



Media Release

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Winx headlines stellar year for Australian racing

Australian wonder mare WINX has been crowned the world's highest-rated racehorse on turf during a stellar year for local horses at the 2016 Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings (LWBRR).

Winx, whose winning streak has extended to 13 races over two and a half years of racing at the top level, achieved the equal highest Australian rating of 132 in the history of the LWBRR listings. She finished third on the 2016 list behind American duo ARROGATE (134) and CALIFORNIA CHROME (133).

Winx headlines 50 Australian-trained horses which feature on the list of 318 horses. This number represents a significant increase from 2014 and 2015, when 40 Australian horses made the listings.

Her rating of 132 equals the previous Australian record set by champion mare BLACK CAVIAR, who reached the milestone in 2011 on her way to amassing an incredible 25 wins from her 25 career starts.

Winx's highest rated win came after her eight-length demolition of the 2016 William Hill Cox Plate field.

As well as the LWBRR top horses, the world's 100 top Group 1 (G1) races for 2016 was also released. The Cox Plate was rated equal second in order of international rankings (124.75) behind the Breeders' Cup Classic (125.25) - a race run on dirt in which Arrogate defeated California Chrome.

The China Horse Club-George Ryder Stakes (122), where Winx defeated Kermadec and Press Statement on her way to winning The Star Doncaster Mile during The Championships, was equal seventh on the list alongside the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

Twenty-three Australian races featured in the list of the top-100 G1 races for 2016.

Winx's main opposition during the 2016 racing year – HARTNELL – was equal eighth on the global rankings (124) and was the next highest rated Australian horse.

His most notable win of the season was in the G1 Yellowglen Turnbull States, in which he beat eventual BMW Caulfield Cup winner, JAMEKA.

CHAUTAUQUA'S incredible efforts during the year, including a second T.J. Smith Stakes win during The Championships, was also etched into the 2016 history books, when he was crowned the equal highest rated sprinter in the world (122) alongside Great Britain's LIMATO.

His breathtaking win in the Hong Kong Chairman's Sprint Prize at Sha Tin was the shining light in the six-year-old's star-studded season.

Chautauqua was also rated 122 in the 2014 listings and was the Champion Sprinter in the world in 2015 on a mark of 123.

Queensland sprinter BUFFERING was the oldest horse recognised on this year's list. He reached the ranking of 118 in overseas competition with a memorable victory in the Al Quoz Sprint at Meydan on Dubai World Cup night in March.

Buffering retires as one of the most popular racehorses in Australia having won seven G1 races.

First-time G1 winner FLYING ARTIE, who flew down the Flemington straight to claim the Coolmore Stud Stakes in style, was the highest rated three-year-old sprinter in the world on 120.

The Mick Price-trained colt led a world class group of Australian three-year-old sprinters with stablemate Extreme Choice (119), Astern (118), Star Turn (118) and Russian Revolution (117) all prominent in the list of the world's best sprinters.

Australia's LWBRR representative, Greg Carpenter, said the list reflected a superb year for Australian-trained horses highlighted by Winx.

"It has been a magnificent year for racing fans in Australia, categorised by the increase in the number of Australian horses honoured in the highest possible way by their inclusion in the LWBRR," Carpenter said.

"There is no higher recognition for a racehorse than to feature on this list and to have 50 horses included, as well as 23 races in the world's top 100, is testament to the continuing strength of Australian racing."

"Winx's rating of 132 puts her on an equal footing with arguably Australia's best ever race horse Black Caviar, who in 2011 reached her peak position on the list by winning the fastest ever Newmarket Handicap by three lengths carrying 58kg."

"In my opinion her eight-length Cox Plate victory over a world class field including Hartnell was every bit as good as Black Caviar's extraordinary performance in the 2011 Newmarket Handicap."

To be eligible for inclusion into the list, a horse must have been rated at 115 or above in the period under review. In total, there were 319 horses from 17 countries that made it into the 2016 listings.

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Note: The 2016 LWBRR was released at 1:30pm GMT in London on Tuesday, 24 January. Full details can be accessed at the International Federation of Horse Authorities website <http://www.horseracingintfed.com>