



Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez 2021 – Saturday 25 September to Saturday 9 October

Sunday 10 October 2021

Les Voiles brimming with superlatives in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Nioulargue

- A breath-taking first week
- The largest gathering of Maxi Yachts in the world
- Over 3,200 sailors competing at Les Voiles from the four corners of the globe...

The 2020 edition of Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez successfully got the brand new two-week format up and running, but as the curtain falls on this year's 23rd edition of this major race meet in Saint Tropez, it is fair to say that it was this latest opus, for the most part free of health restraints, that provided a true insight into the merits of the two-phase regatta, both on land and out on the water. Indeed, the new programme saw the Classic yachts and sail boats measuring less than 60-feet competing for the first week, immediately followed by a full week devoted entirely to the Maxi Yachts. The timeless first week, blessed by wonderful breeze and perfect sailing conditions, served as a prelude to the largest gathering of Maxi Yachts in the world. The results delighted the organisers, the President, Pierre Roinson, and the whole of the team at the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez, who were very happy to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Nioulargue, the race that went on to become Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez, with all the starts and finishes now right in front of the port of Saint Tropez to the great delight of one and all.

A breath-taking first week!

Georges Korhel, Principal Race Officer for Les Voiles is truly delighted at the popular success of the first week of racing, which served up all types of breeze, enabling the Race Committee to send the fleets out around the racetrack every single day for some fantastic, hotly-disputed races. The week's big winners included the very famous industry boss Patrizio Bertelli, who took home the Rolex Trophy aboard the Herreshoff design *Scud* and her top-flight crew, who managed to outsail the sumptuous P Class boats. Meantime, despite some very stiff opposition, *Pretexte* (Nacira 47) bagged the North Sails Trophy (IRCB) and *Nanoq*, skippered by the Prince of Denmark, won the BMW Trophy (IRCC). It was *Olympian*, the 1913 P Class with her deep emerald green keel which took victory in the Yacht Club de Gstaad's Centenary Cup, after a hair-raising match-race final between her helmsman Bruno Troublé, and America's Cup star Peter Isler at the controls of *Spartan*.

The biggest gathering of Maxi Yachts in the world for week two.

With 45 craft measuring 60 to 107 feet gathered together on the invitation of the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez, week two at Les Voiles took on giant proportions and with it a plethora of superlatives. Wallys, J Classes... racing thoroughbreds abounded in the bay for some truly spectacular races with the varied conditions giving every crew something good to work with. *Comanche*, *Rambler 88*, *Leopard3*, as well as the Mini Maxi 72s, put on a wonderful display for the public as they hurtled along under Le Portalet in the quest for Les Voiles' most prestigious prizes. Sir Lindsay Owen Jones' Wally Cento *Magic Carpet Cubed* battled all the way to the wire to secure the win in IRC1 and prove that her recent World Champion title was no flash in the pan, whilst the pretty Wally 77 *Lyra* won a number of accolades. Equally, spectators will not forget the fierce duelling between the two J Classes, *Topaz* and *Velsheda*, with the former finally gaining the upper hand.

Quotes:

Pierre Roinson, President of the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez:

"We received a huge number of compliments in the first week of Les Voiles. It's very important because it means we've managed to rekindle our ties with history, the Modern boats sailing at the same time as the Classics. It went marvellously well, with fantastic weather. Whilst scrupulously adhering to the health guidelines, we've managed to reconnect with the ambiance so key to Les Voiles and that's a real pleasure. I've met up with the

Maxi owners and they are absolutely delighted to come sailing here. Our second week was the largest gathering of Maxis in the world with 45 craft competing. On top of that, the Maxis were able to benefit from starts and finishes right in front of the port of Saint Tropez. This second week has been highly professional with a stellar line-up of crews. Furthermore, the public has greatly appreciated being able to get up close and personal with these rare jewels that are the Maxis. I'd like to thank all our full-time staff and volunteers who have gone straight from the SailGP to Les Voiles and will be working on Swans next week."

Georges Korhel, Principal Race Officer

"It's been a big hit. The first week was blessed by the weather Gods, with varied winds enabling races to be run every day. The second week was more complicated, but the racing took place in some very different conditions and we crowned some fine champions. The Maxi crews are delighted. They're in the port and they're sailing right in front of Saint Tropez... which is exactly what they wanted. The first week, out of 240 boats, we managed to get 200 into the port. The competitors are happy and that's the most important thing. Les Voiles has been a great meeting for the Maxis. We've had 45 boats this year, all of supreme quality, Rambler, Leopard, Topaz... some rare boats which we're really pleased to have been able to share with the general public."

The numbers at Les Voiles:

132 Modern yachts, 82 Classics in the first week, followed by 45 Maxis in week two, equating to 3,200 sailors in all and around 20 nationalities.

See you again on Saturday 24 September 2022 for another edition!

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