

RACE BY RACE PREVIEWS: VAAL CLASSIC@2025.12.11

Vaal Classic, 11.12.2025, Race 1, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R105.000, 12:00GMT+2

Race Summary: Maturing KORCULA found only one better when stretching out to 1700m last time and she won't need to improve much on that effort to open her account. LIEFLING and GALAXY QUEEN also improved for the step up in distance after pleasing sprint introductions and both should have more to offer over this extended trip. The latter's stablemate APOSTROPHE fits a similar profile and should make her presence felt.

Selections:

#2 Korcula, #10 Galaxy Queen, #9 Apostrophe, #11 Liefing

Vaal Classic, 11.12.2025, Race 2, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R120.000, 12:35GMT+2

Race Summary: AGOGE caught the eye when running on late to finish a close-up second on debut over 1400m and, on the evidence of that performance, he should have more to offer over this trip with that experience under his belt. MILAN'S WORLD, DISTRICT ATTORNEY and LANCE ALOT have shown enough to threaten the selection.

Selections:

#7 Agoge, #1 Milan's World, #10 Lance Alot, #4 District Attorney

Vaal Classic, 11.12.2025, Race 3, Gallops, 1800m, Turf, R90.000, 13:10GMT+2

Race Summary: SKY PILLAR ROCK acquitted himself well in a stronger race last time so should capitalise on this drop in class off a reduced mark, especially under a 4kg claimer. Hard-knockers HOPSCOTCH, FLAG BEARER and CIRCLE OF GRACE have the form and experience at this level to make life difficult for the selection. Last-start winner COMMANDER OF ALL remains competitive under a penalty.

Selections:

#1 Sky Pillar Rock, #2 Hopscotch, #5 Commander Of All, #7 Circle Of Grace

Vaal Classic, 11.12.2025, Race 4, Gallops, 1800m, Turf, R150.000, 13:45GMT+2

Race Summary: KING'S EXPRESS and HAWKBILL had legitimate excuses for disappointing last starts. On the strength and consistency of their earlier form, both are capable of bouncing back to have a say in the outcome. CHESTNUT BOMBER and BEYNAC are closely matched on the form of their meeting in the Summer Cup Consolation race, though the latter should have the edge again on favourable revised weight terms. BATTLEGROUND and JORDAN also have the means to get involved.

Selections:

#4 Beynac, #3 Chestnut Bomber, #7 Jordan, #2 Hawkbill

Vaal Classic, 11.12.2025, Race 5, Gallops, 1000m, Turf, R200.000, 14:20GMT+2

Race Summary: BUFFALO STORM CODY is the standout bet at the meeting. He has gone from strength to strength as a gelding, winning 6 of his last 7 starts, and a career-high rating is unlikely to halt his winning streak. Familiar foe WILLIAM ROBERTSON has a bit to find on the form of a recent meeting but should have a say in the outcome. TAXI TO THE MOON, CHIEFTAIN and KARATE KID are closely matched and should make their presence felt too. Returning RADICCHIO completes the shortlist.

Selections:

#1 Buffalo Storm Cody, #4 Taxi To The Moon, #2 William Robertson, #7 Karate Kid

Vaal Classic, 11.12.2025, Race 6, Gallops, 1500m, Turf, R200.000, 15:00GMT+2

Race Summary: TEXAS RED got going late when finishing a close-up second in a stronger 1400m contest on Summer Cup Day so a repeat of that performance (off an unchanged mark) over this extended trip should suffice. ARGO ALLEY is at the peak of his powers and will make it difficult, along with MUSICAL SCORE whose run in the Grade 2 Charity Mile is best ignored. Best-weighted TAECHAN'S CHAMP and RED BOMER also have the means to play a role in the outcome.

Selections:

#1 Texas Red, #2 Musical Score, #3 Argo Alley, #4 Taegan's Champ

Vaal Classic, 11.12.2025, Race 7, Gallops, 1500m, Turf, R160.000, 15:30GMT+2

Race Summary: SLINKY MAPIMPI and DANTONFROMSANDTON made no impression in a Grade 3 last time but could fare better in these calmer waters. MASTER CHRISTMAS and MASTERSHIP have the form and experience at this level to also acquit themselves competitively. DYLAN'S CHAMP is at the peak of his powers and a hefty 9-point penalty for his last-start victory shouldn't prevent another forward showing. However, preference is for fellow recent scorer PALACE PRINCE whose progress and momentum is unlikely to be halted by an 8-point rating rise.

Selections:

#6 Palace Prince, #9 Dylan's Champ, #3 Master Christmas, #4 Mastership

Vaal Classic, 11.12.2025, Race 8, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R135.000, 16:10GMT+2

Race Summary: Consistent DOITWITHDIAMONDS wouldn't be winning out of turn but this race may come too soon for her after a recent second over 1800m. BAKWENA was a close-up fourth in a Listed race last time and a repeat of that effort off an unchanged mark could be suffice. GERBERA and ACROSS THE POND are held on that form but neither is incapable of posing a threat. STREISAND also has form behind the winner of that race so she shouldn't be underestimated either. Unexposed 3yo WARM RECEPTION is open to any amount of improvement and warrants respect too.

Selections:

#2 Bakwena, #6 Streisand, #1 Doitwithdiamonds, #8 Warm Reception

Vaal Classic, 11.12.2025, Race 9, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R105.000, 16:43GMT+2

Race Summary: RINGA RINGA ROSES made a winning handicap debut over 1450m and should have more to offer over this extended trip, especially with improved fitness on her side. Familiar foes GRACE'S KISS and OPERA FAN are weighted to turn the tables on that rival and will also appreciate stretching out to this distance. THE MIGHTIEST and PRETTY ANALIA complete the shortlist.

Selections:

#3 Ringa Ringa Roses, #6 Grace's Kiss, #7 Opera Fan, #8 The Mightiest

Vaal Classic, 11.12.2025, Race 10, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R90.000, 17:20GMT+2

Race Summary: GUERILLA WARFARE and stablemate GAMER are consistent hard-knockers with solid form credentials. Both have the means to fight out the finish, though preference is for the former. JOHNNY DRAMA and MIZZEN SWORD are better than their most recent efforts suggest and they could get into the picture if bouncing back to earlier form. VAVA VEGAS looks well rated but his wide draw is a concern.

Selections:

#1 Guerilla Warfare, #10 Vava Vegas, #2 Johnny Drama, #6 Gamer

Best Win: #1 BUFFALO STORM CODY
Best Value Bet: #6 PALACE PRINCE
Best Longshot: #6 PALACE PRINCE