

**THE BIG AUSTRALIAN PUNTER'S
2012 Annual Cup's Guide.**

Melbourne Cup Order of Preference 2012 as of 29th September 2012

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Horse	Overall Rating	Early Spend	Best Price	Discussion
Green Moon	75	50	15.00	Liked UK performance before Lloyd purchased, steadily improved last Spring Campaign and has been targeted at this year's Melbourne Cup. No other horse likely to have a better 12 Month campaign leading into the race. Won at Flemington and looked the part over 1600m. I'm confident in its staying ability. Like many I'm predicting they will run it in the Cox Plate in the lead up to avoid gaining a penalty for the Melbourne Cup. My top early Melbourne Cup Pick. Green Moon won the 2012 Melbourne Cup at 23.00 on the day
Mount Athos	74	30	12.00	Won its last three on end including a spectacular Group 3 victory, this is a son Montjeu that seems to be coming of age. You might have seen the impressive video last race before coming here, his win prior was just as good and showed there that he can race in and around horses and take no effect. Likely to go in with no runs to the Melbourne Cup perhaps again to avoid the handicapper and keep some freshness in him for the sprint home, really like him as a horse, and Flemington should suit his style.
Brigantin	70	5	21.00	Fairly low to the ground French horse with a really nice action. Hit the line hard in the Kergolay Stakes which has been a reasonable form reference of recent times. Like this horse, can perform on soft or dry. A little bit borderline on the ballot for the Melbourne Cup. Is likely to have a run prior in the Caulfield Cup, I have it just gaining a start in that race, I am predicting it 16th in the order of entry by the time that race comes around.

Horse	Overall Rating	Early Spend	Best Price	Discussion
Mourayan	69	2	41.00	Really liked this horse's work leading into the Cup last year, went amiss on the day and didn't run. Very encouraging performance in the Hill Stakes last week. On record as not wanting to run this horse last year in the Caulfield Cup, as the stable didn't think he liked the track. Trying to predict what the Williams camp will do with their horses in a game in itself. Interesting given one run in the Autumn and it was at Caulfield, run was a little inconclusive there. I am predicting given their current path, Craven Plate next start he will bob up in the Caulfield Cup. Paid up Second Acceptor. Loves Flemington and has Hugh Bowman to ride he has a great association with the horse.
Maluckyday	68	2	26.00	Decent horse, has been off the scene for a while, had a cold leading into this campaign so the team are just hoping it won't have too much of an effect on his campaign. I wouldn't rule him out, despite him not knocking down the door of recent times. Went ok in the Underwood.
Exceptionally	68	2	51.00	Absolutely flying this horse, will need to win its way into the field and will be an interesting path to see what they take. But looks capable.
Red Cadeuax	67			Goes up 2kg from last year's big performance in the Melbourne Cup. Has been shaded by Dunaden since that performance but has been running well all the same. Ed Dunlop is just targeting the Melbourne Cup, looks to be the one to switch too if Cup day is on a soft track as many of the leading fancies are looking for decent ground.
Gatewood	67			This horse looks strong, if it gets in to the Melbourne Cup Field, very capable of running a big race I will be including in all exotic bets, providing its Oz form is ok, runs in the Herbert Power Stakes next I've heard.
Winchester	66			Multiple Group 1 winner on turf. Looks ok, in decent hands was ok first up. Like the look of him is an 8yo though.

Horse	Overall Rating	Early Spend	Best Price	Discussion
Dunaden	66			<p>Terrific 2011 Campaign, parlayed that into 2012 with some terrific performances and excusable failures. 58Kg for a small horse a query and 3200m performance perhaps not his absolute best. <i>If he runs in the Caulfield Cup he will have to be considered quite strongly.</i></p> <p>Dunaden won the 2012 Caulfield Cup</p>
Americain	66			<p>Switched back to original trainer from Hayes. Unlucky in the Autumn when raced a fraction dour and was outgunned in France in a lead-up. Was a terrific run both times he has contested the Melbourne Cup. Probably won for exotics on the day, just on his staying ability and adept on most surfaces, particularly soft.</p>
Sapphire	66			<p>Form on soft is good, hasn't been exposed to a lot of dry running. He's ok.</p>
Manighar	65			<p>Finished 5th last year in the Melbourne Cup. Being set for the Cox Plate is the word, will come back to the Caulfield Cup if camp think that race is more winnable or don't think he's up to winning a Cox Plate. Stable have improved him. I can't quite see him winning a major but he can be thereabouts, one more for exotics on the day.</p>
Willing Foe	65			<p>May not come was the early word, won the Ebor Handicap relatively impressively. Moved into the race under a hold and sprinted quick, so a Melbourne Cup should suit based on that. Lost in the Moment and Cavalryman are the ones tipped to come from Godolphin but that is yet to be confirmed.</p>
Tac De Boistron	64			<p>Can be strong late in the race that is his best asset, small class doubt on this one. Couple of things to keep in mind goes ok in wet, that along with his style could place him in wider exotics, ie to finish 3rd, 4th in races that he competes out here.</p>
Efficient	64			<p>Ticking along ok, a little unlucky to run second in the Sydney Cup early this year to suggest he's still got it. Is a 9yo, once they get to 8 years old, the statistics are against them but is lightly raced.</p>
Niwot	64			<p>Nice Sydney Cup win off very good run in the race. Touch unlucky in 2011 Cup, I doubt his winning prospects for a Melbourne Cup but can stay.</p>

