

Family Matters

with DAVID BAY

A new star on the horizon at Mornmoot Stud

FOMALHAUT, usually pronounced "fo-ma-low" has been described as a "wonderful first magnitude star" of the northern hemisphere autumn, and it will be no surprise to see his equine namesake shine just as brightly in Australia.

The thoroughbred Fomalhaut (USA) is a superbly bred, stakes-performed half-brother to leading sires Machiavellian and Exit to Nowhere and from the family of Northern Dancer and Danehill (USA). He will stand at Mornmoot Stud, Whittlesea in 2005.

By Champion Miler and leading sire Spinning World (USA), Fomalhaut is out of Coup de Folie (Halo-Raise the Standard by Hoist the Flag), one of the world's great broodmares.

Fomalhaut, an attractive brown horse standing 16.1 1/2 hands, is a half-brother to three Gr.1 winners and two Gr.1 placegetters (both Group winners) among seven winners produced by his dam. His first season fee is just \$7700 (including GST).

A Gr.3 winner and Gr.1 placed in the Prix Marcel Bousac, Coup de Folie's descendants include 2004 Arc de Triomphe-Gr.1 winner Bago (Nashwan-Moonlight's Box by Nureyev), a triple Gr.1 winner and ranked Leading 3YO in Europe last year with a World Thoroughbred Racehorse Ranking of 126.

Coup de Genie (Mr. Prospector), a half-sister to Fomalhaut, was Champion 2YO of She is the dam of Gr.1 winner Denebota (Storm Cat) and stakes winners Loving Kindness, Snake Mountain and Gila. Moonlight's Box is also a daughter of Coup de Genie.

Machiavellian (Mr. Prospector), a half-brother to Fomalhaut, was also Champion 2YO of France, winning the Prix Morny and Prix de la Salamandre and remaining unbeaten as a juvenile.

Classic-placed when runner-up in the English 2000 Guineas-Gr.1, he proved an outstanding sire with runners like Darley shuttler Street Cry (IRE), winner of the Dubai World Cup-Gr.1, Almutawakel (Dubai World Cup-Gr.1), multiple Gr.1 winner Storming Home, Coronation Stakes-Gr.1 winner Rebecca Sharp, Best of the Bests and Right Approach among his Gr.1 winners (more than 50SW). His fee was £80,000 at his death in Britain; aged 17 last year and his winners to runner is about 60% (11%SW).

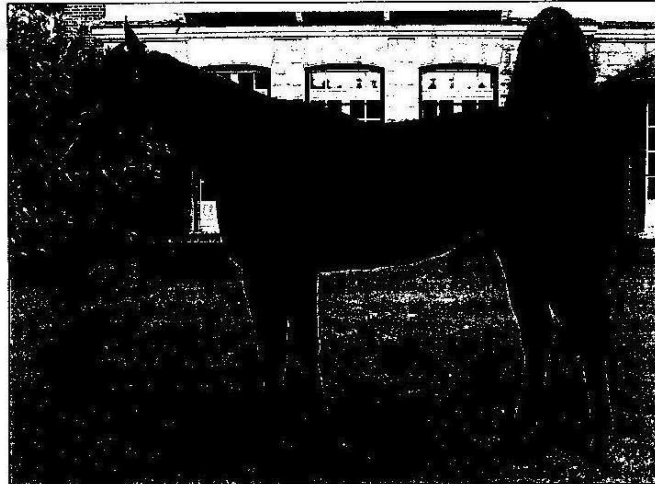
Exit to Nowhere (Irish River) is another Gr.1-winning half-brother to Fomalhaut. His major success came in the Prix Jacques le Marois and he is the sire of more than 200 winners, including Shaka (Criterium de Saint-Cloud-Gr.1).

Irish River's other sons at stud include the Australian success story Brief Truce, whose best runner Diatribe is from the family of Fomalhaut and whose daughters could suit the new Mornmoot Stud sire.

