



SARDINIA ROLEX CUP

19 JUNE - 27 JUNE
PORTO CERVO

PRESS RELEASE - No.1

SARDINIA ROLEX CUP HOSTED BY YACHT CLUB COSTA SMERALDA SET TO BEGIN MONDAY, JUNE 21 PORTO CERVO: SEVEN TEAMS TO COMPETE REPRESENTING SIX COUNTRIES

U.S. Team readfiles Bambakou, a Farr 40, Mascalzone Latino, a Swan 45 and Talisman, an IMS rated boat

PORTO CERVO, Italy (June 20, 2004) - The Sardinia Rolex Cup, hosted by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (YCCS), is set to begin Monday, June 21 off the coast of Porto Cervo. Seven teams representing six countries will race during the week-long regatta ending on Saturday, June 26. For the first time, the Sardinia Rolex Cup will be classified as the "Offshore ISAF Team World Championship". Each national team will participate with three different types of yachts: an IMS rated boat, a Swan 45 and a Farr 40. The U.S. team is represented by Bambakou, skippered by John Coumantaros, Mascalzone Latino, sailed by Vincenzo Onorato and Talisman, with skipper Terry Hutchinson. The other countries represented readfile Argentina, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

"With the talent represented by these seven teams, the competition on the water will be very competitive," said Commodore Gianfranco Alberini of the YCCS. "The weather is cooperating by providing excellent racing conditions. Combined with a week-long schedule of social events, the regatta will, no doubt, prove to be a first class event. We are pleased to celebrate our twenty-year partnership with Rolex onboard the Italian Navy tall ship, Amerigo Vespucci tomorrow evening where we will honor the winners from the last two decades of Rolex-sponsored international yacht racing."

"Porto Cervo is a terrific venue for team racing," said Terry Hutchinson, skipper of the American Talisman. "The U.S. team is very strong with accomplished sailors. We look forward to a good race, strong winds and excellent competition."

Coumantaros of Bambakou noted, "The regatta's team rules will provide a unique racing environment this year. Many of us are used to racing on teams of one design boats. With daily results taken from the two highest placing yachts within their respective classes, race strategy will take on a higher importance."

Winds are predicted to be between 12 to 18 knots tomorrow and between 8 to 12 knots on Tuesday and Wednesday with Thursday scheduled to be a lay day. Courses readfile both windward leeward races and a long distance race on Wednesday.

The Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (YCCS) was founded in 1967 by His Highness the Aga Khan and a small group of founding members as a non-profit sporting association for fellow sailing enthusiasts with a mission to promote related sea and nautical activities. Affiliated with the Italian Sailing Federation since 1968 and with the Italian Powerboat Federation since 1978, the YCCS promotes and organizes a series of sporting events famous the world over. The YCCS also promotes and organizes artistic, cultural and scientific initiatives. In addition to its superb yachting facilities, the YCCS features a first-class clubhouse that was completely renovated during the past two years. In 2002, the YCCS and the New York Yacht Club signed a reciprocal agreement extending mutual privileges to their members. The YCCS is the only club in the Mediterranean and one of only four Yacht Clubs worldwide to be offered this

privilege. Visit www.yccs.it for further information

Ufficio Stampa YCCS
Vincenzo Frigo e M.Luisa Farris
www.yccs.it;
pressoffice@yccs.it