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MARCO BOTTI

# Expect globetrotting maestro to continue making waves right around the world





## WINNERS IN LAST FIVE YEARS 38, 40, 33, 40, 52

RING this trainer's mobile number ending in 007 and you half expect to hear: the name's Botti, Marco Botti, licensed to train.

And, like the fictitious holder of the Western world's most famous three digits, Botti travels to exotic places such as California, New York, Paris, Rome, Tokyo, Cologne and Dubai.

In fact, Dubai could be Botti's next foreign assignment. He is likely to accept an invitation to run Felix in the \$1.5m Dubai Turf at Meydan on March 27, the culmination of the Gulf state's World Cup Carnival.

The Newmarket handler – voted 2012 international trainer of the year at the Derby awards – is sticking to the intelligence world's dictum of “follow the money”, which looks an intelligent decision considering the paltry £11,372 the five-year-old gelding earned for

finishing runner-up in the Betway Winter Derby at Lingfield at the end of February.

And although **Felix** (no connection to Ian Fleming's CIA agent Felix Leiter) will face worldwide talent in the 1m1f race, Botti is optimistic and reckons his gelding is still improving.

“He's a nice horse; we're very pleased with him. He's still very unexposed and lightly raced and has actually got stronger as a five-year-old. We think we can have a good season with him,” he says.

“After Dubai we would be looking at Group 3 races in May and June because he's gone up to a rating of 107.”

Botti will hope Felix has better luck in Dubai than at Lingfield where a sluggish start and slowly run race didn't play to his strengths.

“He's a horse with a fine turn of foot and



it ended up being a small field and tactical affair. He's a horse who needs to find a rhythm," he says.

Like Felix, **Wait Forever** had a date in Dubai, but his was last winter and, just like his stablemate, he had little luck. Although he finished third in a couple of handicaps, he was balloted out twice.

"It was a bit frustrating but he had a nice holiday. He's in tremendous form, so we'll probably find a few small handicaps for him. The handicapper has dropped him slowly

but we feel he's definitely down to a very good mark."

**Count Of Amazonia** is another horse to have enjoyed the sun in Dubai, although he also returned to Newmarket without success.

"He won twice for us on the all-weather and was second in a conditions race at Newcastle. Then we sent him to Dubai but things didn't work out for him.

"In one race he was drawn 16 of 16 and finished seventh, beaten only a length and a quarter.





“He’s a miler who wants fast ground and is consistent. He’s shown he’s capable of winning off his mark. We’ll freshen him up and probably run him in May or June.”

**Silver Samurai** was second at Haydock last spring but was then jarred up when winning at Redcar on very fast ground in July after which his form tailed off.

“He’s had a nice winter, he looks well and has been gelded,” says the trainer. “He’s

down to a good mark of 83 and I think he could be well handicapped.”

**Futuristic** had all last year off with injury problems but returned sound this winter to finish second and third before winning at Wolverhampton on the third of his starts.

“He seems to be a nice sprinter who is progressing. He won off a rating of 82 but I think he could have a few pounds in hand. Six furlongs seems to be his ideal trip. He



*Aljari: looks sure to provide his owners with more fun on the all-weather*

### DID YOU KNOW?

Marco Botti: is from an Italian racing dynasty. His father Alduino and uncle Giuseppe have dominated Italy's training lists for the last 30 years, with brother Stefano also making a name for himself.



could have another outing on the all-weather while we wait for the turf season.”

**Aljari** won twice in 2019 and twice last year, and clearly handles all-weather surfaces well.

“He’s rated 90 and is a seven-furlong horse who is lightly raced. Hopefully, we can have some fun with him in the spring and summer, either on the all-weather or good ground on turf.”

Botti reckons **Pretty In Grey** is a filly who can earn more black type. She won three successive seven-furlong races last summer, two on the Kempton all-weather and one on fast ground on the July Course.

She seemed to find a mile at Ascot a little too far when fifth of ten, although she earned

black type by finishing third in a Dundalk Listed race over a mile last November.

“She’s related to **Speak In Colours**, who won a Listed race for us. She’s wintered well and we’re very pleased with her condition,” says Botti.

“We plan to start her off in a Listed race at Kempton in April and aim to get more black type with her.

“She’s rated 92 and we’ll see how she gets on at Kempton before deciding which way we’ll go. There are a few opportunities in the summer, including Royal Ascot, but before we start talking about those sorts of races, we’ll have to see her back in action. Time will tell.

