



Desert Encounter (IRE)

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Owner: Abdulla Al Mansoori
Trainer: David Simcock

B.g.7 Halling-La Chicana (IRE) by Invincible Spirit (IRE)
Bred in Ireland by Tally-Ho Stud (Mar 12, 2012)

21Sep19	◆NbyENG	gf	①	1%	--	2:18 ³⁰	3f	Stk - Dubai Duty Free Legacy Cup G3 - 75k	2	11	Spencer J	132	h	2.25	Desert Encounter132 ¹ Pivoine129 ² Pondus123 ^{3rd} easily 5
24Aug19	◆WdsENG	gf	①	1%	--	2:04 ²⁰	3f	Stk - Sky Sprt Rong Winter Hill S. G3 - 74k	1	1 ¹ / ₂	Spencer J	134	h	4.00	Desert Encounter134 ¹ Matterhorn131 ⁵ Accidental Agent131 ^{ns} led fml 100yds 5
02Aug19	◆GoodENG	gf	①	1%	--	2:34 ⁷⁰	4f	Stk - Queens Plate Glorious S. G3 - 121k	3	1 ² / ₃	Spencer J	127	h	7.50	Desert Encounter127 ² Mirage Dancer127 ¹ Baghdad127 ³ in command fml f 5
11Jul19	◆NewENG	gf	①	1%	--	2:28 ⁰⁰	3f	Stk - Princess Of Wales S. G2 - 125k	5	3 ² / ₃	Bentley H	132	h	25.00	Communique135 ¹ Mirage Dancer132 ² Desert Encounter132 ³ same pace fml f 6
19Jun19	◆AscENG	sf	①	1%	--	2:10 ²⁰	4f	Stk - Prince Of Wales S. G1 - 942k	4	8 ³² / ₃	Crowley J	126	h	66.00	Crystal Ocean126 ¹ Magical123 ³ Waldgeist126 ² beaten, eased 8
30Mar19	◆MeyENG	gd	①	1%	--	2:27 ¹⁷	3f	Stk - Longines Dubai Sheema Classic G1 - 6000k	8	8 ¹⁶ / ₃	Crowley J	126	h		Old Persian125 ¹ Cheval Grand126 ² Suave Richard126 ³ always in rear 8
09Mar19	◆MeyENG	gd	①	1%	--	2:32 ⁶⁸	3f	Stk - Skycargo Dubai City Of Gold G2 - 300k	8	3 ³ / ₃	Crowley J	126	h		Old Persian123 ^{ns} Racing History126 ² Desert Encounter126 ^{ns} same pace fml 300m 10
13Oct18	9WO	gd	①	1%	:5112	1:40 ¹⁵	2:28 ⁸⁸	3f	Stk - CanIntnlG1 - 800k 100-11910 107 ³ 105 ⁴ 116 ⁶	3 ¹ / ₁	Atzeni A	126	L	8.10	Dert Encounter126 ¹ Thundring Blu126 ⁴ Focus Group126 ¹ off slw,rily, jugged in 11
22Sep18	◆NbyENG	sf	①	1%	--	2:25 ³⁰	3f	Stk - Dubai Duty Free Legacy Cup G3 - 78k 7-114	1	3 ³ / ₃	Bentley H	129	h	4.00	Young Rsc126 ^{ns} Mirg Dncr132 ² Desert Encounter129 ³ led, no extra when hdd 7
25Aug18	◆WdsENG	gd	①	1%	--	2:28 ⁵⁰	3f	Stk - Sri Lanka August S. - 48k 7-117	4	1 ¹ / ₃	Bentley H	131	h	5.50	Desert Encounter131 ¹ Game Starter131 ³ Prize Money131 ⁵ comfortably 5

