

caribbean R&R

Loro Piana
Caribbean
Superyacht
Regatta &
Rendezvous,
March 14-17,
2012

TEXT BY
**KATE LARDY
AND MARILYN MOWER**

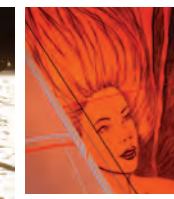
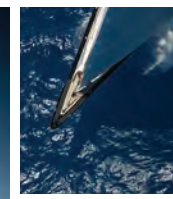
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
**JEFF BROWN/
SUPERYACHT MEDIA,
CARLO BORLENGHI
AND MARK SIMS**

THE CARIBBEAN'S CHARMS WERE FULLY displayed when welcoming 26 motor and sailing superyachts to the docks of the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (YCCS) in Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands. Blue skies mirrored the North Sound's clear waters and kissed the undulating green hills, accompanied by the spring season's ubiquitous fresh trade winds. In the midst of it all was the YCCS's gleaming new clubhouse towering over the dock.

Organized by YCCS and Boat International Media, the 2nd Loro Piana Caribbean Superyacht Regatta & Rendezvous attracted iconic sailing yachts on the water for three days of racing, as well as a diverse fleet of motor yachts and support yachts for the rendezvous experience, ranging from the 72-foot Oyster sloop *AlbertOne3* to the 295-foot Royal Huisman schooner *Athena*.

I knew we were in for a treat when upon arriving at the B.V.I. airport, fellow passengers and I were whisked away from the masses to the VIP lounge to do nothing but sip fresh passion fruit juice as our bags and passports cleared Customs and Immigration.

And it only got better from there....



social scene

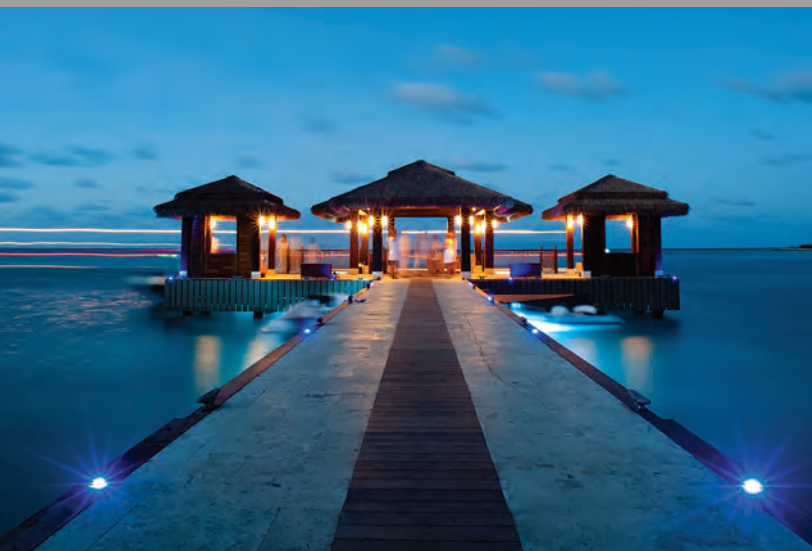


clockwise from top Howard Meyers, Robert Walton and William Anton; Louis XIII de Rémy Martin in handmade Baccarat crystal was shared aboard the host yacht *Icon*; Ron Nugent of Westport, Ann Avery of Northrop & Johnson and Princess Zahra Aga Khan; guests and owners of *S/Y Lady B*; the Gold Party at Oil Nut Bay in full swing.



From the opening day's welcoming barbecue to the closing cocktails three days later, both sailors and rendezvous guests were never wanting for social activities. While the racing yachts were busy on the course, the rest of the rendezvous fleet was able to enjoy front-row seats to the racing, a cruise to Peter Island for lunch at a private villa sponsored by BVI Tourism and a beach day at the Oil Nut Bay Beach Club, located on a secluded private peninsula on the eastern tip of Virgin Gorda.

