

## MADAME DUBOIS STRIKES FOR GRADE 3 WIN IN VALOR DEBUT CLASSIC GUINEAS NEXT FOR 3YO FILLY AFTER THREE TROIKAS TRIUMPH BARRY IRWIN FINDS GEM IN RARE PRIVATE PURCHASE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Trainer Robbie Sage warned that Madame Dubois would be short of her best for her first start of 2016 in Turffontein's Three Troikas Stakes, as she returned from a 3-month break to prep for the classic Fillies Guineas. Dismissed at 8-to-1, the filly indeed was a bit thick-bodied but her talent shone through in a game Grade 3 triumph under jockey Piere "Striker" Strydom on February 7 in Johannesburg.

Madame Dubois was racing for the first time for the group of Team Valor and partners Valor Ladies, Anant and Vanashree Singh and Colin Bird. After she scored a Grade 3 win in the Starling Stakes on October 31, Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin reached out to his friend Robin Bruss, the international bloodstock agent, to see whether the daughter of Count Dubois was available. Irwin liked the sire and, while Team Valor does not often make private purchases of South African horses in training, he follows the filly divisions there closely to identify potential diamonds in the rough. Bird owned Madame Dubois and agreed to a deal where he would stay in for a smaller share in the filly, with the connections setting their sights on the mile Fillies Guineas, which is the first leg of South Africa's Triple Tiara.



*Madame Dubois holds off favored Negroamaro for her second straight Grade 3 win.*

Sage would have preferred a shorter prep than the 7 1/2-furlong Three Troikas and advised Irwin and Anant Singh that she would likely need the race and then be spot-on for the Guineas. The new owners were delighted to see her respond with a strong burst in the stretch for Strydom to take command and then hold off a late rally from favored Negroamaro, who had won a Grade 3 herself after finishing fifth in the Starling.

If the filly continues to perform well, Irwin and company will consider placing her in quarantine to ship her to the U.S. later this year.

Madame Dubois is the 142nd stakes winner (26 percent) and 87th Graded stakes winner (16 percent) from 541 starters that have raced for an Irwin managed public partnership since 1987. She won on the same day recent stakes winner Mexikoma finished a solid third for Team Valor in Gulfstream Park's \$500,000 Donn Handicap, becoming the stable's 69<sup>th</sup> Grade 1 horse.