Coup de Folie, a granddaughter of Natalma (dam of Northern Dancer and third dam of Danehill), also produced the Gr.2 winner Hydro Calido (by Nureyev). This three-quarter sister to Fomalhaut was also runner-up in the French 1000 Guineas-Gr.1 and is the dam of stakes winner Esperero (USA) (Forty Niner), a promising first crop sire in Victoria in 2004-05.

Salchow (Nijinsky), an unraced daughter of Coup de Folie, is the dam of Champion 2YO Way of Light (USA) (Woodman (USA)), winner of the Grand Criterium-Gr.1 and sire in Australia.

Raise the Standard, a half-sister to Northern Dancer by Champion American 2YO Hoist the Flag, grandam of Fomalhaut, also



FOMALHAUT (USA) (Spinning World (USA)-Coup de Folie by Halo), a superbly-bred half-brother to successful sire Machiavellian and Exit to Nowhere and from the family of Danehill, could easily become one of the brightest stallion stars in Victoria as he is sure to be well supported at Mornmoot Stud in 2005.

produced the minor American winner El Moxie (USA) (Conquistador Cielo), a sire champion Silent Witness (unbeaten in 1/ starts to the end of April 2005) and including the Australian Gr.1 winners El Mirada, Alfa and Winestock.

Raise the Standard's daughter Bonita Francita (by Halo's son Devil's Bag) is also dam of Prix Morny-Gr.1 winner and sire Orpen (by Danzig's son Lure) and grandam of Gr.1 winner Bluemamba (Kingmambo).

It's worth remembering that Coup de Folie is inbred 2x2 to the half-sisters Cosmah (Cosmic Bomb-Almahmoud by Mahmoud) - the dam of Halo and Natalma (Native Dancer-Almahmoud) - the dam of Raise the Standard.

Fomalhaut has two further strains of Almahmoud from the pedigree of his sire Spinning World (Natalma 4x6x6m via Northern Dancer and Northfields) giving him a 5f,6x4f,4f inbreeding to that daughter of Mahmoud.

Spinning World

FOMALHAUT'S sire Spinning World (Nureyev-Imperfect Circle by Riverman) was an outstanding performer, winning five Gr.1 events at a mile, the Breeders' Cup Mile (Hollywood Park), Prix du Moulin (defeating Helissio by three lengths), Prix Jacques le Marois (1996 and 1997) and the Irish 2000 Guineas.

He was also runner-up in the Breeders' Cup Mile, Prix du Moulin and French 2000 Guineas. This Champion Miler of Europe retired to Coolmore Stud in Ireland and Australia in 1998.

His southern runners include the outstanding filly Special Harmony (dam by Marooned), a triple Gr.1 winner of 10 races and \$1.87m including the VRC Oaks, Storm Queen Stakes and MRC 1000 Guineas; and now-NZ-based sire Thorn Park (dam by Bluebird), whose nine wins netted \$1.53m and included the QTC Stradbroke Handicap-Gr.1.

Pedigree enthusiasts will note that Ancient World, a European Gr.1 winner by Spinning World, is out of a daughter of Machiavellian.

Spinning World has sired more than 220 winners (65.2% winners-to-runners) of more

than \$27m. He has 24 stakes winners (7%) and 22 stakes placed runners (6.5%).

include Stravinsky (USA), Theatrical, Peintre Celebre (USA), Soviet Star (USA) and Polar Falcon, Spinning World's first three damsires are Riverman (sire of the dam of Makye Diva), Northfields and Sir Ivor, wonderful influences in any pedigree.

Spinning World's dam, Imperfect Circle, was a stakes winner and Gr.1 runner-up and has produced the stakes winner Visions of Clarity (Sadler's Wells).

His second dam, Aviance, won the Phoenix Stakes-Gr.1 and is the dam and grandam of Gr.1 winners.

