

TEAMVALOR INTERNATIONAL BUYS IRISH 2YO FILLY WINNER ANDALACIA, TODD PLETCHER WILL TRAIN DAUGHTER OF COOLMORE STUD'S CHOISIR, FILLY IS LEAST EXPENSIVE BRITISH HORSE OFFERED BY STABLE IN YEARS

Team Valor International has acquired the Irish-based 2-year-old filly Andalacia, who overcame a tardy beginning in her debut last week when smartly accounting for a 7f Polytrack maiden at Dundalk. The stable bought a previous Dundalk maiden filly winner at 2 last season in Miss Singhsix, who has emerged as a Graded stakes winner in the making for Team Valor this season in Southern California.

Andalacia (right, taken yesterday) will be syndicated on the basis of \$262,500, making her the lowest-priced horse offered by the stable from the United Kingdom or Europe in years.



“With the global economy in turmoil, the worm has finally turned in favor of buyers,” noted Barry Irwin, owner of Team Valor International. “It is finally our time. We have certainly waited long enough!”



Andalacia will be trained by Todd Pletcher and begin her career in Southern California, where she will winter. The bay filly will then be sent to Kentucky for Keeneland and Churchill Downs, followed by a lengthy stay at Belmont Park and Saratoga.

“We look upon this filly as a true national type of campaigner and that is the reason we are going to turn her over to Todd,” explained Irwin. “We know she can run on a synthetic surface. Her action and pedigree make her a certainty for the turf.”

“By starting out in California, she will have the benefit of being able to train on a synthetic surface and acclimate in the best climate available in the United States during the winter. We would be crazy not to at least start her off on a synthetic surface, because if she is as good as we think she might be, she could be ready to make a statement on Polytrack at Keeneland in the spring.”

Andalacia impressed *Timeform*, which commented about her November 14 debut over 7 furlongs as follows: “Andalacia was well fancied to make a winning debut and didn't disappoint, showing fairly useful form at the first attempt, whilst shaping as if she can do better with the experience behind her; she dwelt slightly but showed good speed to get into mid-division and sealed the race with an impressive turn of foot having led going well 1 furlong out, able to be eased close home. May prove best at around 7 furlongs for time being: open to improvement.”

Racing Post, in its analysis of the debut effort, commented as follows: “This probably wasn't a bad maiden and was won in some style by newcomer Andalacia. She survived a tardy start, closing up to be prominent by halfway. She probably traveled a bit over-keenly, but came there strongly to challenge inside the last 2 furlongs before quickening to the front a furlong out and settling the contest quite quickly. She looks useful. Favourite Magic Mornings failed to make it third time lucky but was probably beaten by quite a good filly.”

Irish Racing.com joined the other media is hailing the newcomer, writing “There were several fancied for the Boylepoker.com Median Auction Maiden but the newcomer Andalacia produced a smart performance to beat the well-backed favourite, Magic Mornings, by a length and a half. In front a furlong and a half out, the daughter of Choisir went on to win convincingly under Wayne Lordan. The 7/1 shot is trained by Tommy Stack.”



“Last year, before I hired Aron Wellman to work for Team Valor, we teamed up to buy Miss Singhsix (left) after she won well on the Polytrack at Dundalk. We agonized a bit over moving into this unknown territory, as the Dundalk surface was new and as yet unclassified, as were many of those contesting the races.

“But we liked what we saw, bought the filly, held our collective breaths and imported her. Racing on the tough Southern California circuit, Miss Singhsix is a winner on the synthetic track at Del Mar,

she ran second on Polytrack at Del Mar in a \$100,000 Listed stakes and was just touched off in Graded and Listed races on turf at Santa Anita. Needless to say, we are very happy with her.

“At the risk of coming off as self-serving, I must say that both Aron and I are more impressed with the race won by Andalacia and her raw talent than we were by Miss Singhsix at the time. This is more of a compliment to Andalacia and not a knock at all against Miss Singhsix, who we really liked a lot. It just goes to show how much respect we have for Andalacia.”

