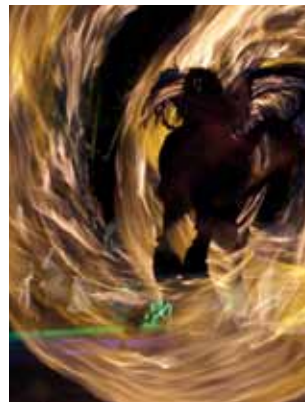




Caribbean Superyacht Regatta & Rendezvous

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A FLEET OF SAILING AND MOTOR YACHTS, SUN, FAIR WINDS, RUM AND A SUPERB NEW FACILITY CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING – A MAGICAL FEW DAYS IN THE BVI





‘Great day, lower winds in the south islands... delighted to be 2nd in the around Virgin Gorda race ... these are the most gorgeous courses.’

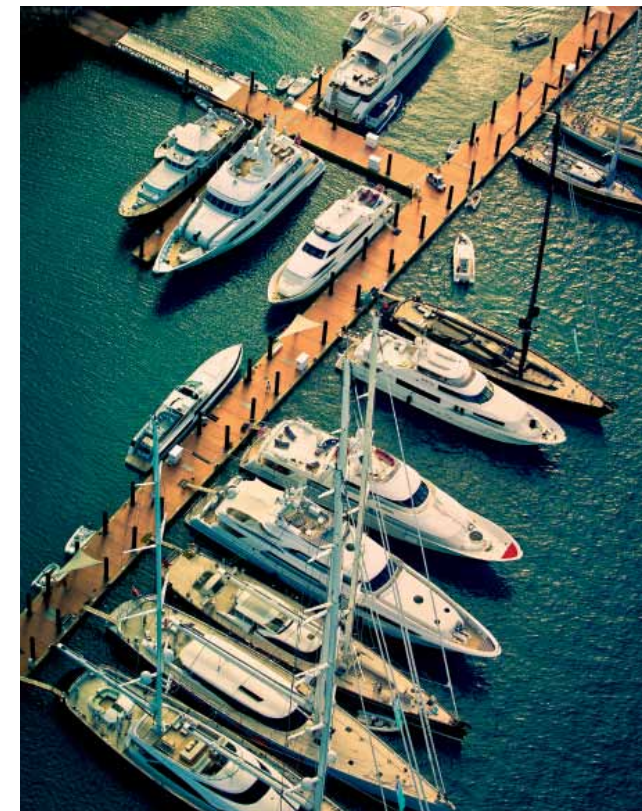
PETER CORR, *Aiyana*

Wow, what a party! In all, 21 superyachts turned up to play in the Caribbean Superyacht Regatta and Rendezvous, the first event of its kind to bring motor and sailing yachts together in the Caribbean. Born from a vision held by Boat International Media, David V Johnson of Victor International and the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, the event also saw the opening of the superb new YCCS Marina by HH the Aga Khan. What better destination than Virgin Gorda’s North Sound, in the British Virgin Islands, for five days of waterborne and shoreside activities including racing, cruising in company, treasure hunts, lunches, massages, evening parties, yacht hops and dive trips.

From the moment the yachts started arriving it was clear that there was a great camaraderie amongst the owners and their guests, and everyone was out to party – not only at the organised events, but also on board each others’ yachts. The newly opened Oil Nut Bay Beach Club, only accessible by water, is the brainchild of Johnson and provided a fabulous setting for both a magnificent owners’ dinner and a spectacular full moon party.

A number of owners made a special effort to participate: Lang Walker brought his new *Kokomo* which had just arrived from New Zealand, and the owners of *Cakewalk* and their guests altered their cruising plans especially to attend the owners dinner.

The powerboat set had two opportunities to cruise-in-company, first to Peter Island where the owners and guests tendered ashore for a fantastic island lunch sponsored by BVI Tourism, and second to an anchorage at West Dog Island where they were in an unrivalled position to watch the racing action at the end of the downwind leg. With not every boat joining in the cruises, guests and sponsors hopped aboard those going out, making new friends along the way. Mike Gaynor, owner of the 30m Hargrave *Vitesse* and a seven-time veteran of Trans-Pac races, enjoyed watching the yachts from

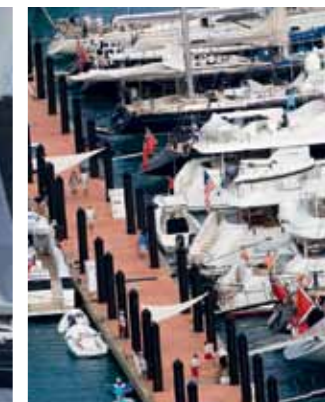


The Tender Treasure Hunt

The pirate-inspired Tender Treasure Hunt turned into a contest between three teams – the crews from *Go*, *Chanticleer* and *Kelly Sea* raced around North Sound in a battle of brainpower, horsepower and (occasionally) foot power to see which team could unearth the clues, solve the riddles and claim the ultimate prize at the afternoon’s end.

The crews departed from YCCS, where they received their first clue before jumping in the tenders and attempting to outrun each other to the first stop. Along the way, they got

the opportunity to check out Leverick Bay, Prickly Pear, Mosquito Island and Saba Rock, ending at Oil Nut Bay in time for lunch. Between hiking Mosquito Island, swimming ashore to Prickly Pear and circling Saba Rock (several times), the crews battled hard, sometimes using a little trickery, to win. But MY *Kelly Sea*, captained by owners Bob and Kelly Schmidt, outmanned and outgunned the others, claiming victory by an hour and hoisting the winner’s bottle of Mount Gay rum in triumph.





