

# THE YACHT

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## report

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# 11th St Barths Bucket

## A Windless Winner





The spectacular fleet of the St Barths Bucket



**S**KUNKED at the St Barths Bucket! The trade winds shut off completely and served up three glossy calm afternoons in a row. That premise would bring long odds in Las Vegas ... but it was exactly how the Regatta unfolded. With a stalled front north of the Islands, the Wind Gods virtually took the weekend off – for all we could tell, they may have gone to Vegas! The good news was that the non-existent sailing conditions could not begin to dampen spirits among the record 30 megayacht fleet and 700+ crew in attendance.

In a dying eight-knot breeze, the Race Community (RC) got half the fleet started on Friday's 'Round the Island Race', before calling out the beach towels a scant hour later when the fleet all but lost steerage way in near zero wind. *Paraiso* got the picture early, notified the RC and headed first for the beach, with the rest of the fleet soon to follow. Shell Beach and Baie Columbier were fully assaulted for the afternoon by megayachts and megayacht games. Friday night's open house/yacht hop was the usual moveable feast, with many yachts competing for unofficial 'best party' honours. Perini's *Perseus*, Bucket newbies, proved that this friendly, kid-oriented family and crew already

understand Bucket hospitality. Nearby, *Victoria of Strathearn* exhibited her usual epicurean flair, with her cheery crew led by Bucket veteran Capt Simon Farmer. *Destination Fox Hbr* wowed the crowd with a lavish array lobster and seafood flown in from Nova Scotia – yum! It's always a thrill to be invited on board *Ranger*, and apparently everyone felt that vibe. At the far end of the docks, Chef Raffie Hurtado on *Antara* was determined to help his delightful new owners enhance their already-deserved reputation as charming hosts. He served up a series of delicious hors d'oeuvres, keeping them one of the busiest boats. *Whisper's* Amy Laing is a party-throwing pro, and it's a crew team act all the way, so their bash, featuring psychedelic blinking bling for the guests and disco music on deck kept revellers dancing on board late into the night. The only caveat for a wonderfully fun evening is that you can never make it to every boat!

The fleet started Saturday's 18-mile 'Wiggley Course' around the north and east of St Barths in a relative gale of almost nine knots of wind. The prospect of finishing a race looked good until intermittent squalls shut off the breeze like isolated iron curtains – wherein all available wind



Above: W-Class owner Donald Tofias with Anne Vandromme  
Below: Hap Fauth, affable owner of *Whisper*







was simply going straight up into the convection clouds. While the fleet was slow motion westling with several squalls, the RC shortened the course to what looked like an easy finish with a very short last leg. Unfortunately, the mother-in-law of all squalls simply erased the breeze across the entire course.

This gross miscarriage of nature snatched defeat from the very jaws of victory for the 46-metre Perini Navi Antara. Her crew had sailed a flawless light air race by hitting the start and every shift masterfully. At the whim of the wind gods, she was forced to anchor just 200 yards from the finish for over an hour! No finish. No race. No justice!!

Several other yachts also sailed masterful light air races on Saturday. Zingaro and Whisper started on their numbers and walked right through the fleet. Along with Avalon, they were beginning to drift up on Antara when the clock ran out. Rebecca kicked up her heels in the light conditions as well, but also fell victim to the mother of all squalls.

Saturday night at the Bucket is not for sissies, offering two world-class parties. The owner's party, sponsored by Ralph Lauren, and hosted by Newport's David Ray in his spectacular new home at harbour's edge, was an elegant soirée worthy

of the guests attending. Holland Jachtbouw and The Yacht Report hosted the rockin' crew party, held on the newly refurbished dock. Hundreds of crew members, locals – and later on, the owner's party crowd enjoyed the bar, the endless bar-beque and reggae dance band. A good time was definitely had by all.







The race crew of Perini Antara



Sunday dawned hopeful, with almost a dozen knots blowing in Gustavia – but it was a teaser that dropped off to a zephyr by the first start time. During an hour postponement, the RC designed a short, reaching course for the six-knot prevailing breeze. Some 24 yachts started the race at their assigned pursuit racing times, whereupon the wind abruptly dropped yet again, leaving the fleet close to reaching in a three-knot breeze. This is not what you do for fun aboard a 300T megayacht, so yet again, once excused by our erstwhile Race Committee, the fleet adjourned to various beaches to enjoy the Caribbean afternoon.

