

RACE BY RACE PREVIEWS: VAAL@2025.04.17

Vaal, 17.04.2025, Race 3, Gallops, 1400m, Turf, R120.000, 12:15GMT+2

Race Summary: Runner-up in 3 of his 6 starts, ICHACHA needn't be fully tuned on his reappearance to play a leading role. GREEN STREET, herself second in 2 of 3 outings, has also shown enough to fight for victory. However, Craig Zackey gets off that runner to partner well-bred CRESCENDO instead, so it could pay to side with the latter on his return from a rest and gelding operation. Well-related gelding MOLOTOV COCKTAIL is worth a market check on debut.

Selections:

#5 Crescendo, #8 Green Street, #6 Molotov Cocktail, #1 Ichacha

Vaal, 17.04.2025, Race 4, Gallops, 1700m, Turf, R105.000, 12:50GMT+2

Race Summary: ON A JET PLANE had excuses for a disappointing last start and will be competitive if bouncing back to her earlier form. NKWENKWEZI and CAPE SAFFRON are open to improvement over the extended trip so could fight out the finish, with a slight preference given to the latter from gate one. ARTIC SILVER and FLIGHTLIGHT have earlier engagements but shouldn't be far off the mark if taking their place in this line-up.

Selections:

#3 Cape Saffron, #2 Nkwenkwezi, #4 Artic Silver, #9 Lava Lamp

Vaal, 17.04.2025, Race 5, Gallops, 1700m, Turf, R120.000, 13:20GMT+2

Race Summary: THE ULTIMATE KING has improved with each outing and needn't make a great deal of further progress to score on his reappearance as a gelding. SEVENTH FLEET and FUTURE KING are likely to pose the biggest threat to the selection although CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD has the form and experience to also make his presence felt.

Selections:

#1 The Ultimate King, #2 Seventh Fleet, #8 Future King, #5 Chieftain's Shield

Vaal, 17.04.2025, Race 6, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R120.000, 13:55GMT+2

Race Summary: Hard-knockers DOUGLAS DRAGON and SAFE SPACE are effective over this distance but probably better over further. As such, a chance is taken on improving OBSIDIAN who will relish this extended trip after a comeback maiden victory over 1400m. WILLOW EXPRESS, GUERILLA WARFARE and LAUGHING WILLIAM complete the shortlist.

Selections:

#9 Obsidian, #4 Douglas Dragon, #7 Safe Space, #2 Willow Express

Vaal, 17.04.2025, Race 7, Gallops, 1400m, Turf, R160.000, 14:30GMT+2

Race Summary: BOB'S YOUR UNCLE, PRESLEY and THE AFRICA HOUSE are versatile and consistent performers with good records over this distance. They all finished second in their most recent appearances and will likely play leading roles if repeating those performances. TSAR BOMBA and CAPTAINOFTHEGREEN aren't taken lightly, while ZUZAN shouldn't be underestimated either.

Selections:

#7 Bob's Your Uncle, #4 Presley, #5 The Africa House, #1 Zuzan

Vaal, 17.04.2025, Race 8, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R135.000, 15:05GMT+2

Race Summary: CALLMEWHENUNEEDME (peak run), returning DUENNA and last-start winner NIGHT VIGIL make up a competitive three-pronged Pettigrew attack. The latter has thrived since relocating to the Highveld and appeals most of the trio. Fellow 4yo fillies JUST THE TWO OF US and CALANTHA are lightly raced and remain open to improvement so could get involved. Younger rivals MISS LIA, SALENIO PENINSULA and KINDRED HEART also have the ability to stake a claim.

Selections:

#4 Night Vigil, #5 Miss Lia, #6 Salenio Peninsula, #11 Calantha

Vaal, 17.04.2025, Race 9, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R105.000, 15:40GMT+2

Race Summary: CARS BIG AS BARS won back-to-back starts over this distance before a 156-day absence and is open to any amount of improvement on her reappearance, so it could pay to follow her progress. Last-start winner MAVERICK QUEEN and LADY OF ARC fit a similar profile and will likely expose any chinks in that rival's armour. ALABAMA ANNA, EXCEEDINGLY GLAM and KINGS AGAIN appeal most of the remainder.

Selections:

#9 Cars Big As Bars, #6 Maverick Queen, #10 Lady Of Arc, #3 Alabama Anna

Vaal, 17.04.2025, Race 10, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R105.000, 16:15GMT+2

Race Summary: HONG KONG could complete a quick race-to-race double for the Fortune-Peter combination with improvement expected after an encouraging comeback second. ONE PARTY, FLIGHT OF A CONDOR and GOLDEN MOMENT have shown enough to trouble the top weight, while unexposed PREDATRICE isn't taken lightly despite a disappointing (much-needed) comeback outing. WESTERN WISHES and HAPPY WIVES complete the shortlist.

Selections:

#1 Hong Kong, #6 One Party, #7 Flight Of A Condor, #11 Western Wishes

Vaal, 17.04.2025, Race 11, Gallops, 1000m, Turf, R120.000, 16:45GMT+2

Race Summary: VIRGIN RIVER had PHANTOM EXPRESS, LONELY AS A CLOUD, LADY OF MEMPHIS and ARILENA behind her last month when winning a similar contest over this distance. She carries a 3-point penalty for her troubles but that shouldn't prevent another bold winning bid, especially as she is weighted to confirm her superiority. Male rivals TIGER STORM, COVERT OPERATOR and KINSHIN SHA are specialists over this distance and will likely acquit themselves competitively.

Selections:

#4 Virgin River, #5 Tiger Storm, #7 Kinshin Sha, #9 Phantom Express