

Anticipation high for strong session at Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale

Global buying bench leads to record inspections at company's number one auction



Unprecedented interest from the buying bench in the lead up to today's opening session of the Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale has prompted optimism of a buoyant market and the top end being as competitive as ever.

Multiple vendors have experienced the highest number of inspections of their drafts ever, including Kitchwin Hills, while bloodstock agents also believe competition will be intense for the best-credentialed yearlings at Riverside Stables.

“We have 18 really nice yearlings and whenever you come down here you never know what you have got, but when you get here and the interest is as solid as it is, we are pretty happy,” Kitchwin Hills' Mick Malone said.

“Our parades have exceeded any other year and (Sunday's) parading was the busiest day I have ever had in 20 years of selling. “I sort of wonder if the smaller catalogue of

400-odd - and when you take out the ones with x-ray and scope issues and the undesirable types it might be more like 350 - it just leaves you with such quality.

“Everybody is here and they are all looking to buy that top-level horse and nearly every vendor has one.” Malone is confident the pre-sale interest will translate into a strong buying bench when the horses enter the ring.

“I will be extremely surprised if it is not really, really solid throughout,” he said.

“Everyone is a bit nervous that it is going to be a bit hard in the middle, and I think it will be early, but once the market finds its feet and people realise that it is hard to shop at the top end, then they will have to start pulling back a tier. “There are horses here, and we buy a few, where you think you have got \$400,000 to buy but they are going to make beyond that.

“Those first 50 lots are going to be pretty important as to where the market finishes off.” Kitchwin Hills will offer two colts by Australia’s champion sire Snitzel (Redoute’s Choice) inside the first hour of selling this morning. Lot 26 is the seventh foal out of Group 2 winner Gallant Tess (Galileo),

who has already produced stakes winner Rock Hero (Fastnet Rock), while Lot 29 is the second foal out of ATC Champagne Stakes (Gr 1, 1600m) winner Go Indy Go (Bernardini).

“They are two lovely horses but different types. The Gallant Tess is out of a Galileo mare, which we have seen has been terrific with The Autumn Sun,” Malone said.

“He is definitely a two-year-old but has

scope and is a beautiful mover, while the Go Indy Go is a big, raw twoyear-old sort of horse.”

Kitchwin Hills will also offer a Vancouver (Medaglia d’Oro) colt out

of Group 2 winner Marianne (Darci Brahma), whose first foal by I Am Invincible (Invincible Spirit) was purchased at last year’s Easter Sale for \$1 million. He will be offered as Lot 110.

Inglis general manager of bloodstock sales Sebastian Hutch was more reserved about expectations leading into today’s sale but was confident the quality of the catalogue would be well received by the market.

“The inclination at this stage is to be cautiously optimistic. No one wants to get ahead of oneself in advance of what is a very important two days,” Hutch said.

“Our team has put a huge amount of work into soliciting a strong and diverse buying bench and I am very satisfied by what we have seen in terms of attendance. ”

Similarly, the feedback we have solicited has been very positive on the quality of the horses here. “We have been at pains to stress the value that is on offer at this sale. The precedent for such claims is very strong - Aristia, who won the (VRC) Oaks, was an \$80,000 yearling and there are ten Group 1

winner to have come out of the sale since 2016 who cost \$200,000 or less.

“All in all, at this stage, we have a lot to be positive about.”

Meanwhile, Hong Kong agent George Moore inspected the majority of the Hunter Valley-consigned yearlings last month before looking at the remaining horses in the 450-lot catalogue this week, and he plans to have a strong presence in the market.

“There are always a lot of good horses here. There are a lot of new stallions (represented), which I will be targeting, too. But the middle range might not have as many high-class horses as there was last year,” Moore

told ANZ Bloodstock News.