

TALTARNI AVOCA CUP

Media Release



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NEWS FLASH - Camels to Race at the annual Taltarni Avoca Cup...

Experience the ultimate day out at the 'Taltarni' Avoca Cup and in a first, Taltarni will both sponsor the main race and also feature two main camel racing events. Held on Caulfield Cup Day, Saturday 21st October, the 'Taltarni' Avoca Cup provides the perfect day to enjoy the excitement and festive atmosphere that spring racing carnival in the country provides.

It has been a vision of Taltarni's owner, Mr John Goelet, to feature one-humped camels (*Camelus dromedaries*) found in Arabian deserts at the Taltarni Cup, offering a unique element to Victorian Country Racing. Taltarni is hosting this event in conjunction with its sister vineyard, *Clos Du Val*, from the Napa Valley in California with representatives from this winery coming to country Australia to see the camels in action and indulge in Taltarni's main marquee. Taltarni's Chief Executive, Adam Torpy is contemplating riding a camel in one of the main races and will be in training with Paddy McHugh of Australian Camels next week leading up to the great event. "We are excited by the opportunity to host one of the only camel races in Victoria - with most camel races held overseas, Queensland or the Northern Territory", says Adam.

Regional camel riding talent will also come from Brett Scott of Avoca, who has toured the camel racing circuit in central Australia for some years now and has had considerable success as a camel jockey with notable wins at Moree, Charleville and Boulia and now is very much looking forward to riding at Avoca.

Taltarni's Red Earth Café and Cellar Door Manager, Simon Jones, believes the camels will bring more visitors to the region with the touring camels staying at Taltarni's vineyards leading up to the main race day. "Finger's crossed they don't find the wine barrels or we may have some interesting racing".

Country Racing Victoria has been very receptive to having camels at this race carnival as a feature event, with the camels running after the six thoroughbred races including the running of the \$10,000 'Taltarni' Avoca Cup. Located only 50 minutes from Ballarat; this great day attracts over 8,000 patrons from all over the state to the little town of Avoca. The day provides a wealth of entertainment with live entertainment, fashions on the field, gourmet food stalls, live big screen Caulfield Cup action and a wide range of Taltarni wines, with sales tents and bars across the course featuring their new T Series wine range.

All of the fun and excitement starts at 10am when gates open, and the first race kicks off around 1.00pm. Admission is \$15 for an adult or \$10 concession and tickets can be purchased on the day. Patrons under the age of 16 are free if they are accompanied by an adult. Patrons are welcome to bring their own picnic lunch and non alcoholic beverages. Please note no BYO is allowed on racecourse grounds.

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