

A large sailboat with white sails is the central focus, sailing on a deep blue sea. The sails are fully deployed, and the boat is moving towards the right. In the background, other smaller sailboats are visible, and the sky is a clear, light blue. The overall scene is bright and dynamic, capturing the essence of a regatta.

# LORO PIANA **SUPERYACHT** REGATTA

THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL YACHTS HEAD TO THE STUNNING WATERS OFF SARDINIA'S COSTA SMERALDA FOR THE EVENT OF THE SEASON: FOUR DAYS OF EXHILARATING SAILING IN TRULY SPECTACULAR SURROUNDINGS

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photography: Kurt Arrigo; Jeff Brown/Superyacht Media; Carlo Borlenghi/Kos Pictures



‘It was a perfect sailing day. We had around 18 knots of wind and this is the perfect place to have regattas’

LUCA BASSANI  
chief executive of Wally



This page, clockwise from below: action on the foredeck of *Indio*; pre-race prep on *Open Season*; white caps on turquoise waters – the fleet enjoys close racing through bomb alley



‘This regatta is fabulous. It’s the best way to improve your skills, socialise and meet people from all over the world’

PIER LUIGI LORO PIANA  
sponsor, and owner of *My Song*



It’s early summer and the Costa Smeralda coastline shimmers like a perfect emerald in the bright sunlight, fringed with turquoise water that laps at its shoreline. The flags at the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda are flying high as 19 of the most beautiful superyachts from all corners of the world arrive at this sleepy corner of Sardinia for the first owners’ regatta of the season: the Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta.

Emerging from on board are the beautiful people – the owners and guests, making a picture book who’s who of the yachting set. Over the ensuing four days, we witness one of the best regattas in living memory:

stunning scenery, fantastic courses and wind that shifts around the coastline with gusts up to 30 knots providing challenging sailing.

Pier Luigi Loro Piana at the helm of his 25.3 metre Cookson yacht *My Song* took first position over two of the days with the smartest crew afloat. On the second day, sponsored by Fitzroy, it was fitting that *Moonbird*, built in New Zealand, took the top spot, but in the end, the overall victory went to *Gliss*, helmed for the whole regatta by her owner... bravo! Exciting, exhilarating, sometimes frustrating sailing in windless holes, but above all fun for both owners and crew... What a sight.

‘This was a  
super week  
– Porto Cervo  
at its best’

THOMAS BSCHER  
owner of *Open Season*



‘The event is  
really well  
organised and  
is a credit to the  
YCCS and Boat  
International  
Media’

RODNEY MARTIN  
managing director,  
Fitzroy Yachts



‘That was a  
serious workout  
but it was  
fantastic!  
The weather  
was perfect  
for sailing’

ANDREA RECORDATI  
owner of *Indio*



Clockwise from top: sorting  
the main; *Meteor*, *Scorpione dei  
Mari* and *Hamilton II* power line  
abreast up the track; Casper the  
friendly ghost makes an  
appearance on *White Lie*'s  
spinnaker; getting to grips  
with an acre of sailcloth on  
the kite takedown



Clockwise from top left:  
overall regatta winner *Gliss*  
leads the downhill charge to  
the finish; *Meteor* on a surge;  
*Gliss* and *Hamilton II* cross  
tacks; preparing to launch the  
green giant on *Scorpione dei  
Mari*; Wally CEO Luca Bassani  
shares a joke with IMA  
president and Y3K owner  
Claus-Peter Offen at the  
skipper's briefing





Clockwise from top: the Fitzroy flags fly proud for Day 2 – Fitzroy Race Day; Edoardo Recchi, the YCCS Director of Sport, welcomes owners and skippers; all hands to douse *Indio's* spinnaker; *Open Season* enjoys classic conditions on the windy third day of racing



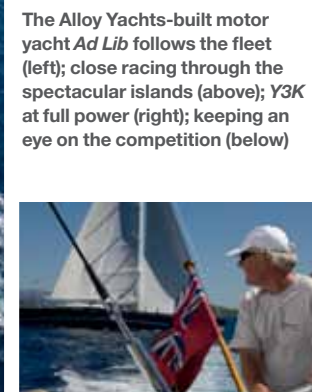
‘The location is the best, the organisation is the best and we enjoyed this regatta so much’

MARCO VOGELE  
owner of *Gliss*



‘This was a super week, Porto Cervo at its best. The weather was a dream. We will definitely come again’

THOMAS BSHER  
owner of *Open Season*



The Alloy Yachts-built motor yacht *Ad Lib* follows the fleet (left); close racing through the spectacular islands (above); *Y3K* at full power (right); keeping an eye on the competition (below)



Clockwise from middle: a close call for *Kalikobass II*; the foredeck crews had their work cut out in heavy conditions; skippers and owners at the pre-regatta briefing; *Saudade* on a charge





‘This is a great event and definitely one for our owners. I love the location and the ambience’

