

Spotlight

Highland Reel gave the Aidan O'Brien stable its first Hong Kong win when successful in the LONGINES Hong Kong Vase two years ago. The multiple G1-winning globetrotter returns after setting up an epic edition last year, in which he finished a brave second to Japan's Satono Crown.

The top-class five-year-old faces a recent foe in Talismanic. Andre Fabre's Godolphin charge had Highland Reel in third when successful in the Breeders' Cup Turf at Del Mar recently. Fabre is seeking a third Vase win after Borgia (1999) and Flintshire (2014).

Japanese runners have claimed the Vase with Stay Gold (2001) and Satono Crown (2016), and Kiseki is a strong candidate to enhance that record this time. The Katsuhiko Sumii-trained galloper is one of his nation's star three-year-olds and was impressive when winning the Japanese St Leger last time.

The Willie Mullins-trained Max Dynamite is slated to take his place after making the frame in the Melbourne Cup for the second time. G1 winner Eagle Way is set to lead the Hong Kong challenge for the prestigious silverware, along with the exciting rising star Gold Mount, winner of the King George V Handicap at Royal Ascot in 2016.



HIGHLAND REEL
IRELAND 5h 123
Counts a win in this race in 2015 among six G1 victories worldwide; narrow second to Satono Crown last year.



TIBERIAN
FRANCE 5h 114
Six-time winner, including the G2 Grand Prix de Deauville (2500m) in August.



DANEHILL KODIAK
GREAT BRITAIN 4c 113
Scored breakthrough Group success in the G3 Cumberland Lodge Stakes (2392m) in October.



MAX DYNAMITE
IRELAND 7g 113
2015 G2 Lonsdale Cup (3280m) winner and two-time G1 Melbourne Cup (3200m) place-getter.



GOLD MOUNT
HONG KONG 4g 109
2016 King George V Handicap (2400m) winner at Royal Ascot; strong closer to be beaten two lengths in G2 Jockey Club Cup (2000m) latest.



SMART CALL
GREAT BRITAIN 6m 110
Three-time G1 winner in South Africa, including the G1 J&B Met (2000m) in 2016.



TALISMANIC
FRANCE 4c 122
Classy French galloper who fulfilled promise with win in G1 Breeders' Cup Turf (2400m) last time.



CHEMICAL CHARGE
GREAT BRITAIN 5h 113
G3 September Stakes (2399m) winner at Kempton earlier this year and third to Idaho in the G2 Hardwicke Stakes.



EAGLE WAY
HONG KONG 5g 113
Won the G1 Queensland Derby (2400m) pre-import; G3 Queen Mother Memorial Cup winner and G1 Champions & Chater Cup third at the course and distance.



TOSEN BASIL
JAPAN 5h 113
Five-time winner; second in the G2 Kyoto Daishoten (2400m) last start.



HELENE CHARISMA
HONG KONG 4c 108
2016 G1 Grand Prix de Paris (2400m) winner; 2nd in G3 Queen Mother Memorial Cup and 4th in G1 Champions & Chater Cup at course and distance.



KISEKI
JAPAN 3c 118
Top-class three-year-old posted strong win in the G1 Kikuka Sho (3000m), Japan's St Leger, at his most recent start.