

ARQANA BREEZE-UP SALE

A bustling, cosmopolitan attendance, active trade and a new record top-price at €220,000 were the feature elements of the breeze-up sale held by ARQANA at Saint-Cloud racecourse on April 19th.

Key indicators were all on the up, with median and average prices both setting new records at €28,000 and €35,000 respectively. In all, the 138 lots through the ring registered an aggregate of €3,306,500, a gentle increase on the 2007 renewal but €1,000,000 clear of the 2006 gross total.

Young consignor Haras du Saubouas, run by Paul Basquin, topped the vendors' list with a total turnover of €620,000 for 12 lots sold. They included the top-price, a filly by Medaglia d'Oro (lot 124) who was secured for €220,000 by Mac-Antoine Berghgracht's MAB Agency, who dominated the buyers' ranks after splashing out €572,000 on 9 lots.

French investors were out in force, landing the first four places on the buyers' leader board, yet bloodstock agents as well as trainers from the whole of Europe made a successful trip to Saint-Cloud, which means two-year-olds will now be heading to Ireland, the UK, Germany, Spain, Italy, Greece or even Bulgaria.

Other major lots of the sale were :

- Lot 100, colt by Anabaa and Beautiful Ballerina offered from Kilminfoyle House Stud (M. Fitzpatrick), purchased for €95,000 by MAB Agency.
- Lot 139, filly by Verglas and Helianthus offered from Haras du Saubouas (P. Basquin), purchased for €90,000 by Jean de Roualle.
- Lot 128, colt by Gulch and French Flag offered from Grove Stud (B. Holland), purchased for €85,000 by M. O'Toole.
- Lot 133, colt by Celtic Swing and Golden offered from Oaks Farm Stables (M. Dwyer), purchased for €82,000 by John Hammond.

The morning's breeze session was marred by an accident in the course of which Bansha House Stables' rider Maria Ryan was unfortunately injured. All at ARQANA wish her a prompt and full recovery.