A highlight of the schedule was the presentation by Morgan de Prémoré, world brand ambassador for Louis XIII, on board the host yacht *Icon*, where honored guests tasted "a century in a bottle," 1912 Louis XIII cognac. Loro Piana hosted a very special Owners' Dinner under the stars at the new YCCS clubhouse, accompanied by the beautiful music of singer Amii Stewart and flautist Andrea Griminelli, while yacht crew celebrated on the beach at Leverick Bay, courtesy of Mount Gay, Parts & Power and Northern Lights. Adding sparkle to your typical white party, "gold" was the theme this year at the final night's celebration at Oil Nut Bay, where everybody hit the dance floor.



right The motor yacht owners and guests' luncheon at Peter Island's Falcon's Nest sponsored by BVI Tourism was a sun-splashed affair; fire dancers got the Gold Party off to a bright start for the guests' enjoyment.



THAR BE TREASURE, MATEY!

Three tenders raced around North Sound on a mission for gold coins on Saturday morning's pirate-inspired scavenger hunt. Ten clues led owners and crew from deserted coves to beachside bars, scanning for pirate flags marking the elusive spot and taking photographic evidence of their hunt. The final clue brought the teams to the Oil Nut Bay Beach Club, where for some hungry participants, the delicious waiting lunch buffet was the true treasure.

Chanticleer's crew claimed victory, narrowly defeating the captains from fellow Burger boats, *Victory* and *Pilgrim*, who had teamed up for the event, and outfoxing the *Shalimar* team, which hosted the hunt's youngest participant. But the pint-sized pirate-princess Lilly, wasn't bothered, saying as she dug up pirate booty on the beach, "The best part is I get to take home a pot of gold to my granddad on his birthday"—a fitting sentiment for a scavenger hunt taking place on St. Patrick's Day.

DRINK UP ME HEARTIES, YO HO

There's nothing more ubiquitous in the Caribbean than rum, and in the "spirit" of regatta competition, sponsor Mount Gay Distilleries pulled out all the stops, bringing its four rum varieties to bear. Both sailing and motor yacht crews showed their creativity by preparing adult beverages themed for the Regatta & Rendezvous.

Chef Bill Pendleton of the 86-foot Hatteras *Migration* sought to impress judges with "Mango Mutiny" utilizing three Mount Gay varieties. The stews from Peter Wacker's 128-foot *Ganessa* donned Hindu-style saris to pour their cocktail, "Muddy Ganges." More costumes appeared for *Marie's* pirate-themed "Black Pearl" and *Bliss's* "Polynesian Paradise." The scene-stealer and prize winner was host yacht *Icon* with music and an invention called "Wake Me Nuts Before You Mango" featuring cashews rendered in boiling water before being whirled with coconut, mango and rum. The competition, however, was summed up in the name of *Salperton's* cocktail, "Passionately Yummy." Judges were William Anton, chair emeritus of the Culinary Institute of America, Robert Walton, president of the U.K. Restaurant Association, Chesterfield Browne, Mount Gay's brand ambassador and mixologist, Kevin Fahie, Mount Gay's Caribbean sales manager, and Pascal Rangel from Rémy Cointreau.



BURGER STACKS UP

U.S. yacht builder Burger Boat was well represented with a fleet of four yachts spanning six decades of the builder's modern era. From 75' *Pilgrim*, Burger's first steel cruiser (1941), to 80' *Victory* (1988), 110' *Chanticleer* (1973) and 153' *Ingot* (2008), it was a serendipitous mini-rendezvous for their American owners.

PARTICIPATING YACHTS (RENDEZVOUS)

YACHT NAME	LOA	BUILDER
<i>AlbertOne3</i>	72'	Oyster Marine
<i>Athena</i>	295'	Royal Huisman
<i>Bartender (ex-Nomade)</i>	119'	Tansu Yachts
<i>Chanticleer</i>	110'	Burger
<i>Icon</i>	205'	Icon Yachts
<i>Ingot</i>	153'	Burger
<i>Migration</i>	86'	Hatteras
<i>Never Say Never</i>	115'	Sunseeker
<i>One More Toy</i>	155'	Christensen
<i>Pilgrim</i>	75'	Burger
<i>Resolute</i>	130'	Westport
<i>Shalimar</i>	120'	Azimut
<i>Stellar</i>	130'	Westport
<i>Victory</i>	80'	Burger

sailing scene

It may have been in the heart of the British Virgin Islands, but the Loro Piana Caribbean Superyacht Regatta & Rendezvous was as international as it gets with Italian and British hosts, 13 sailing yachts representing 10 builders in five countries and owners hailing from a half-dozen nations. The monohull fleet ran the gamut from a 96-foot Derecktor to a 180-foot Vitters, all racing under the IRC rule recently modified for superyachts.

