



THE XIV EDITION OF THE PALERMO-MONTECARLO REGATTA HAS BEEN PRESENTED AT THE CIRCOLO DELLA VELA SICILIA, THE RACE THAT WILL START TOMORROW FROM THE GULF OF MONDELLO IN PRESENCE OF HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO: GREAT BOATS AND FAMOUS SAILORS WILL FACE THE 500 MILES OF A COURSE THAT PROMISES SHOW AND EMOTIONS.

Palermo, 20 August 2018 - The splendid headquarters of the Circolo della Vela Sicilia in Punta Celesi, Mondello, hosted this morning the press conference for the presentation of the XIV Palermo-Montecarlo, the regatta that will start tomorrow at 12:00 is organized by Yacht Club Palermo in collaboration with the Yacht Club de Monaco and the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, with the support of the City of Palermo, the Regional Council of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment, and Fondazione Sicilia, as well as with the sponsors Banca Mediolanum, Tasca d'Italia Almerita, Condorelli, Riolo Carte and Gesap.

Among the speakers, coordinated by the journalist Fabio Pozzo, the welcome and now usual presence of the Mayor of Palermo Leoluca Orlando, the Councilor of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment of Sicilian Region Sandro Pappalardo, the President of the Italian Federation Vela Francesco Ettore, Adalberto Miani representing the YC de Monaco, the Commodore of the YC Costa Smeralda Riccardo Bonadeo and Fabio Citrolo from the Port Authority of Palermo, as well as the host, Agostino Randazzo, the President of the Circolo della Vela Sicilia who announced for tomorrow the presence of His Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco at the start of the regatta, accompanied by the Vice-President of the club from Monaco Pierre Casiraghi and by the General Secretary & CEO Bernard d'Alessandri.

"We are particularly impressed with the technical level reached and we are happy and honored for the presence of His Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco: it's the first time that such a prestigious figure decides to follow the start of the regatta so "closely", said President Randazzo. "The Circolo della Vela Sicilia is proud of it is the direct testimony of how much this event has grown and the visibility reached by this sporting event that sees us protagonists together with the Yacht Club de Monaco. I hope that this edition will give us a new record of the crossing. The current record resists from 2015, when *Esimit Europa 2* traveled the 500 miles in just under 48 hours. Our club will participate with two boats: the First 50 *Freedom* with on board a crew of under 25 from the Sailing Youth Offshore Academy, the initiative that sees us working side by side with the Yacht Club de Monaco, and the Swan 45 *Aphrodite* where on board, among the others, there will be the skipper Edoardo Bonanno, the offshore veteran Gaetano Figlia di Granara former Olympians Giuseppe Angilella and Pietro Zucchetti. I'd like to underline that for the first time we will have a multihull, the 60' trimaran *Ad Maiora* owned by Bruno Cardile".

As highlighted during the press conference, the fleet that will be tomorrow at the start of the XIV Palermo-Montecarlo, stage of the Italian Offshore Championship of the Italian Sailing Federation and the Mediterranean Maxi Offshore Challenge, the circuit of regattas created by the International Maxi Association and reserved for the "giants of the sea", is made up of 54 boats, including Maxi, racer-cruiser, prototypes and ocean trimarans. Once left the Marina of Villa Igea, the fleet will be engaged along the 500 miles of the route that separates the Sicilian capital from the Principality of Monaco, with in the middle the passage of a "gate" in front of Porto Cervo, in Sardinia. An exciting racecourse that will put boats and crews under test which can be tracked on land thanks to the YB Tracking satellite tracking system (from the internet website and from the dedicated APP) - and that over the years has given more than a twist.

"Finally I can accept the invitation of President Randazzo and this year I will be in Palermo for the start of the offshore regatta that we wanted to include among the most reviewed by the Maxi class, and that for some years



is also included in our Mediterranean Maxi Offshore Challenge, as closing event in the calendar", said Andrew McIrvine, the Secretary-General of the International Maxi Association, who spoke at the conference together with a prestigious representation of owners and sailors. "There are a lot of owners among the Maxis who love the "long regattas", almost as opposed to the regattas around the buoys, and just to respond to this vocation, the IMA wanted to identify and enclose in a special "circuit" - with prizegiving scheduled for the day 5 September in Porto Cervo - offshore regattas that, in the Mediterranean, were more successful and could ensure an excellent level of organization, both on land and at sea, to be promoted among its members: the Palermo-Montecarlo is certainly one of these events and I am sure that together with the Circolo della Vela Sicilia, the IMA will run a long and profitable route".

Almost 500 sailors in the water, with well known names of Italian sailing – such as Gabriele Bruni, former Olympic and current coach of Tita-Banti, new world champion crew in the Olympic catamaran Nacra 17, or Gabriele Benussi, Lorenzo Bressani, Alberto Bona, Pierluigi Fornelli, Andrea Ballico, Silvio Arrivabene and Alberto Bolzan. But also big names of the international sailing world, from New Zealanders Brad Butterworth and Simon Daubney, multi-winners of the America's Cup, to the Canadian Curtis Blewett, passing by the French Jan Dekker and Nicolas Berenger. In addition to the individual class prizes, the Angelo Randazzo Challenge Trophy will be awarded to the winner on compensated time in the largest group of the two groups (ORCi and IRC), and the Giuseppe Tasca d'Almerita Trophy, on the first hull on the finish line in real time.

On the occasion of the departure of the Palermo-Montecarlo Mauro Pelaschier will be at the Circolo della Vela Sicilia with *Crivizza* the wooden sloop with which Pelaschier is completing the circumnavigation of the Italian peninsula as Ambassador of the One Ocean Foundation established by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda to spread the message of the protection of the seas. During the press conference, Pelaschier illustrated the emergency to reach greater awareness of the problem, inviting first of all to sign the Charta Smeralda code of ethics, of which the Circolo della Vela Sicilia was one of the first signatories. In Palermo, the initiative will take shape through an operation to collect waste and plastic at Mondello, together with the youngsters of the sailing school and the competitive teams of the Circolo della Vela Sicilia, a club that besides taking care of the organization of the Palermo-Montecarlo, is also engaged in the important role of Challenger of Record of the 36th edition of the America's Cup alongside Patrizio Bertelli's Luna Rossa Challenge Team.

CONTATTI

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