

# Racing in Macau



- > Macau is on the verge of becoming the gaming capital of the world and its horseracing will only become more lucrative as a result.
- > Macau offers easy and inexpensive access for foreign owners into a limited horse population racing centre. Australia has about 30,000 horses per annum competing for prizemoney while Macau's horse population is limited to 1,250.
- > Races are conducted on both turf and sand. The sand track has been a revelation for a number of Australian bred horses by dirt sires who have greatly surpassed their turf performances when racing on the sand.
- > Macau racing should maximise the amount of prizemoney your horse can earn as the lowest rated horses imported into Macau race for a minimum of HK\$195,000 (approximately A\$32,800).

The Macau Jockey Club has assembled a cosmopolitan group of trainers, jockeys and administrators, as well as importing horses from around the globe to provide racing of an international standard. Members and the public enjoy modern facilities from private boxes and an air-conditioned grandstand to a wide variety of restaurants.

## > History

The first flat race in Macau was conducted on the 10th of September 1989. In 1991 the Club was acquired by a consortium led by Dr. Stanley Ho and is now one of the largest private employers in Macau. The Club is currently experiencing record levels of betting turnover (Table 1) which is set to rise as a result of the growing level of tourism and gaming in the region. This should translate into future increases to the already handsome level of prizemoney on offer in Macau. (Tables 2 & 3)

## > Meetings and Officials

The racing season commences in September and ends in August and each week two race meetings are conducted. Macau racing prides itself on its high level of integrity with races overseen by a team of professional and esteemed stipendiary stewards.

## > Overseas Owners in Macau

Only members of the Macau Jockey Club can race horses in Macau. The joining process for overseas owners is simple and relatively inexpensive. There is a one-off application fee of HK\$8,000 (A\$1,360) plus an annual membership fee of HK\$2,000 (A\$340). Application forms and ownership details can be downloaded from the [www.racinginmacau.com](http://www.racinginmacau.com) website.

## > Races and Prizemoney

Prizemoney in Macau corresponds to a horse's allocated rating (Table 3). The Club also conducts 17 Group or Listed races that carry lucrative prizemoney with the most prestigious being the Macau Derby (G1) run over 2000m on turf for 4YOs.

## > Track and Training Facilities

The racetrack is 1600m in circumference and races are run on both turf and sand. All training facilities are located on course and include 18 air-conditioned stable blocks, a spelling station, quarantine facility, equine swimming pool and equine hospital.

## > Horses Qualified For Importation

Both raced and unraced horses are eligible for importation into Macau as long as they meet Macau Jockey Club criteria (the Terms and Conditions document can be downloaded at [www.racinginmacau.com](http://www.racinginmacau.com)).

Two types of permits are issued by the Macau Jockey Club. The Private Purchase (PP) permit is issued to a "tried horse" that has raced no more than 15 times and has won at least A\$4,700 in prizemoney if a 3YO and at least A\$7,500 if a 4YO. The Private Purchase Griffin (PPG) permit is issued to an unraced horse as long as it is broken-in and no older than four years of age.

## > Training and Transportation Costs

On average, the monthly training costs in Macau are HK\$20,000 (A\$3,400). The cost of exporting a horse from Australia to Macau is about A\$8,000 and this includes flight, insurance and quarantine. However, considerable transport concessions are offered to horses with a rating of 80 and above.

## > Ratings

All horses imported into Macau are allocated a rating. Southern Hemisphere bred Griffins (unraced horses) are allocated a rating of 48. PP's (or tried horses) imported into Macau will be allocated a minimum rating of 57 (this roughly equates to a Class 1 winner in Australia).

A winner of a Saturday metropolitan race will rate approximately 75 while a Listed winner will be allocated a rating of approximately 85 (these ratings are only a guide as the complete race record of a horse will be taken into account by the Macau Jockey Club to allocate a rating).

## > Further Information

For further information please contact Peter Leyshan at [peter.leyshan@racinginmacau.com](mailto:peter.leyshan@racinginmacau.com) or visit his website [www.racinginmacau.com](http://www.racinginmacau.com)

Season	Total Turnover (HK\$)
89/90	462,642,000
90/91	637,308,000
91/92	979,940,000
92/93	1,296,616,000
93/94	1,296,616,000
94/95	1,521,334,000
95/96	2,285,331,000
96/97	2,635,168,000
97/98	3,421,173,000
98/99	3,576,040,000
99/00	3,567,430,000
00/01	4,019,742,000
01/02	3,263,321,000
02/03	3,297,540,000
03/04	9,089,238,000

Table 1: Betting Turnover in Macau

Feature Races	Prizemoney (HK\$)	Prizemoney (A\$)
GROUP 1		
Macau Derby	2,600,000	438,000
Macau Hong Kong Trophy	2,300,000	387,000
Macau Gold Cup	1,000,000	169,000
Directors' Cup	800,000	135,000
GROUP 2		
Macau Guineas	780,000	132,000
Macau Star of the Sand Stakes	780,000	132,000
Chairman's Challenge Cup	780,000	132,000
Macau Cup	780,000	132,000

Table 2: Feature Races in Macau

Rating	Prizemoney (HK\$)	Prizemoney (A\$)
84+	650,000	110,000
75+ & 70+	500,000	85,000
98-75	420,000	71,000
83-60	320,000	54,000
74-52	265,000	45,000
69-46	230,000	39,000
59-36 & 58-36	215,000	37,000
52-30	195,000	33,000
42-20	185,000	32,000
35-14	165,000	28,000
24-13 & 24-0	155,000	27,000
13-0	135,000	23,000
Griffins	200,000	34,000

Table 3: Prizemoney Levels by Rating in Macau