

The 24th Grand Soleil Cup returns to Porto Cervo

| REGATTAS |



Porto Cervo hosted the 24th Grand Soleil Cup, featuring an international fleet and showcasing the new GS Plus 80

From 21 to 23 May, Porto Cervo hosted the 24th edition of the Grand Soleil Cup, returning to the calendar of the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda after its 2024 appearance. Over four days, the event became a natural meeting point for the Grand Soleil community, bringing together sailors from all over the world in an event that went well beyond racing alone, blending competition, sailing culture, and social activities.



The 21-yacht fleet offered a broad snapshot of the Grand Soleil universe, with models ranging from the compact GS Plus 65 to the new GS Plus 80 Long Cruise, which was previewed at the Cannes Yachting Festival 2026. The lineup reflected the brand's evolution across different interpretations of high-performance configurations. Seven yachts belonged to the Plus line, dedicated to long-distance cruising, including the GS Plus 65, GS Plus 72 and the new GS Plus 80 Long Cruise, which was previewed at the Cannes Yachting Festival 2026.



The international scope of the event was also evident in the crews' stories. The GS f while the GS 52 LC came from Canada, marking the longest journeys among the par heritage to the fleet, the Grand Soleil 37 *J&J*, launched in 2000, underlined the contir still actively racing more than two decades on.



Racing unfolded against the unmistakable backdrop of the Costa Smeralda, where its intricate channels created a technically demanding and visually striking race area. The competition, based on the technical characteristics of the boats, with starts on both race days taking place in the same fleet brought together a wide range of experience levels, with owner-drivers competing on the same courses, adding depth and intensity to the competition.



In the overall standings, the GS Plus 72 Performance *Pantarei* secured first place, consistent throughout the event. It was followed by the GS Plus 80 Long Cruise *Biancall* in second place, and the LC *Meligunis* completed the podium in third place. The same order was reflected in the Grand Soleil class, the GS 40 *Yankee R* claimed first place, followed by the GS 42 *Tobalù del Mar* in second, and the GS 42 LC *Tobalù del Mar* in third, rounding out the class podium.



Beyond the racing, the Grand Soleil Cup 2026 once again balanced sport with a full social part of its identity. From daily briefings and post-race gatherings to the welcome cocktail and farewell party hosted by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, the event offered constant opportunities for crews to connect both on and off the water.



Alongside the Cup, Porto Cervo also welcomed Pardo Yachts owners as part of Can bringing together the Group's brands through shared cruising activities, on-water ex ashore. Guests had the opportunity to explore the latest Pardo Yachts and VanDutcl starts from the water, and take part in a curated agenda of events hosted by the Yac including an "on the road" experience developed with Ducati Italia. The initiative was between sailing and motor yachting while reinforcing the sense of community that l Pardo owners.



A format expanding beyond the Medite

The 2026 edition also reflects the continued international expansion of the Grand Soleil. Sydney hosted the Grand Soleil Cup Australia, bringing together 87 yachts from club level. The Grand Soleil fleet dominated the results, with three GS 40s taking the top three positions and a local victory. More recently, the circuit expanded into the Caribbean with the Grand Soleil Cup May in the waters of Culebra as part of the multiclass La Vuelta regatta. The event was a success overall, including a dedicated Grand Soleil class of six boats: GS 42 LC, GS 46 LC, GS 48 LC, GS 50 LC, GS 52 LC and GS Performance models. Following stops in Sydney, Puerto Rico and Porto Cervo, the plan is the aim of building a truly international circuit that connects owners across different regions. The values of the Grand Soleil world: a passion for sailing, design excellence and a strong sense of community.



Grand Soleil Vintage Cup

Alongside the main circuit, the shipyard calendar also includes the established Gran Portopiccolo–Sistiana, which returns for its fourth edition with around 40 yachts already on 14 June, the event is reserved for Grand Soleil models designed before 2000. It has long-standing owners, celebrating both the brand's heritage and the continued loyalty of those who race their Grand Soleil yachts decades later. It stands as a clear testament not only to the quality of the yachts, but also to the enduring relationship between the brand and its community.

INFO: EKKA YACHTS