



AMERICA'S CUP SUPERYACHT REGATTA

In the wake of the successful Superyacht Regatta held during the 34th America's Cup in San Francisco in 2013, ACEA decided to reprise the race series in Bermuda this summer, once again appointing Boat International Media to organize the event. The 2017 America's Cup Superyacht Regatta, scheduled for June 13 to 15, immediately following the Louis Vuitton Challenger Playoffs, will combine spectacular fleet racing by sailing yachts ranging from 23 to 60 meters (75 to 197 feet) with an exclusive social program ashore.

"In San Francisco, we had some great superyachts compete, but this will be much bigger because Bermuda is on the run from the Caribbean to the Med," says Louise Close, event director at Boat International Media.

Registration for the America's Cup Superyacht Regatta does not close until April 1, but 26 yachts already have registered and seven – *Visione*, *Hyperion*, *Perseus*³, *Meteor*, *Bequia*, *Ranger* and *Wild Horses* – officially have entered to date.

"The J-Class yachts will compete with the Superyacht Regatta yachts as a warm-up for the J-Class Regatta [June 16 to 20]," adds Close.

Since these sailing superyachts draw a bit more water than the foiling America's Cup catamarans, the regatta will be held offshore, off the eastern end of Bermuda. There should be plenty of opportunity to watch it from water in the designated spectator fleet, either on a private boat or party charter vessel.

"This is such an exciting event to come to Bermuda, especially for those of us who are sailors," says Commodore Leatrice Oatley of the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club in Hamilton, which is hosting the regatta. "It is great for Bermuda to be recognized by the professional sailors as the great place to sail we've always known it was. Hopefully, we will get more professional regattas here in the future."

Regarding the Superyacht Regatta itself, Close says, "We hope to make it an annual event."



Caroline Bay Marina

BYOB (BRING YOUR OWN BOAT)

The best seats in the house for this year's Cup already have been booked by prescient superyacht owners, who have taken advantage of the 2017 America's Cup Superyacht Program that BWA Yachting is organizing for ACEA. The program includes berthing in the America's Cup Village or one of Hamilton's other superyacht marinas from May 20 through June 30, a VIP flag that will give yachts a front-row position in the spectator fleet on the water during the races, access to the "race pits" and other VIP venues in the Village, special social events and a range of concierge services, including transportation, golf and other outings. Fifty superyachts are expected to participate in the Superyacht Program, along with more than 500 people.

"We are fully booked. It's been a humongous success," says Laura Esteve, vice president of BWA Yachting America.

Owners who haven't booked yet are not out of luck. Slips that are not part of the America's Cup Superyacht Program may still be available, but it's essential to book them as soon as possible as supply is limited. Bermuda also offers beautiful anchorages where you may be able to drop the hook during the Cup races. Private boats can register at www.americascup.com to get access to the designated spectator zone on the race-course. Or contact Bermuda Yacht Services at (441) 297-2798 or www.bermudayachtservices.com for more information.

The brand-new Caroline Bay Marina is a good place to start looking for slips. The ISPS-certified, 35-acre yacht harbor on Morgan's Point is scheduled to open in March. When complete, the full concierge-level, deep-water marina will have 83 slips, approximately 40 of which can accommodate large yachts, including along the extensive face dock.

Caroline Bay has also been selected as the site of a new Ritz-Carlton Reserve. While the exclusive residential resort and hotel will not be finished by this summer, its upscale Welcome Center will be open to marina guests. The location is ideal, says Ralph Richardson, CEO of Caroline Bay Marina. "We've got a golf course right across the street called Port Royal, a fabulous course. There is the Pompano Beach Club to go to for dinner and see glorious sunsets. [And] those who come to the marina this summer will actually be able to see racing and the Dockyard in Great Sound."

In addition, Caroline Bay Marina is planning to offer a VIP Experience for superyacht owners who berth there during the America's Cup months that will include transportation to the Cup Village and the opportunity to purchase a place on a spectator yacht for the races. "We have chartered the 157-foot superyacht *Arabella*...and they have a privilege flag," says Richardson, adding that *Arabella* will return to the marina each evening to host hospitality events.

"It's going to be really exciting," says Craig Christensen, principal, director and CEO of the Morgan's Point development project. "The main thing we want to be sure of is that our guests will have a fantastic experience." For more information, visit www.carolinebaymarina.com.



America's Cup Village

STILL TIME TO CHARTER

While the America's Cup Superyacht Program organized by BWA Yachting may be fully booked, the good news is that not all the yachts in the program are private; some are luxury charter yachts. "Many of them are actively looking for charter clients for the America's Cup," says Laura Esteve of BWA Yachting America.