

QATAR PRIX DU JOCKEY CLUB

DIMANCHE 6 JUIN

LIVE AT HOME

FRANCE
GALOP

HIPPODROME DE CHANTILLY

#QATAR #JOCKEYCLUB

ÉVÈNEMENT SANS GRAND PUBLIC

EN COLLECTÉ À LA TV 800

RMC

EQUIDIA

FRANCE 3

RMC

PRESS RELEASE

Sunday 6 June 2021

QATAR PRIX DU JOCKEY CLUB 2021

THE IRISH COLT ST MARK'S BASILICA GIVES AIDAN O'BRIEN HIS FIRST QATAR PRIX DU JOCKEY CLUB WIN



Please find in this press release all the information about the race and quotes.

LINKS free of rights for media :

- Loop of video images of the Qatar Prix du Jockey Club 2021 : [HERE](#)
- On-board camera : download [HERE](#) + YouTube link [HERE](#)
- Free of rights pictures for media only : [HERE](#)
- Press conference of the Qatar Prix du Jockey Club : [HERE](#)

The race

The best European 3-year-olds were on display in the Qatar Prix du Jockey Club at Chantilly on Sunday 6 June. It was the favourite, Ireland's **St Mark's Basilica**, who was the clear winner, three weeks after his triumph in the Group 1 Emirates Poule d'Essai des Poulains at ParisLongchamp. Jockey Ioritz Mendizabal gave his mount

a dream ride on the rails, from where he always had the leaders in his sights, and the son of French stallion **Siyouni** (based at the Normandy stud of His Highness the Aga Khan), easily gave his rivals the slip 300 metres from the post. **Sealiway**, representing the Haras de la Gousserie (in the Mayenne region) and Guy Pariente, was second, and he upheld the honour of the Calas training centre (near Marseille) where his trainer Frédéric Rossi is based. **Millebosc** was a close third: he races in the colours of Gérard Augustin-Normand, was ridden by Grégory Benoist and is trained in Deauville by the young Stéphanie Nigge, who was having her first runners in the classic.

St Mark's Basilica is trained by Irishman Aidan O'Brien, one of the most successful trainers in Europe (he has won the Epsom Derby eight times), although success in the Qatar Prix du Jockey Club had eluded him until now! He is owned by the Coolmore, one of the mega-powers of the English thoroughbred industry, and an entity which has forged a reputation as a veritable stallion factory. He was ridden by the Basque jockey Ioritz Mendizabal, 47, who was winning the French Derby for a third time. The rider won last year on board **Mishriff**, a colt trained by British national John Gosden... to whom, just as this year, he enabled a first career win in the French Classic! Ioritz Mendizabal also won the Qatar Prix du Jockey Club in 2008 on **Vision d'Etat**. The latter carried the colours of Jacques Détré, the vice-president of France Galop, and was trained by Éric Libaud in the Sarthe region.

THE TECHNICAL RESULT

QATAR PRIX DU JOCKEY CLUB

Group 1 – 3-y-old colts & fillies - 2.100 metres (10 1/2f) - 1.500.000 €

- 1st ST MARK'S BASILICA (C3)
Siyouni & Cabaret (Galileo)
Trainer: Aidan O'Brien
Jockey : Ioritz Mendizabal
Owners: D. Smith/Mrs J. Magnier/M. Tabor
Breeder: R. Scarborough
- 2nd SEALIWAY (C3)
Galiway & Kensea (Kendargent)
Trainer: Frédéric Rossi
Jockey : Franck Blondel
Owners: Haras de la Gousserie/G. Pariente
Breeder: Guy Pariente Holding
- 3rd MILLEBOSC (C3)
Le Havre & Mixed Intention (Elusive City)
Trainer: Stéphanie Nigge
Jockey : Grégory Benoist
Owner: Gérard Augustin-Normand
Breeder: Franklin Finance S.A.

Dist : 1 3/4l - Sht hd – 1 1/4l. Time: 2'07''30

WHAT CONNECTIONS SAID

Aidan O'Brien (trainer of St Mark's Basilica, 1st, and Van Gogh, 10th)

"Ioritz rode a very good race, just like he rode in the Poule d'Essai. We always thought he would get the 2,100 metres, even if he has got a lot of speed. He had come on a lot since the Poule d'Essai des Poulains. The plan was always to run in the Poule d'Essai and after the Qatar Prix du Jockey Club. You need to have a very good horse to win the Jockey Club. His ability to accelerate where it counts and his temperament have made the difference. He is able to adapt to any type of ground, even if I think that, by looking at his action, he will be

better suited by better ground. Will he get 2,400m? We can't fully say until we have tried it. It is possible because he is so relaxed during his races. As regards the next step, we will see how he comes out of the race but he has lots of options. The Eclipse followed by the Champion Stakes could be on the agenda."

Ioritz Mendizabal (jockey of St Mark's Basilica, winner)

"It's incredible! It's a huge privilege to be associated with a horse trained by Aidan O'Brien. Pierre-Alain Chereau, my agent, told me that I would win him a first Jockey Club. I was surprised at this because when you look at his record we think that he has won everything already. It was the same with John Gosden last year. I won him his first Jockey Club too. We had a good draw and we took advantage of that. When you slot into a good position early, it's easier. During the parade and the preliminaries he was very calm. It's a huge advantage. I was full of running turning in for home. I didn't want to go too early though, because he was trying the distance for the first time. I probably still got there a shade too early, but I gave the horse a chance and thankfully he won.

A year ago I never thought I would get back on horses capable of winning Classics. It's thanks to John Gosden, who trusted me with the ride on Mishriff, and the excellent work by my agent, Pierre-Alain Chereau. Without them none of this would have been possible."

Franck Blondel (jockey of Sealiway, second)

"We had a superb race. I always said he would be better over further. I had an excellent lead into the race from the leaders and I always knew he was going to run well. He got there easily enough and ran an excellent race. He strongly fought off Millebosc, who came with a prolonged challenge at the finish."

Frédéric Rossi (trainer of Sealiway, second)

"It's excellent. I have always said he will be better for a step up in trip. I am very happy for Franck [Blondel]. I had the horse as well as I could for today. It's great to finish second in the Jockey Club with him. In the Poule he was unlucky, we made the running for everyone and got run out of it... I've wanted to step him up for a while now."

Stéphanie Nigge (trainer of Millebosc, third, and Normandy Bridge, 11th)

"I was shouting as loud as I could. Millebosc picked up so strongly. He is very good horse. I've always believed in him and he has proved his class there. He had a few problems early on in the year and after his comeback run, which was a bit late, he changed a lot physically. Millebosc will be better in the Autumn. He is still very unexposed and that was only his fourth race. It's great to have a good horse and we can maybe step him up in distance come the Autumn. Today he travelled very well and was relaxed. In the Prix de Guiche (Group 3), he was a bit too much in the jockey's hands. We tried a few things and put a cross noseband on him, which definitely helped. Grégory Benoist rode an excellent race. I want to thank all my team at home from the bottom of my heart. We might see him out next at Deauville in August. But I think he will be better off in the Autumn with softer ground.

With Normandy Bridge, it's a shame, he was in front and relaxed. He will now have a break and we will reevaluate the situation."

Jean-Claude Rouget (trainer of Saiydabad, 4th, Cheshire Academy, fifth and Makaloun, ninth)

"My three horses were the last three after jumping off, it was an impossible task. We finished fourth and fifth, and with those stalls positions, they have done their best."

Contact Presse France Galop :

Hélène Dupuy – hdupuy@france-galop.com – 01 49 10 22 10
Emma Besnard – ebesnard@france-galop.com – 01 49 10 22 50