ALICE HUISMAN  
Royal Huisman



Pier Luigi Loro Piana (top) claimed to have set a new personal record on his Cookson-built *My Song* (right), topping 22 knots for the first time in the stiff, exhilarating conditions that the fleet enjoyed on the third day of racing



‘The yacht club is possibly the most beautiful and organised in the world. In common with our clients, we at Dubois feel it is the superyacht regatta for the Mediterranean’

ED DUBOIS  
designer of *Moonbird*



Owners and guests sip champagne, enjoying the view from the gardens of the Romazzino Hotel; once the sun went down and dinner was finished it was time to let loose on the beachside dance floor



### The after parties

As the sun sets on the racing, the wind drops and a calm descends over the yachts, it is time to enjoy the other side of regatta life: cocktail parties, smart dinners, and a fun beach party – just as important as the racing itself. A magnum of Perrier Jouet and two bottles of Wight Vodka are distributed to the yachts and all are invited to an open-house Yacht Hop where the atmosphere is lively and the day’s racing rewritten.

Blazers and elegant frocks replace crew shirts for the dinners and chic beach wear is the order of the day for the infamous beach party at

the Romazzino Hotel. A feast of hors d’oeuvres and a banquet fit for royalty greets more than 400 guests as the sun slips slowly below the horizon. Champagne, fine wines and Louis XIII brandy are soaked up, while the more energetic hit the dance floor. On the final evening of the regatta, Pier Luigi Loro Piana hosts a private dinner for owners at the YCCS. Cocktails, champagne and wine are served with a three-course dinner, accompanied by the soft tones of piano music. A short hop away, the crew party is in full swing at Phi Beach, courtesy of Loro Piana.

**PRIZES**

1<sup>st</sup> overall, winner of the Silver Jubilee Cup by Boat International  
**Gliss**

2<sup>nd</sup> overall  
**My Song**

3<sup>rd</sup> overall  
**Hamilton II**

IMA trophy for highest placed International Maxi Association member  
**My Song**

Loro Piana Trophy, for the best classified Wally class member  
**Magic Carpet 2**

YCCS Trophy, for the best classified YCCS member  
**My Song**

Fitzroy Race Day winner  
**Moonbird**

Spirit of the Regatta prize  
**Scorpione dei Mari**



Clockwise from top: owners, their guests, and crews gather in the Piazza Azzurra for the prizegiving ceremony; Marco Vogele, owner of the 31.87m Huisman-built *Gliss*, celebrates winning the event with his crew; the Silver Jubilee Cup by Boat International Media, awarded to the overall Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta winner



**The ratings war**

The aim of every race organiser is to deliver fair and interesting racing for all competitors. The most important aspect is finding a handicap system that offers nearly equal chances to all competitors, is simple for yachts and organiser alike and is not expensive. The IRC rule seemed to be the one which fulfilled all these points and the IRC fleet has grown significantly over the last few years. It was for these reasons that IRC was chosen for the Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta.

According to Admiral's Cup winner and America's Cup veteran Tommaso Chieffi, the Italian tactician on *My Song*, it is therefore well suited for club racing. Luca Bassani, chief executive of Wally and an experienced offshore sailor himself, adds: 'The IRC system works well between similar boats and in a wind range of between 12 and 14 knots.' As it is a single number handicap it is easy to handle for the race committee and it does not need complicated control measurements. The system favours modern boats and encourages modern designs.

But there are also disadvantages. 'IRC works quite well in a class with similar boats, like in the Wally or the Swan class,' says Claus-Peter Offen, president of the International Maxi Association (IMA) and owner of *Y3K*. 'But it doesn't work when Wallys are sailing against Swans.' Bassani also sees problems with the single number rating: 'You can't fairly compare boats in all weather conditions with a single number; in

lower and higher wind conditions you know the winner without sailing.' For Chieffi, the ORC handicap system, which is based on a simple measurement, is 'a more fair rating in all conditions'.

The greatest problem seems to be the secrecy. 'You never know how optimising your boat will benefit the boat's rating,' says Chieffi. 'The arbitrary hull factor gets an incalculable importance,' adds Offen. And Luca Bassani concludes, 'The formula has two or three black boxes which allow discretionality; in fact the men behind the formula can trim these black boxes as they like giving a "personal" touch to the final rating and this could be right or wrong and fair or unfair.' In his opinion, IRC can only survive if the formula is improved by removing these limits and eliminating the discretionary trims.

**Save the date: 8 - 12 June 2010**

Following the success of the first year of collaboration with Boat International Media and YCCS, luxury brand Loro Piana intends to continue sponsorship of The Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta in 2010. Dates will be the 8 - 12 June 2010 in Porto Cervo, Sardinia. Fitzroy continues as gold sponsor and Alloy Yachts, Future Fibres, Lufthansa Private Jet all continue as silver sponsors of the regatta.