“She’s a miler but on turf I think she could





**MARCO BOTTI**

NEWMARKET, SUFFOLK

**RECORD AROUND THE COURSES**

	W-R	Per cent	Non-hcp 2yo	Non-hcp 3yo	Non-hcp 4yo+	Hcp 2yo	Hcp 3yo	Hcp 4yo+	£1 level stake
Wolverhampton (AW)	134-772	17.4	29-183	36-184	6-28	9-48	36-208	18-121	+34.32
Kempton (AW)	93-758	12.3	19-197	15-139	6-33	10-45	23-216	20-128	-267.14
Chelmsford (AW)	48-378	12.7	15-93	10-78	0-12	2-14	15-110	6-71	-67.21
Lingfield (AW)	48-378	12.7	7-56	11-86	9-43	0-12	11-94	10-87	-97.92
Yarmouth	20-174	11.5	8-53	2-20	0-1	0-5	8-72	2-23	-56.16
Newmarket (July)	19-158	12.0	4-51	2-19	0-9	4-6	6-44	3-29	-1.72
Doncaster	19-188	10.1	8-46	2-27	2-14	0-3	5-59	2-39	-57.68
Windsor	18-120	15.0	2-16	4-28	2-10	1-2	9-45	0-19	-33.35
Newcastle (AW)	15-101	14.9	3-28	2-16	0-4	0-3	6-21	4-29	+3.83
Ascot	15-111	13.5	3-12	2-15	6-27	0-1	0-28	4-28	-4.50
Nottingham	13-126	10.3	4-47	3-23	0-5	2-7	4-34	0-10	-50.13
Haydock	8-96	8.3	0-22	2-15	0-9	1-1	0-32	5-17	-11.10
Newmarket	8-116	6.9	3-24	1-32	0-12	0-3	3-19	1-26	-46.50
Southwell (AW)	7-35	20.0	0-4	2-8	2-5	1-1	1-4	1-13	-13.73
Leicester	7-56	12.5	0-16	1-12	0-1	0-3	5-20	1-4	-15.35
Newbury	7-91	7.7	2-16	1-32	2-11	0-0	1-15	1-17	-42.25
Redcar	6-32	18.7	3-9	1-10	0-1	0-0	2-12	0-0	-5.13
York	6-58	10.3	1-8	1-4	4-10	0-0	0-12	0-24	-15.50
Sandown	6-59	10.2	1-8	1-9	1-8	0-0	2-26	1-8	-20.93
Pontefract	5-38	13.2	2-9	1-8	1-6	0-1	1-8	0-6	-17.50
Chester	5-58	8.6	1-5	0-4	3-12	0-1	0-11	1-25	-19.67
Newcastle	4-28	14.3	1-6	1-7	0-0	1-3	1-2	0-10	-14.50
Epsom	3-25	12.0	1-6	0-4	1-4	0-1	1-4	0-6	+4.00
Beverley	2-8	25.0	1-4	0-0	0-1	0-0	1-3	0-0	+9.25
Thirsk	2-11	18.2	0-3	1-1	0-1	0-0	1-4	0-2	+1.50
Ripon	2-13	15.4	0-1	2-4	0-0	0-0	0-2	0-6	-9.00
Goodwood	2-29	6.9	0-4	0-4	0-10	0-2	1-4	1-5	-8.00
Salisbury	2-29	6.9	0-4	1-12	0-5	0-1	1-7	0-0	-21.25
Lingfield	2-58	3.4	1-22	1-15	0-5	0-2	0-12	0-2	-49.25
Brighton	1-6	16.7	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-4	0-1	-4.00
Carlisle	0-1	0.0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-1.00
Hamilton	0-1	0.0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	-1.00
Muskeburgh	0-3	0.0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-2	-3.00
Ayr	0-5	0.0	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-2	-5.00
Bath	0-9	0.0	0-4	0-3	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-1	-9.00
Warwick	0-10	0.0	0-4	0-4	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	-10.00

Number of horses racing for the stable 724

Total winning prize-money £4,393,210.86

■ Watch for David Egan in the saddle. Six winners from 39 rides for the yard gives a profit of £30.33

get away with seven furlongs, which opens up a few more options.”

