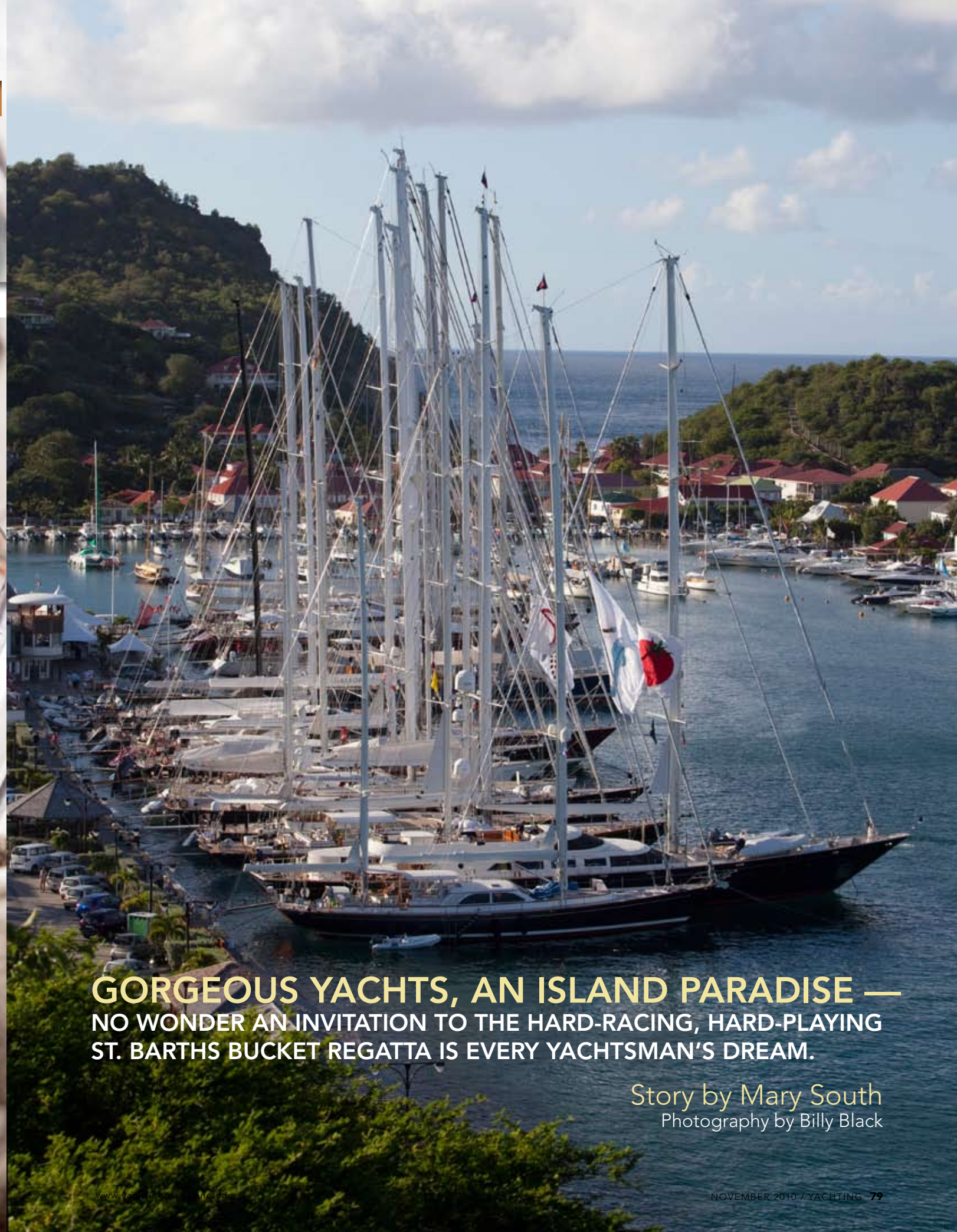


BUCKET LIST



GORGEOUS YACHTS, AN ISLAND PARADISE —
NO WONDER AN INVITATION TO THE HARD-RACING, HARD-PLAYING
ST. BARTHS BUCKET REGATTA IS EVERY YACHTSMAN'S DREAM.

Story by Mary South
Photography by Billy Black

here's a secret to the success of the St. Barths Bucket Regatta — and it's probably not what you think. Stunning yachts? Yes. Gorgeous scenery? True. Fiercely competitive sailing? An understatement.

Yet what makes the St. Barths Bucket Regatta the most highly coveted invitation in sailing circles are the demands it places on some Type-As with pockets deep enough to always get their way. The mandate: Bring your multimillion-dollar yacht, and your handpicked sailors, but if you're not coming to have a great time, stay home!

Setting the stage for all future Bucket endeavors, the first regatta came about after a night of inebriated celebration in Nantucket, Massachusetts, in August 1986. Roger Janes, captain of the 82-foot Huisman ketch *Volondor*, Peter Goldstein, owner and captain of the 65-foot Derecktor sloop *Flying Goose*, and John Clyde Smith, captain of the 92-foot Bill Garden-designed sloop *Mandalay* were enthusiastically toasting *Mandalay* owner Nelson Doubleday's birthday. Naturally, some trash-talking occurred, some boasts were floated, and the nautical gauntlet was thrown down. The next day, history was made as seven yachts sailed the first Nantucket Bucket, a 15-mile course around Nantucket Sound.