- The champ is back. Desert Encounter, who won last year's Pattison Canadian International, will look to become the first horse to win consecutive runnings of the Grade 1 turf classic since Joshua Tree doubled up in 2013.
- Owned by Abudulla Al Mansoori and trained by David Simcock, Desert Encounter rolls into the International on a three-race win streak, notching a trio of Group 3 victories in England: August 2 at Goodwood, August 24 at Windsor, and September 21 at Newbury.
- After some tough sledding to start his current campaign – two thirds and two eighths in four starts – the seven-year-old son of Halling is in the zone ahead of Saturday's 1 1/2-mile race.
- "He's been very consistent this year," said Simcock. "He seems in good order ahead of the International. His last race (the Group 3 Dubai Duty Free Legacy Cup), it was very much used as a prep race, as it was last year. The fact he won was a bonus."
- Small wonder that Desert Encounter is a favourite in the Simcock barn. "We're very fond of him – he's an old boy, and he's done us a lot of favours," offered Simcock after the Group 3 Winter Hill Stakes in August. "He's been around so long, so you know him so well. You know the first part of the season is going to be a little bit of a disaster, and then he comes good end of July onwards."
- Simcock views the E.P. Taylor Turf Course as an ideal fit for his veteran star. "Woodbine is a flat, fair track and similar to European-style courses, which is obviously a benefit for us. Desert Encounter, he's a kind horse. He is very straightforward to deal with."

Owner – Abdulla Al Mansoori

Abdulla Al Mansoori has reached the 20-win plateau in each of the past four racing campaigns, including a career-best 27 victories in 2016. Some of the stable's most significant victories include the 2013 Group 2 Bloodstock Jockey Club Stakes and 2013 Group 3 John Porter Stakes, both with Universal, the Group 3 888Sport Solario Stakes with First Selection in 2015, and the Group 3 Prestige Stakes (for fillies) with Kilmah in 2016. Sporting Chance took the Group 3 Prix Eclipse (two-year-old, turf) in 2018. This February, Sporting Chance eked out a gutsy victory in the Listed Meydan Classic.

Trainer – David Simcock

Born February 23, 1972 in Worcester, England, David Simcock began his career with Ian Balding, and then moved to Lambourn where he was employed by the legendary Major Dick Hern, before joining Luca Cumani in Newmarket as an assistant. He began to train horses on his own in 2004. The 2011 season proved a breakout year for Simcock, as the stable's Dream Ahead developed into Europe's top sprinter, winning three Group 1 races. In 2012, Simcock saddled I'm A Dreamer to win the Grade 1 Beverly D at Arlington Park, his first Grade 1 victory in the U.S. The trainer also enjoyed a highly successful run at Woodbine in 2014 as he sent out Sheikhzayeroad to win the Grade 1 Northern Dancer, Trade Storm to take the Grade 1 Woodbine Mile, and Caspar Netscher to capture the Grade 2 Nearctic. In 2018, he registered his first Classic success thanks to Teppal's victory in the French 1,000 Guineas (Poule D'Essai des Pouliches).

Jockey – Andrea Atzeni

Andrea Atzeni is an Italian jockey based in England. He hails from the Mediterranean island of Sardinia. Atzeni expressed an interest in racing at a young age, competing in pony races in Sardinia. At 15, he moved to Milan and started working for Italian trainer Alduino Botti. Some of his major victories include the Premio Lydia Tesio with Sortilege (his first Group 1 triumph) and the Dubai Sheema Classic with Postponed in 2016. Last year, also at Woodbine, he partnered Sheikhha Reika to a win in the E.P. Taylor Stakes. In 2019, he teamed with Zabeel Prince to take the Prix d'Isphahan.

Previous Pattison Canadian International Starters

<p>Abdulla Al Mansoori</p> <p>2018 – 1st – Desert Encounter (IRE)</p>	<p>David Simcock</p> <p>2018 – 1st – Desert Encounter (IRE) 2015 – 3rd – Sheikhzayedroad (GB)</p>	<p>Andrea Atzeni</p> <p>2018 – 1st – Desert Encounter (IRE) 2016 – 9th – Protectionist (GER) 2015 – 9th – Second Step (IRE) 2013 – 3rd – Seismos (IRE)</p>
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