



# THE BUCKET EXPERIENCE

## ST. BARTH'S BUCKET

STORY: JORDAN MITCHNICK

PHOTOGRAPHY: JORDAN MITCHNICK; CORY SILKEN

The famed, one-of-a-kind St. Barth's Bucket Regatta is 13-years-old. Contrary, however, to many "tried-and-true" (read: "old, boring and tired") events, Gustavia Harbor continues to be the place to be for sailing superyacht owners during the last weekend in March. Based purely on the highest degree of possible fun, the Bucket was founded as a racing event put on by owners, for owners. The Bucket Regattas (St. Barth's sister regatta is in Newport annually at the end of July) remain authentic in their character as the only superyacht events not reliant upon sponsors and free from the branded, business-like air of a yacht show.



1. *Whitehawk* and *Avalon* battle for position.
2. The crew of W-Class *Wild Horses* hard at work.
3. The *Visione* crew braces for a tack.
4. *Rebecca's* crew, winners of the Skullduggery Award.
5. The sleek 145ft, Bill Tripp-designed *Mystere*.
6. Jimmy Buffet at his surprise Saturday night concert at the Marquee.
7. *Ranger* pulls up its spinnaker.
8. *Leopard 3*, the brand new 100ft Farr design, races on.
9. Earle Williams, race skipper (America's Cup & Volvo Ocean Race crew & Whitbread-round-the-world winner).

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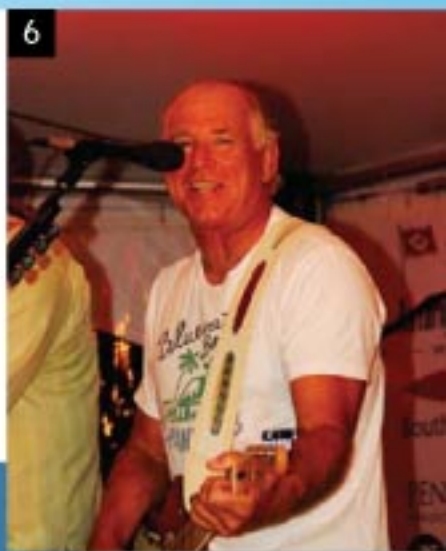




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“I’ll match that!”

– Peter Harrison, Owner, *Sojana*, on matching the initial \$16,000 in cumulative donations to FEMUR\* during the owners’ party fundraiser/auction. He kicked off the bidding, from which donations totaled \$175,000. (\*Fondation pour l’Equipelement Medical d’URgence de St. Barthelemy).



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“It’s a genuine regatta for all! No one cares who you are; it’s just all about fun and mayhem!”

– ANONYMOUS, YACHT OWNER

“The St. Barth’s Bucket Regatta was great fun. Great boats, good winds and fair weather, but the best part of the weekend was the great people: a wonderful combination of crews including local St. Barth’s residents with sailors from around the world, organizers and a race committee focused on a fun weekend, which included a full-fledged Jimmy Buffett concert, great yacht owners from the US, Canada and Europe. All committed their yachts to a great sailing venue, great spectators on the beaches, up the hills and on the decks of beautiful villas and the quays, and great yachts from all over the world, which were designed by the best yacht designers and built by the best yacht yards.”

– DONALD TOFIAS: OWNER, *WILD HORSES & W-CLASS YACHT COMPANY*, ON THE OVERALL “BUCKET EXPERIENCE”.



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“The sailing conditions were tremendous and the handicappers did such a great job that on the last day, virtually the entire fleet rounded the bottom of the island together. It was a magnificent sight to be in the middle of 25+, 100 to 175ft sailboats racing at 9 to 13 knots all within about half a mile of each other, turning and pulling out their spinnakers for the run to the finish line.”

— MICKEY GOOCH: OWNER, ANTARA ON THE FINAL AND BEST RACE DAY OF THE 2008 BUCKET.



“This was definitely the year the stars aligned perfectly on all aspects of the Bucket. We had three days of consistent 18- to 20-knot winds, which allowed the rating rule to show its stuff, for extremely close racing. Participation and parties were great as usual, then driven over the top by a surprise Jimmy Buffett concert. Our first and only fundraiser enabled us to raise \$175,000 for the St. Barth’s Hospital fund. Best of all, adult behavior was neither encouraged, nor observed.”

— HANK HALSTED, BUCKET RACE COMMITTEE



## 2008 ST. BARTH'S BUCKET REGATTA RESULTS

### Overall

- 1<sup>st</sup> Windrose
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rebecca
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Glis

### Gazelles De Mer

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rebecca
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Glis
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Visione

### Grande Dames

- 1<sup>st</sup> Windrose
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Paraiso
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Freedom

### Walter Huisman Memorial Spirit of the Bucket: Visione

Perini Navi Cup: Antara

Alloy Cup: Paraiso

Viters Shipyard Polished Performance: Ranger

All Star Crew Award: Avalon

Handicappers Cup: Axis

Escargot Cup: Perseus

Skulduggery Award: Rebecca

10. *Aftair races on.*

11. *Spinnakers up! The fleet with Windcrest and its Campbell's Soup cook spinnaker in the lead.*

12 & 13. *The large and festive crew of Windrose, overall winners of the 2008 Bucket.*

