

TEAM HHH
International Racing Tip Sheet
December 13th-14th, 2025
Ascot, Randwick, Kenilworth, San Isidro, Sha Tin

My final HHH International tip of the year takes us to Sydney, Perth, Cape Town, Buenos Aires and Hong Kong. Or maybe let's call the first of the new season, as I will make an effort to track the ROI going forward. There will be a grid on the next issue in January with a racap of how the plays went this weekend. The clock starts now until this time next year.

I would have loved to also have included La Rinconada in Caracas, which closes their season on Sunday with several local important Grade 1 races for big prize money, with races named in honor of Venezuelans like Junior Alvarado, Javier Castellano, Ramón Domínguez, and Emisael Jaramillo, with most of the same said jockeys in town, plus a host of other State side US and US based riders from Johnny Velazquez to Ricardo Santana, Jr. All that would have required a momental quick learn of Venezuelan form and there's nothing worse than putting a lot of effort handicapping a card only to have a detachment of US Rangers and Marines parachute onto the track during the undercard. One takeaway from that star studded line up at La Riconada in Caracas on Sunday is the absence of top Venezuelan rider, Francisco Arrieta. He must have some good rides on opening weekend at Oaklawn Park. I'll be looking at his mounts in Hot Springs, Arkansas extra closely this weekend. There is always an angle!

Ascot, Perth, Western Australia

We start in Perth. The Western Australia summer carnival is winding down. The big Gr1s were run over the past three weeks, but there is a tasty Gr3 over 7 furlongs on Saturday. Several Sydney and Melbourne shippers who were in town for those Gr1s have hung around for this. And who can blame them. The Gr3 Gold Rush Stakes is worth Aus \$1,500,000, nearly a Million US Dollars.

Cosmic Crusader was an impressive winner of the Gr1 Northerly Stakes last week. He is backing up just one week's rest. That's not unusual for Australian racing, but the Northerly is 1,800 Meters, that's 9 furlongs or a Mile and an 1/8 in American parlance. This race is 7 furlongs. And that brings Melbourne area shipper Rey Magnerio into the equation. He's a sprinter stretching out, but he is breath to go further, drawn cosy in 5 and his trainer Robbie Griffith (who has important runners in the Australian states) is flying to Perth especially for the race - that's always an angle. Champion Western Australian jockey Willie Pike is booked, that's another angle. I am betting on the **9 (5) Rey Magnerio** kicking these aside when it matters down the lane. He was a good 3rd in the Gr1 Winterbottom over 6 furlongs at Ascot two weeks ago, coming strong late after getting bumped at the start. He is a great bet at 7/1. If you want to get intricate, I advise playing a **Boxed Trifecta with 10 (9) Cosmic Crusader and 11 (7) Rope Them In**. You will get a good return on that exotic because Overpass (a Gr 1 Sprinter from Sydney) and the local sprinter, Jokers Grin are in the field. I am not convinced either can last the extra furlong.

R9 04:00 EST 9 (5) Rey Magnerio 7/1

Randwick, Sydney

Most Sydney trainers are plotting coups for the Queensland racing Carnival (which we'll be covering in January and February with the Magic Millions card and other key races across their tracks such as the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Eagle Farm and Doomben), but I like another Melbourne area shipper in the Gr2 The Ingham over a Mile. I have tipped 20 (22) Sabaj to win on these pages before and he has obliged. He is drawn 22 in a 24 horse field, but he gets in with a light weight of 53 kgs, that is 8 Kgs less than the top weighted Fav, Gringotts. That's 17 1/2 lbs in US terms. That's a serious weight break. His price drifted up from 3/1 to 5/1 because of the draw, but you are getting on a progressive horse that has yet to peak. It's been raining in Sydney and Sabaj is proven over soft. He'll be ridden for luck, but young gun rider Beau Mertens also makes the trip. Remember: Follow the Jockey.

R8 00:45 am Gr2 The Ingram 1 Mile, 20 (22) Sabaj 5/1

Kenilworth, Cape Town

It's **Cape Guineas** day at Kenilworth in Cape Town, South Africa. Few bigger days in South African racing calendar than this. And there is nothing better than settling down to watch top of the ground, top class summer turf racing while cocooned in the cold Northern hemisphere other than being at a Southern Hemisphere track during their summer. South African racing became one of my favourite guilty pleasures about a decade or more ago when I realised I did not to have play the jumps in the UK winter, but that I could watch racing from Cape Town at the local bookie shop. You slowly build up knowledge. Those live races are now available on YouTube and on bookie platforms, with every replay accessible on Twitter. Our global game is infinitely most accessible than it was even five years ago.