Racing conditions ranged from ideal to just shy of perfect for the three-race romp. Ten courses, from 13 to 29 nautical miles, had been devised by Race Officer Peter Craig to test the fleet around Virgin Gorda, Necker Island, Ginger Island and various rocky outcroppings. Yachts started in reverse order of their handicaps at two-minute intervals—the 96-foot Derecktor-built 1996 *Altair* first and the 101-foot 2009 Wally *Indio* last. Not coincidentally, that reflected their standings at the regatta's conclusion.

With *Indio* and last year's winner, *Hanuman*, battling it out for supremacy, the real duels were in the middle of the fleet where tactics and avoiding sail handling mistakes made all the difference. A slow spinnaker drop on *Zefira* erased a fast weather leg on Day One, while *P2* missed a set on Day Three and a few yachts had to send crews aloft to sort out headsail issues.

Shifty inshore conditions and dropping breezes on Days Two and Three favored the lighter boats such as *Indio*, *Firefly* and *Ganesh* where the decisions were to hit the lay line or search for clear air and a passing lane offshore. For yachts of this size, those who took less tacks won the day.

Still, the effort for some of the boats was on phasing in new

sails and crews for the St. Barth's Bucket to follow, but for all, the emphasis was on enjoyment. No one represented that better than Bob Eichler, the Washington State-based owner of *Altair* sailing in his first-ever regatta. A long-time cruiser, he appreciated the competitive spirit of his peers and never gave up even if *Altair* failed to finish in the allotted time, a tactic that won him the Spirit of the Regatta Award. Andrea Recordati, a YCCS member and owner of *Indio*, who bookended the event with bullets to finish one point ahead of last year's winner, Jim Clark's *Hanuman*, has already accepted the challenge to defend his title in 2013.



PARTICIPATING YACHTS (SAILING)

YACHT NAME	LOA	BUILDER/NAVAL ARCHITECT
<i>Altair</i>	96'	Derecktor/Sparkman & Stephens
<i>Billy Budd (ex-Saudade)</i>	114'	Royal Huisman/Tripp Design
<i>Bliss</i>	120'	Yachting Developments/Dubois
<i>Firefly</i>	115'	Claasen Shipyards/Hoek Design
<i>Ganesh</i>	128'	Fitzroy Yachts/Dubois
<i>Hanuman</i>	138'	Royal Huisman/Dykstra & Partners
<i>Indio</i>	100'	Wally Yachts/German Frers
<i>Lady B</i>	145'	Vitters Shipyard/Dubois
<i>Marie</i>	179'	Vitters Shipyard/Hoek Design
<i>P2</i>	125'	Perini Navi/Philippe Briand
<i>Salperton</i>	147'	Fitzroy Yachts/Dubois
<i>Sojana</i>	115'	Green Marine/Farr Yacht Design
<i>Zefira</i>	163'	Fitzroy Yachts/Dubois



RACE RESULTS

No Spinnaker Division

PLACE	YACHTS	RACE 1 Pts	RACE 2 Pts	RACE 3 Pts	TOTAL
1	<i>Lady B</i>	14	11	12	37

Spinnaker Division

PLACE	YACHT	RACE 1 Pts	RACE 2 Pts	RACE 3 Pts	TOTAL
1	<i>Indio</i>	1	2	1	4
2	<i>Hanuman</i>	2	1	2	5
3	<i>P2</i>	3	3	5	11
4	<i>Sojana</i>	4	4	4	12
5	<i>Firefly</i>	5	5	3	13
6	<i>Salperton</i>	7	6	7	20
7	<i>Bliss</i>	10	7	6	23
8	<i>Ganesh</i>	6	9	10	25
9	<i>Marie</i>	8	8	9	25
10	<i>Zefira</i>	9	10	11	30
11	<i>Billy Budd</i>	11	12	8	31
12	<i>Altair</i>	12	DNF 14	DNF 14	40

