



WITH THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE ANGELO RANDAZZO TROPHY TO THE FRENCH YACHT TONNERRE DE GLEN AND THE GIUSEPPE TASCA D'ALMERITA TROPHY TO THE AMERICAN MAXI YACHT RAMBLER 88, THE PALERMO-MONTECARLO 2018 CAME TO AN END. APPOINTMENT FOR THE NEXT YEAR, AT MID AUGUST, FOR THE XV EDITION.

Montecarlo, 26 August 2018 - Simply magnificent: the XIV edition of the Palermo-Montecarlo came to an end between a myriad of smiles and the clear satisfaction among all the participants of the regatta organized by the Circolo della Vela Sicilia in collaboration with the Yacht Club de Monaco and the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, and with the support of the City of Palermo, the Regional Council of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment, and Fondazione Sicilia, as well as the sponsors Banca Mediolanum, Tasca d'Almerita, Condorelli, RioloCar and Gesap.

The regatta involved 54 boats at the start - last Tuesday, in Palermo, in presence of His Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco and the Mayor of Palermo Leoluca Orlando, on board the Gregoretti naval ship of the Italian Coast Guard together with the President of the Circolo della Vela Sicilia Agostino Randazzo. At the end 44 boats have crossed the finish line in Montecarlo, starting from Thursday evening, after a course of about 500 miles.

Most of the fleet had to sail with medium wind conditions that didn't allow to beat the Esimit Europa 2's record of the regatta. The Ker 46 Tonnerre de Glen owned by the French Dominique Tian is rewarded with the absolute victory and the conquest of the Angelo Randazzo Trophy for the first overall place in the IRC group. While the success in real time (Giuseppe Tasca d'Almerita Trophy) goes to the Maxi Rambler 88 owned by the American George David (with on board the legendary skipper from New Zealand Brad Butterworth, and also the Italians Silvio Arrivabene and Alberto Bolzan). To the Swan 45 Aphrodite, yacht of the Circolo della Vela Sicilia, and the skipper Edoardo Bonanno goes the third prize of the race, ie the Trophy Emanuele Bruno for the first Sicilian boat to cross the finish line.

In the ranking of the other group, ORC International, valid for the Italian Offshore Championship and for which the Palermo-Montecarlo is one of the most important stages, it's a full Italian victory for the Cookson 50 Endlessgame owned by Piero Moschini (on board, among others, Gabriele Bruni and Lorenzo Bressani), a result that pushes the yacht from the Reale Yacht Club Canottieri Savoia towards the conquest of the Italian title.

These are the other awards given during the ceremony hosted at the Yacht Club de Monaco: first yacht in real time at the gate in Porto Cervo for the Maxi Rambler 88; first IRC boat at the gate of Porto Cervo for the Maxi Atalanta II owned by Carlo Puri Negri; first ORC boat at the gate of Porto Cervo for the Maxi Lucky owned by Bryon Ehrhat; first double handed crew at the gate of Porto Cervo for Favorit Plus owned by Maksim Nemchenko; while the first double handed crew in IRC at the arrival is Aigyliion owned by Sanguettola.

It is also worth to mention the extraordinary participations of the trimaran Ad Maiora owned by Bruno Cardile (third at the arrival in Montecarlo) and of the First 50 Freedom owned by Roberto Pucitta, with the Under 25 crew from the Sailing Youth Offshore Academy, the joint initiative of the Circolo della Vela Sicilia with the Yacht Club de Monaco. With the end of this Palermo-Montecarlo wonderful and spectacular edition, the appointment for the the next one, the fifteenth, is scheduled in mid-August 2019, an event on which the Circolo della Vela Sicilia is already working to ensure sailing enthusiasts a new adventure to be experienced and told.

Agostino Randazzo (President of the Circolo della Vela Sicilia)

"It was an exceptional edition of the Palermo-Montecarlo, with the record of boats on the finish line, many high-level yachts coming from different countries, few withdrawals along the route and a navigation that left everybody satisfied. Among the crews there were stars like Brad Butterworth, Kito de Pavant, Gabriele Bruni, Lorenzo Bressani, Gabriele Benussi, Alberto Bolzan... sailors from the America's Cup, Olympic classes and ocean sailing, confirming that ours is a real international regatta able to unite the different realities of competitive sailing. I'm glad



that the two main trophies up for grabs went to a French and an American boat. I'm also glad that an Italian yacht won in ORC: this is another highlight of the international dimension of the Palermo-Montecarlo. Important owners such as George David and Bryon Ehrhart have already anticipated that they will do everything to be there in 2019 and this is the best way to testify the fact that we are doing a good job and that next year edition will be an even better Palermo-Montecarlo than this one. I'd like to send a message to the friends of the Yacht Club of Monaco, whom I thank for the wonderful collaboration together with the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda which managed the passage through the gate in Porto Cervo: I saw many boats here on the docks of the club and I really enjoyed it, but the goal is to have even more yachts and we will do our best to make it happen".

George David (owner Rambler 88)

"It is the second victory for us and we are very happy: two years ago we finished in 58 hours, this year in 55, so we are satisfied, also because even though we never stopped, we had medium-light wind conditions. We will do everything to be there again next year, because it is a fantastic and very well organized regatta. Both in Palermo and in Montecarlo the welcoming of the participants is exceptional. Maybe we will also be able to find those wind conditions that will allow us to aim to break the record of the regatta".

Brad Butterworth (skipper of Rambler 88)

"For Rambler 88, the Palermo-Montecarlo is now a challenge we feel a lot, and we are really happy to have crossed first on the finish line: we like this event, we like to be there and experience this beautiful navigation. The race was not easy, the guys from Lucky, to whom our compliments go, were good and it was a tough fight, but in the end we got it and we are very happy. Next year? We hope to be there".

Pietro Moschini (owner of Endlessgame)

"I am extremely happy with the result obtained in this prestigious and beautiful regatta, proud of having been able to face with very prestigious teams at national and international level. In this race I am satisfied with the performance of the crew who did not make mistakes and satisfied of the boat that has proven once again to be reliable and efficient from a technical point of view. The route is among the most beautiful ever, it has given us very intense and emotional moments. A special thanks to the organizers who made this event very pleasant with their exceptional welcome".

Carlo Puri Negri (owner of Atalanta II)

"Thanks to Agostino Randazzo for his hospitality in Palermo. It was a beautiful regatta with steady wind up to Porto Cervo. The long calm off the coast of Corsica allowed the smaller boats to recover the gap on all the Maxis who were leading the regatta and then won in Monaco. A special thanks to Gabriele Benussi who pushed Atalanta II to victory in compensated time between the Maxis and the arrival at the passage through the Porto Cervo gate in the first overall position".

Alfredo Ricci (Race Director of the Palermo-Montecarlo)

"In this regatta we had all possible sea weather conditions, a pity only for the wind intensity at the start, but for the rest it all went very well and I'm glad that there were few withdrawals compared to the average. We have seen that if the wind increases, the chance to beat the record is real, a further motivation for the participation of the Maxi yachts. The organization is growing and aims to do always better, because - as I say to everyone - the most beautiful Palermo-Montecarlo is yet to come and will be the next one, we are already at work to make it happen".

CONTATTI

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