

PRESS KIT

MENORCA MAXI 2015

From 26th to 31st May

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CONSELL INSULAR DE MENORCA



AJUNTAMENT DE MAÓ - MAHÓN



Ports de Balears



Autoritat Portuària de Balears





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MENORCA, IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

MENORCA IS THE EASTERNMOST OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS, AND ALSO THE MOST DISTINCTIVE. DECLARED A BIOSPHERE RESERVE BY UNESCO IN 1993, THIS SMALL MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND OF BARELY 702 SQUARE KILOMETRES, 216 KILOMETRES OF COASTLINE AND FEWER THAN 100,000 INHABITANTS IS UNQUESTIONABLY ONE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS STILL SUFFUSED WITH A SENSE OF BALANCE, PROVIDING A RESPITE FROM THE EVERYDAY BUSTLE.

Known to many as the "Windy Island" because of the gusting Tramuntana, Menorca is above all an island of contrasts, largely thanks to the differing landscapes of the north and south. The north is rugged, dominated by cliffs which slice the island clean off at the edges, plunging down into the sea. The south, meanwhile, is a bed of Tertiary limestone, particularly rich in vegetation and traversed by gullies which open out into beaches of white sand and crystal-clear waters. One could say that they are two islands in one, watched over by a lighthouse at each of the five corners.

Combine this wealth of landscapes with the traces left by the host of different cultures who have made their mark on the island, and its huge megalithic legacy, above all the "taulas" and "talaiots" built more than 5,000 years ago by the earliest inhabitants, and the result is a truly special and unique Mediterranean island with its own distinctive character and identity.



THE PORT OF MAHÓN

MEASURING ALMOST SIX KILOMETRES IN LENGTH FROM THE MOUTH TO THE WHARF, THE PORT OF MAHÓN IS THE SECOND-LARGEST NATURAL PORT IN EUROPE. THANKS TO ITS WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN LOCATION, AND ALSO ITS SIZE, DEPTH AND THE SHELTER IT OFFERS, IT HAS OVER THE CENTURIES BEEN SEEN AS A PRIME STRATEGIC SITE, THE OBJECT OF BOTH THE MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF COUNTLESS CIVILISATIONS.

Its waters have witnessed the arrival of Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Turks, French and British, some prospering more than others, and on occasion, as with the British, arriving in the island to stay for more than seventy years, even using it as a bargaining chip in international disputes.

Gazing over its calm, tide-free waters creates the sensation of beholding a majestic lake, dotted with such outstanding villas as the Golden Farm on the northern shore, little ports such as Cales Fonts and El Fonduco on the southern shore, watched over from on high by the jagged outline of the city of Mahón atop its cliff.

Halfway between Europe and North Africa, and on the route from the islands of Sardinia, Corsica, Italy and Greece, Mahón has been and remains a port of call for vessels seeking shelter, or simply an idyllic spot in which to cast anchor.



MENORCA, THE PERFECT ISLAND FOR SAILING

MENORCA HAS THE SEA AS PART OF ITS DNA, OF ITS ESSENCE. THE MEDITERRANEAN SURROUNDS THE ISLAND, MAKING IT A PARADISE FOR LOVERS OF BEACHES AND COVES OF CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATER.

Menorca is home to one of only five accredited Watersport Resorts in Balearic Islands, making the island the perfect destination to indulge in any water-based sport, enjoying not only the Menorcan seas but also the surroundings.

In Menorca, though, the sea means so much more. Thanks to its winds, its location, its landscape and its size, striking a balance between the human and natural scale, Menorca provides an unrivalled setting and exceptional conditions in which to enjoy a unique sailing and watersports experience.

THE WIND

Menorca has eight particularly characteristic winds: the Gregal (NE), the Xaloc (SE) and the Migjorn (S), which predominate in the summer; the Llevant (E), the Llebeig (SW) and the Ponent (W), in spring and autumn; the Mestral (NW) in winter, and the Tramuntana (N) all year round, as the island's most typical wind.

The geographical and orographical situation of Menorca means that, with greater or lesser intensity, the wind always be blowing. Which is why keen sailors find in this island and its changing winds the challenge to unfurl their sails and enjoy nautical pursuits.

THE LOCATION

Positioned strategically in the centre of the Western Mediterranean, Menorca is the most northerly and easterly of the islands making up the Balearic Archipelago. Its location makes it a mandatory and reassuring port of call for sailors crossing the Mediterranean, a waypoint between Europe and Africa, and between Italy and Spain. The calm waters and the enviable setting of the natural port of Mahón make the island all the more attractive as a nautical destination.

THE LANDSCAPE

The contrasting landscapes offered by Menorca, with coves of white sand on the southern coast, rocky stretches and reddish beaches on the northern coast, would unquestionably be hard to find anywhere else. Although the island's countryside can be seen in all its splendour from the land, its most remarkable sights and tucked away corners can only be reached by sea.

Along the 216 km of Menorca's coastline there are 280 stopping-off points of particular interest for sailors, an unusually high concentration which allows vessels easily to relocate from one point to another. Particular mention should also be made of the abundance, thanks to the coastal shallows, of crystal-clear waters, which make sailing an unrivalled treat for the eyes.

The pleasure of taking that first dip in the Mediterranean at daybreak, or delighting in the wonderful and colossal cliffs, are just some of the little thrills experienced only by those who choose to discover Menorca from the Mediterranean.

THE BALANCE

With a perfect balance between nature and civilisation, unlike other islands in the Balearic Archipelago, Menorca is of a perfect size and layout to allow its ecosystem to coexist in perfect harmony with human environments. All sailors will find the chance to enjoy time onshore suited to their tastes, as the island boasts enviable natural attractions and an extensive array of leisure and restaurant facilities.

