



brighthill farm

FARM

## Quality stayers the aim

While Brighthill Farm has been forever mindful of Australian breeding and racing trends, the stud's stallion roster is also a reflection of all that has established this country's standing as a producer of international quality thoroughbreds. Nick and Anne-Marie King's property will this season welcome the multiple Gr.1 winner and sire Azamour (IRE) (Night Shift (USA)-Asmara by Lear Fan), who will stand alongside Dalghar (FR) and Perfectly Ready (AUS).

"We have gone the European way after considering what has driven the Australian market," Nick King said. "It's still our biggest buying bench so we have to have a roster with Australian appeal, and European horses have dominated that country's staying races. In securing Azamour it's also a case of going back to basics as from a New Zealand perspective, that's what we've always done best, breeding quality stayers. That was our logic and we think we're on the right track and breeders can get a return."

Brighthill has forged significant partnerships with world thoroughbred players His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, who

has an ownership interest in Perfectly Ready (More Than Ready (USA)-Elle Duccio by Danehill (USA)) and whose New Zealand breeding operation is based on the Waikato farm, and more recently with His Highness the Aga Khan through Dalghar and Azamour.

Purchased from one of the world's great owner-breeders by Neven Botica, Dalghar (Anabaa (USA)-Daltawa by Miswaki) is a Group-winning half-brother to European Horses of the Year Daylami and Dalakhani and arrived at Brighthill to commence his stud career in 2012. "Our association with the Aga Khan Studs began when Neven bought Dalghar and it's progressed from there," King said. "That opened that door of opportunity to shuttle Azamour and we're very fortunate for a smaller farm to have access to these sorts of stallions."

A multiple Gr.1 winner, Azamour has already produced a Gr.1 winner with his third crop daughter Valyra the winner of the French Oaks.

"The beauty of Azamour is not only was he a top class racehorse, he is also a proven stallion. He's a stunning individual at 16.2 hands and we looked at the market and he is exactly what we are lacking. Australian staying races are dominated by European horses and we can put the NZ prefix to his progeny and sell them with confidence, we're sure they will be highly commercial.

*above*  
Azamour,  
the latest  
addition to  
the roster



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“It’s also a great feather in the cap for New Zealand that the country has been identified as a place where stallions can be made internationally, in the way High Chaparral (IRE) was. That’s a positive for all the industry and on a personal level we are very proud to have the horse on the farm.”

**above**  
The King family (l-r)  
Nick, Anne-Marie,  
Charlie, Sophie,  
Benji and Harry  
**right**  
A mare and foal at  
Brighthill Farm

Brighthill’s owners also include the stud’s client base in the stallion selection process and that approach has been a major factor in consistent repeat business. “We have a core group who continue to be very supportive and we appreciate that,” King said. “When we go out looking for a stallion we are mindful of the breeders who come to us every year and that they are the ones who can benefit, that has been a good recipe for us. Azamour isn’t a syndicated stallion so we bring our breeders on board in the process and not only are they a terrific bunch of people who keep coming back to us, there are plenty of them who are now very good friends of ours, and that’s enjoyable.”

As a two year-old, Azamour won the Beresford Stakes-Gr.2 and at three he won the stallion-making St James’s Palace Stakes-Gr.1 and the Irish Champion Stakes-Gr.1 and also placed in the English and Irish 2000 Guineas. The following season he triumphed in the Prince of Wales’s Stakes-Gr.1 and the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes-Gr.1 and was placed in the Breeders’ Cup Turf-Gr.1 to seal honours as the Champion Older Horse of Europe. He was prepared throughout his career for the Aga Khan by Irish training master John Oxx.

Brighthill’s other international association with His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum has also flourished with his star performer Rumya, born and raised at Brighthill. The daughter of Red Ransom (USA) was subsequently sent to Mike de Kock’s South African stable and is unbeaten in four appearances, including wins in the South African Golden Slipper-Gr.1 and the Cape Fillies’ Guineas-Gr.1.

The Sheikh’s first New Zealand victory was posted this season as well when two year-old Baseer won at Trentham on debut. “He’s a homebred by Perfectly Ready, who is part-owned by the Sheikh, and is out of Zaheeya (Encosta de Lago) who was among the first mares sent out here from Australia to go to the stallion,” Nick King said.

“We also foaled and raised Baseer’s half-brother Zahee by Dylan Thomas (IRE), who was then sent to Australia.”

Zahee won three times there and has since transferred to Dubai where he finished third in the UAE 2000 Guineas-Gr.3. The head of the Dubai Land Department, the Sheikh’s Australasian



thoroughbred interests are managed by the Melbourne-based Englishman Tim Stakemire. Perfectly Ready, a champion first season sire, has been further represented this season by the precocious youngster and Brighthill product Al Strada. Winner of the Matamata Slipper-LR, he was placed in the Diamond Stakes-Gr.1 and the Manawatu Sires’ Produce Stakes-Gr.1 before Hong Kong interests swooped.

Brighthill has also enjoyed a rewarding racing season with graduates the calibre of the Matamata Cup-LR winner and Gr.1 performer Amberio, Mr Tiz Trophy-Gr.3 winner So Wotif and Feilding Gold Cup-LR winner Savvy Dancer to feature alongside international flag bearers Rumya and Zahee.

## 2013 stallions

### Azamour (Ire)

Night Shift-Asmara by Lear Fan

### Dalghar (Fr)

Anabaa-Daltawa by Miswaki

### Perfectly Ready (AUS)

More Than Ready-Elle Duccio  
by Danehill

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