



The Voiles de Saint-Tropez – September 29th to October 7th 2018
20th edition
Saturday 6 October 2018

Les Voiles Sails On!

- The 20th anniversary rounds off beautifully with great races for each class
- Prize-giving tomorrow in the Village, prizes and Trophies for all categories

Sailors who sail are happy sailors. Tired and happy, the 4,000 crew members competing in Saint Tropez are this evening struggling to grasp the fact that they've already competed in the last race of this exceptional 20th edition of Les Voiles this afternoon. The adrenalin of the fiercely contested racing is now slowly subsiding, after the tension of the long close-contact coastal courses for the Classic and Modern yachts, and the excitement of the series of windward-leewards linked together off Pampelonne by the Wallys. For a long time to come, Saint Tropez will resonate to the sounds of the enthusiastic exchanges in multiple languages among sailors the world over, who are already keen to rediscover the next extraordinary cocktail of conviviality, spectacle, nautical history and sport that make Les Voiles so special. The prize-winners in this 20th edition are now known and tomorrow they'll receive a just reward for their efforts during the traditional prize-giving ceremony organised in the Village for Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez.

A full week of racing!

The gale that swept across the bay and shook up Les Voiles at the start of the week finally ended up being snuffed out, leaving the way clear today for a very pleasant breeze from the south-east, the benefits of which were maximized by the various race committees, who launched two fine windward-leewards off Pampelonne for the Wallys, and a coastal course in the gulf for the classic yachts, whilst the Modern yachts sailed a big triangular course of nearly 20 miles offshore. It was enough to definitively mark out the hierarchies, which were hinted at early on in the week. Tomorrow, Saint Tropez will crown the top players, some of whom were widely expected and others who really took the field by surprise.

6 races validated for the Wallys

Magic Carpet3 and *Lyra* continued their cordial yet aggressive clash right to the wire today. Two windward-leewards were on the programme in optimum wind and sea conditions. Despite going before the International Jury and being disqualified in the final race, the 80-footer *Lyra* has been declared the winner of the BMW Trophy.

The Mini Maxis untouchable

There was a surprising result among the big IRC As with the 72-foot Mini Maxis

reigning supreme, the hunt for glory quickly coming down to a duel between *Jethou* and the new Botin-design *Cannonball* owned by the Italian Dario Ferrari. The latter, supported by the America's Cup specialist Sébastien Col, won three of the four races validated and triumphed in the overall ranking after a series of tantalizingly close races, with mere seconds between the boats. It's worth noting here the stellar handling of the newcomer to Les Voiles, the Italian *Twin Soul B*, a very high-performance Mylius 80. Taking the win yesterday, *Wallino* completes the podium.

Gladiator excels in the Saint Tropez arena

We were expecting great things from the cut-throat jousting promised by the IRC Cs, a group that gathers together yachts of around fifteen metres in length, designed for racing and performance, such as the TP 52s and the Swan 50s. The favourites were where they were supposed to be and topping the charts we celebrate the British TP 52 *Gladiator* (Tony Langley), which dominated play today, letting no one have the privilege of crossing the finish line before them. The A 40 RC *Team Chalets* owned by Philippe Saint André was forced to accept the runner's up prize, the two boats only able to be separated by the number of victories. The winner of this very dense group in terms of quality and quantity (32 boats) will tomorrow be awarded the Edmond de Rothschild Trophy.

The Classic yachts put on a show in the gulf

A limpid air, a quivering gulf and a fine, predominantly easterly wind created a wonderful display along the incredibly photogenic shores around Saint Tropez that provide the perfect backdrop for the majestic 120 Classic yachts. The enchanting spectacle of the gaff and Bermudan rigs making headway under sail has been captured by hundreds of international photographers. Stars among the stars were the 20 splendid craft penned by the master himself William Fife. Gathered together under the Fife Jubilee banner, all eyes were on this group throughout this fine week in Saint Tropez. The 1908 gaff cutter *Viola*, helmed by the French Mini sailor Fabien Desprée, ultimately triumphed to secure the highly coveted Rolex Trophy after a fantastic face-off against the speedy Swiss 8 m JI *Carron II* and the sublime 1898 cutter *Kismet*. *Hispania* bagged a creditworthy 6th place within this star group to finish ahead of the other three 15 m JIs.

In Brief

Thank you André

For the past 18 years, his commanding figure has controlled play behind the scenes as well as at the head of the organisation for Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez. Last winter, André Beauvils entrusted the helm of the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez to Tony Oller. However, he remains Les Voiles' biggest fan and hopes to see the event evolve further with a single credo, ensuring the racers have fun. "I had an absolute ball for 18 years. I scrupulously adhered to what appeared to me to be Patrice de Colmont's spirit and concept, namely fair play on the water, and conviviality on shore; the only driver for everyone being fun and certainly not profit! I've added my modest contribution and the machine that turns Les Voiles is still in place. It's over to Tony now to add his personal touch. I hope to have passed on to him this spirit we so cherish, which is the polar-opposite of mercenary. The festival exists thanks to the racers, who continue to come along in force, as is evidenced by the waiting list. I'm not worried about what Les Voiles has been before; Les Voiles will be and that in itself makes me very happy."

Quotes:

The wrap from Georges Kohrel: *“With 300 yachts in the gulf, if one boat sank, the crew could return to Saint Tropez by foot ...”*

Sidney Gavignet, Stiren (Sparkman&Stephens 1963)

Just a few weeks prior to the start of the Route du Rhum race from Northern France to the West Indies, which he'll be contesting on his 52-footer *Café Joyeux* in the “Rhum Mono” class, Sidney Gavignet has given himself a welcome break for a spot of yachting in Saint Tropez. He's helming the Bermudan yawl *Stiren*, with a crew of informed amateurs. *“I haven't raced in Les Voiles for ages. From my position as helmsman, I have the time to benefit from the spectacle. It's an exceptional event. I love coming across a number of French and overseas sailors with a background in offshore racing like me. The mixture of genres and experiences is really interesting...”*

PROGRAMME**MODERN YACHTS**

Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th September: Registration and Inspection

Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd, Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th (J.Laurain Memorial Day, Challenge Day), Friday 5th, Saturday 6th October: inshore races, 1st start 11h00

CLASSIC YACHTS

Sunday 30th September and Monday 1st October: Registration and Inspection

Sunday 30th September: arrival of the Yacht Club de France's Coupe d'Automne feeder race from Cannes

Tuesday 2nd, Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th (J.Laurain Memorial Day, Challenge Day, Club 55 Cup, GYC Centenary Trophy), Friday 5th, Saturday 6th: inshore races, 1st start 12h00

Prize-giving for everyone

Sunday, 7th October, from 11h00.

Sponsors of Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez

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AIR FRANCE

CHEVALIER TORPEZ (THE VINEYARDS OF SAINT TROPEZ)

SUN 7 GRAPHIC

Organisation:

Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez, President: Tony Oller
Principal Race Officer: Georges Korhel
On-the-water organisation: Philippe Martinez
Registration: Frédérique Fantino
Redaction: Denis van den Brink
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