in Victoria and she foaled Elite Street first-up in 2016. Elite Icon arrived two years later and the Mardella-based breeders sold him through Dawson Stud at the 2020 Perth Magic Millions.

"He cost \$160,000 over there and we were lucky enough to buy his Written By half-brother at the Inglis Premier last month," McEvoy continued.

"He was a bit more expensive at \$380,000 but we love the family."

The Andersons sold the Written By colt through Michael Flannery's Springmount consignment and the WA link turned full-circle at Oaklands when Belmont Bloodstock's Damon Gabbedy bid on behalf of McEvoy Mitchell Racing.

"I bought Elite Ateates off the track for the Andersons," Gabbedy recalled.

"We're thrilled with the Written By colt. He's outstanding and we have a huge opinion of Elite Icon."

Elite Ateates has a weanling colt by Spendthrift sire Omaha Beach (USA) and was bred back to Darley champion Frosted (USA) last year.



PHOTO: Robert & Anne Anderson with TBWA committeeman Brian Collison

# Ducimus

## IMPRESSES MILLER AT MAGIC MILLIONS

Ducimus has his first crop with all the right trainers and that will count when the 2yo season gets serious in 2022-23.

They're built to be early winners and have all the right credentials being by a Flemington 2yo Stakes winning son of super-sire Snitzel. Ducimus was prepared by Team Hawkes for Orbis Bloodstock who stand him in the south-west at Stratham with Rivercrest Park's Steve Hoare.

His first yearlings sold to \$80,000 at the Perth Magic Millions and among trainers signing up were Simon Miller, Luke Fernie, Todd Harvey, David Harrison, Colin Webster, Ash Maley, Michael Lane and Sharon Miller.

"First and foremost, they're athletes," Hoare said.

"They're going to be forward and that precocity made them popular with trainers. All the scopes and x-rays were clean, too."

Hoare supervised the preps of his Ducimus yearlings before selling them through the Alwyn Park consignment in the Swan Valley. Simon Miller paid top-dollar for the gelding from Many Secrets (Lot 329) and he bought another gelding out of Pretty Cingin (Lot 14).

"I've been impressed with the Ducimus stock on the farms," Miller said.

"He keeps throwing types and traditionally when you throw types, you will end up being a reasonable bull. I had to pay a bit for the Many Secrets and was really happy to do so. This bloke looks like a running type. I wouldn't be surprised if he gets up and going early.

"I was keen to secure the Pretty Cingin. He's out of a really good WA family and is also a late foal, so his upside is enormous."

Hoare confirmed no-one was put off knowing they had already been gelded.

"It's saves time and money and, to be fair, Perth trainers are bidding to buy city winners. They're not dreaming about stud careers."

The Ducimus – Shezapro (Lot 35) purchased by Luke Fernie has a good overstep which is typical of the breed. So is his strong shoulder and deep girth. That also attracted Colin Webster who liked what he saw when the gelding from Magnificent Pair (Lot 328) paraded inside the sales arena.

Gervase Park's Chris Gales has supported Ducimus since his arrival in WA and he sold two colts to Ash Maley topped by the bay from Swimmer (Lot 227).

"He's a standout and has got it all together," Hoare added.

"A lovely walker with a good eye and he's looks readymade."

Swimmer (Bernardini) is a half-sister to Sebring's Sydney Group 1 winner Nettoyer (Doncaster Hcp & Queen of the Turf Stakes).

Apart from his Swan Valley graduates, Ducimus has several more youngsters starting their educations including the first foal from Inimitable (Lonhro) who was purchased by Orbis Bloodstock from Oakland Park. Inimitable, like Many Secrets, descends from champion matron Most Secret (Bletchley Park). There are a half-dozen Stakes winners under her name on the pedigree page including Oakland Park's Group 1 mare Covertly.

The Ducimus yearling filly from Zigello (Intello) hails from a successful family nurtured by leading French breeders Alain and Gerard Wertheimer. Her Irish-bred dam is an unraced half-sister to last year's English winners Battalion (Authorized) and Tafish (War Command).

"She was on the small side but has since fashioned into a leggy filly with plenty of rein," Hoare reported.

"It's an improving international family so a winning record will improve her residual value."

The Ducimus half-brother to G3 R J Peters Stakes winner Freo (Izmir) is also being broken-in at Rivercrest Park. And up at Serpentine, Alwyn Park's John Andrew has a Ducimus colt on the ground who is a half-brother to LR Starstruck Classic winner Snowchino.

The first crop yearlings by Ducimus were sold off a \$2,750 service fee. It was raised to \$4,400 last year and will remain at that figure in 2022.



Photo: Ducimus Many Secrets \$80k

# Karrakatta

## THE JEWEL IN AMELIA'S CROWN

Amelia's Jewel put Perth's juvenile division on notice following her dominant debut in the LR Supremacy Stakes (1000m) at Ascot last month.

