

PARTNERSHIP**Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris 2026:
7 leading studs and Arqana partner up
with Jump racing's highlight of the
season**

Seven leading studs return as partners of the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris



France Galop is pleased to announce the renewal of the partnership initiated in 2025 with seven renowned French stud farms for the 2026 edition of the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris. Last year, this flagship event attracted a record crowd of 18,000 spectators.

These renowned National Hunt breeders, recognised for the quality of their stallions, have joined forces to support and promote the sport of jump racing. As part of the partnership, the weekend's feature race, run on Sunday 17 May at the Auteuil racecourse, will be named:

"Le Défi des Haras - Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris"

A clear commitment to an unmissable occasion



This unprecedented commitment brings together the studs of Cercy, Etreham, Hoguenet, Hêtraie, Lion, Montaigu and Mesnil. The partnership demonstrates their shared determination to continue energising and promoting this iconic discipline of French racing.

France Galop welcomes this initiative, which showcases jump racing. Guillaume de Saint-Seine, President de France Galop, said: *« For the second year running, our partnership with these seven prestigious stud farms shows a united commitment to the development of National Hunt racing. By giving our flagship race the name "Défi des Haras – Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris", we are expressing our joint ambition to continually raise the standard of excellence in the discipline. Together with Frédéric Landon, President of the National Hunt Board, we are proud to help raise the profile of a weekend that drew record attendance last year. In 2026, the return of the Arqana sales will further enhance the appeal of this important event at the Auteuil racecourse. This renewal promises an exciting weekend ahead. »*

And breeders from the stud farms involved in this initiative added: *«The first edition of this sponsorship was a genuine success. A weekend of top-quality sport and a true celebration of National Hunt racing with a strong attendance at Auteuil. French National Hunt breeding and French stallions continue to excel at the highest level and dominate the European scene. Our major events should therefore act as a showcase for this expertise and these achievements. By renewing our partnership, we aim to continue supporting French jump racing and show our pride in being part of this sport. This momentum will help us broaden our reach and showcase the sport more widely. We are also delighted to have Arqana alongside us in organising our hospitality events. Auctioneers play a vital role in the development of National Hunt racing. »*

As part of this partnership, representatives from the seven partner stud farms will present trophies to the winners of the Défi des Haras - Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris. The trophy

presentation will take place on a podium specially installed on the Auteuil track, facing the stands and spectators.

A weekend celebrating togetherness

On Saturday late afternoon, following the final race and the Arqana sale, a reception is organised in partnership with the Deauville based auctioneer. This key moment provides an opportunity to strengthen ties between the various stakeholders of the industry, celebrate National Hunt racing and highlight their commitment to the future of the discipline.

With this initiative, the partner studs and France Galop demonstrate their commitment to promoting French National Hunt racing and give it greater exposure.

More information about the seven partner studs:

- **Le Haras de Cercy** is located in the Nièvre region, at the heart of one of Europe's most influential breeding areas for AQPS horses. With the possibility to stand about ten stallions, between 800 and 1000 mares are covered at this former National Stud (since 2013 run by a Coop) each year.

Thanks to the success of its flagship sire Cokoriko, who has been the leading stallion in France in 2023 and 2024, as well as the success of Karakter and Tunis, the Haras de Cercy plays a pivotal role in the French breeding industry.

- **Le Haras d'Étreham** is located in Normandy, in the Bessin region near Bayeux, For almost a century, this land has had a great record for producing famous champions such as Maximova, Urban Sea, Septieme Ciel, Anabaa Blue, King's Best, the European champion Almanzor, best American filly Uni and more recently Classic winner Gezora and Prix La Foret victor Maranoa Charlie.

In the Chambure family since the 1940s, the stud is now run by its fourth generation. As a stallion farm, breeder, owner and consignor, combined with a breaking-in and pre-training facility, the Haras d'Étreham stands out for the diversity and synergy of its activities. Its stallion roster is led by flagship sires Goliaht du Berlais and Masked Marvel.