The good news within a fleet of this stature is that when the wind dies, there are a myriad of enjoyable ways to spend the day. Tenders, rafts and water toys sprouted – blenders whizzed and the banter began anew. If this was the downside, then life was very good indeed ...

The 'no race' conundrum presented a head-scratcher for the Race Committee. How do we present awards for non-races? This Zen kohn promulgated a spirited afternoon discourse. Do we keep the awards? Auction them? Award them

for charitable benefit? It quickly became apparent that the only measurable performance in this non-regatta could be found in the starts. Each yacht was assigned a specific starting time in each pursuit race and we had accurate data on the difference between the assigned and actual start times. The results were really shocking!

The most impressive starting time details for the entire fleet were the combined times of the 46-metre Perini Navi ketch Antara. In a fleet that included two J-boats and a number of carbon fibre, scalding-fast mega performers, Antara's new crew sailed their 300T yacht to start merely four seconds late on Saturday and 14 seconds late on Sunday, clearly closer than all others!

The second closest starters were also a great surprise. Within a fleet of mega yachts equipped with entirely automatic functions, the 1931 Classic William Fife (118-ft Schooner) Altair, sailed across the starting line within 14 seconds for Saturday and 18 seconds Sunday of her assigned starting time, with no electric winches. In fact, few winches at all; seven sails flying and a good head of speed! Another astounding performance!



## St Barths Bucket 2006 Awards

Wolter Huisman 'Spirit of the Bucket': Grandma Betty, Perseus

Perini Cup, for the best performing Perini Navi Yacht: Antara

CYP Corinthian Cup, for Sportsmanship and Seamanship: Antara

The St Barths Bucket All-Star Crew, as voted by their peers:

Endeavour

Escargot Cup: The Race Committee

**Medals of St Barths (best starts):**

1st Place: Antara

2nd Place: Altair

3rd Place: Visione

St Barths Bucket 2006 to be inscribed: Tommy Taylor/Avalon





Grandma Betty from Perseus, winner of the Wolter Huisman Cup



Ted Hood, Anne Vandromme, Hap Fauth and Amy Laing



The Gooch family of Antara celebrates First Place Start, CYP Corinthian Award & Perini Cup in their first Bucket Regatta



Owners, friends & crew of Antara celebrating their triple win



The owner of Sapphire standing by to rinse the anchor chain as she comes up



Jim Teeter with Lisa, Holly and Maggie – all Bucket stalwarts

The 148-ft Custom Baltic/Reichel Pugh, carbon fibre sloop Visione was third by the start measure, weighing in just behind Altair. By far the fastest yacht in the fleet and among the very best sailed as well, Visione typically starts up to two hours after the first yachts in a short, 22-mile race, then romps through the fleet to finish with the leaders.

The closing ceremony attracts another huge crowd for the awards, given for everything from Seamanship to Outstanding Crew and the always-coveted Escargot Cup, all symbolising the depth of relationships and history built up over 11 wonderful St Barths Buckets.

The results are detailed on the previous page, but sentimental favourites were 'Grandma Betty', the Matriarch of Perseus, chosen to win the Wolter Huisman Memorial Spirit of the Bucket award, for her devotion to her family – who epitomised the sheer fun of the event. While in place of an official Bucket winner, this year, the Bucket will be inscribed with 'Tommy Taylor' in memory of the much-beloved Nantucket Bucket founder, who died tragically in a recent accident.

No other award winners could match the sheer excitement of the owners, friends and crew of Antara, sailing their inaugural Bucket to a triple win. They started by winning the Perini Cup, and when they were awarded the Churchill Yacht Partners Seamanship award for some very clever moves, the crew and Capt. Robert "Johnno" Johnston were ecstatic.

However, when Antara's first place start win was announced, the place went ballistic. Their collective exuberance is what the Buckets are all about, for while there might not have been any race winners in this years St Barths Bucket, by the end of the weekend, as always, everyone is a winner.

