

GITANO ARRIVES SAFELY BACK AT MARCO BOTTI'S NEWMARKET STABLE, GREEN RIDGE STABLE TRAINER VERY HAPPY WITH CONDITION OF HORSE, WORKMATE MESA MARAUDER FOURTH FOR GITANO LLC IN FRENCH RACE



Gitano Hernando is now safely ensconced in his old stall at the Green Ridge Stable across the road from historic Newmarket race course in Suffolk County, England, reports his trainer and developer, Marco Botti.

While Gitano Hernando was en route from La La Land to Limey Town, his newly acquired workmate Mesa Marauder was making his first start for the partnership that owns Gitano Hernando and his last start in France for trainer John Hammond.

In a high-class handicap in the French provinces, Mesa Marauder ran fourth, beaten 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths behind the 2-length winner, a Group race winner in France. Mesa Marauder finished up steadily, said Hammond, returned sound, and picked up a purse of \$4,183, plus a French owner premium of another \$1,734, for a total gleaning of \$5,917. (So almost \$6,000 for running fourth in the sticks in a handicap! Now you know why Barry Irwin breeds and races in France!)

Mesa Marauder, bought by the Gitano Hernando syndicate from Barry Irwin and Gary Barber last week for \$65,000 as a workmate for the "Big Horse," is scheduled to be vanned to Newmarket this week.



"Gitano" photographed yesterday at Newmarket by Gordian Troeller.

Gitano Hernando left his Santa Anita stall on Friday morning, spent a day in the Hollywood Park quarantine barn, vanned over to LAX on Friday night, boarded a KLM flight from Los Angeles to Amsterdam, took a brief tour of the red light district in the Dutch city (just kidding) and caught a ferry to England where he found himself right back in his old stall at Marco Botti's Green Ridge Stables in Newmarket by 2 a. m. Sunday morning.

"It was 2 a. m., but the whole crew was eagerly awaiting his return," Botti smiled. "We had a nice 'welcome home' party for him. He hopped off the van and walked straight to his old stall as if he had never left! He laid down for a few rolls and dove right into his feed tub. He looks great. I am grateful to Paddy (Gallagher) for taking such good care of him these past few months. He has been returned to me in ideal shape, exactly the way I had hoped he would. His weight is great, his legs are cold and tight and he looks ready to get back into serious training. I am so excited to have him back home and I am very appreciative to Team Valor for the opportunity to continue to train Gitano."

Botti will get the colt going again on the Newmarket gallops and assess whether to send the colt to Dubai early for the Carnival where he will prepare for the \$10 million Dubai World Cup on March 27, or if he will train and have a prep race in England before shipping to Dubai right on top of the lucrative event.

FINAL *TIMEFORM* FLAT RATINGS FOR 2009 SEASON AT HOME AND ABROAD

THREE YEAR OLDS in Great Britain and Europe	
140	SEA THE STARS
134	RIP VAN WINKLE
133	FAME AND GLORY
130	CAVALRYMAN
129	MASTERCRAFTSMAN
128	DELEGATOR
127+	ZACINTO
124	GITANO HERNANDO
124	LE HAVRE
124	WIENER WALTZER

THREE YEAR OLDS in North America	
129p	RACHEL ALEXANDRA
126	MINE THAT BIRD
124p	ZENSATIONAL
124	SUMMER BIRD
123	QUALITY ROAD
122+	CARELESS JEWEL
122	FRIESAN FIRE
121	THE PAMPLEMOUSSE
120	DUNKIRK
119	CAPT CANDYMAN CAN
119	GENERAL QUARTERS
119	GOZZIP GIRL
119	VINEYARD HAVEN

OLDER HORSES in North America	
128	ZENYATTA
126	GIO PONTI
124	GEORGIE BOY
123+	WELL ARMED
123	ALBERTUS MAXIMUS
123	COAL PLAY
123	FABULOUS STRIKE
123	IN SUMMATION
123	MUSIC NOTE
123	RICHARD'S KID