

Melbourne Cup 2017

Fascinator? Check. Top hat? Check. Data? Check. That's right. This year, you won't want to head to the track without a little research. Taylor Fry has caught race fever and put our top actuarial brains to the task of beating the bookies. So whether you fancy a maiden or a mudlark, or you're still stuck in the starting gates, check out our form before you flutter.

How it works

Embracing the obstacles

We analysed data from every Melbourne Cup between 2001 and 2016, selecting odds and barrier position to create our heat map - the heat map shows the average return from a \$1 bet. The addition of a barrier position is key in sorting the wheat from the chaff, as it were. There's never a sure thing, but there just might be a surer thing.

Now it's your turn

We've done the hard yards – the next bit is easy:



Step 1
Pick a horse



Step 2
Check the odds and barrier position



Step 3
Use our heat map to line up your two components, like coordinates

Are you in the hot spot, raring for more risk or taking a chance on the chill zone? Whatever your call, we hope you enjoy the ride!

Heat map

| | BARRIER | | | | |
|------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 1 to 5 | 6 to 10 | 11 to 15 | 16 to 20 | 21 to 24 |
| ODDS | 0 to 8 | \$1.27 | \$1.27 | \$1.27 | \$1.27 |
| | 8 to 12 | \$1.88 | \$1.88 | \$1.88 | \$1.88 |
| | 12 to 20 | \$1.27 | \$1.88 | \$1.88 | \$0 |
| | 20 to 30 | \$1.27 | \$1.27 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | 30 to 60 | \$1.27 | \$1.27 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | 60 to 99 | \$1.27 | \$1.27 | \$0 | \$0 |

*Our heat map is based on Melbourne Cup winners from 2001 to 2016. We show the average return from a \$1 bet over this period for each coloured zone.

Chance encounter

Here's our 'hot spot' of results, where the odds more often aligned with barrier position for a win and where the safer bets might reside this time round.

The good, the bad and the maybe

This is a mixed bag of longer shots winning from good barriers as well as better horses winning from bad barriers. If you're up for a risk, either of these options may be the way to go. A warmish wager.

No man's land

There are no winners with long odds and bad barriers since 2001. Tread carefully, it's cold out there.



* Sportsbet at 7:15 Monday, 6 November

TF turns tipster – our scorching 6

Using our odds/barrier heat map and consulting this year's lineup, our experts are taking a punt on:

| Horse | Barrier | Odds* |
|------------------|---------|-------|
| Almandin | 14 | \$8 |
| Marmelo | 16 | \$9 |
| Humidor | 13 | \$10 |
| Johannes Vermeer | 3 | \$10 |
| Wall of Fire | 15 | \$13 |
| Amelie's Star | 10 | \$17 |



Get shorty

For the extra keen, optimise our tips by choosing the horse whose odds shorten the most between now and just before the race.

For more actuarial tips, please contact us at sydooffice@taylorfry.com.au