The winter Bucket in St. Barths began in 1995 with a fleet of four yachts, including the 131-foot ketch *Sariyah*, Tom Taylor's 108-foot Ron Holland ketch *Gleam*, the Alden-designed 127-foot ketch *Parlay* and Nelson Doubleday's 130-foot Palmer Johnson ketch *Mandalay*. In 2002, the summer Bucket moved to Newport, where it's been sponsored by Newport Shipyard and watched over by race committee members Hank Halsted, Ian Craddock and Tim Laughridge ever since.

The Bucket is a pursuit-style race, with each yacht assigned its own time on a clear starting line for safety. Start times are calibrated to each yacht's speed handicap, and the first yacht to cross the finish line is the winner. The Bucket is funded exclusively by the marine industry and provides a fantastic opportunity for networking, though overt marketing or wheeling and dealing are discouraged. At the Bucket, the rule is: It's not whether you win or lose; it's whether you can play well with your peers. □

Didn't get an invitation to the Bucket this year? Check out these gorgeous photos by Billy Black.



CLOCKWISE FROM INSET, THE 1930 M/Y ATLANTIDE CHECKS OUT THE ACTION — SHE IS ONLY ONE OF THE MANY GORGEOUS YACHTS THAT COME TO WATCH THE BUCKET; THE CREW OF THE 38-METER PERINI NAVI P2, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED IN 2008, FOCUSES ON THE CHASE AS THEY ATTEMPT TO GAIN ON BARRACUDA; P2'S RED SPINNAKER IS NOT A SIGHT COMPETITOR'S LIKE TO SEE COMING UP FROM BEHIND.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, THE RACE TAKES THE FLEET PAST SEVERAL SMALL ISLANDS; MR. A., P2'S OWNER, HOLDS THE CODE FLAG ON THE BACKSTAY; P2'S RACE STRATEGIST MAURICE KURG PONDERES THE NEXT MOVE; THE J-CLASS RANGER IS BEAUTIFUL UNDERWAY BUT SHE IS ALSO A RACING MACHINE — SHE TOOK THE BUCKET AT THE 2010 REGATTA.



LE SERENO ST. BARTHS

Perfection in Paradise

Could you ask for a more perfect place than Le Sereno hotel in St. Barths? Only if you were obscenely greedy. Perched on 600 feet of Grand Cul-de-Sac beachfront, Le Sereno's turquoise waters are protected by a reef that creates an ideal venue for windsurfers, kiteboarders and those who prefer to recline with a glass of rosé and just watch the show.

Parisian design star Christian Liaigre has created 37 suites and villas with the kind of understated genius that makes it all seem natural. There are, of course, luxurious amenities like high-thread-count sheets, thick white towels, and thirsty terry robes made by D. Porthault especially for Le Sereno, as well as sexy Ex Voto bath products. But there are lighter touches too, like the white Havaiana flip flops that await in every room, begging you to kick back and relax. The décor is spare but luxurious, with lots of teak touches and gauzy white canopies that float around the dark wood beds. There are, of course, flat-screen televisions on adjustable mounts and bedside stereos with iPod docking stations in every room, but the serene atmosphere will probably make you want to unplug. Glass doors that open the seafront rooms onto the Caribbean have the same effect.

The stunning environment remains the star — whether you're in the deep soaking tub that looks into your lush and private tropical courtyard, enjoying the divan on your seafront villa's patio, or reading on the teak deck beside the pool and looking out across the beach to the azure Caribbean. The effect is almost magical, instantly dropping the blood pressure while still causing a slight acceleration of heart rate.

What puts Le Sereno over the top, though, is that this wonderfully laid-back vibe is accompanied by first-rate service from the moment you cross the threshold. There is a bar and restaurant on site — the open air Le Restaurant des Pêcheurs lets you listen to the faint sound of waves gently lapping the shore, while you relax with your feet in the sand and your palate in the clouds. Seafood is a specialty and it's right off the boat — although in the case of Le Restaurant des Pêcheurs' Bouillabaise à la Ancienne, it is so authentic that the restaurant flies the fish in from the Mediterranean on Thursday for Friday's plat du jour.

There's a spa and gym at Le Sereno, as well as several boutiques, and 24-hour room service. Paradise doesn't come cheap, of course, but it's unlikely you'll spend a penny more than Le Sereno is worth. Rates range from 480 euros per night for a Suite Terrasse in the low season to 15,000 euros per night for a Le Sereno villa during the holiday season. *Le Sereno, +59-(05)-90-29-83-00; lesereno.com*





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT, THE FLEET COULDN'T HAVE HAD MORE PERFECT WEATHER FOR THE 2010 BUCKET; THIS VIEW ACROSS GUSTAVIA, FROM BEHIND THE ANGLICAN CHURCH; MR. A., ACCEPTING AN AWARD FOR P2, WHICH CAME IN THIRD OVERALL IN 2010; THE 154-FOOT PERINI NAVI ANTARES AS SHE PASSED A CLASSIC SPECTATOR.