R4 07:30 EST Handicap 9F

I am going with a lightweight contender **6 (6) Kamchatka 5/1** with one of the world's greatest up and coming apprentice riders Brevan Plaatjies aboard. (It's great to have a weekend when the likes of Dettori and Moreira are riding at the same times as young bloods like Tyler Bacon, Brevan Plaatjies, and William Pereyra, who I'll get to later.) Kamchatka was a gutsy winner last time over a mile and gets natural light weight rider, Plaatjies. The price has been tumbling from 8/1 when I first circled the horse to today. I wasn't expecting that, but I'll take that market move as an endorsement of my judgement.

6 (6) Kamchatka 5/1 WIN

R5 08:05 EST Handicap 6F

This is a wide open 18 runner sprint and Raven Black is the right Fav, but the horse can break slowly and the competition maybe too fierce for him to peg back. I am playing **8 (8) Quantum Theory**. Keegan de Melo gets the call. Some of you may remember this jockey riding in Hong Kong in recent years. And this will give the horse a gate break edge. It may be hard to quantify, but riders based in China just learn to break that 1/2 second quicker. I saw a farewell interview with De Melo a few weeks ago in Hong Kong. He said he was coming home to get his kids into school, but also noted having some fast rides on big days lined up. Quantum Theory changed ownership last year and is now the property of prominent connections - that's an angle. Quantum Theory has never raced on the Cape before and the drop in altitude will be to his advantage. He finished a 2 length 4th as the 3/1 Fav in Gr3 Sprint at Turffontein last month. He will have come on that for that season opener. They will likely come up the middle and he is perfectly drawn to seize the initiative. He is great value, currently 14/1.

8 (8) Quantum Theory 14/1 WIN

R6 08:40 EST Gr2 Greenpoint Stakes 1 Mile

This is an incredible appetiser for the Cape Guineas with pretty much every major Gr1 older South African horse going at it. Many will have bigger targets such as the Queen's Plate and Met in Cape Town in the new year. Given that it probably pays to play the horses that have had a run under their belt, this points us to the best of those, the 2nd Fav **4 (4) Sail the Seas 5/1**, with Muzi Yeni in the plate for top trainer Justin Snaith. However, I am keen to double dip in this race with another who also raced in November, **8 (8) Native Ruler**. This horse has been perennial underachiever with only a maiden win in his column, but he is never far away and looked a much more polished individual — less gangly, more rangy — when winning his second ever race first up after the winter at Kenilworth in early November. He gets JP van der Merwe for that champion trainer Justin Snaith. Play both Sail the Seas 5/1 and Native Ruler 16/1 Each Way.

4 (4) Sail the Seas 5/1 EW

8 (8) Native Ruler 16/1 EW

R7 09:15 EST Gr1 Cape Guineas 1 Mile

Some may remember me tipping up **4 (4) Jan Van Goyen** at a square price during the Durban July meeting. He had came down from the Highveld in Johannesburg for the 2 yr old Champions Stakes and smoked the local Favs by 3 1/2 lengths at Greyville. He was returned at 11/2. I tipped him at a much higher price. This Mike De Kock horse is the real deal. He ran a 1/2 length 2nd on his seasonable reappearance at Turffontein last month. Mike de Kock will have him screwed down for this. This is no gimme, but this 5/2 shot is a confident selection, especially with Callan Murray up. The lad is well established back in South Africa after time gaining experience in Australia. He's a beautiful rider. The horse has traveled well and looks good in the mornings. Lump on! Don't believe me just type his name into Twitter and be reminded of what a runaway train this is.

4 (4) Jan Van Goyen 5/2 WIN

R8 09:40 EST Handicap 9 F

5 (5) Regulation is another confident Win selection. JP van der Merwe riding for Justin Snaith again. He is currently a 7/4 Fav and probably shortens. Zeitz the only danger. The Quinella is the small profit play if you want to go that way.

5 (5) Regulation 7/4 WIN

San Isidro, Buenos Aires

It had been raining in Buenos Aires earlier this week, but it's summer and the weather for the rest of the week will be hot and sunny. It should be good or good to firm at San Isidro. There are four Group 1 races on this **18 race card** and we'll cover all four, including one of the most prestigious races on the world calendar, the **Gr1 Gran Premio Carlos Pellegrini**, the weight for age Middle Distance Classic, known as the South American Arc de Triomphe. It is extra special this year with two of the world's greatest jockeys, **João Moreira and Lanfranco Dettori** in town.

