



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

Friday 8 October 2021

The big confrontation must wait till tomorrow

- The high stakes of the final race, tomorrow Saturday!
- *French Kiss* relegated
- The stars of sailing shine bright in Saint Tropez

It is a well-documented phenomenon that there can be breeze in the Rhone corridor to the west, as well as in the Gulf of Genoa to the east, yet nothing between the two. Such was the episode that played out today in Saint Tropez. Indeed, despite a glimmer of hope in the early afternoon, where it looked like a distinct possibility that Georges Korhel, Principal Race Officer at Les Voiles, and his teams, hard at work on the race zone throughout the day, would be able to offer up a course and unleash the 44 Maxis out onto the racetrack. As such, the crews patiently remained on site, on the orders of the Race Committee, under full main, poised to set sail at a moment's notice. Ultimately, it was not to be, alas, and just after 16:00 hours everyone headed back into port in the knowledge that they will now have to wait until tomorrow and the final day of reckoning and racing in Act 2 of Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez in this the town's biggest ever gathering of Maxi Yachts.

Tomorrow, high stakes...

Every crew slunk back into port today without being able to get their teeth into a single battle. Skippers, sailors and owners were left hungry, nay ravenous for more, and looking at the ranking, with two races validated for groups IR1, 2 and 3, tomorrow's battle already has all the makings of a sumptuous feast as they rally to secure a spot on the final podiums, which are set to be celebrated on Saturday evening after the final race. The stakes are certainly high then which makes the final race tomorrow all the more important. In IRC1, *Rambler* and *Magic Carpet Cubed* are absolutely tied on points, each of them boasting one second place and one third place. The situation is a touch more settled in IR2 and 3, where *Lyra* (Wally 77) and *Topaz* (J Class) respectively have the luxury of a comfortable lead of 6 and 5 points. Meantime, *Jethou* should be able to contain *Vesper*, her 'historic' rival in the zippy 72-foot class that make up the IR3A group. In IR4, a status quo prevails as they have only one validated race to their credit. As such, there is still absolutely everything to play for in this fine group, which is currently being led by *Aloha*, Nicolas Piquet's CNB 77.

French Kiss NSC - Did not sail the course.

The jury at Les Voiles got together late yesterday evening to give a verdict on four of the race boats competing in the Bay of Saint Tropez. The latter were proven to have failed to respect the route of the course, passing between La Rabiou and the shore. As a result, the jury decided to relegate them for not completing the course, with *French Kiss*, originally poised to take the race win, downgraded to 7th place in the provisional overall ranking for IRC4.

There are 45 Maxis sailing at Les Voiles. 12 belong to the International Maxi Association.

Wallyno - Benoît de Froidmont
Y3K - Claus-Peter Offen
North Star - Peter Dubens
Topaz - Jurgen Focke
Velsheda - Ronald de Waal
Twin Soul B - Luciano Gandini
Kallima - Paul Berger
Magic Carpet Cubed - Sir Lindsay Owen-Jones
Rambler 88 - George David
Jethou - Sir Peter Ogden
Lyra - Terry Hui

Vesper - Jim Swartz

Of note...

The crew of *Rambler 88* has been particularly motivated this week as it was accompanied by the director of Team Alinghi, Ernesto Bertarelli, with whom a great many stars of sailing, including one Brad Butterworth, won and defended the America's Cup in 2003 and 2007.

Programme 2021

Week 2: Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez, Maxi Yachts

Sunday 3 and Monday 4 October: **registration for all modern yachts above 18.29m**

Wally, IRCA, Maxi yachts

Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6, Thursday 7, Friday 8, Saturday 9: regattas

Saturday 9 October: Prize Giving (Week 2)

Health measures set out by the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez

(excluding competitor directive):

Personnel and volunteers

- Health Pass

Village des Voiles Race Village

- Health Pass

- Mask wearing (*according to the Prefectural directive in place at the time of the event*)

- Access to the official North Sails shop shall be via the exterior only

All entertainment is scheduled to go ahead as usual in line with the health regulations.

Media

- Access to the press office reserved for accredited journalists upon presentation of a Health Pass

- Mask wearing (*according to the Prefectural directive in place at the time of the event*)

- Media boat boarding: Health Pass

Partners to Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez

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Organisation:

Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez

President: Pierre Roinson

Manager: Sabrina Coccia

Principal Race Officer: Georges Korhel

Race Secretary: Frédérique Fantino

Editorial Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez: Denis Van den Brink

Communication: Chloé de Brouwer

Website: www.lesvoilesdesaint-tropez.fr

Facebook: les Voiles de Saint-Tropez Officiel

Twitter: [@VoilesSTOrg](https://twitter.com/VoilesSTOrg)

Instagram: les_voiles_de_saint_tropez

YouTube : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOWJleackeMali4I9UxPxUg>

Photos and Video:

Gilles Martin-Raget, 6G

Press Relations:

Maguelonne Turcat +33 6 09 95 58 91

Email magturcat@gmail.com



