



RSVP The Caribbean season may have been winding down, but in St. Barth's the competition heated up when 25 elegant sailing yachts assembled for the 10th annual St. Barth's Bucket. An extra day was added to the event this year to give owners and crew more time for what's really important: socializing. While the competing boats put on a great show, they were almost overshadowed by the boats that were *not* racing – 247-foot *Mirabella V* and 295-foot *Athena* among them – and the celebrations that drew high-profile industry stars such as designers Ed Dubois, Bill Langan and Ron Holland.

The Bucket is a pursuit race, where each boat's time is handicapped to balance the field. Competition was particularly keen among the fleet's elite, including the Baltic *Visione*, the Farr *Sojana* and the Royal Huisman *Hyperion*.

Perini Navi was also well represented by *Andromeda La Dea*, *Gitana*, *Lady Lauren*, *Persesus*, and *La Numero Uno*, as well as *Atmosphere*, which served as the mother ship for the J-class racer *Ranger*. The contingent also included *Freedom*, an aluminum ketch built 20 years ago by Perini predecessor Picchiotti for former U.S. Treasury Secretary Bill Simon.

The Bucket began on a Friday with the traditional 24-mile, counter-clockwise race around the island. Similar to last year, the winds were light, allowing the performance boats to make up their time penalties. Frers-designed *Rebecca* took the lead and won, followed by *Ranger* and *Visione*. Saturday's stronger winds turned the handicapping upside down, allowing Peter de Savary's *Rogue* to place first ahead of *Persesus*.

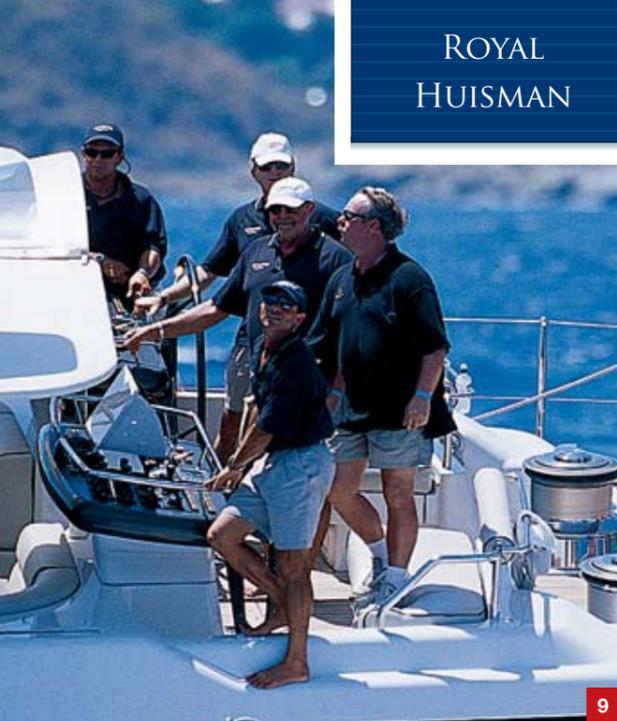
Sunday was the Bucket's first-ever clockwise race around the island. The Perini *Gitana* – a regular at the Bucket but not for the competition – was the first to start. Surprisingly, she was also the first to finish. The crew aboard *Victoria of Stratbearn* said, "We thought we had won the race, not having seen *Gitana* the whole time, only to find her already tied up at the dock."

Freedom was the overall winner and received a bottle of Moët & Chandon's Hennessy Cognac. *Metolius* was second and *Sariyab* third. The three teams received gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively, from the mayor of St. Barth's, Bruno Magras. Alice Huisman presented a new trophy, the Wolter Huisman Spirit of the Bucket Award, to Tom Taylor, owner of *Avalon* and a lifetime supporter of the event. – CRAIG DAVIS □

ROYAL
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ST. BARTH'S BUCKET

March 31 – April 3, 2005



1. St. Barth's capital, Gustavia, is a bustling little seaport and its waters are filled not just with big, high-tech racers but also simple sailboats owned by locals. 2. Alastair and Sandra Dunn at the wheel of their 40-meter yacht *Victoria of Strathearn*, which finished fifth overall. 3. Two Perini Navis – 47-meter *Andromeda La Dea*, left, and the 50-meter *Persesus* – battle during the first around-the-island race. 4. *Andromeda La Dea* sailing in Sunday's 20-mile race, the first ever run clockwise around the island. 5. Alice Husiman and Mike Koppstein, right, from Royal Huisman present the first Wolter Huisman Spirit of The Bucket Trophy to Ron Holland, center, who accepted the award on behalf of Tom Taylor, owner of *Avalon*. 6. The 47-meter Royal Huisman *Hyperion*, owned by Jim Clark, starts the Bucket's first race. 7. Jongert's 41-meter *Infatuation* sails the upwind during the third race. 8. The crew of *Whisper*, a 35-meter Holland Jachtbouw sloop, doing whatever it takes. 9. The 41-meter sloop *Destination Fox Harbour* from Canada crosses the starting line for the first day's race.

CRAIG DAVIS, 1-7, 9; BILLY BLACK, 8