

MANDESHA (FR)

2003 b f Desert Style (GF 116) – Mandalara / Lahib

Globeform 121+

O: Princess Zahra Aga Khan

B: Princess Zahra Aga Khan

T: A de Royer Dupre FR



Mandesha proves too good for Satwa Queen in the Prix de l'Opera. © www.stefanograsso.it

	<i>Green Desert (USA) 1983</i>	<i>Danzig (USA) 1977</i>
<i>Desert Style (Ire) 1992</i> <i>GF 116 as 3yo</i>		<i>Foreign Courier (USA) 1979</i>
	<i>Organza (GB) 1985</i>	<i>High Top (Ire) 1969</i>
		<i>Canton Silk (GB) 1970</i>
	<i>Lahib (USA) 1988</i> <i>GF 124 as 4yo</i>	<i>Riverman (USA) 1969</i>
<i>Mandalara (Ire) 1997</i>		<i>Lady Cutlass (USA) 1978</i>
	<i>Madiriya (Ire) 1987</i>	<i>Diesis (GB) 1980</i>
		<i>Majanada (Ire) 1982</i>

Pedigree notes

Desert Style was third behind Eva Luna in the Phoenix S (G1) and Definite Article in the National S (G1) at two. He collected three G3 sprints in Ireland at three (Tetrarch S, Ballycorus S and Phoenix Sprint S) and wound up his career with a fine second to Monopolize in the Hong Kong International Bowl (G2). All of his racing was at 6 and 7 furlongs and he acted on all ground from firm to soft.

His stud record has been average, with only 34% winners to foals and 2% stakes winners,

but he has sired two Classic winners (Bachir and Next Desert) and fellow 2006 G1 winner Caradak (see also his essay).

Mandalara won at around a mile in France and is a daughter of the 12-furlong Galtres S (LR) winner **Madiriya**. The latter also produced Manndar, a G2-placed Listed winner In Europe who later won the Manhattan H (G1) and Churchill Downs Turf Classic (G1) in the US.

She's an 'Arc' contender

MANDESHA (FR)

7 st. 5-0-0

£339,048 (01Jan07)

Best performance:

WON PRIX DE L'OPERA (G1) GF 121+

10 fur. turf (good) Longchamp 1 Oct

Mandesha has won five of her seven races (plus one disqualification) and she was an impressive winner of three Group One events in France in 2006. She was considered for the 'Arc' but ran instead in the 10-furlong **Prix de l'Opera (G1)** on the same day, dropping in distance after a stylish success over 12 furlongs on her previous start.

The Desert Style filly produced a nice turn of foot at the end of the Opera, which was not run at a particularly strong pace, to beat Satwa Queen by $\frac{3}{4}$ length. She had a bit in hand, and the triple Oaks winner Alexandrova was 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths further adrift in third (she was compromised by the distance and the lack of pace).

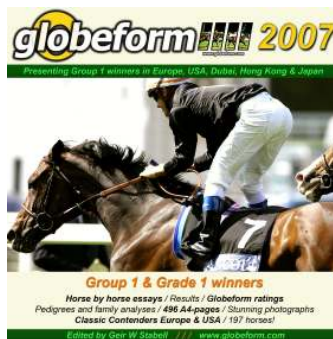
Her runner-up, Satwa Queen, was coming off a career best win in the Prix Jean Romanet (G2) at Deauville and, with G1-winners Irredescence fourth and Nannina fifth (both featured in this annual), the form has a solid look.

Mandesha had been visually most impressive in the **Prix Vermeille (G1)** over 12 furlongs at Longchamp in September. Absolutely cruising to the lead, she was an easy, easy 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -length

winner from Montare, who went on to land the Prix de Royallieu (G2) 24 hours prior to Mandesha's win in the Opera.

Mandesha is top class though, there can be little doubt about that. She had previously won the **Prix d'Astarte (G1)** over a mile, and very few horses are successful at Group One level over a mile and a mile and a half. Okay, the Astarte is perhaps one of the weaker top level events in Europe, but Mandesha was quite a comfortable (though inexperienced) half-length winner from Impressionante.

The ground was soft, something she does not like, her Vermeille form was much better and she stepped up again in the Opera. She closed her 3yo campaign as a lightly raced, improving filly. But for being taken down by the Stewards after 'winning' the Prix Chole (G3) at Maisons-Laffitte in July, Mandesha would have a six-race win streak. Only on her racecourse debut, at Longchamp in April, did she see others in front of her passing the post (missed the break, trouble in running and came home seventh). Mandesha did not run as a juvenile, and is quite likely to improve again at four. If she does, she could be the next 'Arc' winner.



Form summary

Top class French based filly, improved with every run when winning three G1 events on the bounce, over 8 fur, 12 fur and 10 furlongs. Has an excellent turn of foot, and thus at her best on good ground.

Looking ahead

Her long-term target is the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) and we would put her on our short-list for that event. On her way to that goal, she has races like the Prix d'Isphahan (G1), Prix Ganay (G1), Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud (G1) and, of course, the Prix Vermeille (G1) again, as suitable options.