Hank Halsted & Norma Trease

Images by Orne Van Der Wal & Norma Trease

## St Barths Bucket 2006 Fleet

ALTAIR	118' Classic Fife
ANTARA	151' Perini Navi
ATLANTA	118' Alloy, DuBois
AVALON	108' Alloy, Holland
BOO TOO	92' Pendennis, Holland
DESTINATION FOX HARBOR	130' Alloy, DuBois
ENDEAVOUR	135' J-Class, Camper Nicholson
FREEDOM OF FLIGHT	124' Picchiotti, S & S
GHOST	122' Vitters/Brenta
HELIOS	122' DuBois
MARIELLA	79' W. Fife & Son
METOLJUS	84' Huisman, Frers
OHANA	142' Perini Navi
PARAISO	126' Alloy, Fontaine
PARSIFAL III	178' Perini Navi
PERSEUS	164' Perini Navi
RANGER	137' J Class, Danish Yachts
REBECCA	141' Pendennis, Frers
RIPPLE	101' Brooke, R. Holland
ROGUE	103' Trehard
SAPPHIRE	105' Klaussen, Hoek
SOJANA	115' Fast Cruising
SEAQUELL	112' Alloy, DuBois
SYMMETRY	96' Yachting Dev., Frers
UNFURLED	112' Huisman, Frers
VICTORIA OF STRATHEARN	132' Alloy, Langan
VISIONE	148' Baltic, Reichel Pugh
WHISPER	116' Holland Jachtbouw, Fontaine
WINDROSE	152' Holland Jachtbouw, Dijkstra





# Yachting In The Flesh

## Peter de Savary on the St Barths Bucket

In the yachting industry, it's all about who knows who, and what more delightful environment could there be to power up your personal network than the St Barths Bucket? Here are unparalleled opportunities to mingle with the luminaries of our world, from yacht skippers to rock stars, yacht designers, industry representatives from every builder, to large-yacht suppliers sharing their expertise, guests and journalists – and don't forget the dynamic owners – all congregate on this appropriately glamorous island paradise to share the joy of sailing. The great parties, the beautiful yachts, decked out crews, the jewels, champagne and sapphire water are all just fluff, for what really matters is the constant information sharing and relationship building. This rich mix benefits everyone from deckhand to owner. No one understands this

v a l u e better than veteran Bucketeer, owner of *Rogue*, and entrepreneur extraordinaire, the inspirational Peter de Savary.

The PdS biography has been chronicled in hundreds of publications, from his humble start decades ago in oil and shipping, to ownership of more than a dozen shipyards, and his almost-there entrées into the America's Cup during the competitive 1980s. His recent interests include a string of spectacular golf and waterfront resorts in locations as diverse as London, Devon, Paris, New York, South Carolina, Newport, RI, and the Bahama's shining star, the Abaco Club on Winding Bay. While his business interests remain constant only in their variety and successes, what has always distinguished PdS is his incredible capability to bring out the best in everyone around him, inspiring an unswerving loyalty in dozens of employees scattered all over the world.

On board *Rogue*, sailing the St Barths Bucket, PdS is in his element, surrounded by his lovely wife and daughters, driving his yacht with skill and verve, talking up his resorts with fellow property developers from the Carolinas, while always encouraging his employees to excellence, including long-term crew members Captain Carlos and Nina Totier.

Northrop & Johnson's Mike Nethersole is a regular regatta crew member, as is Colleen Fitzimmons, Sales Director of The Abaco Club. At the tender age of 28, she has sold millions worth of beachside property, after starting with PdS, shovelling horse stalls at Carnegie Abbey several years ago. She has learned many important lessons along the way, saying: "From PdS, you learn about reading people. Working for him is a master's degree in people skills and relationships." So for a gentleman with such diverse interests and busy schedule, what is Peter de Savary's motivation to spend the time needed for sailing? "I've sailed my whole life. When you have the time, and aren't stressed, I far prefer a sailing yacht. For family and friends, sailing is more fun and interactive. When sailing, the journey is part of the adventure." And why would he share this calming pleasure with 500+ friends, fans and peers at the Bucket? "This is my fifth Bucket, and I certainly hope to continue. The good spirit, sense of humour of the organisers and race committee, and their *joie de vivre*, are wonderful. Every owner looks forward to it ... and look around, we're in St Barths, after all!" As always, PdS knows how to pinpoint what those around him are experiencing and share the joy.

We can all look forward to more of the same this summer, with the next Bucket, based at the Newport Shipyard,

PdS sharing the joy of sailing with his daughter in the St Barths Bucket

