

Spotlight on



LA MOTTERAYE

Gwen Monneraye and Lucie Lamotte are widely recognised as one of the leading French consignors at the Arqana sales. They have also been steadily investing in mares to build up their broodmare band at their Normandy base, applying the same professionalism and astute commercial sense that has seen them evolve from fledgling operation to industry leader. Monneraye speaks to *Lizzy Sainty* about their 2024 mating plans.

A mare that has been a big commercial success for the young breeders is **Fille Du Septembre**. They purchased the daughter of **Choisir** at Tattersalls' December Sale in 2019 for 88,000gns, in foal to **Expert Eye**. She visited **Wootton Bassett** that winter, and the resulting filly, named **Voodoo Magic**, sold as a yearling to Jean-Claude Rouget for €170,000 before scoring twice at two, just missing out on black type. She made €300,000 at last year's Arc Sale and will embark on her Classic season in the US where she will be joined by her two-year-old half-sister by **Persian King**, who sold for €120,000 at last year's Arqana October Yearling Sale to Nicolas de Watrigant.

"Fille Du Septembre is built like a dragster!" enthuses Monneraye. *"She has strength and depth, loads of speed and is from a good family. It's not easy to buy these types of mares. We own her in partnership with Mr Ferron. She has a yearling by Galiway, is currently in foal to Palace Pier and she will go to Mishriff this year. I think she's the type of mare that will work with him. We have a lot of belief in this mare. We work a lot with Stuart Boman and he helped us to buy her."*

A daughter of **Siyouni**, the unraced **Lady Of The Waves** has produced two winners from two runners. A 20,000gns purchase by La Motteraye from Godolphin in December 2021, she is out of a full-sister to Lady O'Reilly's Poule d'Essai des Pouliches



Voodoo Magic, who sold for €300,00 at last year's Arc Sale.



Lucie Lamotte and Gwen Monneraye.

winner **Bluemamba (Kingmambo)**. Her first yearling by **Oasis Dream, Sweep Away**, sold for €80,000 and last year her filly by **Mehmas** was bought by Amanda Skiffington for €60,000. Monneraye explains: *"We sold her Mehmas yearling last year, who is now with Fabrice Chappet, and we have kept ten per cent of her, which we don't usually do but we really liked her. Lady Of The Waves has a very nice yearling by Hello Youmzain, is in foal to Victor Ludorum and will visit Armor this year. She's a Siyouni mare with a lot of scope so she should suit him. We sold Armor as a yearling so it's lovely to be able to send a mare to him."*

New to the broodmare band for 2024 is a daughter of **Sea The Moon, Marilyn Moon Roe**, purchased in partnership at the Arqana December Sale with Leonidas and Marina Marinopoulos for €50,000. *"We consigned her last year on behalf of Gestüt Görldorf,"* explains Monneraye, *"who of course bred and own her sire Sea The Moon. We wouldn't normally buy mares that we consign, but after Haras du Lieu Marmion approached us about a partnership we spoke to Görldorf who were happy for us to bid on her. We don't have many mares in partnerships with other breeders, so she is a bit of an exception. She is in foal to Cracksman, and due soon. She will visit Good Guess, who will hopefully bring a bit of speed."*

Another purchase was the Stakes-producing **Bea Remembered (Doyen)**, bought from Al Shaqab Racing at Arqana in February 2023 for €28,000 in foal to **Wooded**. *"I thought we bought her cheaply!"* exclaims Monneraye. *"She now has a very nice colt yearling by Wooded, but as she was on a late foaling [6th May] we didn't cover her last year. The colt will be sold, and we will cross our fingers for a nice filly. She was covered two weeks ago by Vadeni. He was an excellent Gr.1 Prix du Jockey Club winner with a serious turn of foot. I thought he had already changed a lot physically from the autumn when we saw him when the mare*



New to the broodmare band for 2024 is **Marilyn Moon Roe**.



Bea Remembered, purchased last year, in foal to **Wooded**.

was covered. **Bea Remembered** has produced two Royal Ascot runners including **Al Jorah (Bated Breath)** [second in the Gr.2 Queen Mary Stakes], and **Stormy Antarctic (Stormy Atlantic)**, who was incredibly tough and consistent."

