



 **FRANCE  
GALOP**



PRESS RELEASE

Monday, 7 April 2025

## **Seven exceptional studs join forces to provide unprecedented support for the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris**

Seven exceptional studs join forces for the 2025 Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris

France Galop is delighted to announce a unique partnership for the 2025 Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris. For the first time, seven renowned French studs are joining forces to support and promote the National Hunt sector. All of the studs' stallions are renowned for breeding excellent jump horses.

The seven studs who have come together in support include the Haras de Cercy, d'Étreham, du Hoguenet, de la Hêtraie, du Lion, de Montaigu and du Mesnil. The partnership demonstrates a shared desire to strengthen and promote this iconic discipline.

France Galop welcomes this initiative, which is fully in line with its mission to promote National Hunt racing and support its stakeholders.

Guillaume de Saint-Seine, Chairman of France Galop : « *National Hunt racing is a sport built on solid foundations, unique expertise and a passion shared by everyone in the industry. The partnership with these seven prestigious studs is the result of an unprecedented collective commitment to the promotion and strengthening of the industry. By renaming the greatest National Hunt race "Le Défi des Haras - Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris", we are sending out a strong message : that of a shared ambition for excellence; and for the future of National Hunt racing in France. Together with Frédéric Landon, President of the National Hunt Racing Committee, we are proud of this initiative and we look forward to sharing an exceptional weekend with the many fans of this fantastic sport. »*

Nicolas de Chambure, Director of France Galop, Managing Director of the Haras d'Étreham and spokesperson of the seven studs involved in this initiative : « *This is a first and an initiative that we as stud owners were keen to support together. Thanks to this initiative we hope to convey a positive message of enthusiasm and ambition for the industry. The ability*

# *Le défi des haras* **GRAND STEEPLÉ-CHASE DE PARIS GR.1**



*of the stud farms to unite around this common project is a strong representation of the values of our sport and we are very much looking forward to this weekend.»*



*A strong commitment for an unmissable event*

As part of this partnership, the weekend's flagship race, which is run on Sunday, 18 May at the Auteuil racecourse, will be known as :

### **"Le Défi des Haras - Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris"**

Representatives of the seven partner studs will take part in the prize-giving ceremony of the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris, which will take place on a podium specially installed on the Auteuil track, in front of the grandstand and its spectators.

*A weekend placed under the sign of sharing*

The weekend will feature a number of social events. On Saturday, 17 May, France Galop and the stud partners are hosting a cocktail reception at the Auteuil racecourse, providing an opportunity for industry professionals to meet and exchange ideas.

Towards the end of the afternoon, following the final race, breeders, owners and clients of the participating stud farms are invited to a festive reception. This will provide a perfect opportunity for the different industry stakeholders to strengthen their relationships and to highlight their commitment to the future of jump racing.

With this initiative, the partner studs and France Galop are showing their determination to raise the profile of French National Hunt racing and give it greater visibility.

*More information about the seven partner studs :*

- **Le Haras de Cercy** is located in the Nièvre region, at the heart of one of Europe's most influential breeding areas for AQPS horses. With the possibility to stand about ten stallions, between 800 and 1000 mares are covered at this former National Stud (since 2013 run by a Coop) each year.

Thanks to the success of its flagship sire Cokoriko, who has been the leading stallion in France in 2023 and 2024, as well as the success of Karaktar and Tunis, the Haras de Cercy plays a pivotal role in the French breeding industry.

- **The Haras d'Étreham** is located in Normandy, in the Bessin region near Bayeux, For almost a century, this land has had a great record for producing famous champions such as Maximova, Urban Sea, Septieme Ciel, Anabaa Blue, King's Best, the European champion Almanzor and the best American filly Uni.

Owned by the Chambure family since the 1940s, the stud is currently in the hands of the fourth generation of the Chambure family. As a stallions farm, breeder, owner and consignor, combined with a breaking in and pre training facility, the Haras d'Étreham stands out for the diversity and complementarity of its activities.

- **The Haras du Hoguenet** stands partly on the former grounds of the prestigious Prat Farm, built in the 19th century and renowned for its exceptional soil quality. The stud was created in 1973 by Mr Jérôme Blum. Mr Yvon Baudouin managed the stud before acquiring it in 2006 with his wife Anne-Marie, who continues to support him, and his eldest son Anthony. After the death of Mr. Yvon Baudouin in 2016, Anthony took over the management of the stud, supported by his wife Aline.