R9 16:20 EST Gr1 Gran Premio Félix de Alzaga Unzue 5 Furlongs

A 20 horse field in this Argentine Charge of the Light Brigade. **14 (14) Lendario Brujo** is the horse to beat. His form in all the important Gr1 sprints at Gavea and Cidade Jardim over the last two years are either wins or tough defeats by a nose. He has an American speed pedigree with Tiger Heart, the former Rick Dutrow inmate, on the Dam side. That was a dirt horse, but a top class performer, once 2nd in the Vosburgh. I would say he will better suited to the likely firmer conditions he'll encounter at San Isidro. Moreira is a major rider upgrade. No prices available, but because it is a 20 horse field, you get a decent price. Take it.

14 (14) Lendario Brujo S/P WIN

R10 16:55 EST Gr1 Gran Premio Joaquin S De Anchorena 1 Mile

Frankie Dettori lands on 8 (8) Hi Scottish. Horse has a bit to find on ratings, so Dettori will need to work his magic. The horse is a front runner and no has ever been better at walking the dog than Frankie, so it's not impossible, but there are other more likely winners. The 5 (5) What a Man, a Gr1 winner rounding nicely into form with an emphatic 3 Length win over Skopje in the Gr1 Gran Premio San Isidro in October seems the most obvious, but checking back through the form, it is patchy. October may have been the time to catch him. 9 (9) Kopke was fav for that race in October on the back of a nice allowance win in September, but was spanked by What a Man. So it is **6 (6) Talented Hit** by Breeders Cup Winner Hit it a Bomb that interests me most. Three good wins between March and August, including a very impressive allowance win over 7 furlongs on firm going. Talented Hit will get firm on Saturday and that gives this 5 yr old the edge. It also doesn't hurt that he is trained by the great Juan Etchechoury. There a few better trainers than Etchechoury in Argentina. The danger is **1 (1) Fiesta Porteña**, the likely Fav I am assuming. If he breaks he'll be hard to beat.

6 (6) Talented Hit S/P WIN

R12 18:05 hrs Gr1 Gran Premio Copa De Plata. 1 Mile 2 F

I am sweet on with William Pereyra up. The horse broke his maiden in San Isidro back in January - and has won multiple times since. He was caught flat footed last out when finishing 2nd over the mile. The winner in that Fiesta Porteña is a win threat in R10 over the mile. The extra 2 furlongs will suit here, as the horse is a proven closer. I have not seen any replays for Brazilian raider 12 (12) Q'Luz Do Iguassu, but the 12 gate is not great. João Moreira will have to perform some magic to get him home. Then again, San Isidro is a track with wide sweeping bends and traffic should not be an excuse over the 10 furlongs. Nevertheless, I am betting against the raider with the marquee jockey and punting Adi Shakti. William Pereyra was riding at Meydan last month. He was the difference in winning races. The kid can ride. That's a jockey I am following, along with Tyler Bacon and Brevan Platjies.

9 (9) Adi Shakti S/P WIN

R 14 19:30 EST Gr1 Gran Premio CARLOS PELLEGRINI

I would love to see Frankie Dettori win this aboard El Pulque, but it would be a sentimental play on a plucky Gr3 horse. It seems to be the Magic Man Moreira has the whip hand here with the **6 (6) Obataye**, winner of the Gr1 Gran Premio Latinoamericano last time at Gavea. Don't complicate things. Just bet the best horse in the best form. And because it is a big field with Dettori involved you'll get a good price.

6 (6) Obataye SP WIN

Sunday, December 14th Sha Tin, Hong Kong

R4 Gr1 Hong Kong Vase. 1 Mile 4 Furlongs

This is the best race on the card. A lot of top shelf Middle Distance Gr 1 Euros and Japanese have made the trip. We have Classic winners from Ireland and Japan, horses placed in the Arc, a King George winner. I want to find a price and I will be using Japanese long distance horse and Japanese St Leger winner, Urban Chic 6/1 with Christophe Lemaire up, Goliath 16/1 with Christophe Soumillon aboard for Francis Henri Graffard and Eydon 25/1 with Oisín Murphy up for Andrew Balding in exotics, but Sosie seems to be the best Gr1 Middle Distance horse here. The 10/3 on offer on Friday night seems value to me. Remember this was the 10/3 Fav for the Arc two years ago. He is the highest rated horse, bar the out of form, Los Angeles. Maxine Guyon is the current French Champion Jockey. He was granted a short term license to ride in Hong Kong ahead of this meet. He is clearly focussed on the big prize here. I am sorry I cannot offer be more adventurous WIN bet here.

5 (8) Sosie 10/3 WIN

R5 Gr 1 Hong Kong Sprint. 6 Furlongs.