The idiosyncrasy of the island, the hospitality of its people and the beauty of the territory make for the perfect setting to combine with the pleasures of sailing.



MENORCA MAXI

MENORCA MAXI IS A REGATTA FOR MAXI YACHTS PROMOTED BY THE ISLAND AUTHORITY, THE CONSELL DE MENORCA, AND ORGANISED BY MAHÓN YACHT CLUB, WHICH WILL BE HOLDING ITS SECOND EDITION FROM 26 TO 31 MAY AT THE PUERTO DE MAHÓN, THE ROUTE COVERING THE IDYLIC WATERS OF THE ISLAND.

This second edition will have the Wally and the Maxi72 classes, both are IMA divisions –International Maxi Association- consolidating the event in the exclusive Super yachts regatta circuit of the Mediterranean, that includes the elite ports like Saint Tropez and Porto Cervo.

Eleven Wallys and five Maxi 72 participate in the regatta, and guarantee the high level of competition and breathtaking show that will take place on Menorca's waters.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 26th May

10:00-19:00 ≈ Regatta office opens, Mahón Yacht Club

Wednesday, 27th May

10:00-19:00 ≈ Regatta office opens, Mahón Yacht Club

12:00 ≈ Press Conference, Consell Insular de Menorca

12:30 ≈ Casting out practise and Regatta(s)

18:00 ≈ Skipper Briefing, Mahón Yacht Club

19:30-20:00 ≈ Inauguration ceremony, "Isla del Rey" island

Thursday, 28th May

10:00-19:00 ≈ Regatta office opens, Mahón Yacht Club

12:30 ≈ Regatta(s)

17:30-19:30 ≈ "Village", Mahón Port

Friday, 29th May

10:00-19:00 ≈ Regatta office opens, Mahón Yacht Club

12:30 ≈ Regatta(s)

17:30-19:30 ≈ "Village", Mahón Port

Saturday, 30th May

10:00-19:00 ≈ Regatta office opens, Mahón Yacht Club

12:30 ≈ Regatta(s)

17:30-19:30 ≈ "Village", Mahón Port

Sunday, 31st May

10:00-17:00 ≈ Regatta office opens, Mahón Yacht Club

12:30 ≈ Regatta(s)

17:00 ≈ Trophy ceremony and closure, Mahón Yacht Club



PARTICIPANTS WALLY CLASS

THE WALLY CLASS IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST FLEET OF PERFORMANCE YACHTS OVER 24 METRES IN LENGTH. AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB ATTRACTING OWNERS AND ENCHANTING SPECTATORS.

Wallys are unique yachts, custom designed and built, that combine superior performance, exceptional comfort, latest technology and contemporary design.

The perfect and unmatched balance of aesthetics with technology, made the Wally brand a true icon for both lovers of design and sailing passionate.

The Wally Class includes different sizes of cruising yachts, all sharing the same characteristics of fast and easy sailing. This means that although the boats feature different naval architecture and interiors, they are very similar in terms of sailing characteristics. They are between 24 and 50 metres in length (from 60 to 164 feet), entirely built in carbon fibre, to reduce their weight and improve the performance that can exceed 25 knots of speed in specific wind conditions.

A distinctive feature of the Wally Class is its pro-am essence: the Owners are required to be at the helm of the yacht, while the rest of the crew has no restrictions and it normally includes renown professional sailors. The rating system to measure and compensate the different yachts, is the IRC.

Participating Wallys: Galma, Inti, J One, Kenora, Magic Blue, Magic Carpet Cubed, Open Season, Ryokan 2, Sensei, Tango G, Y3K.



PARTICIPANTS MAXI 72 CLASS

THE NEW MAXI 72 CLASS (M 72) WAS CREATED AT THE END OF 2014, AND INCLUDES THE BOATS PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS MINIMAXIS, MONOHULLS NO LONGER THAN 22 METRES (72 FEET).

The name of the Division refers to their valid condition as Maxis, and to the dimensional limit. One of the Class objectives is to strengthen the figure of the skipper-owner, which gives a more genuinely sport nuance.

The rating system to measure and compensate the different yachts, is the IRC like in the Wally Class.

Participating Maxi 72s: Caol Ila R, Jethou, Momo, Robertissima III, Shockwave.

THE REGATTA

MENORCA MAXI IS DEVELOPED TO BE ONE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN'S MOST EXCLUSIVE REGATTAS, AND A REFERENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL MAXI CIRCUIT.

There are three ingredients to achieve this goal after the first successful edition:

- Eleven Wallys and five Maxi 72s unquestionably make Menorca Maxi an outstanding event considering the limited number of yachts existing in these two classes.
- Crews include winners and participants of the America's Cup and VOR Round the World races, as well as Olympic and World champions.
- Menorca and the Port of Mahón are an unrivalled yet undiscovered settings in the heart of the Mediterranean.

During the four-day event, a maximum of three races per day will be sailed, for a maximum of eight races over the entire regatta.

Two days are reserved to Windward-Leeward courses (upwind and downwind legs between buoys) with legs between 1.50 and 2.50 nautical miles, in the waters nearby the entrance of the Port of Mahón.

Two coastal regattas are scheduled in the other two days: according to the weather, the courses will be between 30 and 40 miles. The starting line is the harbour trail of the Mahón Port, and the course depends on the weather conditions, that shall determine also if to have the finish line inside the port next to the Mahón Club Marítimo, or in the starting area.

As the yachts differ in size and technical characteristics (i.e. canting or lifting keels, one or two rudders, etc.), the results and rankings are calculated in "corrected time", in accordance with each yacht "rating" (a kind of "handicap") modifying the real time to complete each race.

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