- **The Haras du Hoguenet** stands partly on the former grounds of the prestigious Prat Farm, built in the 19th century and renowned for its exceptional soil quality. The stud was created in 1973 by Mr Jérôme Blum. Mr Yvon Baudouin managed the stud before acquiring it in 2006 with his wife Anne-Marie, who continues to support him, and his eldest son Anthony. After the death of Mr. Yvon Baudouin in 2016, Anthony took over the management of the stud, supported by his wife Aline.

The stud offers a tailor-made service: boarding of broodmares by ensuring their follow-up and their development as well as their products according to the needs of each one.

Competitive flat and jump sires: The haras du Hoguenet has been welcoming stallions since 1973, managed by a senior team combining know-how and modern techniques.

Consignment: From foals to horses coming out of training, each one is prepared with the greatest attention, « à la carte » and always with a lot of respect.

Recovering: the stud provides care for horses that need to recover after an intervention or for a simple vacation. The team at Manoir Pottier takes excellent care of the horses.

▪ **The Haras du Lion** is located at the historic National Stud of Lion d'Angers. It was created in 2014 through the association of the Haras de la Rousselière and the Ecurie des Mottes, in other words by the La Guillonnière and Poirier families, already associated for the past three decades. It neighbours the l'Isle-Briand racecourse, a strategic position in the heart of the Anjou region.

The Haras du Lion has vast installations for stallion services that since its creation have been focused on National Hunt racing. After Balko's retirement, stallions who have spearheaded the Haras du Lion are Castle du Berlais and Clovis du Berlais, as well as the already proven and versatile Hunter's Light and youngsters Gary du Chênet, Lavello and Mendocino.

▪ **Le Haras de la Hêtraie** is located in Normandy, in the Bessin and Pays d'Elle region. It was founded in 2007 by Pascal Noue. In 2025, La Hêtraie products ensured the stud farm finished 8th in the National Hunt breeders' rankings.

Currently, it has 7 stallions on its roster and is home to Kapparde who is now enjoying a well-deserved retirement following 21 seasons of covering a total of 2 187 mares!

It is also home to Great Pretender, the sire of champion Lossiemouth, winner of 10 British and Irish Gr1 races. Current sires at « la Hêtraie » also include Bathyrhon and Nirvana du Berlais, Mare Australis, Headman, Feed the Flame, Léon du Berlais and Internaute, who are all seeking to shape the future of the sport!

▪ **Le Haras du Mesnil** was founded in 1908 and is located close to Le Mans. It is renowned for producing winners at the highest level, on the flat as well as over jumps, in France and internationally. After champion sire Turgeon, it is leading European sire Doctor Dino who heads the stallion roster alongside the two young sires Telecaster and Bay Bridge, who enjoyed a very successful 2025 season at the sales. Telecaster's first crop has produced a high rate of black-type performers and his progeny are in the hands of leading National Hunt trainers in France, England and Ireland.

Recent Haras du Mesnil products include A Plus Tard (Cheltenham Gold Cup), Politologue (Queen Mother Champion Chase) Shannon Rock (four-times runner-up of the Grand Steeple), Fil D'Or, Starlet du Mesnil, etc.

The Devin family are passionate breeders following in the footsteps of their Couturié grandparents.

Transmitting this genetic and sporting heritage is at the heart of the Haras du Mesnil breeding operation that aims to ensure the continuity of excellent bloodlines and top performances on the racecourse.

▪ **Le Haras de Montaigu**, located in the Orne region, stretches over 200 hectares of renowned breeding grounds. It is a family stud, founded in 1903 by perfumer Gabriel Guerlain.

Since then, five generations have succeeded one another. From 1984, under Aliette Forien, the stud took on a more commercial dimension, developing the yearling sales and its stallion roster.

Montaigu has produced numerous group winners, including Wings of Eagles, the only French born and bred winner of the legendary Epsom Derby since Sea Bird 60 years ago.

Among the stallions who have stood at Montaigu, it is impossible not to mention the outstanding Kendor who left his mark on the world of flat racing and the no less remarkable Martaline who remains one of the best National Hunt sires.

No Risk at All succeeded him at the highest level and has been joined by the accomplished Beaumec de Houelle and the promising Nietzsche Has.

Press Contacts

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