

RACE BY RACE PREVIEWS: VAAL CLASSIC@2026.03.05

Vaal Classic, 05.03.2026, Race 1, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R120.000, 11:40GMT+2

Race Summary: GRANDE HAWAII showed promise on debut and with natural improvement should fight out the finish. PLATINUM SHAY had legitimate excuses for a disappointing last start so shouldn't be underestimated, especially with first-time blinkers fitted. Newcomers DRACHENFUTTER, HEAVENLY LACE, PROUD MARY and SITVA QUEEN are respected on debut and worth a market check.

Selections:

#2 Grande Hawaii, #6 Proud Mary, #1 Drachenfutter, #8 Sitva Queen

Vaal Classic, 05.03.2026, Race 2, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R130.000, 12:10GMT+2

Race Summary: GUS ON THE BUS and THE BRONX BULL would have benefitted from pleasing introductory outings and both should improve to be competitive. GONE COLD, SHINING SUN, SHERIFF BILL BROWN, VIKING LASS and TWO TIGERS are well-bred newcomers, and the betting should provide a guide to their chances on debut.

Selections:

#6 The Bronx Bull, #1 Gone Cold, #4 Shining Sun, #3 Sheriff Bill Brown

Vaal Classic, 05.03.2026, Race 3, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R110.000, 12:45GMT+2

Race Summary: Exciting SPEEDMAN got back to winning ways when dropped from 1600m to 1450m last time and this shorter trip, even under a 6-point penalty, isn't likely to prevent him from adding to his tally. Fellow last-start scorer STONEYWOOD is maturing and should remain competitive off his revised mark. TITAN OF THE TURF hasn't been seen since finishing a close-up 3rd in a 2yo Grade 2 last season. He is open to any amount of improvement on his reappearance, so may pose the biggest threat if not needing the outing. PALACE PRINCE and filly BLUSHING BLOOM have earning potential too.

Selections:

#4 Speedman, #2 Titan Of The Turf, #5 Stoneywood, #1 Palace Prince

Vaal Classic, 05.03.2026, Race 4, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R120.000, 13:20GMT+2

Race Summary: TOP FLOOR improved markedly over this trip when a fast-finishing 2nd on his return from a rest and gelding. With further progress expected, he should go one better and confirm his superiority over POMPEII SHIELD who is closely matched on recent form. WILLOW CHARM, INDIAN SPICE and improving SMUGGLER (blinkers fitted) have the form and experience to make their presence felt.

Selections:

#9 Top Floor, #3 Pompeii Shield, #5 Smuggler, #2 Indian Spice

Vaal Classic, 05.03.2026, Race 5, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R105.000, 13:55GMT+2

Race Summary: FUTURE GAMBLE and KEEP WARM will likely build on pleasing Highveld introductions to play leading roles. However, the former won't need to improve much on her close-up 2nd to go one better. BLOOD OF EDEN and COOL REGGAE have the form and experience to be competitive, while LANTERI has also shown enough to have a say in the outcome. MIRACULOUS MOMENT steps up in trip after a promising 1160m debut 3rd and she could fight out the finish with natural improvement expected.

Selections:

#1 Future Gamble, #11 Miraculous Moment, #3 Lanteri, #7 Keep Warm

Vaal Classic, 05.03.2026, Race 6, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R160.000, 14:30GMT+2

Race Summary: BOB'S YOUR UNCLE and OPEN HIGHWAY (0.5kg better off) are closely matched on the form of their Grand Heritage meeting and there shouldn't be much between them again on these revised terms. DARK SILVER is weighted to be competitive on his reappearance but in-form stablemates BIRTHRIGHT and THE PLAYBOY BOMBER have a fitness edge. Last-start winner TOMMY SHELBY and hard-knocker MASTER CHRISTMAS also have the means to get involved.

Selections:

#1 Bob's Your Uncle, #5 Birthright, #8 Open Highway, #9 The Playboy Bomber

Vaal Classic, 05.03.2026, Race 7, Gallops, 1800m, Turf, R135.000, 15:05GMT+2

Race Summary: DUCHESS OF PALOMA has gone from strength to strength since relocating to the Highveld, winning 3 of her last 4 starts including both course-and-distance appearances. She was an authoritative winner over track and trip last time and a repeat of that performance under an 8-point penalty should suffice. FREE IN SEATTLE, ART NOUVEAU and AZALEAS FOR ALL are consistent hard-knockers with solid form at this level, and they should acquit themselves competitively. COCOMELON could have more to offer off a reduced mark and with blinkers refitted.

Selections:

#3 Duchess Of Paloma, #7 Azaleas For All, #5 Art Nouveau, #2 Free In Seattle

Vaal Classic, 05.03.2026, Race 8, Gallops, 2000m, Turf, R120.000, 15:40GMT+2

Race Summary: A case can be made for most of these, though none appeal more than consistent GIMMEACHOICE who races off an unchanged mark in his peak outing after a course-and-distance 3rd. ONE MORE STAR, KUDZU, FLASHY APACHE and MOCHA FRAPPE are capable of better than their latest displays, and they could have a say if bouncing back to earlier form. ARUMUGAM and ARLINGTON ACTION are consistent hard-knockers with the means to get involved, while 3yo geldings REDLIGHTGREENLIGHT and WORLD ORDER are also likely to make their presence felt if improving over this trip after encouraging recent 1800m performances.

Selections:

#1 Gimmeachoice, #2 One More Star, #5 Flashy Apache, #9 Arumugam

Vaal Classic, 05.03.2026, Race 9, Gallops, 1000m, Turf, R100.000, 16:20GMT+2

Race Summary: PIVOTAL ROLE has shown promise in his three starts. He clearly needed his last run and could bounce back to beat these rivals. BLINDFIRE picked up a deserved second win and only got a 3-point penalty for that win so may well follow up. INAFIX has not been at his best of late but can get into the mix of things. TIGER STORM, PALACE REVOLT and ORIENTAL BOUQUET may need to find some improvement if they are to win but they are capable of earning some money.

Selections:

#1 Pivotal Role, #2 Blindfire, #3 Inafix, #4 Tiger Storm

Vaal Classic, 05.03.2026, Race 10, Gallops, 1450m, Turf, R100.000, 16:55GMT+2

Race Summary: BRAVE VIKING has ability but he does not always show it. He was good last time out, without winning, but may well go one better. Trainer Sean Tarry has his yard in very good shape and TRAIL RUNNER has won her last two starts. This is, however, a tougher ask of her but she can complete a hat-trick. SINGLE COMBAT has scope for improvement and is not out of it. LONGSWORD has a place chance. MICHAEL FARADAY, READY SET FIRE and LAVA FIRE are all capable of better than their last run would suggest and could earn some money.

Selections:

#2 Brave Viking, #1 Trail Runner, #8 Ready Set Fire, #3 Single Combat

Best Win: #3 DUCHESS OF PALOMA

Best Value Bet: #1 BOB'S YOUR UNCLE

Best Longshot: #1 BOB'S YOUR UNCLE