It would be foolhardy to make a case against 1-20 Fav, Ka Ying Warrior. That said he has drawn the 1 Gate and he could find trouble if he misses the break. I was initially inclined to take a shot with Win Carnelian, a Gr1 winner of the distance in Japan at a fast time on firm going of 1:06:90 last time. I thought he was a great Ante Post Each Way shout at 50/1, but he drew 11 and that's tough at Sha Tin. He is now 80/1!!!

Santano Reve ran a 1/2 length 3rd to Ka Ying Rising in this race at Sha Tin last year. He gets Ryan Moore an optimal gate of 4. He is currently priced 12/1. This makes him the obvious Each Way or Place play along side Helios Express 16/1 and Fast Network 16/1 who both get single figure draws and get the great Hugh Bowman and James McDonald, respectively. But neither of the three said logical place horses appeal despite their high calibre jockey bookings and fair draws, so I'll be playing a small stakes Each Way multiple and place parlay with Win Carnelian, hoping that the 8 yr old is encouraged by his super fast win from gate 14 last time at Nakayama and his respectable 2nd also from a not so ideal draw in the Al Quoz at Meydan last year. I am taking the 80/1 value. For the purposes of the tip sheet, I'll advise playing the place market. You may get 7.0 or higher.

11 (11) Win Carnellian SP PLACE

R6 Gr 1 Hong Kong Mile.

I have played **14 (10) Embroidery** here. She is cutting back, but she is a Japanese 1,000 Guineas winner, the Oka Sho over a Mile earlier in the Spring. She is in red hot form easily dispatching her follow 3 yr old fillies in the Shoka Sho at Kyoto over 10 furlongs at Kyoto in mid October. This is harder in that she is taking on older rivals, but she is also getting 6 lbs. She was confirmed for the race very early in the proceedings. This is a target, not an afterthought. She is a great bet at 7/1.

The limits of her three Hong Kong rivals above her in the market were shown three weeks ago on Jockey Club day at Sha Tin. The winner Galaxy Patch had his Super Bowl in the Jockey Club Mile three weeks ago and should be taken on. Although that was not **10 (2) My Wish's** target, he cooked himself going a fast pace. He is the danger from the cosy 2 gate. Voyage Bubble is cutting back to avoid Romantic Warrior. He is 7 and was done no favours in the farcical slow run race. The mile seems too sharp for him now. I will pass. Soul Rush will retire after this race. I tend to not bet horses that already have a new career mapped out. I'll take him on.

I touted Sunlight Power on these pages last April when he almost pulled off a 60/1 triumph in the FWD champions Mile, 1/2 length back of Voyage Bubble and the surprise winner, Red Lion. Christophe Soumillon returns for the ride again. He is currently 10/1. That's way too short for me, but don't be afraid to take swing in the Each Way or place market. 6.0 or higher to place is fair value. **13 (14) The Lion in Winter** drew badly in 14 and has been pushed out from 25/1 to 33/1. With it being Aiden O'Brien and Ryan Moore, that's about as much juice in the price as you'll get. I am playing him defensively Each Way providing I get a good paddock report from HKJC's Jenny Chapman. Again, anything above 5.0 would be superb value in the place market. Incidentally, there would be no Maggie Wolfendale and others without Jenny Chapman blazing a trail. I highly recommend going to the HKJC website and listening to HKJC Race Radio for her pre race paddock reports. They are invaluable. You should hang on her every word.

One final tip. Tom Marquand is flying to Hong Kong to ride **3 (8) Docklands** 50/1 and for a conjugal visit. You really should looking at mounts in Nakayama tonight. I haven't looked yet, but I will. Docklands could pop and make include him underneath in exotics.

14 (10) Embroidery 6/1 WIN

Quinella

14 (10) Embroidery and 10 (2) My Wish

R8 Hong Kong Cup 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

Romantic Warrior should win this on paper. He looked better than ever upon his return, despite retuning from a not insignificant injury to his left forelock. They are already looking ahead to a rematch with Forever Young. Most of his potential rivals have been scarred off or had pre race injuries and he only faces seven rivals here. But **2 (5) Bellagio Opera 19/5** is not here to make up the numbers. He banged out a course record on the firm ground of Hanshin in the Gr1 Osaka Hai last April. That time of 1:56:20 wins most races that Romantic Warrior has won at this distance. This means Bellagio Opera is great value at 7/2 and has to be a bet. He can set his own pace if he has to. This thing is going right to the wire. Romantic Warrior may have the highest ranked jockey in the world and a local ground's crew who may leave the hosepipe on longer than usual. The firmer, the better for Bellagio Opera. It's a two horse race with an near equally matched 1/8 shot versus a 19/5 shot. I'm on the 19/5 shot all day long. You should be too.

2 (5) Bellagio Opera 19/5 WIN

CRUSH YOUR BETS