Bea Remembered is the textbook example of the type of mare the duo have decided to invest in – too exposed to attract big money but with commercially attractive attributes. Monneraye explains: "We have bought some older mares in the last few years as the market for young mares has been incredibly strong. We couldn't buy anything! So, we decided to find another angle and buy older, proven mares with the hope that we could breed a nice filly that we can run and hopefully retire to our broodmare band at a later date. When we buy a mare we look for a good physical, as we are commercial breeders and need to bring good-looking, good-moving stock to the sales. We can now buy mares with Stakes performances which we couldn't in our early years, and by good sires. In the end, we buy what we can within our budget. I thought it was easier to buy last year than previously; the market for mares wasn't as strong. We often buy mares that have already produced or are in foal on a later cover – it's very hard to buy maidens or mares on a first cover, especially if it's a commercial cover. We have our own stud, so it's not a problem if we have to wait. The mares we try to buy have already produced a good horse, and with a decent pedigree, so generally you recuperate the cost of the mare with the first offspring to sell."



Barter, dam of **Haggle**, winner of the Gr.3 La Coupe de Maisons-Laffitte.

Another mare from whom the young breeders will be crossing their fingers for a filly from, is the **Daylami** mare **Barter**. Bred by Fittocks Stud, she produced the winner of the Gr.3 La Coupe de Maisons-Laffitte and multiple Stakes-placed **Haggle (Pivotal)**, and her three-year-old by **Churchill, Hand Of God**, ended his juvenile season on a win and a rating of 92 for Harry and Roger Charlton. Monneraye elaborates: "**Barter** is very much in the same profile as **Bea Remembered**. She is a proven producer with **Haggle**, and we will try and get a filly out of her to race and then breed from. One of her other daughters is at Ecurie de Monceaux, **Marketeer (Oasis Dream)**, and is producing well. We bought **Barter** in 2021 at Tattersalls in December [for 50,000gns, carrying to **Bated Breath**]. Unfortunately, she slipped to **Galiway** last year, and she will return to him this year.

"We have a share in **Galiway**, and we have always used him. He's an interesting stallion. We have two yearlings by him this year but sadly no foals. He's probably the second-best son of **Galileo** at stud, but what I really like about him is that he can get two-year-olds as well as horses that improve with age, they go over any distance, they are good-looking... It's very much the profile of **Galileo** himself. If we could get a **Galiway** filly out of **Barter** we would be very happy! I think a top-producing son of **Galileo** could do the job as a broodmare sire!"

A half-sister to the Champion Two-Year-Old Filly in Germany, **Djumama (Aussie Rules)**, **Vermilion** was a purchase by the duo at Tattersalls last December as a three-year-old, where they paid 50,000gns. A winner at two, she will be visiting France's most high-profile recruit to its stallion ranks, as Monneraye explains: "**Vermilion** is by **Kodiac**, and she is very attractive, with lots of substance. She has depth and scope and is a good size for the sire. She will visit **Ace Impact**. She should suit him: he's a Classic winner, an Arc winner, and a world champion, and she has precocity and speed. Hopefully, we've picked the right mare for him! We are very lucky to have a horse such as him in France, and to have the Chehboub family who have invested so much in the industry."

La Motteraye has already begun to reap the rewards for their purchase of Listed performer **Grace And Danger (Teofilo)**. "We bought **Grace And Danger** at Tattersalls in 2020 for 58,000gns as a maiden", explains Monneraye, "and she had a very good rating on the track – 104. We bought her the year before **Teofilo** had four Group winners as a broodmare sire. I don't think you could buy a Stakes filly by him for the same price today! We sold her first foal, a



Vermilion was purchased as a three-year-old at Tattersalls last year.

Kodiac colt, at the Arqana October Sale last year to Paul Cole [for €60,000]. She has a very nice yearling filly by **Zarak** this year. She is carrying to **Hello Youmzain** and will visit **Erevann**. We have a lot of belief in this mare. When we saw **Erevann**, we just loved him. He has a great physical, is by **Dubawi** and he's at a very attractive fee."

The breeder continues; "We like to use a lot of French stallions—it's an exciting year for new stallions in France. However, it's anyone's guess who will make it! Look at **Le Havre**, **Wootton Bassett**... Neither were obvious. We have shares in several stallions in France and some abroad. We don't really like travelling our mares with foals at foot, as we find they take some time to recover from the travelling so it's mostly maiden mares that go abroad. There are of course exceptions, such as **Marilyn Moon Roe** who is in Ireland. We also like to foal down our mares at home; either Lucie or myself are present along with our team for all the births."

