

Irish Guineas double confirms Danehill Dancer as the best

PETER WARD, owner of the impressive young Eagle Park stud near Orange in central western NSW, can be forgiven if he is a little smug about his choice of a new sire for 2009 for it is a fleet footed Ireland sired son of Danehill Dancer, possibly the hottest source of good performers up to 1600m in Europe at this time.

Making his debut on a fee of \$6,600, one which appears marvelous value for a performer who was Danehill Dancer's best European 2-year-old for 2003, a year in which he won three races in England, including the Sandown Solaris Stakes, and picked up two Group1 cheques, a third in the Italian Gran Criterium and a fourth in Ireland's National Stakes, he is Barbajuan.

Now in residence at Eagle Park with Byblos, a Hussonet Chilean Group1 winner who looked after 100 mares in his first season here last year and who has had seven winners in South America from ten starters, Barbajuan went on to prove a tough campaigner in Macau, winning seven more races and collecting four stakes place cheques before being retired to stud.

He is from a granddaughter of a champion Canadian 2-year-old filly, Par Excellence, who is a half-sister to Dream Appeal, dam of Sydney's Dream, Group1 winning producer of the Arrowfield stud based The Galaxy winner and short neck Golden Slipper second Charge Forward.

In 2003, the year in which Barbajuan was one of the better juveniles in Europe, Choisir, an Australian bred, owned and trained son of Danehill Dancer made history by following up a win in the Group1 Lightning Stakes at Flemington by taking out the two major sprints at England's Royal Ascot carnival. He is now a very popular sire at the Coolmore studs in Ireland and the Hunter Valley.

Choisir's success in England resulted in far more respect for Danehill Dancer, himself one of the better Danehill 2-year-olds, from breeders in Europe that has paid such good dividends, he now challenges strongly for the distinction of being the region's best sire of fast horses and superior milers.

This was demonstrated forcibly at the weekend when he had the rare distinction for the one sire of providing the winners, both the favourites, of both the Irish Two Thousand Guineas (Mastercraftsman) and the One Thousand Guineas (fillies) (Again). It was a weekend when Danehill Dancer also had the Australian winners La Goulue (Caulfield), News Alert (Listed winner Doomben) and Glorioso (Newcastle).

Danehill Dancer has also made his presence felt in Europe this year as the sire of Tamaritze (second French One Thousand Guineas) and Westphalia (third French Two Thousand Guineas).

Westphalia, Mastercraftsman and Again were among the best 2-year-olds in Europe in 2008. It was a year in which Danehill Dancer was the region's champion juvenile sire with 28 winners, leading European sire (all ages) by winners and second for Great Britain-Ireland by earnings. Among 20 stakes winners were nine successful in Group events.

Represented by earners in excess of Aust\$5million in each of 2006, 07 and 08, Danehill Dancer was Europe's leading sire by winners and wins for 2007, a year he supplied 18 stakes winners and 24 2-year-old winners. This effort followed on a very successful 2006, one in which he had 15 stakes winners (nine at Group level) and 27 2-year-old winners. He finished second leading sire GB-Ireland on earnings, second for Europe by winners and winners and leading European juvenile sire by earnings for the year.

So far Danehill Dancer, a sire set to be available at Coolmore in the Hunter Valley in the 2009 season at a fee of \$88,000, has had over 780 winners world wide of over 2000 races and \$74.2million.

His first son to go to stud has been dual hemisphere raced and stood Choisir (2009 Coolmore Hunter Valley fee \$35,750). He was the most successful European two crop sire with his oldest 3-year-olds in 2008 and Australia's leading two crop sire by winners and wins for 2007-08.

Australian Thoroughbred

Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

67 Brecht Street, Muswellbrook, NSW 2333 Australia

Phone (02) 6543 3051, Fax (02) 6541 1022, Email brbrian@tpg.com.au May 28, 2009