

TAJODDS Melbourne Cup 2025 Ratings and Runner Analysis

This section provides a detailed and structured overview of the leading contenders for the 2025 Melbourne Cup, focusing on their ratings and comprehensive runner analysis. The evaluations below are grounded in each horse's performances, strengths, and potential across a range of ground conditions, specifically from Good 4 (G4) to Soft 6 (S6). With rain coming it could potentially get to S7+ so we have included a bonus or penalty yet to be applied.

Ratings Overview: Ground G4 to S6

The following ratings are based on the runners' historical performances, factoring in weight carried, age, breeding, track conditions, alignment with past winners, and other significant elements. Each runner's summary details their calculated Final Rating (FR) and an assessment of their prospects for the Cup.

Detailed Runner Ratings and Analysis

Presage Nocturne (wet +1.5)

Presage Nocturne starts with a base rating of 67.0 kg, reflecting his effort under 57.5 kg in the Caulfield Cup. For this race, he is assigned 4.5 kg above the minimum, resulting in a 6.0 kg penalty. Questions remain regarding his sire, Wootton Bassett, but the toughness from his dam's Irish lineage is a positive for the two-mile trip. Presage Nocturne is expected to improve by 3.0 kg, especially if the ground is Soft 5 or 6. At six years old, he incurs a 1.0 kg age deduction, offset by a favourable Herd rating (+1.0 kg), indicating resilience. The step up in trip grants a 2.0 kg positive adjustment, although video analysis applies a -2.0 kg penalty for tendencies to hang and possible issues with determination, potentially affected by jockey performance. He also benefits from a 2.0 kg alignment bonus with previous winners. The final FR rating is calculated as: $67 - 6.0 - 1.0 + 1.0 + 3.0 - 2.0 + 1.0 = 67.0$. Presage Nocturne stands out as a top chance and represents value, though it is advisable to confirm jockey engagement. He is the clear best bet.

Parchment Party (wet +2.5)

Parchment Party begins with a base rating of 62.0 kg and faces a 3.0 kg penalty (4.5 kg in this system). He benefits from a positive Herd rating of 1.5 kg and a 2.0 kg bonus for the distance, along with a 2.0 kg alignment with past winners. The final FR rating is: $62 - 4.5 + 1.5 + 2.0 + 2.0 = 63.0$. He is considered a genuine chance and offers value. Shorter if S7+

Royal Supremacy (wet -1.5)

Royal Supremacy holds a base rating of 59.0 kg and will run at the minimum weight. He is expected to improve by 1.5 kg and enjoys a positive Herd rating of 1.5 kg. While a 0.5 kg penalty is applied for the distance, this is offset by a 1.5 kg bonus from video analysis. Now equipped with the required distance experience and bred for stamina, he is versatile across all track conditions. His final FR rating: $59 + 1.5 + 1.5 - 0.5 + 1.5 = 63.0$. He is a strong contender, although there remains a query over wet ground so penalty if wetter than S6

Middle Earth (wet +2.5)

Middle Earth has shown form, notably with a 65 rating in the JRA Cup despite the race being unsuitable. He receives a -3.5 kg penalty for weight over the limit (4.5 kg in this system) but gains a 2.0 kg bonus for alignment with race history. There is some doubt regarding the two-mile distance, but the wet ground may assist, given his Galileo dam. Trail recently looked much better. The final FR rating is 62.5.

Valiant King (wet -3.0)

Valiant King carries a base rating of 61.0 kg and will race at the minimum weight. He is expected to improve by 3.0 kg, though a 2.0 kg penalty applies for the distance. Video analysis adds a 1.0 kg bonus, but concerns exist regarding his overall race mileage (-1.0). He is suited to drier ground conditions. The final FR rating: $61 + 3.0 - 2.0 - 1.0 + 1.0 = 62.0$. He is a chance, though there are doubts about his ability to reach the required level but then the level not too high this year! Not sure S7+ helps.

Birdman (wet -2.0)

Birdman's base rating is 62.0 kg, with no additional weight penalties. He is projected to improve by 2.0 kg, but a 1.5 kg penalty is applied for distance uncertainty. This results in a final FR rating of $62 + 2.0 - 1.5 = 62.5$. He is considered an outside chance, with risks to consider. Penalty if wet.

River of Stars (wet -2.0)

River of Stars delivered a strong Caulfield Cup run, earning a base rating of 66.0 kg, 0.5 kg below the minimum. Now six years old, she faces a 1.0 kg age penalty and a 2.0 kg penalty as a mare, with a further 1.0 kg deduction for distance concerns. The final FR rating: $66 - 0.5 - 1.0 - 2.0 - 1.0 = 61.5$. She is rated an outside chance. Older mare in the wet?

