Qatar Prix Marcel Boussac - Critérium for the fillies: Lily's Candle or Martin Schwartz's lucky star

Bought Saturday evening during the Arqana Arc sale for 490.000 €, **Lily's Candle** (Style Vendôme) was quick to reward her new owner, Martin Schwartz by winning the Qatar Prix Marcel Boussac - Critérium for fillies. The filly, her trainer Fabrice Vermeulen's first Gr1, travelled in the rear end of the pack and squeezed through on the inside of the home straight. She battled for the win and hit the post a shade cosily of **Matematica** (Rock of Gibraltar), who was on her second time out. **Star Terms** (Sea The Stars) came a close third.
Lily's Candle had just finished fourth at the Prix La Rochette (Gr3), against the colts, after having won the Prix des Jouvenceaux et Jouvencelles (L).

How they ran

1st - Lily's Candle: Held up at the rear end of the pack and was still well back off the pace at the false home straight, quickened impressively 300m from the post and after a push, won by a nose.

2nd– Matematica: Travelled off the bridle, in second last place, came to challenge the leaders 100m from the post but couldn't hold off Lily Candle's efforts.

3rd - Star Terms: Travelled along the rail up with the leaders, stayed on to finish third in the final strides.

4rth - Lagrandecatherine: Trailed at the rear end of the pack on the inside, weaved it's way through to fourth place in the final furlongs.

5th - Pink Dodgwood: Front runner, flattened out two furlongs out.

6th – Rocques: Broke keenly, tried to match the pace of the leaders, no extra.

7th - Dubai Beauty: Made his move and looked like a threat but weakened.

8th - Ceratonia: Travelled at the rear end, pulled a bit at the start before settling. Failed to quicken.

Reactions from connections

Fabrice Vermeulen (trainer of Lily's Candle, 1st)
"I was calm throughout the race. We rode her for a place. We wanted to be placed in a Gr1… but she surprised us. She had a good run and finished with style. A great race for our first Gr1 win. It makes up for the hard work of the team."

Carlos Laffon-Parias (trainer of Matematica, 2nd)
"I think highly of this filly so I didn't hesitate to run her in this Gr1. Her owners have always agreed on this decision and I am lucky to be working with them. Today, I thought the job was done but it all fell apart. Experience is important at this level and Matematica isn't at the same levels as the other runners. She payed for this at the end."

Richard Hannon (trainer of Star Terms, 3rd)
"We are delighted. She didn't have the best trip but held on till the post. We will see about our next steps but it is likely that she'll take a break before the Guineas. We are a bit frustrated but happy."

Andrea Marcialis (trainer of Lagrandecatherine, 4rth)
"She ran very well We are happy we entered her in the race and bought her back last night because she is a real Gr1 filly. Her jockey said that in an easier race she could have battled for the win. Also with an extra 50m, she would have been more threatening. I am not sure of her future. If we don't sell we could run her in another Group race in France."

Aidan O'Brien (trainer of Pink Dogwood, 5th)

"I'm very happy with her. She ran a nice race and just got a bit tired in the closing stages. She will turn in a good three-year-old. That's all for the season"

Statistics

Year	Winner	Trainer	Owner	Jockey	Time
2018	Lily's Candle	F. Vermeulen	Martin S. Schwartz Racing	P.-C. Boudot	1'38''98
2017	Wild Illusion	C. Appleby	Godolphin	J. Doyle	1'37''47
2016	Wuheida	C. Appleby	Godolphin	J. Doyle	1'35''85
2015	Ballydoyle	A. O'Brien	M. Tabor/D. Smith/Mme J. Magnier	R. Moore	1'35''44
2014	Found	A. O'Brien	M. Tabor/D. Smith/Mme J. Magnier	R. Moore	1'37''45