

SHEER TALENT

lived up to his name



Sheer Talent
(Redoute's Choice-St Katherine by Baratheia (IRE))

SHEER TALENT, a Gr.3 winner and Gr.1 placed son of champion sire Redoute's Choice and a descendant of famed mare Mumtaz Mahal, will begin his stud career in 2015 at Carrington Park Stud near Robertson in NSW. He will stand at \$4400.

A \$350,000 Magic Millions yearling, Sheer Talent is inbred 4m,5mx4m to Northern Dancer and 4mx3f to Bletchingly and is a brother to Gr.3 winner and dual Gr.1 fourth Kittens and a half-brother to Gr.3 winner and \$400,000 earner Saint Encosta. Their dam St Katherine is by the Sadler's Wells son Baratheia (IRE), a winner of the Irish 2000 Guineas-Gr.1 and Breeders' Cup Mile-Gr.1 and sire of Australian Gr.1 winner Easy Rocking, Porto Roca and Shirazamatazz. She is a half-sister to Gr.1 winners Bonanova (dam of Prima Nova and Bonaichi), Fraternity and Telesto (sire), who were all by Star Way (GB) and from Belle of the Turf Stakes-LR winner St Klair (Bletchingly) who was also runner-up in the Reislip Slipper Trial-Gr.2 and third in the VRC Oaks-Gr.1.

St Klair's dam is the imported Great Klair (GB), a Gr.2 placed daughter of the Prix du Moulin-Gr.1 winner Great Nephew (Honeyway) and from 6f winner Klairissa by Klairon. Klairissa is a half-sister to champion sprinter Habibi and to outstanding broodmare Eight Carat (GB) (dam of Octogonal, Mouawad, Kaapstad, Diamond Lover and Our Marquise, all Gr.1 winners, and of Cotehele House (GB), dam of Gr.1 Danewin and Gr.1 placed Commands, both successful sires and sons of Danehill). Sheer Talent's ninth dam is brilliant Mumtaz Mahal (The Tetrarch) whose descendants also include Nasrullah and Royal Charger, Golden Slipper winner Guineas and leading sire Mossman.

Sheer Talent was bred by Gerry Harvey at his Baramul Stud and is by Arrowfield Stud's multiple Gr.1 winner and great sire Redoute's Choice (Danehill (USA)-Shantha's Choice by Canny Lad), three times Champion Australian Sire and sire of more than 760 winners (1225W) including Golden Slipper winners Stratum and Miss Finland (also bred on the Redoute's Choice-Sadler's Wells cross), brilliant sprinters like Lankan Rupee, Snitzel and Master of Design and a noted sire of sires.

The Baramul Stud owner was also part of the syndicate who raced Sheer Talent. The colt was trained by Mark Kavanagh and won the second of his two starts at two, scoring over 1412m at Seymour before being given a break. He resumed in tough company, beaten just over a length when fifth in the MRC H.D.F McNeil Stakes-Gr.3 (1200m) on September 1, 2012 and was then put away until the following February when fourth in the Listed Manfred Stakes (1200m) behind Royal Haunt. Two weeks later he scored a strong win in the VRC C.S. Hayes Stakes-Gr.3 (1400m in 1:22.60) from Force Command (three-quarters of a length) and with the beaten brigade including Phillippi and Albrecht.

"He wasn't quite right in the spring, he had one run and it was really good but then he got crook so we tipped him out with the Guineas and Derbys in mind," Kavanagh said after the colt's stakes win. "It was a good run first-up, but today we're a little bit surprised because we thought he would run well, but I just thought there was still improvement in him," said the trainer who also prepared the winner's sister Kittens to stakes success for Gerry Harvey.

"I've just kept a close watch on him, I've never done too much with him. The moment he looks like he's had enough, I'll put him away and that's how I've trained him. If you look at him closely, there's a little bit more improvement to come, in fact, he just keeps improving every time he goes out."

Jockey Stephen Baster agreed there was still improvement to come for the colt. "Sheer Talent did everything perfectly, which he hasn't done in the past few runs, so he's obviously on the way up. I think he is definitely better over more ground."

Next start on March 2 Sheer Talent was caught wide from a wide barrier and sat outside the leader in the VRC Australian Guineas-Gr.1 (1600m) in what proved a very taxing run. He held on gamely to be third (1.25 lengths) behind Ferlax and You're So Good. Two weeks later he was a nose second to subsequent Australian Derby-Gr.1 runner-up Phillippi in the MVRC Alister Clarke Stakes-Gr.2 (Gerontius third) over the Cox Plate distance (2040m). He was unplaced in three subsequent starts and retired.

"We're thrilled to have Sheer Talent retiring to Carrington Park Stud," farm owner Peter Beauman said. "He is by one of the great stallions of Australia in Redoute's Choice, whose sons at stud like Snitzel and Stratum have exceeded everyone's expectations. He possesses a similar profile to other successful Redoute's Choice sons Not A Single Doubt and Beneteau (leading first season sire for 2014-15), as stallions who were Listed or Group winners with a high level placing in a Gr.1 or \$1m race. He has a great physique and from a family known for producing Gr.1 winners. We can't wait to see his foals on the ground in 2016." ■