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ST. BARTH'S BUCKET

Jimmy Buffett, Breeze
and Big Boats

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ST. BARTH'S BUCKET

Gustavia Harbor, St. Barth's, FWI | March 29-April 1

The St. Barth's Bucket hasn't been its usual self lately, with two years of indifferent light-air racing whiffing into a no-wind event in 2006. Prizes had to be awarded on the basis of starting deltas, and the race committee awarded the Escargot Cup to itself, if nothing else for valor in the face of adversity.

This year it was time to resort to more drastic measures. What is not generally known is that the members of the Bucket Race Committee have been sailing and racing together for decades, and over that time they have developed a secret weapon; one which, when all else fails, is guaranteed to bring good luck and private breezes to its wielders.

During this year's event, Thursday, the traditional practice day, was yet another light-air disappointment. At a last-minute emergency meeting, the race committee realized that if nothing else, what the 2007 St. Barth's Bucket needed most was a private breeze: It was time for the "navigating fluid."

Accordingly, at the skippers meeting held aboard Tom Perkins' breathtaking new square-rigged yacht, the 289-foot *The Maltese Falcon*, an alembic of grappa was duly produced and a copious libation poured over the side into Poseidon's and Aeolus' welcoming gullets.

Friday dawned sunny with 12- to 15-knot trade winds firmly settled in. Battle flags and ensigns fluttered and snapped in the breeze. The excitement in the air was palpable. The fleet, in its usual display of flawless seamanship, left the main dock in Gustavia harbor in good shape, and soon the starting procedure unfolded in its familiar cadences. *The Maltese Falcon* won the Round the Island course, clocking up to 18.5 knots in the process.

Some minor ratings adjustments were made and, to keep the competitors on their toes, the committee switched boats for Saturday's race, moving from a white-hulled yacht to a dark-blue one. Not even a major computer crash resulting in a hastily hand-scribbled scratch sheet dampened the good humor. The fleet sailed the traditional >



1. Alloy Yachts' new 170-foot Kokomo sails hard on the wind
 2. A hopeful entry for the Mini Bucket, a home-built model regatta that entrants sail simultaneously
 3. Giulia and Milena Perini take a moment to relax and enjoy the world-class sailing
 4. Jimmy Buffett entertains the fleet during a surprise musical appearance
 5. The Bucket fleet at rest—an awesome sight indeed
 6. The Eden Roc hotel, a favorite St. Barth's watering hole.



2007 ST. BARTH'S FLEET RESULTS & AWARDS

- Huisman Spirit of the Bucket: *Seaquell*
- Churchill Corinthian Cup—Seamanship: Rebecca
- Cool Crew: Rebecca
- Grand Dames: 1st Kaori, 2nd Windcrest, 3rd Avalon
- Gazelles: 1st Sojana, 2nd Highland Breeze, 3rd Rebecca
- Overall: 1st Kaori, 2nd Avalon, 3rd Windcrest
- Alloy Best Overall: *Paraiso*
- Perini Navi Best Overall: *The Maltese Falcon*
- Escargot Cup: *Parlay*
- Handicappers Cup: *Metolius*
- Genesis Diamond Award: Amy Laing, Churchill Yacht Partners, *Whisper*

Photography by Dana Jenkins

ST. BARTH'S BUCKET *continued*

1. Racing to a tight finish
2. Giancarlo Ragnetti awards Tom Perkins, owner of *The Maltese Falcon*, the Perini Navi trophy 3. Soaring along aboard *The Maltese Falcon*
4. Alloy Best Overall, *Paraiso*
5. *Highland Breeze* and *Skylge* at close quarters
6. *ShowBoats International* Editor-in-Chief Jill Bobrow with British entrepreneur and yachtsman Peter de Savary 7. Marco Vögele, owner of *Gliss* 8. The crew of the 118-foot *Kaori*, overall winner of the 2007 St. Barth's Bucket.



Wiggley course with steady breezes, glorious sailing and an unprecedented tightly packed finish, followed by more rollicking partying. Clearly, the fleet was hitting its stride.

Sunday's race did not disappoint. The crews had two races under their belts and the wind gods were still enjoying their fluid-induced euphoria. A cruise ship anchored partially across the starting line didn't slow the fleet down. Sailing the Wrong Way Around course, off charged the yachts, once again treating spectators to a series of close finishes.

The awards party lived up to expectations at its start, then exceeded them as participants were treated to a surprise appearance by Jimmy Buffett, who regaled all in attendance with several of his trademark sailor chanteys.

Clearly the Bucket had rediscovered its groove. —ALESSANDRO VITELLI

THE 2007 BUCKET FLEET

| BOAT NAME | LOA | BUILDER/DESIGNER |
|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Atlanta</i> | 118' | Alloy Yachts/Dubois |
| <i>Avalon</i> | 108' | Southern Pacific Yachts/Ron Holland |
| <i>Destination Fox Harb'r</i> | 130' | Alloy Yachts/Dubois |
| <i>Felicità West</i> | 210' | Perini Navi/Ron Holland |
| <i>Georgia</i> | 159' | Alloy Yachts |
| <i>Gliss</i> | 104' | Royal Huisman/Briand |
| <i>Highland Breeze</i> | 112' | Swan/German Frers |
| <i>Hyperion</i> | 155' | Royal Huisman/German Frers |
| <i>Jess Sea</i> | 92' | Merrifield Roberts/McLeaz |
| <i>Juliet B</i> | 143' | Royal Huisman/Ron Holland |
| <i>Kaori</i> | 118' | Palmer Johnson/Chuck Paine |
| <i>Klosters</i> | 154' | Perini Navi |
| <i>Kokomo</i> | 170' | Alloy Yachts/Dubois |
| <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> | 289' | Perini Navi/Gerard Dijkstra |
| <i>Metolius</i> | 84' | Royal Huisman/German Frers |
| <i>Paraiso</i> | 108' | Alloy Yachts/Fontaine |
| <i>Parlay</i> | 118' | Ortona Navi/John Alden |
| <i>Parsifal III</i> | 177' | Perini Navi/Ron Holland |
| <i>Patient Falcon</i> | 93' | Able/Nelson-Marek |
| <i>Perseus</i> | 163' | Perini Navi |
| <i>Rebecca</i> | 141' | Pendennis/German Frers |
| <i>Seaquell</i> | 108' | Alloy Yachts/Dubois |
| <i>Shamoun</i> | 108' | Klaasen/Hoek |
| <i>Skylge</i> | 141' | Holland Jachtbouw/Hoek |
| <i>Sojana</i> | 115' | Custom Farr Design Ketch |
| <i>Symmetry</i> | 96' | Yachting Developments/German Frers |
| <i>Virago</i> | 100' | Swan/German Frers |
| <i>Whisper</i> | 116' | Holland Jachtbouw/Fontaine |
| <i>Windcrest</i> | 98' | Hodgdon Yachts/Fontaine |
| <i>Zanzibar</i> | 103' | Trehard |