

## VALUE SIRES PART II: THE MIDDLE GROUND



Night Of Thunder | Darley Stallions

By Emma Berry

Continuing our series on the profitability of stallions, this week we are looking at those who stood between £20,000 and £49,999 in 2020. Three of the top four in this table have subsequently graduated to the higher-fee bracket outlined in [Part I of this series](#) last Thursday. As previously stated, we will be examining sires in four key price brackets according to their yearling sales returns of 2022 set against their fees at the time of covering. The average profit has been determined by the stallion's fee plus a figure of £20,000 for keep costs.

Cont. p3

## FIRST FOAL FOR ST. MARK'S BASILICA

The first foal by European Champion 2-year-old and World Champion 3-year-old **St Mark's Basilica (Fr)** (**Siyouni {Fr}**) was born at Kiltinan Stud in Fethard, Co Tipperary, Ireland, on Jan. 9. The colt is out of Vital Force (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) and owned by the John Ferguson-headed Natalma Bloodstock.

Vital Force is a half-sister to Godolphin's G2 Coventry S. winner Buratino (Ire) (Exceed and Excel {Aus}) and from the immediate family of Danehill Dancer (Ire).

"He's a good first foal with a good frame to fill into and a confident temperament," Kiltinan manager Donna Vowles said.

St Mark's Basilica won six of nine starts and earned £2,196,080. He is a five-time Group 1 winner, including the Irish Champion S., Emirates Poule d'Essai des Poulains and Coral Eclipse S.

He stands at Coolmore Stud in Ireland for a fee of £65,000.

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## Cont. from p1

The profitable stallions featured must have had at least five yearlings sold in 2022 to make the list and prices have been converted to sterling from Euros according to the conversion rate on the day of the sale. Just as Dubawi (Ire) headed the list of those in the most expensive fee bracket, so does his son Night Of Thunder (Ire) claim top honours here in this second tier when his fee was €25,000, having been as low as €15,000 for two years before that. It stepped back up a notch after the Kildangan Stud resident's stellar first crop of 2-year-olds demonstrated just what their sire was capable of and, since that time, his price has kept climbing to a current high of €100,000. Yes, that's expensive, but the clamour for Night Of Thunder's yearlings was such that 90 were sold (84 of which were in profit) last year for an average of more than eight times his fee at £197,346, with an average profit of £154,565.

Clearly it will be hard to maintain such a level from a higher fee, but it is fair to assume that with the price rise comes an uplift in the quality of mares he is covering, and he was no one-crop wonder. With a top-rated sprinter in Europe to his name last year in Highfield Princess (Fr) and 32 stakes winners from four crops of racing age, Night Of Thunder is fast reaching the elite bracket at only 12 years of age.



**Wootton Bassett** | Coolmore

**Wootton Bassett (GB)** has been an incredible success story for Haras d'Etreham, where his stud career started at a lowly €6,000 fee, which dropped to €4,000 in 2014 and 2015 and rose in line with his achievements from relatively small books of lowly mares in his early years. The figures shown on this table represent his final crop bred in France at €40,000. He has subsequently taken another two big price leaps following his move to Coolmore in Ireland--to €100,000 and now €150,000. That, predictably, has been accompanied by strong support from plenty of big breeders. His upward rise will need to continue but, given the mares he has covered in recent years, it would be staggering if it doesn't. Like Dubawi and his sons, **Wootton Bassett** provides a useful outcross option for many via the Mr. Prospector line, in this instance through Mr P's extremely influential son Gone West, who is **Wootton Bassett's** great grandsire.

**Wootton Bassett** has at least one top Classic prospect in the Group 1-winning juvenile Al Riffa (Fr), who provides an early example of just what his sire is capable of when crossed with Galileo (Ire). His 83 yearlings sold in 2022 returned an average price of £151,427, giving him a profit margin of £94,978.

**Starspangledbanner (Aus)** had noted poor fertility at the outset of his career but this appears to have been largely overcome, which is a bonus to breeders. From 121 mares covered in 2020 at a fee of €22,500, 62 of his yearlings were sold with a decent profit margin of £70,801. This year marks the 16-year-old's career-high fee of €50,000,

which means that unlike Night Of Thunder, **Wootton Bassett** and **Camelot (GB)**, **Starspangledbanner** will remain in this bracket for now. He is joined at stud this season by his high-flying son State Of Rest (Ire), a Group 1 winner in four different countries, and is responsible for one of the most exciting sprinter/milers in Hong Kong, California Spangle (Ire), who recently downed the colours of the outstanding Golden Sixty (Aus).



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It is easy to see why **Starspangledbanner**'s popularity has been consistently high, just like his fellow Coolmore-based forefathers Choisir (Aus), Danehill Dancer (Ire), and Danehill.

