

RACE BY RACE PREVIEWS: VAAL@2025.12.20

Vaal, 20.12.2025, Race 2, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R105.000, 12:25GMT+2

Race Summary: GULF OF AMERICA, PLEIADES STAR and VARACHINO'S STAR have the form and experience to fight out the finish. However, well-bred newcomers BE ALL YOU CAN BE and GREENSIDE GIRL won't need to be special to play leading roles either, especially if the betting speaks in their favour. RUBY FROM HEAVEN and EMERALD COUNTESS appeal most of the remainder.

Selections:

#10 Greenside Girl, #9 Be All You Can Be, #12 Varachino's Champ, #1 Gulf Of America

Vaal, 20.12.2025, Race 3, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R120.000, 13:00GMT+2

Race Summary: TINTIN has finished 2nd in both starts after a lengthy layoff so, with any improvement in his peak outing, should open his account. HAMMER BLOW and SKY PILOT had excuses for disappointing last starts but they also remain open to improvement and could make life difficult for their selection. GHOST TOWN ROAD, LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN and QUICKFREEZE are bred to be useful so any market support for those well-bred newcomers would speak volumes of their chances.

Selections:

#2 Tintin, #6 Ghost Town Road, #11 Quickfreeze, #1 Hammer Blow

Vaal, 20.12.2025, Race 4, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R105.000, 13:35GMT+2

Race Summary: Several with chances in a big field but a chance is taken on MAVERICK QUEEN continuing her good form. Wide-margin maiden winner PLAY WITH THE WIND, recent scorer ROCKAROUNDTHECLOCK and returning DEZIRE have also shown enough to be competitive. SHE'S ALL MINE and SPY STORY have the form and experience to make their presence felt too. PRIZED PLATINUM and RED PENNY aren't taken lightly either.

Selections:

#4 Maverick Queen, #6 Play With The Wind, #7 She's All Mine, #13 Spy Story

Vaal, 20.12.2025, Race 5, Gallops, 2400m, Turf, R110.000, 14:10GMT+2

Race Summary: CHABAL is engaged to run at an earlier meeting but his good recent form stands him in good stead if taking his place in this lineup. ROMEO'S MAGIC stays well and has been competitive at a higher level, so he should play a leading role in this grade. COPPER PLATE and CARTAGENA have nothing to prove at this level or over this distance so they should be competitive too. POMOZELOUS is one of several others with earning potential.

Selections:

#2 Romeo's Magic, #1 Chabal, #4 Cartagena, #3 Copper Plate

Vaal, 20.12.2025, Race 6, Gallops, 1475m, Turf, R500.000, 14:50GMT+2

Race Summary: Another wide-open WSB Grand Heritage renewal and many with chances in a 23-strong field. YIPPEE KIYAY and stablemate CALANTHA have enjoyed ideal preparations and are poised to fight out the finish. KZN raider ROLLO THE VIKING, last-start winners MASTERSHIP and OBSIDIAN, as well as PUMPKIN PIE and MASTER CHRISTMAS also have the credentials to play leading roles.

Selections:

#18 Yippee Kiyay, #14 Calantha, #10 Rollo The Viking, #9 Master Christmas

Vaal, 20.12.2025, Race 7, Gallops, 1475m, Turf, R175.000, 15:25GMT+2

Race Summary: PALACE PRINCE had legitimate excuses for a disappointing last start so can consider himself unlucky not to have earned a place in the main event. Stablemate SECRET CHORD, FULLY LOADED and in-form KZN raider AMOR FATI have the means to challenge for top honours. ROYAL EDITION, LAST CAR TO PASS and recently gelded MIGHTY EAGLE complete the shortlist.

Selections:

#2 Palace Prince, #9 Fully Loaded, #4 Secret Chord, #7 Amor Fati

Vaal, 20.12.2025, Race 8, Gallops, 1475m, Turf, R125.000, 16:00GMT+2

Race Summary: BIG UNIT, COPPOLA, AFTER HOURS and GUERILLA WARFARE have both the form and experience at this level to fight out the finish. However, it could pay to follow the progress of improving last-start maiden winner WAYNE who is open to any amount of improvement over this extended trip. Recently gelded MY LUCKY CHARM fits a similar profile but may need further to be most effective.

Selections:

#17 Wayne, #4 Coppola, #8 Drivelikeamaster, #3 Big Unit

Vaal, 20.12.2025, Race 9, Gallops, 1400m, Turf, R90.000, 16:35GMT+2

Race Summary: AMANDLA NGAWETHU improved with cheekpieces fitted to open his account under the same rider as last time and could improve sufficiently to follow up on handicap debut with the same headgear on. GAMER, CONCORDIA, CAN'T CATCH ME and GOLDEN ASPEN are hard-knocker with the form and experience at this level to make life difficult for the selection. MICHAEL FARADAY and TIME WILL TELL are among several others with each-way chances.

Selections:

#1 Amandla Ngawethu, #6 Gamer, #9 Concordia, #15 Can'T Catch Me