

RACING

Regatta racing: Part of the action

ARTICLE BY MIRIAM CAIN

The annual superyacht calendar is awash with like minded regattas. Set your social compass to the following events for exciting action both on the water and ashore

Regattas have captured the attention of not just yachtsmen and dedicated racing fans, but of owners, their captains and crew. The yachts themselves are awe inspiring, but add to this the passion and skill of their owners and crew together with the festival like atmosphere that surrounds a racing event both on the water and on the quayside, and it is understandable why high profile superyacht regattas are being held along almost every coastline of note.

The original and still most popular regatta that attracts sailing yacht owners and charterers year after year is the **St Barth's Bucket**, and its sister event the **Newport Bucket**. Judging by the Buckets' origins, these regattas are the least serious, and therefore arguably the most fun of all the world's high profile sailing events. Far from being just another sporting spectacle, the Buckets are an admirable excuse for three days of fine spirited competition, glorious sailing, and literally, 'bucket-loads' of fun.

The New Zealand Millennium Cup, held in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf, is the main regatta for the South Pacific, attracting superyachts, such as the 50m (164') *Silencio*, which is a regular participant and winner of the Millennium Cup 2015, sailing in a variety of harbour and passage races. The race began in its namesake country during the 2000 America's Cup and is now an annual fixture that also hosts a number of social events, with superyacht owners, crews and sponsors enjoying cocktails and gala dinners.

The Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta heads into its ninth year in 2016. Hosted by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, the regatta is held in the waters off Sardinia's Costa Smeralda. The event is held over five days, with four days of racing, and a busy social schedule as yacht owners and their crew are treated to a whirlwind of parties. The sixth annual **Loro Piana Caribbean Superyacht Regatta & Rendezvous**, a sister event to the Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta, will bring together sailing and motor yacht owners to race in the waters surrounding the British Virgin Island of Virgin Gorda. Spread over three days, the occasion will follow a similar format to the Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta with yacht races followed by motor yacht cruises. The regatta is hosted by the new

Yacht Club Costa Smeralda Virgin Gorda Marina in North Sound and is accompanied by numerous social events including Caribbean barbecues, treasure hunts, lunches, dinners and several parties.

The Superyacht Cup has been running for 19 years in different destinations around the world, including Palma and Antigua. The 20th Superyacht Cup will take place in the Bay of Palma, which offers some of the most idyllic racing conditions in the Mediterranean. A fun, yet competitive regatta for superyachts, the thrilling four day event mixes tight racing with a busy social scene at the Superyacht Cup Regatta Village located beneath the stunning backdrop of the iconic Palma Cathedral.

A number of designer and builder specific events have been created exclusively for owners of specific brands or yacht designs. These include the **Perini Navi Cup**, which is exclusively for the Perini Navi fleet; and **The Dubois Cup**, which is hosted for Dubois designed yachts. Both regattas are held in the waters around Sardinia, Italy.

There are several other regattas worth a mention, including the classic yacht regattas for fans of classic yachts and admirers of sailing technology. These include **Les Voiles de St Barth**, the **Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta**, the **Panerai Classic Yachts Challenges**, **Les Voiles de St Tropez** and **Audi Hamilton Island Race Week**.

Of course, the most famous event of them all is the **America's Cup**. With a pedigree like no other in the world of yacht racing, it is believed to be the oldest trophy in sport and the hardest to win. Now in its 35th series, the trophy lies with *Oracle Team USA*, who in 2013 defended the America's Cup against *Emirates Team New Zealand* in San Francisco Bay. Bermuda will play host to the next America's Cup Final in June 2017. The event, a favourite of racing enthusiasts worldwide, has already drawn thousands to view the first stage of the America's Cup World Series. The build up to the event will be vast as thousands flock to witness the head-to-head racing among yachts that boast some of the finest sail technology, engineering and design to ever to be seen.

PREVIOUS PAGE AND RIGHT *Silencio* is the ultimate charter yacht for luxurious relaxation or regatta action



On the horizon

DATE	REGATTA	LOCATION
27 – 29 Jan	The New Zealand Millennium Cup	New Zealand
28 – 31 Jan	Superyacht Challenge Antigua	Antigua
9 – 12 Mar	Loro Piana Caribbean Superyacht Regatta & Rendezvous	British Virgin Islands
17 – 20 Mar	St Barth's Bucket	St Barths
June (2017)	The Dubois Cup	
7 – 11 Jun	Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta	Sardinia
22 – 25 Jun	The Superyacht Cup	Palma
Jun (2017)	America's Cup	Bermuda
Sep (2017)	Perini Navi Cup	Sardinia



Lovers of racing and advocates of great fun can charter their own superyacht to be at the heart of the action of these events. Raise sails afloat or raise a toast ashore alongside some of the finest yachts in the world as they set forth to claim their trophy – and have a fantastic party along the way.

Camper & Nicholsons have teamed up with Cloud10 to provide access to the world's best sailors to create the ultimate regatta experience. Whether you are looking to charter a yacht for the Newport Bucket or St Barth's Bucket or to be part of the action with your own vessel at the Perini Navi Cup or the Dubois Cup, we can organise the whole experience and bring together a racing team that suits the specific needs of the yacht and the crew. All you have to do is step on board and join the excitement of the greatest sport on the ocean.

Contact your nearest Camper & Nicholsons broker for further details.