



PRESS RELEASE N.5 – 21st of July 2015

- **One month to the opening of the offshore regatta Palermo-Montecarlo 2015**
- **Registrations: 40 yachts expected and a lot of famous sailors**
- **Debut of Francesco De Angelis; Bolzan returns to the race after the world tour**
- **Matteo Miceli races together with Mario Girelli and brings the movie of his tour**
- **Bortolotti, D'Alí, Ivaldi, Manzoli, Montefusco, Benussi, Griggio, Bodici & C**
- **Latest news about the schedule, sponsors, social and media**

Exactly one month to the opening, the 11th edition of the offshore regatta Palermo – Montecarlo confirms its calling to the great event of the sea, with a strong and international quality and the ability to attract always important names and sailors.

The starting of the Palermo – Montecarlo 2015 will be on the 21st of August at 12 o'clock, in Mondello. Registrations to the race keep arriving at the Circolo della Vela Sicilia and these show the names of well known sailors.

The importance of the Palermo – Montecarlo regatta is based on the strong quality of its participants. A great evidence of it, is what Alberto Bolzan says about the race. He is a sailor from Trieste and is the only Italian who has been sailing around the world as part of the Volvo Ocean Race during these past 9 months, with the Alvimedica Team (USA-Turkey). Alberto will be at the Palermo – Montecarlo called as helmsman of the Esimit Europa 2 boat by the skipper Jochen Schuemann: "It will be my first regatta after the tour around the world - says Bolzan – and I am very happy because it's a great race, very technical and fascinating. Being back on Esimit Europa 2 is always exciting."

Among the new registrations there is the one of B2, the modified TP52 of the ship owner Michele Galli, with Francesco De Angelis as the skipper (the former helmsman of Luna Rossa is at his first Palermo – Montecarlo), and the crew coordinated by Giorgio Benussi, with Flavio Grassi, Cristian Griggio, Paolo Bassani, Luca Modena and Lorenzo Bodini. Each one of them with a past at the Olympics, the America's Cup and at the Volvo Ocean Race.

At the starting line there will be also Matteo Miceli, oceanic sailor, back some month ago from the solitaire tour around the world on his Eco 40, almost establishing the world record. He will take part to the race with Mario Girelli on the Class 40 Patricia II, which last year raced on solitaire at the Palermo – Montecarlo. Matteo Miceli will show at the Circolo della Vela Sicilia his documentary film about his World tour in order to show the growing importance and interest of the reduced crew sailing.



The Palermo – Montecarlo “Per Due” (two person crew) has a growing consent and to date 8 yachts are registered, including the ranking leader of the Italian Offshore Championship FIV, the Sun Fast 3600 Lunatika of Stefano Chiarotti, and Giacomo Gonzi one of the most attached to the Palermo – Montecarlo (eight editions) on his Comet Prospettica.

Significant returns to the regatta are also the Swan 601 Whope of Roberto Lauro, who will have on board Lorenzo Bortolotti. Moreover for the First 36.7 Bluone, second on the run for the Offshore title, with the ship owner Leonardo Servi who is counting on the experience of Franco Manzoli.

In Palermo there will be a great number of sailing champions, not only the Italian ones. Beside the already mentioned Jochen Schuemann, sailing legend and three times Olympic medalist, there will be Lionel Pean, French ocean sailor, on a VOR 70 (former Volvo Ocean Race). Among other Italians there will be Pietro D’Alí, participant of many Palermo – Montecarlo editions, who will be in crew with Fabrizio Mineo on the Oceanis 55 Donna Rosa 2.0.

The Circolo delle Vela Sicilia has selected the yacht that will race with its colors: the X41 Extra 1 of Massimo Barranco of the Club Nautico Gela, who will have Piero Majolino as skipper and will count on the quality of Matteo Ivaldi and of a mix of young agonist sailors of the club.

The Lega Navale Italiana of Palermo Centro has already two boats, both participating to the race as part of a legal and fair sailing project.

News has to arrive from the co-organizer, the Yacht Club de Monaco, which traditionally has attended to the race with more than one boat.

“I am very satisfied to see how the regatta keeps growing every year – says Agostino Randazzo, the president of the Circolo della Vela Sicilia. You can see it looking at the numbers, and above all at the quality of the participants. We could even pass the record of registrations of last year, and at the same time we also have worldwide known sailors.”

ORGANIZATION AND ROUTE

The Palermo – Montecarlo is organized by the Circolo della Vela Sicilia and the Yacht Club de Monaco, with the collaboration of the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda. The route is simple, fascinating and very technical at the same time. Starting at the Mondello gulf, usually sunny and slightly windy, continues north having Sardinia on the left and passing a mandatory “gate” in front of Porto Cervo, coordinated with the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda. Then the hard decision: leaving Corsica Island on the right, with the hard and windy pass of



the Bocche di Bonifacio, or leaving it on the left. At the end the final run, during which usually there is a strong mistral, towards the arrival in front of the Principality of Monaco. While this last part hardly tests the sailors with a very light wind.

SCHEDULE, SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

The opening cocktail will be on the quay of the Marina di Villa Igiea, which hosts the yachts, on the 19th of August. Then the 20th of August, the day before the race, there will be the traditional dinner of the regatta at the Circolo della Vela Sicilia in Mondello.

The end of the race will be stated with the prize giving ceremony on the terraces of the wonderful venue of the Yacht Club de Monaco, on the 26th of August.

Have been confirmed all the services to the ship owners and the crews, included the truck transportation of the equipment landed in Palermo. The trucks will be found at the arrival in Montecarlo.

The race could be followed online thanks to the georeferencing satellite System, Geomat Web Tracking Solutions of Intermatica (geomat.it).

Event sponsor are the Comune di Palermo, One Power & Gas, debuting in the sailing world, Intesa Sanpaolo and Tasca d'Almerita.

Technical partners are: Intermatica, for tracking systems, and the Scuola Nautica Italiana, for the participants clothing.

RANKING AND TROPHIES

The Palermo – Montecarlo race is always one of the decisive moment for the Italian Sailing Offshore title, the championship of the long distance regattas of Italy. This year the Palermo – Montecarlo is also part of the ranking of the UVAI (shipowners association) which will determine the Shipowner of the year.

Participants are racing for two very important trophies:

- 7th trophy Angelo Randazzo challenge perpetuo, given to the first ranked in the biggest category, using the “compensated time” system;
- 11th Trophy Giuseppe Tasca d'Almerita given to the first yacht that arrives in Montecarlo in “real time”.



REGATTA WEBSITE WITH ONLINE ANNOUNCEMENT, REGISTRATIONS, PHOTOS AND VIDEO

On the website, which is addressed to shipowners, media, and all the fan who follow the race, is available the announcement (the Bando della Regata), the route, the members, the history, photos and videos of the past editions: www.palermo-montecarlo.it

A big production of videos with interviews, images on board and stories of the race, will be available for every media thanks to Saily TV.

The Palermo- Montecarlo is a community: follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/palermomontecarlo>