Purchased privately from Wertheimer and Frere at last year's Arqana Breeding Stock Sale for €95,000, **Nasella** (**Anodin**) is the half-sister to multiple Stakes performer and Group winner **Pao Alto** (**Intello**), who was bred by La Motteraye and Gerard Ferron and sold as a yearling. "This was a bit of a sentimental one", laughs Monneraye. "Her dam, **Peace And Love**, was the first mare that Lucie and I bought, in association with Mr Ferron who is a long-standing client. We had a lot of luck with her as we bought her when she was carrying **Pao Alto**. We owned **Peace And Love**, we sold **Nasella** privately to Wertheimer and Frere at the beginning of **Pao Alto's** three-year-old year. We saw **Nasella** was in the sale in December, and as we don't have any fillies out of **Peace And Love** we decided to buy her back. It's a family that means a lot to us. Her sister was a Stakes performer, and it's a German family with some speed. She will be covered by **Modern Games**. Godolphin are one of the biggest supporters of our industry and so we like to use their stallions."

Nasella is one of three **Anodin** mares owned by La Motteraye. "Only the future can tell us, but **Anodin** is very well bred and by **Anabaa**, so there is no reason why he wouldn't make a very good broodmare sire", muses Monneraye. "One of our other mares by **Anodin**, **Houselady**, produces exceptionally good-looking stock. The family needs a bit of time, so we will see how they get on at the track. Her first foal, by **Almanzor**, is in the US and working well, so we are looking forward to him getting to the track. Her **Sea The Moon** yearling last year sold to England, and she has a very good-looking yearling by **Galiway**. She is currently in foal to **Persian King** and she will visit **Sealiway** this year."

The third of the **Anodin** trio is **Anoushka**, from the Wertheimer



Nasella, a recent purchase from Wertheimer and Frere.

and Frere family of Gr.1 juvenile **Special Quest** (**Rainbow Quest**) and sister to the useful Gr.3 winner **Simona** (**Siyouni**). The breeder explains: "We bought **Anoushka** to pinhook, and we covered her with **Sealiway** last year. We weren't expecting a huge amount of international interest in the sire, but at the sales last year all our clients who went to see him just loved him. There's a bit of the '**Galiway**' effect too; he's incredibly popular with breeders from England and Ireland. So, we ended up defending **Anoushka** and we are very happy to have her at home. She is from a Wertheimer and Frere family – we have her dam at home and she produces well."

"With young mares, we tend to cover them one year with proven sires and the next, with young sires. In France, and across Europe, it's not easy to go to a proven sire as they command such high fees. **Nasella**, for example, will certainly go to a proven sire next year."

Currently in the foaling barn for the first time is **Ex Gratia** (**Exceed And Excel**), purchased out of training at the 2022 Tattersalls July Sale for 45,000gns from Lanwades Stud. She is a granddaughter of **Moonlight's Box** (**Nureyev**), dam of **Bago** and **Maxios**. Monneraye continues: "We were very happy that we managed to get this mare, from a Niarchos family and by **Exceed And Excel**, as it had been difficult to buy that year. She is carrying for the first time to **Saxon Warrior** – we just followed the crowd! She will go to **Hello Youmzain** this year. We have a share in him, he's a beautiful horse with size and fantastic locomotion."

Along with their own mares, Monneraye and Lamotte also board mares for highly successful breeders, including the dam of the Gr.1 Prix de Royallieu winner **Sea La Rosa** and excellent Group winner **Deauville Legend** (both by **Sea The Stars**). Monneraye explains: "**Soho Rose**, owned by Guy Heald, is back in foal to **Sea The Stars** and she will visit **Dubawi** this year. She is a sister to **Everest Rose**, the dam of **Arabian Crown** (**Dubawi**) so it will be exciting to see the resulting foal. Owned by Isabelle Corbani, **Ma Petite Poule** is the dam of **Immensitude**. She will visit **Palace Pier** and she is in foal to **Hello Youmzain**. **Glenmayne** (**Duke Of Marmalade**), whose first foal is **Galashiels** (**Australia**) [Listed winner and Group-placed], is in foal to **Kingman** and goes to **Sea The Stars**. **Vegas Valentine** (**Lope De Vega**), owned by Frederic Bianco, is the dam of **Shalromy** (**Shalaa**), her first foal who is a dual Listed winner and Group-placed, and she visits **Kingman** this year."