



Les Voiles d'Antibes – Trophée Panerai a great Celebration of Yachting for the opening of the Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge

It is in its new location, the Bastion Saint – Jaume, under the shade of the ramparts of the old city of Antibes and only meters away from the billionaires Quay that from the 3rd till the 7th of June 2009, **Les Voiles d'Antibes** will mark, for their 14th Edition, the launch of the **Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge**.

For the 4th consecutive year, **Les Voiles d'Antibes** will be the first meeting of the **Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge** that will be followed by coastal regattas and offshore races in Italy and France.

Organized at the very beginning of the season, **Les Voiles d'Antibes – Trophée Panerai** welcome, like the previous years, a selection of the most impressive Vintage Yachts (built before 1950) Classics (built before 1976), Spirit of Tradition Yachts and Twelve Meters (who competed in the America's Cup from 1958 till 1987) who have made up since the end of the 19th century, the great history of international Yachting and who have become the pieces of art and the historical monuments of our Maritime Heritage.

For most of the participants, this prestigious event represents the first meeting of the year. After the winter season, most of the yachts are back in the Mediterranean. Some of them have been restored and/or renovated, others have changed owners and crews. As a result, participants are renewed every year around a core group of mythic yachts like *Tuiga* (who will celebrate its 100 years), *Cambria*, *Moonbeam IV*, *Lelantina*, *Outlaw*, *The Blue Peter*, *Adria*, *Lulu*, *Hallowe'en*, *Solway Maid*, *Stormy Weather* and *Sonny* who are regular participants to **Les Voiles d'Antibes**. Every year, out of the average sixty participants, around 15 new entries are discovered. Antibes being the first major regatta of the season, crews, owners, sailors ... discover with great admiration the newcomers and comment with passion the work being done by architects, carpenters, sailmakers who have inherited from generation to generation that savoir-faire which maintains the Spirit of Tradition.

Appreciated for the quality of its regattas (Match Race for the Metric Classes and Coastal Races for the other classes, along the 23 kms of Antibes and Juan-les-Pins coast) and its extremely festive atmosphere on the quays, the 14th Edition of **Les Voiles d'Antibes – Trophée Panerai** will surely be one of the greatest event of the Mediterranean season.

But **Les Voiles d'Antibes – Trophée Panerai** is also an event that embraces the pure tradition of yachting. For five days, the dockside ambiance will be as friendly as ever. Cocktails, Live Music, Art Exhibition and many other surprises will ensure that the atmosphere in Port Vauban (the largest leisure harbour in Europe) and the old town of Antibes is not to be missed.

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