



**PALERMO-MONTECARLO START: MALIZIA II AND LUCKY LOOKING FOR RECORD.
JUNOPLANO DISMASTS A FEW MILES OFF USTICA ISLAND**

Palermo, 21 August 2017 – Palermo Montecarlo Regatta, one of the most long-awaited regattas of international offshore, started this morning at 12.00 from Mondello Gulf, next to Circolo della Vela Sicilia (organizer of the Regatta in cooperation with Yacht Club de Monaco and Yacht Club Costa Smeralda).

At the start there were a lively but irregular wind from North-West on 12 Knots, expected rising during the course toward Ustica. On the route to Ustica, an unforeseen happened to one of the boats of the fleet: Junoplano 60', a veteran of the race, dismasted.

Half of the fleet of this XIII edition comes from nine countries: USA, Monaco, Germany, Poland, Russia, Hungary and Italy (24 boats out of 41 at the start). Favourite boats are IMCOA 60' Malizia II of Pierre Casiraghi, who runs for Yacht Club de Monaco (skipper German Boris Herrmann, already protagonist of many regattas with Giovanni Soldini) and US boat Lucky 63' of Byron Ehrhart, owner of Chicago, who chose to run with a small crew (only 12 people on board) as the forecast is of light wind. This project of Reichel-Pugh defends the colours of famous New York Yacht Club and it already won the Sidney-Hobart in 2011 and the Transatlantic race in 2015.

For the records, Lucky was the first one to turn around the buoy, ahead Leaps&Bounds and Jivaro.

Malizia II and Lucky are the most favourite boats to try to beat the record of the race, which since 2015 belongs to Esimit Europa 2: 47 hours, 46 minutes and 48 seconds. New Gran Soleil 58' Leaps & Bounds of French owner Jean Philippe Blanpain (tactician Paolo Semeraro, ex-Olympic of Finn) and Buena Vista ICE 62 of owners Gigi and Beppe Pannarale, who defend the colours of Circolo della vela Sicilia, are other boats to hand. The skipper is Alberto La Tegola, ex yachtsman of Olympic classes, today President of Regional Committee VIII Zone (from Puglia) of Italian Sailing Federation.

Now the boats are going through the Mediterranean along the coast of Sardinia (in Porto Cervo there will be a "gate"), later Corsica and at the end arrival in Principato of Monaco after 500 miles non-stop.

If the wind allows it, first yachts should be arrive in Montecarlo's harbour on Wednesday.





Six boats are part of the Palermo Montecarlox2, with only two crew: three of them are 950 and Pegasus Città di Verona (Pietro Boerio and Francesco Conforte on board) is the boat to beat. Extreme Life Cinq Sens of Maurizio Vettorato, expert and veteran of Palermo-Montecarlo is an other 950 that runs to reach a good result.

As a prize there are Angelo Randazzo Trophy for overall winner in corrected time (in the biggest class: ORC this year) and Giuseppe Tasca D'Almerita Trophy to the winner in real time. Palermo-Montecarlo Regatta to give many international trophies: Trofeo D'Altura of Mediterranean 2017, Championnat et Trophees Inshore et Offshore Mediterranean Equipages IRC2017, Mediterranean Maxi Offshore Challenge 2017.

Many partners and Institutions help the success of Palermo-Montecarlo, as Comune di Palermo, co-organizer of the Event. This edition has also the support of Fondazione Terzo Pilastro Italia e Mediterraneo: Emmanuele Francesco Maria Emanuele is the President.

The foundation promotes health, culture, scientific research, education, social inclusion doing trait d'union between cultures in front of Mediterranean.

One special note to Tasca D'Almerita who for eight generations produces wines awarded all over the world. His family feels the passion for the sea: the special link with Palermo-Montecarlo underlines it.

New partners are: Banca Mediolanum and Condorelli with Riocar and Gesap.

LIVE TRACK_ Follow the race live on internet and mobile devices

Web Link: <http://yb.tl/pm2017>

App IOS: [YB Races](#)

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