



Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez 2022 – from Saturday 24 September to Saturday 8 October
Thursday 29 September

Sheer madness...

- A whole day of fun and fiery Challenges of all kinds
- To France (12mR) the Club 55 Cup!
- Kismet triumphs among the Centenarians

Thursday at Les Voiles has the spirit of the Nioulargue and the breeze at its centre, wrapped up in the sheer madness of sailors on a quest for fun and friendly nautical challenges, all of them imbued with the sense of fair play so cherished by the teams at the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez. Owners, captains and crews challenge one over a drink, with the winner treated to a meal or the simple pleasure of a great day at sea. Competing in the Club 55 Cup, the Centenary Trophy and a good dozen or so challenges between 2, 3, 4 and even 6 boats, the boats had all their sails set to take on the gulf today. This evening's ever popular crew procession through the town's streets gave the sailors yet another reason to set the small port in France's Var region alight and rounded off a wondrous day in style.

Crazy and sometimes unlikely Challenges

From 13:00 hours, Le Portalet bore witness to a steady stream of protagonists competing for the Club 55 Cup, the Centenary Trophy and a dozen or so battles with two, three or even six boats, with some evenly matched challenges like the one that grouped together the magnificent Bermudan yawls *Skylark* (Stephens 1937), *Manitou* (Stephens 1937) and *Blitzen* (Sparkman&Stephens 1938), that of the large craft pitting *Cambria* (Fife 1929) against *Halloween* (Fife 1926) and *Mariella* (Mylne 1938) or the more unlikely battles involving the gunter rig *Alcyon* (Scotto/Vaton 2013) and the 10mR sloop *Marge* (Anker 1936). The Modern sailboats also joined in this exotic mix of groups when the Grand Soleil 50 *MadIV*, one of the stars of IRC B (North Sails Trophy), challenged *Bernina X*, the brilliant X41 in IRC D (Suzuki Trophy).

To France the Club 55 Cup

The course was modified for the 2022 edition of the Club 55 Cup in an elegant nod to the origins of Les Voiles. Indeed, the meaty swell sweeping the coast off La Nioulargue prompted today's protagonists to revise the course, creating a looped circuit of around 14 miles, setting sail from and finishing off the jetty in Saint Tropez, via the Club 55 mark at Pampelonne and the far end of the gulf. *France*, the Mauric

design 12mR (1970), helmed by the President of the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez himself, the honourable Pierre Roinson, was pitted against the sublime *Tuiga* (Fife 1909), flagship of the Yacht Club de Monaco. Victory ultimately went to the President of the SNST, after "an absolutely splendid race in the wind and sunshine" according to the champion.

To *Kismet* the Centenary Trophy

21 centenarian yachts contested today's Centenary Trophy offered by the Yacht Club de Gstaad. A mixture of rigs, sizes and styles, this original event at Les Voiles saw the smallest sailboat of the fleet, *Dainty* (Wesmacott 1922) with a waterline of 8.20 m, vie with the giant *Shenandoah of Sark* (Ferris 1902) measuring 55 m, and a whole series of boats created at the start of the 20th century, each more legendary than the next. Enjoying a pursuit race format, with the boats crossing the start line according to their rating and the first to cross the finish line being declared the winner, the Centenary Trophy enables competitors to race on an equal footing. As such, after 3 delicious hours of racing, Sir Richard Matthews' gaff cutter *Kismet* (Fife 1896) scored a brilliant victory, just ahead of the two Herreshoff designs, *Scud* (1903) helmed by Torben Grael, and *Oriole*, the 1905 gaff sloop.

Impressions:

Sir Richard Matthews, *Kismet*, winner of the Centenary Trophy

"We're delighted! A great course, a fantastic race, and on the way back we held off *Scud* who was going great guns. The decision to hoist the gennaker was crucial. It was a new sail for us, and we managed to make full use of it in today's conditions to open up a decisive lead. The crew was fantastic. The boat has no winches so she's very physical. We recently restored her from top to bottom. I've been sailing with this team for nearly 15 years. Our British tactician Andy Green was outstanding. We'll be back to defend our title with pleasure next year."

Torben Grael (*Scud*)

"This must be my 8th participation in Les Voiles, and my third Centenary Trophy, once on *Linnet*, and once on *Scud*. We're very happy to be able to compete again after the Covid years. We have a great team who push the boat hard, which is nice, but we have to be careful with her as she's 120 years old. I learned to sail on an old boat, my grandfather's 6 m, which is still in the family. I know how to position this type of fairly heavy boat on the racetrack. I love sailing here. I love the Classics and it's fascinating to watch all the different types. You learn something new every day. I'd love to win the Centenary Trophy."

Today's partners:

Besserat de Bellefon

Partnering Les Voiles for the 4th year, the Besserat de Bellefon champagne company really makes the most of the wonderful dynamics at Les Voiles. Throughout the fortnight, it welcomes guests to share in the unique experience both on land and at sea. "We've created a very 'boaty' atmosphere on the stand at the heart of Les Voiles' race village" explains Nathalie Doucet, President. "We welcome a great many clients to it from all over France, as well as importers, who we invite out onto the water."

Suzuki

For the 6th consecutive year, the loyal partner to the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez, Suzuki Marine, is in attendance at Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez. Out on the race zone, the brand has extended its commitment by making available a fleet of twelve Marshall ribs equipped with Suzuki outboards. On land, Suzuki's environmental programme Clean Ocean Project is being presented to the general public on the brand's stand, and it comes complete with a microplastics collector, which will now kit out the new DF115B and DF140B engines. Mounted directly onto the engine's structure, this innovative system collects floating waste whilst in underway by filtering the water intended to cool the engine. Suzuki's environmental programme also reduces plastic packaging at source with a saving of some 11.2 tonnes of plastic in its manufacturing processes since October 2020. Equally, its Clean Up Campaign has rallied together over 10,000 people since 2010 to collect waste on shorelines the world over.

Programme 2022

Week 1: Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez: Modern and Classic

Thursday 29 September: Challenge Day, Club 55 Cup, Centenarians Race

Friday 30 September and Saturday 1 October: racing for the modern and classic yachts

Saturday 1 October: Prize-giving (week 1)

Week 2: Les Voiles Maxi Yachts and Multihulls

Sunday 3 and Monday 4 October: registration for the large modern yachts (Wally, Mini Maxi, Maxi, Super Maxi) and Performance Cruising Multihulls (in excess of 60-feet)

Tuesday 4, Wednesday 5, Friday 7, Saturday 8: racing

Thursday 6: lay day

Saturday 8 October: Prize-giving (week 2)

Partners to Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez

[ROLEX](#)

[BMW](#)

[NORTH SAILS](#)

[WALLY](#)

[SUZUKI MARINE](#)

[MARSHALL](#)

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PORT DE SAINT-TROPEZ
LES MARINES DE COGOLIN
FEDERATION FRANCAISE DE VOILE
YACHT CLUB DE FRANCE
INTERNATIONAL MAXI ASSOCIATION

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