



REACHING FOR THE BUCKET IN ST. BARTHS

"Meteor" was top star amongst 35 yachts, ranging from 23 to 88 metres. A new rating system thrilled the participants and sponsors.

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PHOTO: NORMA TREASE



Owner at the helm: Tom Perkins' "Maltese Falcon" (left) close-hauled in the lee of the subsequent winner over all, the Huisman schooner "Meteor". The schooner "Windrose" (top) started with the "Grand Dames des Mers". "Saudade" (above), the new Wally, looking for height upwind of the rocks.

First the results: The Bucket Overall Winner discipline was taken by "Meteor", the 51 metre schooner from the Royal Huisman shipyard. The two-master had the best results of all classes in

all races. An astonishing 35 participants started in the 14th St. Barths Bucket from March 27th to 29th, including such different designs as the 88 metre "Maltese Falcon" with its Dyna-Rigg, the J-class

replica "Ranger" and the modern racer "Leopard 3". The organisers selected Jim Teeters' Velocity Prediction Program as the rating system, which was also used in the Superyacht Cups in both

Antigua and Palma. In the future, the results for all important regattas for large yachts will be comparable. After the briefing at nine o'clock and the first starting gun at eleven o'clock, own-



ers, crews and guests then fought it out on the water for the party prizes on the dock after 7 pm, once all had crossed the finishing line. Since the number participants has doubled since 2005, the

Bucket has now been divided into classes. Instead of the simple class names Racer and Cruiser, it seemed that the distinctions of "Les Gazelles des Mers" and "Les Grandes Dames des Mers" were more

appropriate for such yachts. And so "Ganesha" took first place among the Gazelles ahead of the new Perini Navi "P2", and among the Dames, "Meteor" came in ahead of "Maltese Falcon". Thanks to

its win overall, "Meteor" was able to be the first Huisman yacht ever to accept the "Wolter Huisman Spirit of the Bucket", naturally directly from the hands of his daughter Alice Huisman. The spon-



Fast class: the new lightweight 38 m Perini Navi day sailer "P2" (left) has a seemingly endless bow. She was almost able to meet major expectations right off by coming second. The Dubois-Fitzroy 39 m "Ganeshha" (top) won among the racers, and Alloy Yachts' 41 m "Destination Fox Harb'r" (above) took third place.

sors included the five most important shipyards for large sailing yachts: Alloy Yachts, Holland Jachtbouw, Perini Navi, Royal Huisman and Vitters. The Bucket Regattas had their premiere in 1986

with the first Nantucket Bucket in Massachusetts. At that time, the seven largest yachts of the city arranged to have an afternoon race. A simple galvanised bucket was in store for the prize winner.

Since these early days when they were a jolly for yachtsmen in the area the bucket regattas in St. Barths and Newport have become the most prestigious in the scene; nowadays attracting professionals

too. Seamanship and a good time are more important than winning. Among other things, the rating system is used to also give slower and older yachts – and owners – a good chance of taking first place.