Then there's **Camelot**, the horse who should be a Triple Crown winner and the sole remaining son of Montjeu (Ire) in the Flat division in Britain and Ireland (his fellow Derby winner Authorized (Ire) is still plying his trade in Turkey). **Camelot** may divide opinion but as the sire of 10 Group/Grade 1 winners in five different countries he is unquestionably a good stallion, and one who has piqued the interest of Australian buyers thanks to the exploits of Cox Plate winner Sir Dragonet and dual Group 1 winner Russian **Camelot** (Ire), who is now at Widden Stud. His two highfliers of last year, Irish Champion S. victor Luxembourg (Ire) and Deutsches Derby hero Sammarco (Ger), remain in training and the yearlings of 2022 posted average profit of £54,918 from the 45 that were sold.



**Nathaniel** | Newsells Park Stud

That crop was conceived at €40,000, and **Camelot**'s fee rose to €60,000 the following year, where it is again now after a brief high of €75,000.

With Night Of Thunder out in front, there is plenty for the Darley team to like about this list and they have another three in the top 10 at varying stages of their career: Blue Point (Ire), Teofilo (Ire), and Cracksman (GB). Much will be expected of Blue Point this year, and with 98 of his first-crop yearlings offered in 2022 it is clear that breeders viewed him as a commercial prospect from the outset. He is after all made in the image of his late and celebrated sire

Shamardal and his race record

had that intoxicating blend of precocity and speed which is catnip to modern-day breeders.

Having started out at €45,000, he is now down to €35,000 for his fourth season at stud, and his first yearlings returned average profit of £36,872.

## Sire profitability for stallions standing at £20,000 - £49,999

Sire	Off	Sold	%	High	Avg	Med	Fee	Avg Profit	In Profit	%	AvgXFee
Night of Thunder	97	90	92.8	840,000	197,346	162,750	22,781	154,565	84	93.3	8.7
Wootton Bassett	90	83	92.2	633,981	151,427	130,160	36,449	94,978	63	75.9	4.2
Starspangledbanner	73	62	84.9	630,000	111,303	52,500	20,502	70,801	37	59.7	5.4
Camelot	51	45	88.2	472,500	111,367	80,453	36,449	54,918	30	66.7	3.1
Blue Point	98	78	79.6	375,446	97,877	73,500	41,005	36,872	41	52.6	2.4
Teofilo	19	16	84.2	315,000	92,161	45,583	36,449	35,712	7	43.8	2.5
Cracksman	40	34	85.0	294,000	70,201	49,352	25,000	25,201	17	50.0	2.8
Le Havre	68	58	85.3	507,185	90,658	49,204	45,561	25,097	19	32.8	2.0
Zoustar	72	67	93.1	341,250	73,951	53,635	30,000	23,951	31	46.3	2.5
Saxon Warrior	60	57	95.0	472,500	66,997	35,700	25,059	21,938	21	36.8	2.7
Nathaniel	37	31	83.8	225,611	66,259	37,155	25,000	21,259	15	48.4	2.7
Ten Sovereigns	102	88	86.3	446,960	61,942	38,296	22,781	19,161	36	40.9	2.7
Churchill	125	103	82.4	420,000	65,934	42,265	27,337	18,597	44	42.7	2.4
Advertise	69	63	91.3	525,000	63,015	37,545	25,000	18,015	26	41.3	2.5
Magna Grecia	81	70	86.4	315,000	53,419	40,000	20,502	12,917	26	37.1	2.6
Zoffany	83	70	84.3	270,498	51,092	34,205	20,502	10,590	28	40.0	2.5
Exceed and Excel	39	31	79.5	367,500	66,721	37,000	36,449	10,272	10	32.3	1.8
Oasis Dream	40	33	82.5	141,750	52,519	44,100	25,000	7,519	13	39.4	2.1
Calyx	75	63	84.0	178,500	48,977	35,757	22,500	6,477	23	36.5	2.2
Gleneagles	71	58	81.7	682,500	58,209	28,158	31,893	6,316	16	27.6	1.8
Australia	30	27	90.0	294,000	50,783	29,400	25,059	5,724	8	29.6	2.0
Acclamation	49	41	83.7	200,000	53,600	37,000	31,893	1,707	10	24.4	1.7
Soldier Hollow	16	12	75.0	130,160	47,959	37,007	27,337	622	6	50.0	1.8

- In profit=advertised fee for 2020 + £20,000 keep.

- Must have 5+ sold to make the list.

- Ranked by average profit: yearling average minus (Fee+£20k)

- Euro price to sterling price conversion at day of sale.

- Euro fee to sterling fee conversion on Oct 1st of covering year.

