

PRESS RELEASE

BARCOLANA 51 PRESENTED BY GENERALI: ALMOST 2,000 BOATS AND 15,000 SAILORS AT THE START LINE TOMORROW AT 10.30 AM, WITH LIGHT WIND PREDICTED

RACE FOR VICTORY: A WOMEN'S CREW AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS

AT SEA TODAY: BARCOLANA CLASSIC AND BARCOLANA BY NIGHT

Trieste, 12 October 2019 – More than 2,000 boats will race the 51st edition of Barcolana presented by Generali, the regatta that brings the whole sailing world at sea. Sailors from Australia, the UK, the USA, Korea, Ukraine and China have joined us; environmental and social topics have been discussed; passion for the sea and the desire to compete has been high, and great sailing champions have come to race in Barcolana. This year, for the first time, many champion women are here, such as the British ocean sailor Dee Caffari, the American Sally Barkow and the Chinese Vicky Song. Barcolana is ready to start! Almost non-existent wind is predicted for tomorrow morning at 10,30 am, when almost 2,000 boats (15,000 sailors overall) will line up along Barcolana's record 2-mile start line stretching from the Vittoria Lighthouse and Miramare Castle (the two city landmarks) to compete in the world's largest regatta in the Gulf of Trieste. *"We are proud of Trieste and Barcolana – stated the chairman of the sailing club Società Velica di Barcola e Grignano, Mitja Gialuz – our job is to organize an inclusive event, in order to share our passion for the sea and to promote Trieste and the Friuli Venezia Giulia region: sailors, crews, our public, and the whole city of Trieste are joining us in this great sea celebration, where we will also talk about environmental protection, respect for the sea and tradition. A renewed and great celebration that has introduced many innovations too, this year.*

RACING FOR VICTORY...AND FOR THE LAST PLACE – Three teams are tipped to win. The first one is the team defender, the Fast and Furio Sailing Team, made up of Furio and Gabriele Benussi, Lorenzo Bressani, Alberto Bolzan, Stefano Spangaro, worldwide famous sailors "made in Trieste". This "dream team", winners of the 2018 edition, will race aboard the 100-feet Arca Fondi SGR Wild Thing, the boat that nominally won Barcolana in 2005. This boat, which has been completely modified, is 100 feet long and at the start of a four-year program. Its direct competitor is Tempus Fugit Portopiccolo, owned by Australian Ludde Ingvall, which raced in Barcolana for the first time at last year: the boat is ready to win, despite having trained for four days only and with few sails. The Tempus Fugit Sailing will include the Slovene Mitja Kosmina at the helm, Andrea Visintini, Andrea Casale, Enrico Zennaro, Antonio Masoli, Marco Furlan, and they are all ready to overturn results this year. The third team includes Barcolana51's outsiders, the women's crew captained by Francesca Clapcich, with the American Sally Barkow (helmswoman), Giulia Conti (tactician) and another 18 sailors from 7 different countries and 3 continents: they won 8 world, 8 European and 9 national competitions, participated in the Volvo Ocean Race 7 times and won 6 world Match Races. They will compete on the 90-feet hull that won in 2003 and 2004: despite being smaller compared to the other boats racing, this boat could highly benefit from the non-existent wind conditions forecast for tomorrow.

However, Barcolana is not only about racing for victory, but also celebrating participation: from this year on, the sailing club Società Velica di Barcola e Grignano will symbolically award the last sailboat to cross the finish line with a special trophy, whose name is still unknown and will be decided by a social “referendum” that has been involving thousands of sailing enthusiasts. Exhibited next to Barcolana Trophy in Piazza Unità, this cup has been created to value participation and the central role played by the 2,000 shipowners in creating the true spirit of the event.

ENTRIES – Registrations to the race continue at a steady pace at the offices of the yacht club Società Velica di Barcola e Grignano. At 4.00 pm today 1966 boats had entered the competition.

TRIESTE’S GREAT FESTIVAL - On the eve of the Barcolana regatta, the festival is in full swing on land and at sea with sailors and visitors soaking up the superb atmosphere. Thousands of people have been celebrating their passion for sailing in the Barcolana Village (which this year extends onto Trieste’s main square Piazza Unità), while admiring the many yachts berthed along the Rive seafront. With over 200 temporary stores and hospitality stands promoting Barcolana in many ways, and more than 350 events happening across the city, Trieste has been bursting with positive, festive energy for the past ten days. The whole event has been watched over by the tall ship Vespucci and Alice, of course, our symbol for this year – a large sardine (typical of the Adriatic sea) that is made of 10k plastic bottles collected by Triestinis over the summer.

BARCOLANA CLASSIC – The Classic regatta offering a parade of vintage yachts in front of Trieste’s seafront is still ongoing. Further updates will be posted soon.

BARCOLANA NASTRO ROSA MIXED OFFSHORE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP – In the morning, Barcolana welcomed and crowned the sailors of the Mixed Offshore European Championship, a new sailing discipline that will become an Olympic sport in 2024. Under the patronage of Eurosaf – the European Federation of Sailing – the regatta today was the first European race for this new mixed class and saw seven nations compete: Austria, Belgium, France, Australia, Spain, USA and Italy. The race was won by Team Austria made up of Lisa Berger and Christian Kargl. This event has brought about a new partnership between Barcolana and Nastro Rosa, the organizers of Gito d’Italia next year. Barcolana will play a central role next to SSI, the organizer of the “Reloaded” Giro d’Italia, after the great success achieved in the 1980s and 1990s.

At 2.00 pm the Barcolana festival was broadcast live on the Rai Uno TV show *Linea Blu* for one hour to talk about the beauty of a city that is passionate about sea and sailing. The Italian broadcasting network RAI has always supported Barcolana and it will broadcast the race live tomorrow starting from 9.40 am on RAI 3 FVG, and from 10.20 am on Rai Sport. Many foreign TV networks will ALSO broadcast the event, namely the British BT Sport (ESPN Group) and Nautical Channel.

Plenty of events continue in the afternoon and in the evening. Our next update will be posted at the end of the Barcolana by Night regattas scheduled at 5.30 pm for the Meteors and 7.00 pm for Ufos.