



From the Desk of the Chief Economist

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EC_131105

MELBOURNE CUP STRATEGY

Thief of Hearts

Economists generally have enough sense to know that they know nothing about horse races. There are people who do. They are called tipsters. Every Melbourne Cup Day, their tips are published in major newspapers.

Today we have taken the tips published in The Australian newspaper. There are five tipsters in all. From these tipsters we construct our most favoured rating. Every horse nominated to win gets 3 points. Every horse nominated to come second gets 2 points. Horses nominated to come third get 1 point.

Today the total points provided are: Voleuse De Coeurs 6, Sea Moon 6, Mount Athos 5, Fiorente 4, Verema 4, Brown Panther 3 and Foreteller 1.

In order to generate the value for each horse, we multiply these points by the odds. The odds in the electronic market at 7.30am this morning for these horses were: Voleuse De Coeurs \$18, Sea Moon \$16, Mount Athos \$10, Fiorente \$7, Verema \$15, Brown Panther \$21 and Foreteller \$34.

When we multiply the odds by the most favoured rating, we find that the highest value in the field is Voleuse De Coeurs. The results yield Voleuse De Coeurs 108 points, Sea Moon 96 points, Brown Panther 63, Verema 60 points, Mount Athos 50 points, Foreteller 34 points and Fiorente 28 points.

The most favoured rating, the odds and our calculation of value points is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1			
Horse	Most Favoured Rating	Odds Ratio	Value Points
Voleuse De Coeurs	6	18.0	108
Sea Moon	6	16.0	96
Mount Athos	5	10.0	50
Fiorente	4	7.00	28
Verema	4	15.0	60
Brown Panther	3	21.0	63
Foreteller	1	34.0	34

Our recommendation this year is for an each way bet on Voleuse De Coeurs. In English, the name of the horse means "Thief of Hearts". Remember our recommendation is for the best value bet rather than for the highest probability of winning.

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04.11.13