The stud offers a tailor made service : boarding of broodmares by ensuring their follow-up and their development as well as their products according to the needs of each one.

Competitive flat and jump sires : The haras du Hoguenet has been welcoming stallions since 1973, managed by a senior team combining know-how and modern techniques.

Consignment : From foals to horses coming out of training, each one is prepared with the greatest attention, « à la carte » and always with a lot of respect.

Recovering : the stud provides care for horses that need to recover after an intervention or for a simple vacation. The team at Manoir Pottier takes excellent care of the horses.

- **The Haras du Lion** is located at the historic National Stud of Lion d'Angers. It was created in 2014 through the association of the Haras de la Rousselière and the Ecurie des Mottes, in other words by the La Guillonnière and Poirier families, already associated for the past three decades. It neighbours the l'Isle-Briand racecourse, a strategic position in the heart of the Anjou region.

The Haras du Lion has vast installations for stallion services that since its creation have been focused on National Hunt racing. After Balko's retirement, stallions who have spearheaded the Haras du Lion are Castle du Berlais and Clovis du Berlais, as well as the already proven and versatile Hunter's Light and youngsters Gary du Chênet, Lavello and Mendocino.

- **The Haras de la Hêtraie** is located in Normandy, in the Bessin and Pays d'Elle region. Founded in 2007 by Pascal Noue, it currently stands 7 stallions and is home to Kapgarde who is now enjoying a well-deserved retirement following 21 seasons of covering a total of 2 187 mares !

Today, sires who are following in his hoof steps at « la Hêtraie » include Bathyrhon and Nirvana du Berlais. Mare Australis, Headman, Feed the Flame, Léon du Berlais and Riocorvo are also part of the stallion roster, hoping to write their own pages in the history books !

- **The Haras du Mesnil** is located close to Le Mans. After the successful career of champion sire Turgeon, it is now Doctor Dino who heads the stallion roster together with young sires

Telecaster and Bay Bridge. Recent Haras du Mesnil products include A Plus Tard (Cheltenham Gold Cup), Politologue (Queen Mother Champion Chase) Shannon Rock, Fil D'Or, Starlet du Mesnil, etc.

The Devin family are passionate breeders following in the footsteps of their Couturié grandparents.

Transmitting this genetic and sporting heritage is at the heart of the Haras du Mesnil breeding operation that aims to ensure the continuity of excellent bloodlines and top performances on the racecourse.

▪ **The Haras de Montaigu**, located in the Orne region a few kilometres from the Haras National du Pin, stretches over 200 hectares of renowned breeding grounds. It is a family stud, founded in 1903 by perfumer Gabriel Guerlain, who despite being involved in his creative activities, was very passionate about horses and breeding.

After him, five generations succeeded one another at Montaigu. For a long time, the stud remained in the family with off-spring running in their grey and blue silks, carried to success for 120 years. In 1984, Claude Guerlain handed over the reins to his daughter Aliette Forien.

The stud then took on a new dimension, specialising more in the sale of yearlings while developing the stallion roster. Among the stallions that have made their name at Montaigu, it is impossible not to mention the excellent Kendor, who left his mark on the flat and the no less remarkable Martaline (who died in 2019), who is still one of the best sires of National Hunt winners.

Many Group winners have succeeded one another at Montaigu, including Epsom Derby winner Wings of Eagles, the only winner of this legendary race to be born and bred in France since the famous champion Sea Bird 60 years ago.

## More about France Galop



France Galop is an association with a public service mission. It organises and regulates horse racing in France with the aim of improving the racehorse breed of both, flat horses and jump horses, by promoting the breeding industry, ownership and training of racehorses. It operates under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Budget and Interior. Its main mission is to: organise French racing's fixture list, ensure the smooth running of racing, lead the fight against doping, help to ensure the welfare of racehorses, run the operations of the five most important racecourses (Auteuil, Chantilly, Deauville, ParisLongchamp and Saint-Cloud). It has in-depth expertise in organising events and offers race days with public entertainment such as family days-out and the JeuXdi by ParisLongchamp. It also organises major events at these venues, including the Prix de Diane Longines, the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris and the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.