Meydaan (wet 0.0)

Meydaan, a four-year-old by Frankel, starts with a 62.0 kg base rating from the Caulfield Cup, where he was unsuited by the pace, and is penalised 3.0 kg above the minimum (4.5 kg in this system). He is expected to improve by 3.0 kg in this event, being better suited at two miles now. Herd and distance factors are neutral, and video analysis yields no bonus. Meydaan is in peak condition, but questions remain about his stamina over 3200m and effectiveness on soft or heavy tracks. He will be ridden by JMc. The final FR rating: $62 - 4.5 + 3.0 = 61.5$.

Al Riffa (wet -1.5)

Al Riffa carries a strong base rating of 74.5 kg but is severely penalised by 8.0 kg above the minimum, resulting in an 11.0 kg penalty. His first Australian start applies a further 2.0 kg penalty. He gains a 1.0 kg Herd rating, but significant doubts about the two-mile trip at this weight lead to an additional 1.5 kg penalty. Video analysis is neutral. The final FR rating: $74.5 - 11 - 2.0 + 1.0 - 1.5 = 61.0$. He is considered an outsider on our ratings with limited value. Extra wet ground can't help with this weight.

Buckaroo (wet -1.5)

Buckaroo's base rating of 73.5 kg. Penalties for weight (-6.0 kg, or -8.0 in this system), form (-1.5 kg), age (-1.0 kg), herd (-0.5 kg), and distance (-2.0 kg) apply, but his final FR rating is 60.5, based on class alone. He is considered a risk. Not keen on S7 plus for him either with this weight. No

Onesmoothoperator (wet -1.0)

Onesmoothoperator needed his recent run and is expected to improve from a 65.0 base rating. Penalties include 3.0 kg for weight (-4.0), offset by a 1.5 kg form bonus. Age (-3.0 kg), herd (-0.5 kg), and distance (+1.5 kg) are also factored in. He gains a bonus for alignment with historical winners, resulting in a final FR rating of 62.5. Small penalty now if S7 or worse

Half Yours (wet +2.5)

Half Yours brings a Caulfield Cup base rating of 63.5 kg and now faces a 2.0 kg penalty. A favourable Herd rating adds 1.5 kg but doubts about his ability to see out the two miles result in a 3.0 kg deduction. The final FR rating: $63.5 - 2.0 + 1.5 - 3.0 = 60.0$, leaving him an outsider with limited value. Bonus if S7+ so comes into contention again.

Further (wet -3.0)

Further starts with a 58.0 kg base rating and is 1.0 kg below the minimum. He receives a 2.0 kg distance bonus but is penalised for below-par video form. He also gains a 2.0 kg bonus for historical alignment. There are major queries if the ground is wet. The final FR rating: $58 - 1 + 2 - 1 + 2 = 60.0$. Watch but happy to risk if gets too wet.

Vauban (wet +3.0)

Vauban's rating has dropped to 57.0, with a significant underweight of 5.5 kg (7.0 kg). Penalties apply for form (-1.0 kg) and age (-2.0 kg), a 1.0 kg Herd bonus is added, but a further 1.0 kg is subtracted for video analysis. The final FR rating: $57 - 7 - 1 - 2 + 1 - 1 = 47.0$. No

Absurde (wet +2.5)

Absurde starts with a 62.0 kg base rating, reduced by a 2.5 kg penalty for weight (3.5 kg). He is penalised 2.0 kg for age but receives a 1.0 kg distance bonus. The final FR rating is 57.5. Bonus if wet might bring him in to ...still big odds

Chevalier Rose (wet -2.0)

Chevalier Rose begins with a 62.0 kg base rating and incurs a 4.5 kg penalty (6.0 kg). He gains a 3.0 kg form bonus, is penalised 2.0 kg for being seven years old, and receives a 1.0 kg Herd penalty, offset by a 2.0 kg distance bonus. The final FR rating is 58.0. Not keen if wet.

Pricing

Runner	Odds
Presage Nocturne	\$2.50 back regardless of conditions
Royal Supremacy	\$16 back if G-S6
Meydaan	\$25
Valiant King	\$25
Middle Earth	\$16.00 consider if wet
Parchment Party	\$6.00 back
Al Riffa	\$25 Lay
Buckaroo	\$33 Lay
Onesmoothoperator	\$12
Half Yours	\$16

