



Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez 2022 – from Saturday 24 September to Saturday 8 October
Friday 30 September

Once upon a time in Saint Tropez...

- All the Classes, Modern and Classic alike hit the racetrack
- Light airs cause havoc on the leader board among the Modern fleet
- Classics: Viveka pulls it out of the bag

It was amidst a soundtrack comprising hand canons on the large schooners, sea shanties from the schooner *Naema* and the drone of bagpipes from the top spreader of the gaff schooner *Elena*, that the 3,000 sailors competing at Les Voiles returned to port this evening, delighted by their day of fierce competition in a capricious breeze. The large schooners vying for the Rolex Trophy, together with the 8 other groups of classic yachts, managed to rack up one fine race today, the light airs making things devilishly tactical. Meantime, the Modern sailboats completed their third race of the week on a coastal course, along the fringes of the gulf to the great delight of onlookers.

More racing for the Modern yachts, albeit with a slight change of tone

With strong breeze at the start of the week and light to medium wind today, the 5 groups of Modern sailboats have had it all out on the racetrack. Suffice to say that tomorrow evening's winners will have posted a very consistent performance given the great range of weather conditions served up at this year's Les Voiles. With less than 5 knots on the start line today, the hunt for breeze became a complete obsession, with some of the series being subjected to two general recalls. Fortunately, the coastal course towards Pampelonne saw the breeze pick up a tad over the course of the afternoon, enabling them to add another race to their tally. With less pressure and less swell, the leader board has been severely shaken up. Indeed, the TP52s in IRC C (BMW Trophy) were taken aback after the fantastic win posted by Robert Gwozdz's *Grand Soleil 44 Es Entia*. Furthermore, the crew on *Nanoq* not only secured second place in today's race, but they're also now in a position to vie for outright victory tomorrow as the other big player among the TP52s since Monday, Karl Kwok's *Beau Geste*, is currently down in the 6th spot. It's a similar scenario in IRC B (North Sails Trophy), with the First 53 *Yaziga* bagging 6th place in a race won by the rival First 53, Patrick Schmidt's *Ritual*, ahead of the Solaris 50 *Nergy*. As a result, Albert Batzill's *Baltik 50 Music* is in with a chance of a podium place tomorrow for what will be the last day of racing for this fleet.

Rolex Trophy, Viveka stands up to Elena

The gigantic schooner *Elena of London* has dominated play in elapsed time in the light airs of the gulf and is naturally at the top of the Rolex Trophy ranking. However, her handicap has caused her to lose her grip on the lead tonight, albeit by a matter of minutes, to the benefit of the schooner *Viveka* (Pine 1929). The Danish schooner *Orianda* completes the podium. In the Grand Tradition category, there is precious little separating *Halloween* (Fife 1926), today's winner, *Tuiga* (Fife 1909) and *Sumurun* (Fife 1914), which are competing for the Besserat de Bellefon Trophy. There is also a battle royal among the magnificent gaff cutters, which notably include the three stunning P Class yachts. The 10mR *Marga* (Liljegren 1910) has the upper hand over *Gaudeamus* (Barg 1914) and the venerable *Kismet* (Fife 1896). Of particular note in the Epoque Marconi category vying for the Byblos Trophy is the defeat suffered by *Blitzen* (Sparkman&Stephens 1938), which was just pipped to the post by the Olin Stephens design *Skylark* (1937).

Of note...

The 7 schooners competing for the Rolex Trophy have been putting on a real show in the Gulf of Saint-Tropez since the start of the week. All of them have a rather unique history coloured by the imagination of over a century of architectural genius. Here's a brief outline...

Aschanti IV of Vegesack (Gruber 1954). Marconi schooner. Previous names: *Marie Pierre* - *Afaneti* - *Aschanti of Saba*

34.80 m, steel hull. Vegesack is a charming little whale fishing port to the north of Bremen, on the river Wesel
Elena of London (Herreshoff 2009) Gaff rig schooner. Built in 2009, *Elena* is a meticulous reconstruction of the 1928 transatlantic race record holder of the same name. 55 m. Steel hull.

Naema (Mylne 2013) gaff rig schooner, 41 m, steel hull. Previous name: *Noelani*

Orianda Schooner (Dahlstrom 1937). 26 m. Built in Denmark for the country's royal family. Built of oak.

Puritan Gaff rig schooner (Alden 1930) 36 m. Steel hull, served as a patrol boat for the US coastguard during the war

Shenandoah of Sark Gaff rig schooner – three master (Ferris 1902). 54 m. Steel hull. Weight: 300 tonnes!

Viveka (Payne 1929) Marconi schooner with staysails. 25 m with no boom on the foremast. Cedar and mahogany hull on an oak frame.

Impressions:

Georges Korhel, Principal Race Officer

"We switched today's starts around so the Classic yachts were invited to set sail from 11:00 hours, whilst the Modern yachts were scheduled in from 12:30 hours. Our reasoning was simple, to give the Classic yachts more of an opportunity to compete in the day's light breeze. It'll be a similar set-up tomorrow too. Indeed, to enable the boats to make the most of the expected Mistral, the Classics will set off at 10:00 hours, followed at 11:00 hours by the Modern yachts."

Today's partners:

Mercantour Events

Armed with some 20 years' experience and a whole team of experts, Mercantour Events is a familiar presence when it comes to supporting all manner of event projects: from public and corporate event strategy, to the organisation of shows, fairs, exhibitions, conventions, as well as company conferences and events. The company based in L'Isle sur la Sorgue in Provence designs, fits out and maintains the wonderful race village at Les Voiles.

Hotel Byblos

Legend has it that Jean-Prosper Gay-Para, a billionaire Lebanese hotelier, who admitted to being completely smitten by the legendary Brigitte Bardot, wanted to build her "a one-of-a-kind palace worthy of The Thousand and One Nights, spanning the length of the Mediterranean." Work began on it in 1965 and its architecture was a far cry from that of the grand luxury hotels of Cannes or Monte Carlo. Actually located right in the heart of the traditional fishing village in Saint Tropez, he called it 'Byblos' after the Lebanese port founded by the Phoenicians and frequented by the international jet-set. Reminiscent of a hamlet, it features a host of little buildings attached to one another across a 5,500 m2 expanse. With roofs clad in Roman and Genoese tiles, wrought iron balconies, vibrant coloured facades, fountains, trees, a large swimming pool, a waterfront bar, restaurants, a nightclub, 59 rooms and much, much more besides, it is clearly the place to be!

Programme 2022

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

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

MERCANTOUR

BYBLOS

BESSERAT DE BELLEFON
TORPEZ (VIGNOBLES DE SAINT-TROPEZ)
BERNARD OPTIC
PEPINIERISTE PIERRE BASSET
ESPRIT VILLAGE A SAINT-TROPEZ

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

Organisation:

Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez

President: Pierre Roinson

Principal Race Officer: Georges Korhel

Race Secretary: Frédérique Fantino

Technical Manager: Philippe Martinez

Communication and Management Attaché: Chloé de Brouwer

Editorial: Denis Van den Brink

Website: www.lesvoilesdesaint-tropez.fr

Media site: www.snst-media.com/

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Press Relations: +33 (0)6 09 95 58 91

Maguelonne Turcat

Email magturcat@gmail.com