‘It was perfect, everyone was very relaxed... the wind is exactly what we wanted and the course perfect... and very well organised.’

PAOLA TRIFIRO, *Zefira*

the comfort of his shaded aft deck, being waited on by his crew rather than crewing. Gaynor had brought along two of his oldest friends to spend the week with him in the BVIs. ‘I spend eight weeks a year on board, half with my wife and family and half with my buddies. This is a great buddy event,’ he enthused.

On Day 1, the view from Falcon’s Nest, a multi-house complex truly at the top of Peter Island, was, in the words of *Chanticleer* owners Marty and Lisa Sutter, ‘spectacular with nearly all of the BVI’s 35 islands in sight.’ Shuttles took the guests from the beach or the private Peter Island yacht club dock on the opposite side of the island to the villa where they soaked up the views, hopped in the pool and enjoyed a Caribbean buffet featuring wahoo, conch and lobster – and an endless parade of desserts.

A fleet of sailing superyachts, five of which had never raced before, enjoyed three days of adrenalin-inducing racing around the BVI’s numerous islands. The challenging courses and conditions were perfect for honing the skills of the race crews on board the yachts.



This page, clockwise from top:
All in white for the full moon party at the Oil Nut Bay Beach Club; dancing under the stars; YCCS Commodore Riccardo Bonadeo (right) with guests at the owners’ dinner; David V Johnson and wife Pam; owners and guests enjoy fireworks and a thrilling display by fire artists



The Mount Gay Cocktail and Canapé competition

The Mount Gay Cocktail and Canapé competition had chefs and steward/esses pulling out all the stops in the galley and stirring up deliciously cool cocktail combinations. From the elaborate to the elegant, each vessel’s dockside table presentation was designed to impress the judges, but the element of fun was not forgotten. In fact, it was as clear as the [shot] ice luge at the *Kelly Sea* table that having fun was the only option – for the souls brave enough to dare. And yes, the judges took a shot in the time-honoured BVI tradition. Talk about judging fortitude...

After hours of sampling and sipping, the judges were forced to decide the winner. Chef Kerie Land of *Zefira* was awarded first place for her mango-pineapple rum punch and her salmon bruschetta with wasabi. ‘It was very close, but it was all about the combination of the cocktail with the canapé,’ said judge Stefano Cuoco of the YCCS in Sardinia.

Chef Ashley Cole of *Gran Finale* won a special best canapé prize for his reinvention of a Caribbean classic – chicken, rice and peas.



‘My husband wanted to go out and race with the boys while I wanted to spend time with my lady friends. That’s the beauty of this event, people can do exactly what they want.’

NICOLE WERTHEIM, owner



Opposite: *Hanuman's* bowman remains cool amidst the sea's fury... Below: all hands to the kite on the foredeck of *Sojana*. Bottom, left to right: *Zefira's* crew hand the kite; breaching whales in Virgin waters; glorious sailing conditions; a downwind blast



Courses included beats to windward, reaching, short tacking between the islands and downwind spinnaker runs.

Of course, with the competitive spirit looming large, there was no quarter given on the track. Daring manoeuvres and slick handling were the order of the day, and the action was close-fought. Witness the opening salvo on the upwind leg of the very first race – *Twizzle* taking *Hanuman*, *Zefira* taking *Twizzle*, *Sojana* surfing off *Twizzle's* transom and taking her on the inside at the top mark with a stunning gybe set... The scene was set for the rest of the week.

On the days the motor yachts went to watch the start of the racing, it was evident that an audience to play to made the jostling for the pursuit start line more like a piranha pool as they veered to miss each other while vying to get a clean shot. To add to the attraction of the area we saw two breaching whales and had to tack around a large turtle! The superyacht racing even brought Richard Branson out to the course to see what was happening – after all, this isn't a sight you see here every day.





This page, clockwise from left: *Twizzle* blasts past one of the committee boats; the crew of *Zefira* lined up to windward; *Zefira's* owner Paola Trifiro congratulates her chef Kerie Land, winner of the Mount Gay Cocktail and Canapé competition; Jim Clark collects the Boat International Media Trophy as winner overall with *Hanuman*; the YCCS marina dock at sunset



‘It has just been fabulous... all the boats around us, the islands, the courses – we could not have asked for any more.’

THE OWNERS, *Twizzle*



The prizegiving

On the yacht club lawns overlooking the marina a large crowd of high-spirited (in more than one sense of the word!) crew, and owners and their guests gathered for the presentation of the Boat International Media Trophy and other prizes. Owners and their crews were thanked by Tony Harris, CEO of Boat International Media, YCCS Commodore Riccardo Bonadeo and David V Johnson for making the first event in the BVI such a fantastic occasion. The second prize for the Motor Yacht Spirit of the Regatta went to the yacht *Constellation*, with first prize going to *Chanticleer* for participating in every aspect of the Regatta.

The winner of the sailing event, Jim Clark – owner of the J Class *Hanuman* – caused quite a stir when Harris handed him the perpetual silver cup specially designed for the event and made by renowned London jeweller Garrard. Clark refused to give the cup up pledging to the crowd: ‘First of all I want to keep this trophy... and I will pay for a replacement!’

I think that says it all...