**Statistics supplied by  
John Boyce.**

**Cont.**

Of course this season is crucial for him as we start to see his first runners but you can bet that Charlie Appleby has a few smart juveniles up his sleeve by the sire who lit up Royal Ascot not once but twice in a week with a Group 1 double. A 2-year-old winner at the same meeting this year for Blue Point would be just the ticket to get his secondary career off to a similarly fast start.

Cracksman took a few people by surprise last year with a spate of relatively early winners which has grown to a list of 18 to date, including the G2 Premio Dormello winner Aloa (GB) and Listed Star S. victrix Dance In The Grass (GB). His opening fee of £25,000, gave average profit of £25,201 on the 34 yearlings sold from his second crop. Cracksman is now available at £17,500 and, given his own racing profile, there is cause to believe that his offspring take another step forward in their Classic season and beyond.



**Starspangledbanner** | Coolmore

Cracksman's fellow first-season sires of 2022, Zoustar (Aus) and **Saxon Warrior** (Jpn), were also buoyed by solid results from their debutants. Zoustar is of course several seasons ahead in the southern hemisphere. G1 Cheveley Park S winner Lezoo (GB)

was the stand-out of his European runners, prompting a fee rise to £30,000 this year from his opening mark of £25,000. From 67 yearlings sold, his average profit margin was £23,951. **Saxon Warrior** gives renewed hope of the Deep Impact sire-line taking root in Europe and from his first runners, Victoria Road (Ire) flew the flag for him with a Breeders' Cup victory, while the G1 Prix Marcel Boussac runner-up Gan Teorainn (Ire) has now spread her wings even farther through

being exported to Australia after being bought for 1,000,000gns by Yulong Investments. From a starting fee of €30,000, which dipped to €27,500 in 2020, his yearlings averaged almost £67,000 last year, showing average profit of £21,938.



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My pick from this list, however, is the dependable Nathaniel (Ire). There are few stallions in the world who will ever sire a filly of the calibre of Enable (GB), but the brilliant light of his stud career shines well beyond that obvious beacon. A Classic heroine in France and Grade 1 victrix in America, backed up the top-class British-trained duo of God Given (GB) and Lady Bowthorpe (GB), could have had Nathaniel pegged as a fillies' sire, but then Desert Crown (GB) breezed down the hill at Epsom to win the Derby with consummate ease.

Nathaniel's success extends beyond the Flat to some smart jumpers, including Zanahiyr (Ire) and Concertista (Fr), and the offers to Newsells Park Stud from National Hunt stallion operations in recent years have surely been numerous. The average price of the yearlings conceived from Nathaniel's 2020 fee was £66,259, leading to average profit of £21,259. Good on the team at Newsells Park for hanging on to this extremely useful stallion, who surely represents excellent value at his current fee of £15,000.

#### VALUE PODIUM

**Gold: Nathaniel**

**Silver: Cracksman**

**Bronze: Starspangledbanner**

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## EUROPEAN NEWS

### QATAR STANDOUT NOOR AL HAWA TO STAND IN FRANCE

**Noor Al Hawa (Fr)** (Makfi {GB}--Majestic Roi, by Street Cry {Ire}), champion of his generation in Germany as a 3-year-old and a four-time highweighted older horse in Qatar, will enter stud in 2023 at Haras du Grand Courgeon some 25 kilometres northwest of Angers. He will command a fee of €2,300.

Bred by Rabbah Bloodstock Limited, Noor Al Hawa raced in the early part of his career for Jaber Abdullah and was trained by Andreas Wohler. He came to hand at three in 2016, posting a breakthrough black-type success in the Listed Prix de Tourgeville at Deauville and added a pair of German Group 3 tests before being acquired by the Qatar-based Al Wasmiyah Stud.

A three-length winner of the US\$500,000 Qatar Derby (Listed), the chestnut was runner-up in the Listed H.H. The Emir's Trophy the following February and again in 2018 before winning the G3 Grand Prix de Vichy for trainer Elias Mikhalides that summer.

[Cont. p7](#)

## 13 GROUP/STAKES WINNERS IN 2022 INCLUDING...

#### OCEAN ROAD BROOME

- 1<sup>st</sup> Gamely Stakes **Gr.1 in 2022**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud **Gr.1 in 2021**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Hardwicke Stakes **Gr.2 in 2022**

#### MARE AUSTRALIS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prix Ganay **Gr.1 in 2021**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Prix de Chantilly **Gr.2 in 2022**

#### ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

- 1<sup>st</sup> Breeders' Cup Mile **Gr.1 in 2020**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Minstrel Stakes **Gr.2 in 2022**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prix du Moulin de Longchamp **Gr.1 in 2022**

#### NACHTROSE TRANQUIL LADY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Oaks d'Italia **Gr.2 in 2022**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Blue Wind Stakes **Gr.3 in 2022**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Prix de Flore **Gr.3 in 2022**

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