



# Italian Racing & Bloodstock News

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## RACING NEWS

### CARUSO'S VOILA ICI SITS AT THE TOP OF ITALY

For the fifth time in 20 years, Vittorio Caruso saddled the highest-rated Italian-trained runner in the World Thoroughbred Rankings. **Voila Ici** was awarded a 117 mark for his win in the Gr.1 Premio Roma and Caruso agreed with the decision of the handicapping panel. *"He is a very consistent horse and performed below par just once, in the Gr.1 Gran Premio di Milano. He had a very solid campaign, with six Group races, and he never finished worse than third, winning the Gr.1 Premio Roma over ten furlongs and the Gr.2 Prix Maurice de Nieuil over fourteen. I think he is better over ten furlongs even though he won over further."*

The **Daylami** five-year-old, a €60,000 purchase at the Sga Selected Sale in 2006, stays in training even though Caruso has not planned a specific target for him.

*"First of all I want to see the Pattern Race conditions book. The Gr.3 Premio Ambrosiano at San Siro is an obvious first step for him but, if the conditions are the same as last year, he will have a 4kg penalty, a tough punishment, and I don't like to run a horse just for fun and give him a hard race,"* said Caruso.

The Italian trainer saddled 40 individual runners in 2009 and nine of them were rated at least 100. **Selmis**, winner of the Gr.1 Premio Presidente della Repubblica, gained a mark of 115 but has not been seen out since his win at Capannelle last May. *"He has recovered from an injury. I gave him plenty of time and he has been cantering for a couple of weeks. He will face the same problem as Voila Ici because of his Gr.1 penalty,"* Caruso advised.

### BROGI CELEBRATES RIP'S HIGH MARK

Trainer Roberto Brogi has won half a dozen Gr.1 races but will always be remembered as the breeder of **Rip Van Winkle**, the highest ever rated Italian-bred in the World Thoroughbred Rankings. The now four-year-old by **Galileo** got a 129 mark, 1lb more than **Falbrav** in 2003.

Roberto Brogi, who owns a couple of broodmares, is a very humble man and says, *"I had a lot of luck in breeding a horse like Rip Van Winkle. It is a miracle, starting from just two broodmares. I reinvested all the bonuses I earned with **Loriana**, another homebred who finished third in the Oaks d'Italia, in the fee for Galileo."*

Roberto Brogi will fly to Ireland in the next few weeks to see Rip Van Winkle and his two broodmares. *"Rip Van Winkle has been really unlucky to meet such an absolute cracker like **Sea The Stars**. I think and I hope he will improve at four but Aidan O'Brien doesn't need my advice about the horse because he is a master of his profession! I would just be happy to watch the colt perform at the top level as he did last year,"* said Brogi.

The breeder Brogi had a miraculous 2009 season but the trainer Brogi can also be content. From a small yard of fewer than 50 horses, he has some interesting prospects for: 2010.: **Occhio, della, Mente, (Le, Vie, dei, Colori)**: won twice and finished second in the Gr.3 Premio Guido Berardelli over nine furlongs, earning a mark of 102. *"Occhio della Mente ran well over further, but I think he is a miler and the [Gr.3] Premio Parioli is an obvious target. I want to run him once or twice beforehand but his schedule will be busy because the big one is very early in the season."*

*"Lord Chaparral [High Chaparral] was fifth in the Berardelli but is a completely different kind of horse. He will develop into a twelve furlong horse and the dream is the Derby Italiano, with a couple of runs first."*

### RICCARDI'S PLANS FOR BLACK MAMBAZO

**Black Mambazo**, narrowly beaten by **Tax Free** in the Gr.2 Prix du Gros-Chene and a close fifth in the Gr.1 Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp, is the top sprinter in Italy, according to his 113 mark in the Rankings. The five-year-old homebred by Azienda Agricola Valle Falcone, has just resumed trotting following a hairline stress fracture and trainer Luigi Riccardi will give him plenty of time to recover.:

*"I think I will do the same thing as last season, with the Gros-Chene and the Abbaye as the main targets. Black Mambazo improved a bit at four and I can expect another small step at five."*

Riccardi really likes the sprinting game but has a punctilious analysis of the league. *"The European sprinters are not at the same level as the Aussies, the Americans or the Hong Kong horses. The reason is simple – the prize money in the top events is not enough! A fast horse in Australia or Hong Kong has plenty of big races and the owners are encouraged to sent their horses sprinting. In Europe the sprint is just a second choice."*

### SIRACUSA CAPITAL OF THE WINTER SEASON

Siracusa will host its second big weekend of the winter season. The Premio Nastro d'Oro di Sicilia, a Listed race over a mile, is the main event on Saturday's card. There are thirteen contenders but the level of the race looks a bit below standard, with just the pair of Scuderia Siba's veterans **Cepirin (Desert Prince)** and **Polydors (Monashee Mountain)**, plus **Touch of Mida (Atticus)**, travelling from the mainland.

Sunday's Coppa d'Oro di Sicilia, a Listed race over 11.5 furlongs, will be a match between two old soldiers. **Montalegre (Montjeu)**, winner of a similar race in December, will try to bring his career to a close on a high note before taking up stallion duties at Azienda Agricola Antezzone. His main rival is the nine-year-old **Vol de Nuit (Linamix)**, Gr.3-placed last season, who won the Coppa d'Oro in 2009.