
€210,000 for Mid Dancer's half-brother, and a less volatile NH market

With a **€3,771,000** aggregate, representing a drop of only 7.4% on last year's record turnover, ARQANA's Summer Sale returned commendable results despite the sharp drop affecting the NH European market this season.

In view of the worrying results registered by comparable sales recently held in Ireland and the UK, as well as of the historically high level of the Euro against the Sterling, a difficult sale could be anticipated. This session eventually held its own, yet with contrasted results in the various categories featured in the catalogue.

Thanks to the unabated popularity of French-bred jumpers across the Channel, to the quality of the 2008 catalogue and the continued support of ARQANA's sales by the leading players on the NH market, a strong Anglo-Irish representation made its presence felt (Highflyer, Gerry Hogan, Bobby O'Ryan, James Delahooke, Peak Bloodstock, etc.). French agents Hubert Barbe, Guy Petit and Bertrand Le Métayer also acted at their usual high level. Well-made, good-moving individuals were on offer, however purchase orders were undoubtedly lower compared to last year.

A two-tier store market: three-year-olds' section builds up while two-year-olds' drops

As indicated by the below figures, the three-year-old stores market **not only resisted the downhill trend but showed an 8% increase** in the average at €32,400 (including two private sales concluded upon bidding's ending).

Three-year-old stores

	<u>Offered</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Total+Priv</u>	<u>Average+Priv</u>
2008	39	23 (59%)	30 913	711 000	2	810 000	32 400
2007	41	23 (56%)	32 522	748 000	4	810 900	30 033

This category's top prices included :

- **Lot 123 – RED MILE:** from Kadgarde's first crop, this close relative to Katarino had impressed onlookers with his breeze. He was purchased for €95,000 by GH Bloodstock on behalf of young trainer Emma Lavelle (who counts the French-bred Labelthou amongst her charges).
This colt had been bought at Saint-Cloud as a yearling for €11,000 in November 2006. He is another successful pinhook for Mark Dwyer's Oaks Farm Stables. Young Irish agent Gerry Hogan (GH) is a former jumps jockey who successfully rode for David Nicholson "the Duke" in the 90s. He snapped up six lots on Thursday for a total €287,000.
- **Lot 45 – REXON DU RONCERAY:** this Video Rock colt fetched €80,000 and will stay in France to be trained by Jean-Paul Gallorini. A half-brother to Gloria Victis, he ticked a number of boxes and had no shortage of admirers, yet French agent Guy Armengol got the better of them all on behalf of Malcolm Parrish.

On the other hand, the **two-year-old market, which had been supported by Irish and British pinhookers in recent years, suffered a clear drop**. These prospective buyers have endured severe misfortunes this season due to the weakening demand. Consequently, they were more inclined to cautiousness than to reinvestment and proved very selective in their purchases. The clearance rate went down from 57% to 44% while the average price dropped by 9.5%.

Two-year-old stores

	<u>Offered</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Total+Priv</u>	<u>Average+Priv</u>
2008	81	36 (44%)	26 764	963 500	3	1 119 500	28 700
2007	75	43 (57%)	31 779	1 366 500	2	1 426 400	31 698

This category's top prices included :

- **Lot 78 - TIP DANCER:** this half-brother to Mid Dancer achieved a **record price for a store at Saint-Cloud when knocked down to French trainer Robert Collet for €210,000**. Bred at the same stud farm as French Derby hero Vision d'Etat, this other son of Chichicastenango emulated Exotic Man, a brother to Exotic Dancer who fetched top bidding at the 2007 renewal and was also consigned by the Haras de Grandcamp on behalf of Mr. Gaëtan Gilles.
- **Lot 14 – N. by Baratheia ex Mesange Royale:** the first foal out of champion racemare Mesange Royale sold for **€130 000 euros**. Bred and raised at Whitley Stud, he was bought by James Delahooke and will go into training with Alan King, who trains another Whitley Stud-bred in Champion Hurdle winner Katchit. The colt was offered from Oaks Farm Stables, who sold 5 lots at the sale for a total €275,000.

Healthy market for horses in training

With a clearance rate of 69%, the horses in training market seemed in pretty good shape. A gentle increase in turnover and a €27,000 average allowed for a satisfactory return despite some high-profile vendor buy-backs.

Horses in training

	<u>Offered</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Total+Priv</u>	<u>Average+Priv</u>
2008	88	61 (69%)	27 943	1 704 500	1	1 754 500	28 298
2007	93	58 (62%)	29 353	1 702 500	2	1 719 500	28 658

This category's top prices included:

- **Lot 159 – PRINCE DE BEAUCHENE:** trained by Eric Leray in the Western training centre of Senonnes, this half-brother to the top class Miko de Beauchêne changed hands for **€200,000** on a bid from Bobby O'Ryan. The five-year-old AQPS is set to join Howard Johnson's string in Northern England as a representative of Graham Wylie. English and Irish plays judged him a future Grand National contender.
- **Lot 157 A – YOUNG POLI :** a late addition to the catalogue to dissolve an association, the five-year-old was knocked down to Robert Collet for **€125,000**. The son of Poliglote will remain with his current trainer Alain Couétil in Senonnes.
- **Lot 214 – BIRBONE:** offered at auction to dissolve his owners' association, this three-year-old will go back to Jean-Marie Béguigné's yard after Paul Nataf signed the docket at **€125,000** on behalf of Enrico Ciampi. The colt is due to start at Compiègne next Monday in a Listed race.
- **Lot 228 – ZAYNAR:** consigned by the Aga Khan Studs, this Daylami colt went the way of Highflyer Bloodstock after they forked out **€110,000** to out battle the ever active Guy Petit (16 lots purchased). The handsome grey will now be trained by Nicky Henderson in Lambourn. Highflyer topped the buyers' list on the entire session with 9 lots purchased for an aggregate of €413,000.