Team Valor expects Andalacia to prove just as proficient on turf as on a synthetic surface, as she has a low, daisy-cutter action and the all-important ingredient for a turf horse, namely instant acceleration or turn of foot. She races with a lot of purpose and energy and is explosive.

Timeform mentioned that the filly may prove best at 7 furlongs at present, but it has always been the opinion of Team Valor that any juvenile capable of winning from off the pace going 7 furlongs can run 8 ½ around two turns. Given that this filly was able to win going 7 furlongs in her racing debut insures a middle distance is in her future.



Todd Pletcher will train the new filly Andalacia.

“When we judge whether a horse that has only sprinted can run farther,” said Irwin, “we prefer to key in on a horse’s racing style and conformation rather than its pedigree. This filly already stands between 15 hands 3 ½ inches and 16 hands and will be more than 16 hands when she matures. In terms of the body type, she looks like a middle-distance filly, with a good length of rein, a nice long neck and no bunched musculature. She is taller than average, very smooth and quite athletic. She does not carry a lot of excess poundage, which bodes well for her soundness and how far she will be able to run as a mature filly.

From a pedigree perspective, Andalacia has a good chance to be a middle distance filly in the United States. Her dam Alexander Express won over a mile in Ireland and was stakes-placed there in the Listed Victor McCalmont Memorial Stakes going 9 ½ furlongs. She was sired by Sri Pekan, a top Miler that lost only once in 6 starts, stood for Coolmore and among his many group winners was the Grade 1 Del Mar Oaks heroine Amorama.

Second dam Mali raced in France where she was a winner over a mile. She was sired by Storm Bird, a once-beaten Northern Dancer Champion whose name is indelibly etched in the history of the Turf as the sire of all-time leading North American sire Storm Cat.

Third dam Ala Mahlik was a Group performer between a mile and a mile and a quarter in tip-top company. She was sired by Ahonoora, first or second in all but two of 16 career outings and one of the best out-cross sires of his era in Ireland, where he established a successful line through his sons Don’t Forget Me (sire of Team Valor’s Belmont Stakes runner-up My Memoirs) and Indian Ridge (sire of Breeders’ Cup Mile winners Ridgewood Pearl and Domedriver).

Choisir, sire of the Andalacia, was an out-and-out sprinter who made history when he won the Group 1 Golden Jubilee Stakes and the Group 2 King’s Stand Stakes 5 days apart at Royal Ascot after being flown in on the eve of the prestigious summer-time meeting in England.

By the prolific Danehill son Danehill Dancer, Choisir currently is the leading sire of 2-year-olds in his native Australia. Although a sprinter himself, he is getting horses that can get a middle distance. In fact just yesterday, in South California, Choisir was the sire of a winner for Bobby Frankel over 1 1/16 miles on grass that had never raced beyond a sprint through age 3 in England. Choisir stands at Coolmore Stud in Ireland and is a very popular sire with breeders and buyers alike.



From the point of view of Dosage, the filly has a 2.20 Dosage Index which on paper gives her every right to get a middle distance. Usually horses that fall over the 4.00 figure are the ones that are the most suspect in terms of distance running capability.

The filly has been bought from the yard of trainer Tommy Stack, with whom Barry Irwin has done business since the late 1970s. The first horse Irwin bought from former Champion Steeplechase rider Stack was Pictorial, who became a Group 1 placer in Ireland and a multiple winner in the U. S.

Andalacia, as stated earlier, will be syndicated on the basis of \$262,500 into interests of 10 percent (\$26,250), 5 percent (\$13,125) and 2 ½ percent (\$6,562.50). As always, the new filly will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, with those buying the higher percentage lots receiving preference. Those interested in participating are asked to contact Amy Collingsworth at teamvalor2@aol.com or (888) 434-2677. Those wishing to discuss the filly should contact Aron Wellman at (310) 968-9559 or teamvalornews@aol.com.

Fact Sheet:

<http://www.teamvalor.com/Offerings/Andalacia/Facts.html>

Pedigree:

<http://www.teamvalor.com/Offerings/Andalacia/AndalaciaPed.pdf>

Payment Page:

<http://www.teamvalor.com/Offerings/Andalacia/Pmt-Andalacia.htm>