Spinning World's fourth dam Best in Show (Traffic Judge) is another world champion broodmare whose descendants include Try My Best, El Gran Senor, Geilgud, Xaar, 2004 Champion USA Sprinter Aldebaran (Mr. Prospector), as well as Australian-raced stars like boom young sire Redoute's Choice, Umattilla, Hurricane Sky and Al Maher (whose dam is by Halo son Don't Say Halo) as well as the high class Gr.1 winner Denon (USA) (Pleasant Colony-Aviance by Northfields), new to Independent Stallions in Victoria in 2005.

Fomalhaut should certainly cross well with members of the Best in Show tribe and his family's previous success with the Mr. Prospector line makes mares carrying that son of Raise a Native in their pedigrees most suitable mates.

One especially interesting horse could be Geiger Counter, a son of Mr. Prospector and from the family of Nureyev, while daughters of Archway and Rustic Amber (whose sire Thatching has a double dose of the family of Nureyev's dam Special) also appeal.

Biscay also appears in the pedigrees of several of Spinning World's best runners and daughters of Blevic (and his sire Scenic (IRE)) would bring Nureyev's close relation Sadler's Wells and Biscay into the equation as well as Mill Reef (another son of Never Bend).

Fomalhaut and most of the outstanding runners from his family were bred by the Niarchos family's Flaxman Holdings and trained by Pascal Barry in France.

Race record

FOMALHAUT was a consistent performer in France and in the first four in eight of his 12 starts.

He was beaten a half-length on debut at Longchamp (7f Prix des Arts et Metiers) on March 31, 2002 and was stepped up to stronger company against much more experienced three year-old colts in the Prix de Fontainebleau-Gr.3 (8f) just two weeks later, also at Longchamp.

Although he was sixth in that race, he was beaten just two lengths by Bowman in a blanket finish and the minor placings were filled by top class performers Medecis and Landseer.

The seventh horse was eight lengths astern of Fomalhaut.

Back to a distance that would prove much more to his liking at his third start on May 6 he won the Prix de Sorbieres (5.5f) at Chantilly and was then given a break.

Resuming in Listed company at Deauville on August 1, 2002, he was third to Best Walking and Ziria in the Prix du Cercle (5f) and then took on older horses in one of the strong French sprints, the Prix du Petit Commerce-Gr.3 (5f in 56.6) at Longchamp and was again, beaten just three lengths by Ziria, Dananev, Porlezza and Best Walking. It was his final run for the year.

Resuming in Listed company at Deauville on August 1, 2002, he was second to that horse in the Listed Prix Servanne over the same course and distance on April 23.

Back to Longchamp on May 11 for the Prix de Saint-Georges-Gr.3 (5f) and Fomalhaut was a close fourth to Best Walking, Zipping and Ela Merici.

His speed was put to good use next start on August 17 when he was used to ensure a strong pace in the Prix Jacques le Marois-Gr.1 (8f), enabling his Niarchos-owned stablemate Six Perfections to land the money.

Given a long break after that taxing run, he resumed in 2004 in the Listed Prix Cor de Chasse, beaten a head and three-quarters of a length when third to Raffelberger and Swedish Shave and again tackled the Prix Servanne (5f in 57), beaten a neck, head and neck when fourth to Porlezza (high class English sprinter Miss Emma was a head back in fifth, with a neck to Melkior in sixth).

His final start came when again called on to use his abundant speed as pacemaker for Six Perfections in the Prix Jacques le Marois-Gr.1 against Europe's best milers.

That filly was second to Prix Morny-Gr.1 winner Whipper as Fomalhaut (8th) vied for the lead for most of the journey with star English filly Attraction, who ran last.

Fomalhaut showed speed and consistency throughout his career on the track and has a pedigree that would not be out of place on high class studs in Europe and the USA.

Game and genuine, he offers breeders the chance to access superb bloodlines at a modest fee and his speed should ensure plenty of early SuperVOBIS winners and cheques for happy owners.

His first season service fee is \$7700 (including GST) and includes free agistment and a standard vet contact.

For further information contact Robert Thompson at Mornmoot Stud on 03 9716 1999. ■