



ROYAL ASCOT

For Immediate Release, Tuesday 22nd May 2018

FOUR WEEKS TO GO UNTIL ROYAL ASCOT



- Grass is cut to a regulation **4 inches** for the Flat season and **3 miles** of bunting is to be installed
- **240,000** hand-crafted afternoon tea cakes, **120,000** buttermilk scones and **60,000** finger sandwiches to be served
- More than **12 million** user engagements expected across Ascot's social media channels
- Set to be broadcast in **200** countries around the globe with a reach of **650 million** households

The countdown to one of the most iconic summer events of the British sporting and social calendar has begun. Four weeks today Ascot Racecourse will open its gates for five days of world-class racing, pageantry, high fashion and Fine Dining from Tuesday 19th – Saturday 23rd June 2018.

Royal Ascot will feature **19** Group races, including **eight** Group Ones, with total prize money across the five days in excess of **£7.3m**. Around **300,000** guests are expected to attend the Royal Meeting this year to witness the spectacle with **70,000** racegoers attending Thursday's Gold Cup Day.

35,000 guests alone will enjoy Fine Dining or lunch service in a Private Box during the event and world-renowned chefs Raymond Blanc OBE, Phil Howard, Simon Rogan, Adam Handling and James Tanner are all involved this year, boasting **five** Michelin stars and **13** AA Rosettes between

them. Fine Dining has always been an important ingredient of the Royal Ascot experience with **330** chefs, covering **12** restaurants, **17** private dining facilities and more than **200** private boxes. During the event **5,000kg** of salmon, **5,000** Angus steaks and **2,400kg** of beef sirloin, **7,000** rumps of English lamb, **3,500** fresh lobsters and **8,000** Cornish crabs will be served to guests.

Synonymous with Afternoon Tea, the Royal Meeting will also serve **240,000** hand-crafted cakes, **120,000** buttermilk scones, **80,000** cups of tea, **60,000** finger sandwiches, **7,000** punnets of mixed berries and **1,200kg** of Cornish clotted cream are served across all enclosures.

Ascot's dedicated grounds team will cultivate and bed-in more than **13,000** flowers and plants across the **179-acre** racecourse especially for the event.

Approximately **400** helicopters and **1,000** limousines will descend on Royal Ascot with an average of **60,000** racegoers each day who will be greeted by the racecourse's **163** full-time personnel and **6,500** temporary staff.

Ascot Racecourse was established at the behest of Queen Anne in 1711. The centrepiece of Ascot's racing calendar, Royal Ascot is first thought to have taken place at Ascot in 1768 and is now arguably the world's most famous race meeting. It has been attended by British Monarchs ever since its inception and at 2pm each day the Royal Procession in which The Queen, along with her family and guests, parade up the Straight Mile into the Parade Ring in landaus led by four Windsor greys.

Increasingly in recent years, the Royal Meeting attracts some of the best horses from around the globe, with horses from as far as the USA and Australia set to be in the line-up across the 30 races.

All races throughout the week will be televised live on ITV and around the world, including live coverage on terrestrial television in the USA, Australia, China and the UAE.

Tickets available from £37 to £88. Please note the Village and Windsor Enclosures have now SOLD OUT for Saturday 23rd June.

For further information please visit www.ascot.co.uk/royalascot or call 0344 346 3000.

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