

# Air Force Blue

Excellence as a 2yo has been the hallmark of many of Ashford Stud's most successful stallions, such as Storm Bird, Giant's Causeway, Scat Daddy and Uncle Mo. Air Force Blue excelled at that age too and was rated Europe's best juvenile with a rating of 124, after winning three consecutive Gr.1 races. He took the Phoenix Stakes over six furlongs and both the National Stakes and Dewhurst Stakes over seven.

Bred by Arthur Hancock III at Stone Farm Air Force Blue is the best juvenile by War Front, the remarkable son of Danzig who has sired more than 6 per cent Graded/Group winners on his way to becoming the U.S.'s highest-priced stallion in 2019. Air Force Blue's second dam, Circle of Gold, is a sister to Flanders, America's Champion 2yo filly of 1994, when she won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies.

Air Force Blue has the advantage of having none of the **SEATTLE SLEW** blood which helped Flanders produce the multiple Gr.1 winner and champion Surfside. War Front has Graded winners from mares by **A.P. INDY, PULPIT** (19 per cent black-type winners) and **TAPIT**. It was a **TAPIT** mare which produced a \$400,000 colt from Air Force Blue's first crop while a \$290,000 filly is out of a **MALIBU MOON** mare.

War Front has several good winners with two lines to **DANZIG**, including the Gr.1 winners War Flag, Hit It A Bomb (Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf) and Brave Anna.

Air Force Blue should shine with mares from the prolific male line of **MR PROSPECTOR**. War Front have Gr.1 winners out of mares by **FORTY NINER, MISWAKI, SMART STRIKE, WOODMAN** and **SEEKING GOLD**. Other sons of War Front have already sired Grades winners from daughter of **GULCH, SPEIGHTSTOWN, CITY ZIP, TRIPPI** and **STREET SENSE**. War Front has four SW's from his first 26 foals out of **UNBRIDLED'S SONG** mares (15%).

Mares from the **SADLER'S WELLS** line should also shine with Air Force Blue, who had a \$350,000 first-crop colt out of a grand-daughter of **SADLER'S WELLS**. War Front has 21% black-type winners with **SADLER'S WELLS** mares, including the 2019 Preakness Stakes winner War of Will and two Gr.1 two-year-old winners. He also has three Gr.1 winners out of daughters of **GALILEO**, a Gr.2 winner from an **EL PRADO** mare and a Gr.3 winner from a **MONTJEU** mare. Mares by **MEDAGLIA D'ORO** and **KITTEN'S JOY** are likeable options for Air Force Blue.

At least eight other grandsons of Danzig have sired Gr.1 winners from **STORM CAT** line mares, therefore daughters of **TALE OF THE CAT, GIANT'S CAUSEWAY** and **SCAT DADDY** should be guaranteed to produce good 2yos.

The **ROBERTO** male line should also suit well, as War Front has top-class Graded winners from daughters of **DYNAFORMER, RED RANSOM** and **ARCH**. He also has Gr.1/Gr.2 winners with second dams by **SILVER HAWK**.