

RACE BY RACE PREVIEWS: VAAL CLASSIC@2026.01.15

Vaal Classic, 15.01.2026, Race 1, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R105.000, 11:40GMT+2

Race Summary: This won't take much winning, so INDIAN SPICE needn't improve a great deal on what he's shown to land the spoils. SAMUEL SHARPE will know more about it after an encouraging debut and subsequent gelding, so he could fight out the finish. GIFT OF ROYAL, JABBERWOCKY and UNDERDOG complete the shortlist.

Selections:

#5 Indian Spice, #8 Samuel Sharpe, #2 Gift Of Royal, #3 Jabberwocky

Vaal Classic, 15.01.2026, Race 2, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R120.000, 12:15GMT+2

Race Summary: QUICKFREEZE finished second on debut ahead of SKY PILOT and could go one better with natural improvement. QUEVANO and MONKEY'S WEDDING have the form and experience to be competitive, though newcomer SOSORU could also play a leading role, especially if the market speaks in his favour.

Selections:

#5 Quickfreeze, #4 Quevano, #1 Sky Pilot, #6 Sosoru

Vaal Classic, 15.01.2026, Race 3, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R105.000, 12:50GMT+2

Race Summary: ANAHITA has been costly to follow over further, but this shorter trip could be more to her liking. PRECOCIOUS, SAVARA'S PRINCESS, EMERALD COUNTESS and ELEGANT EDGE have shown enough to keep the selection honest. However, a bigger threat will likely come from well-bred newcomer GIMMESUMLUV.

Selections:

#2 Anahita, #9 Gimmesumluv, #1 Precocious, #8 Elegant Edge

Vaal Classic, 15.01.2026, Race 4, Gallops, 2400m, Turf, R110.000, 13:25GMT+2

Race Summary: CARTAGENA showed her form and well-being when winning over this trip last time and a 5-point penalty isn't likely to prevent another forward showing. LAVA LAMP is better than her last start and her rider's 4kg allowance will help. ARLINGTON ACTION, CHABAL and COPPER PLATE are also capable stayers with the means to have a say in the outcome.

Selections:

#4 Cartagena, #1 Lava Lamp, #3 Chabal, #2 Arlington Action

Vaal Classic, 15.01.2026, Race 5, Gallops, 2000m, Turf, R125.000, 14:00GMT+2

Race Summary: PALACE ATTACK, BELLEROPHON and LITTLEMISSSPLENDID are closely matched on recent form and there shouldn't be much separating the trio on these terms. TITANS OF WAR is in good form and likely to acquit himself competitively too. However, the same could be said of last-start winners DIESEL'S SHADOW, ONE MORE STAR and STORM AHEAD. Both EQUILATERAL and MILITARY MOVES have scope to improve so could get into the picture.

Selections:

#12 Littlemisssplendid, #11 Bellerophon, #8 Titans Of War, #7 Palace Attack

Vaal Classic, 15.01.2026, Race 6, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R160.000, 14:35GMT+2

Race Summary: GIMMETHEGOODLIFE and LEAD THE CHARGE are closely matched on recent form

over 1000m. Both are equally adept over this extended trip so should be competitive. Hat-trick seeking ROCKAROUNDTHECLOCK has more to do at this level but is progressive, while hard-knocker BLACK EGRET is dangerous to discount with alumites refitted.

Selections:

#1 Gimmethegoodlife, #3 Lead The Charge, #2 Black Egret, #7 Rockaroundtheclock

Vaal Classic, 15.01.2026, Race 7, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R125.000, 15:10GMT+2

Race Summary: ESQUEVELLE was narrowly beaten in a similar contest last time and a repeat of that performance off an unchanged mark under a 4kg claimer should suffice. RAFA BAY and ANTONIO GAUDI arrive in good form and will likely play leading roles too. ENSUING and SUTHERLAND also have the means to make their presence felt. Unexposed three-year-old WINSTON'S WONDER and SILVER LONGSWORD appeal most of the remainder.

Selections:

#2 Esquevelle, #4 Rafa Bay, #5 Antonio Gaudi, #3 Ensuing

Vaal Classic, 15.01.2026, Race 8, Gallops, 1450m, Turf, R130.000, 15:45GMT+2

Race Summary: WINDS OF CHANGE is weighted to win but untried over this extended trip. He is closely related to Grade 1 performers over 2000m so this distance could be within his compass. Recently gelded KING HARALD, last-start winner VAMANOS and RED PENNY have no issues over this trip so will make life difficult for the selection. Stablemates I'M A FIREBALL and CLEVER TREVOR have earning potential too.

Selections:

#1 Winds Of Change, #6 King Harald, #3 Clever Trevor, #8 Vamanos

Vaal Classic, 15.01.2026, Race 9, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R112.500, 16:20GMT+2

Race Summary: Hard-knocker AZALEAS FOR ALL and NKWENKWEZI have the form and experience at this level that stand them in good stead. Younger fillies AMAZON QUEEN, AQUARIUS and OPEN SESAME remain open to improvement but have shown enough to be competitive. Last-start winner KENSAL GREEN also has claims.

Selections:

#2 Nkwenkwezi, #1 Azaleas For All, #6 Aquarius, #3 Open Sesame

Vaal Classic, 15.01.2026, Race 10, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R100.000, 16:55GMT+2

Race Summary: MY LUCKY CHARM won his only appearance over this distance, so he ought to capitalise on this ease in grade and rating drop. UNSOLVED RIDDLE, EXPRESS YOURSELF, EIFFEL TOWER and PRINCE OF KILDALE are all older hard-knockers with the form and experience at this level to pose a threat.

Selections:

#9 My Lucky Charm, #6 Mocha Frappe, #7 Prince Of Kildare, #2 Unsolved Riddle

Best Win: #2 ANAHITA

Best Value Bet: #12 LITTLEMISSSPLENDID

Best Longshot: #12 LITTLEMISSSPLENDID