Bookmakers also took notice and slashed her G2 Karrakatta Plate quote from \$6 into \$2.80.

Amelia's Jewel (2f Siyouni – Bumbasina by Canford Cliffs) relaxed like a seasoned professional before sprinting clear in the straight to score by over two lengths from Fiorucci Mama (Rommel) and Costume Party (A Lot).

Amelia Park owner Peter Walsh sponsors the Group 2 Karrakatta Plate (1200m) and he can pocket a large portion of the \$500,000 prizemoney on April 2. He's overdue after seconds with Liwi (2021) and Lady Cosmology (2018) and a fourth with Amelia's On Fire (2019).

"Winning black-type at her first start is enormous," trainer Simon Miller said.

"I knew she was good but didn't want to get Peter fired up too early. Then the shackles came off after her trial win last month and I told him she was a machine.

"She's got a brain and that's a key element ahead of the Karrakatta. Pete's been knocked off twice in recent years so hopefully it's his turn this time. She's the real deal."

In-form jockey Pat Carberry gave the winner a gun run one-out, one-back in the Supremacy.

"We didn't have a set plan. Simon told me to wait and let the race unfold. We were in a good spot and she quickened when I angled into clear air. She bumped with Costume Party but balanced up and let down to win it with relative ease."

Walsh and his wife Annie bought Bumbasina (Ire) for 75,000gns (AUD 140,000) at the 2018 Tattersalls July Bloodstock Sale and then sent her to Haras de Bonneval in Normandy where she was covered by Siyouni (Fr) to southern-hemisphere time.

Amelia's Jewel is the 58th individual Stakes winner by Siyouni (Pivotal). He was Champion French 2YO Sire in 2017, '18 & '19 and Champion French Sire in 2020 & '21.

Bumbasina's first Australian-conceived foal, a colt by Coolmore sire Merchant Navy, topped Day 2 at last month's Perth Magic Millions Yearling Sale when knocked down to Wally Daly for \$160,000

e team will also receive their training fees paid for two years!



PHOTO: Amelia's Jewel

# Playing God

## MOST POPULAR STALLION IN WA

Figures released by the Australian Stud Book for spring coverings in 2021 confirm Playing God is the most popular stallion in Western Australia.

The Darling View Thoroughbreds champion served 128 mares last year at a State-high fee of \$16,500 (inc GST).

Playing God (pictured) is a son of Blackfriars (Danehill) who has won the last 20 WA sires' premierships in a row. He was a dual Group 1 winner of the Kingston Town Classic at Ascot and was initially based at Mungrup Stud before transferring to Darling View in 2020.

Darling View filled out the quinella with I'm All The Talk (Stratum). He had also moved from the Great Southern but tragically died after books of 92 and 120 at Mundijong.

Alwyn Park's successful sire Maschino covered a career-high 115 mares. He has done it the hard way after going as low as 9 mares when his first crop were unraced 2yo colts and fillies in 2016.

Nationally, Newgate Farm sire Capitalist (Written Tycoon) was the most active covering 243 mares at a \$99,000 (inc GST) fee. His Newgate associates North Pacific (202) and Flying Artie (201) were also among the busiest in the Hunter Valley.

Internationally, a USA Jockey Club rule to restrict stallions to 140 mares per calendar year was rescinded by the Kentucky General Assembly on February 17.

The Blue Grass State accounts for over 60% of the mares bred in North America.

The Jockey Club cited a declining and concerning degree of diversity within the Thoroughbred gene pool when it adopted the restrictions in May 2020. Enforcement of the rule was to begin with stallions born in 2020 and later, while active stallions bred prior to 2020 had no restrictions.

Even with a transition phase, the rule sharply divided the thoroughbred breeding community.

Eliminating the rule also means the lawsuit filed by Spendthrift Farm, Ashford Stud and Three Chimneys Farm is now moot. The farms challenged the rule for being "arbitrary" and "anti-competitive."

Their complaint argued the rule would also drive overseas the best stallion prospects in North America.

Ashford is the Kentucky base of Coolmore Stud and the industry leader issued a statement confirming the cap risked impacting the livelihoods of many working in the industry.

"It would have hurt an activity for which Kentucky is internationally renowned and respected. From our experience in Ireland, we know how important it is to nurture a critical mass of breeding excellence, which is a position Kentucky has long held, and can now maintain into the future.

"It could not have been in the interests of Kentucky racing for the progeny of great sires like Spendthrift's Into Mischief or Three Chimneys' Gun Runner to be restricted artificially.

"We praise the International Stud Book Committee for the work they continue to do to create harmonized global breeding rules. We also want to thank the many scientists and genetic experts whose insights informed our view that the cap would not have contributed in any meaningful way to promoting genetic diversity."



PHOTO: Playing God