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Cavalryman	64			Form a little improved since been with the Godolphin's a little longer now, looks to gain a start in the Melbourne Cup and reportedly on it's way here. I don't think he goes through his gears quick enough to be a major threat. Will probably need a super strong tempo to suit.
Lost In The Moment	63			Reportedly is coming, others better though I feel.
Excluded	63			Progressive stayer, not the biggest fan but he goes ok.
Gailielo's Choice	63			I'm against this horse, takes a while to wind up and top speed nothing unbelievable.
More Joyous	62			Is this a publicity stunt? Did get the 2000m last time in and has strengthened up and horses can stretch over ground better as they get older, despite her class I would have a bit of a query on her staying ability.
Ethipioa	62			Pearler of a ride in the AJC Derby to win there. I think they are just going through the paces for next year. Not hugely keen but he can stay.
Fiorente	62			Not a lot to go on at this stage. Late preparation for the Cup's a negative.
Polish Knight	62			Like this horse, could be a season away need to keep an eye him. Race like the Melbourne Cup could suit him eventually, doesn't looked to have come up this Spring though.
Precedence	62			Not quite good enough, getting old.
Unusual Suspect	62			Getting on a bit, probably not quite good enough.
Moudre	62			Good first up performance, horse on the comeback trail after a long time off, will need to win his way into the field.
Iberico	61			Not much to recommend on. Will need to win his way into the field.
Sanagas	61			Hasn't performed at all since arrived, trained by Bart. One bonus it looks like getting starts in whatever it wants to run in.

Caulfield Cup Order of Preference 2012

Horse	Overall Rating	Early Spend	Best Price	Discussion
Lights of Heaven	71	12	21.00	<p>Like the campaign they are taking with this horse, encouraging third up performance. Didn't fire a shot last Spring, I like how they raced and kept it up North of the border in preparation for the bigger races in Melbourne. Can race on the speed has a touch of class this horse, my top pick. If it performs well in the Caulfield Cup and they wish to run in the Melbourne Cup, its one I would be looking to save on.</p> <p>Lights of Heaven ran 3rd in the 2012 Caulfield Cup</p>
Lamasery	67	5	21.00	Like the horse, likes it dry and the long range forecast is for fine conditions Caulfield Cup week.
Brigantin	67	5	51.00	See Above for discussion.
Voila Ici	67	5	21.00	Solid performance in the Underwood. Trained on the track, will get a run and will be advantaged on speed. Won't hurt his chances if there is a little bit of rain around.
Glencadam Gold	66	2	34.00	Settled really well in the Newcastle Cup, always looked in complete control of that race, had a decent turn of foot. Looks very suited in a race like the Caulfield Cup, suits his style of racing, has received a penalty . Will still need to win his way into the field most likely though. Wouldn't be hopeless in a Melbourne Cup, if he ended up there.
Linton	65			Failed first time at the Melbourne Cup. Maybe it was all too soon for him back then, being aimed at the Caulfield Cup. Did win a Herbert Power Stakes quite well. Quite like the trainer he is with, ok rough chance in a Caulfield Cup. First up was very encouraging, one for exotics on the day in the Caulfield Cup.

Horse	Overall Rating	Early Spend	Best Price	Discussion
Southern Speed	64			Won the 2011 Caulfield Cup. Fairly found in the weights I seriously doubt she is good enough to go back to back, however I do like the engagement of Glen Boss.
Sneak A Peak	64			Was unlucky second up, need to keep an eye on it. Trained on the track which helps, for mine it is right on the borderline to get a start.
Mr O'Ceirin	63			Probably best around the 2000m range. Will need to win his way into the field.
Decemeber Draw	62			Was the spruik horse of 2011, struck down with injury during the Caulfield Cup. On the come back trail, big ask to win his way through. I'm a little against him as a horse too over a staying trip.
Jakkalberry	61			More tough than brilliant this horse.
Quest For Peace	61			Not guaranteed a start in the Melbourne Cup at this point, will have to win her way into the field. Can't see her winning one of our majors.
Mawingo	60			No appeal

Best of luck if you are having a play on them and hope this information is of assistance.

Best Regards,

Tim McDonnell.

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