**Made In Italy** was third in the Italian Oaks last July and third in a Group 3 back at San Siro in the autumn.

“We’re aiming for a little more black type with her this year. She’s a mile or a mile and a quarter filly rated 95. If all goes to plan she’ll go for a Listed race at Kempton.

“Again, we’ll have to see how she goes. She likes top of the ground. The ground went against her in the Group 3 in Italy where it was too soft and she didn’t enjoy it.”

**Silver Gunn** is an interesting runner Botti has picked out. A three-year-old colt by Lope

De Vega, he was a close third on debut at Newcastle in September before finishing sixth of eight back at the same course in November.

“He’s a big horse from a nice family. We always thought he would be a three-year-old and whatever he did at two would be a bonus. He’s strengthened up during the winter and we think there’s more to come from him. He’s a stayer and we’re looking forward to running him in the spring. He’s a horse with a future.”

**Atalis Bay** (*facing page*) rattled off a hat-trick of sprints at Windsor, Kempton and Haydock at two before becoming upset in

*Made In Italy (centre): set to go in search of more black type*





the stalls in a Group 3 at Newmarket and running ninth of 11.

"He has plenty of speed and a good mark and could progress this year. He's filled out nicely and looks strong," says Botti.

### C o s m i c

**George** ran three times last backend, twice unplaced over 1m2f before finishing a decent second at Kempton over a furlong further, and staying races are likely to be where he will ply his trade.

"He's a proper stayer. He's had a break and could be an interesting horse, especially over a mile and a half or further. He's rated 75, which could be exploited."

**Brown Delivers** is another three-year-old Botti considers worth following.

"He was immature last year. He ran only twice, including fourth at Chelmsford late in the year in good company, not beaten far, but just needed time to come to himself.

"He's a mile and a quarter horse, very unexposed and we're looking forward to seeing him in the spring.

"He's filled out and looks much stronger. He always had scope to be a three-year-old and we're very pleased with him. He's not far off and could be out in April."

**Fire In The Rain** is a three-year-old filly whom Botti likes a good deal. Her only appearance on the racecourse came in December when she finished a respectable third of ten at Lingfield.

"She was a bit weak and needed time. The plan was to give her a run, then give her the winter off. She's a very nice filly who has grown and filled out. I'm very pleased with

the way she's training. She'll be a mile or a mile and a quarter filly.

"It's the same for another three-year-old filly, **Nushafreen**, who has a similar profile to Fire In The Rain.

"She was third of 11 at Newcastle late in the season, and the form is working out well. The second came out and won by nine lengths and they think a lot of her. She won over 1m2f and they think she could be a proper filly, even an Oaks filly.

"We decided to put her away and she could be a nice filly this year. She could need further than a mile and a quarter. We just bumped into a good one, but it's encouraging when the form works out so well."

Among Botti's string of around 85 are 35 two-year-olds, which is slightly down on previous years, but he is hopeful of buying more at the breeze-ups.

He likes the look of those already at Prestige Stables and has selected **Encountered**, a 160,000gns Churchill colt out of Enrol. "We like him a lot. He's well put together and already showing ability, and is quite mature mentally. He won't be a spring horse, he's more seven furlongs."

**Aramco**, a colt by Sea The Moon out of Her Honour, "is a good-looking type with a great temperament who looks a middle-distance type rather than a spring horse. He's doing everything nicely and we like him a lot. We like his temperament."

An unnamed colt by Bated Breath out of Respondez looks like a sprinter who could be out in early May.

Reporting by LAWRIE KELSEY



## GEORGE BOUGHEY



Fully primed  
and ready  
to sprinkle  
the stardust





## WINNERS IN LAST TWO YEARS 26, 2

GEORGE BOUGHEY, (rhyme it with David Bowie), has yet to be sprinkled with stardust – Ziggy or otherwise – but if hard graft, dedication and an ability to turn has-beens and cast-offs into silk purses is the guiding principle, don't rule it out.

After launching his career in the early summer of 2019 with a handful of horses bought cheaply, including Cotton Club and Three C's, he rejuvenated the pair to win a race each.

A worthy performance, no doubt, but it

was last year which rocketed Boughey's name into the headlines and had the media calling.

In the space of a month before the first Covid-19 lockdown, **Three C's** won three handicaps from four outings (he was second in the other), then promptly won in June when racing resumed. A couple of races later his rating had risen from a modest 48 to 68.

Three C's was being campaigned in Class 6 races, but he was proving a better advert for his trainer's ability than a full page ad in a national daily.

