



# Super yachts, Super moon, Super success

The Caribbean Superyacht Regatta & Rendezvous launched a venue and an event in fine style.

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**PARTICIPATING YACHTS (MOTOR)**

160' (48.8m) <b>BLIND DATE</b> Trinity	281' (85.6m) <b>CAKEWALK</b> Derecktor	110' (33.5m) <b>CHANTICLEER</b> Burger	130' (39.6m) <b>CONSTELLATION</b> Westport	128' (39m) <b>GO</b> Feadship	147' (44.8m) <b>GRAN FINALE</b> Delta	112' (34.1m) <b>KELLY SEA</b> Westport	129' (39.3m) <b>LIONSHARE</b> Heesen	155' (47.2m) <b>ONE MORE TOY</b> Christensen	130' (39.6m) <b>RESOLUTE</b> Westport	100' (30.5m) <b>VITESSE</b> Hargrave
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**L**IKE ALL GREAT EXPLORATIONS that begin with a sense of enthusiasm for the unknown, the yachtsmen and women gathering for the first Caribbean Superyacht Regatta & Rendezvous arrived in the British Virgin Islands for an adventure. Twenty-one yachts accepted the invitation for the first event of its kind, combining activities for sailing and motor yachts. Not coincidentally, it was the first event for two new facilities on Virgin Gorda and the first regatta conducted by the famed Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (YCCS) outside Europe.

It was all a bit like the refrain in Kevin Costner's film *Field of Dreams*: "If you build it, they will come." Developer David Johnson of Victor International had long planned to build a marina on North Sound to support his resort and residential properties on the island (Biras Creek Resort and Oil Nut Bay, respectively) but when Boat International Media's CEO, Tony Harris, introduced him to officers of Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, the project shifted gears and entered the major leagues of international cruising and competition.

The first order of business was the opening of the superb new marina and YCCS headquarters with a ribbon-cutting by His Highness the Aga Khan, Johnson and His Excellency Boyd McCleary, governor of the British Virgin Islands. Although the magnificent Caribbean-style clubhouse is still under construction, crews worked 'round the clock to create offices and a tented, terraced lawn for social events.

The itinerary included three races, cruises-in-company, informal yacht hops, a treasure hunt, a culinary competition, elegant lunches, dive trips, watersports, spa treatments and parties, parties, PARTIES.



Four days of competitive racing and yachting fun began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of YCCS Virgin Gorda.



Falcon's Nest (left), a private villa atop Peter Island, received the guests of the Rendezvous to view the regatta racing. Yacht owners and guests enjoy cocktails and conversation at the ribbon-cutting ceremony (above).

**REGATTA**

A FLEET OF SAILING SUPERYACHTS—five of which had never raced before—competed in three races around Virgin Gorda, taking and reaching past the B.V.I.'s numerous islands and bays. Although the wind topped out at 15 knots and on the final day dropped for a time into the single digits, the scenery and the water was spectacular and the calmer conditions encouraged the motor yachts to come out and watch. Challenging courses were perfect for honing the skills of the yacht's permanent crew and integrating the "rock stars" who have been brought aboard for this event—many in preparation for the St. Barth's Bucket the following week. There was no boring upwind downwind stuff here and long courses included short-tacking opportunities, reaches, spinnaker runs and long beats to windward. With an audience of powerboats to play to, the yachts jostled for position and clean shots at the line although the race committee insisted on staggered starts so that none of the multi-million-dollar thoroughbreds was in danger of collision. To add to the excitement, *Twizzle* once even had to tack away from a pair of breaching whales!

RACE RESULTS					
No Spinnaker Division					
PLACE	YACHTS	RACE 1 Pts	RACE 2 Pts	RACE 3 Pts	TOTAL
1	Moonbird	5	6	8	19
2	Lady B	7	8	7	22
3	Kokomo	11 DNC	10	11 DNC	32
Spinnaker Division					
PLACE	YACHT	RACE 1 Pts	RACE 2 Pts	RACE 3 Pts	TOTAL
1	Hanuman	1	1	1	3
2	Aiyana	2	2	3	7
3	Sojana	3	3	5	11
4	Astro d'lest	6	4	2	12
5	Zefiro	4	5	4	13
6	Zefira	8	7	6	21
7	Twizzle	9	9	9	27



For many of the yachts, the regatta was the first opportunity to measure their skills against competitors they will be facing for the rest of the Caribbean season and in June, when racing returns to the Med for the Loro Piana Super-yacht Regatta.



**PRIZE GIVING**

The overall sailing champion and winner of the Boat International Media Perpetual Trophy based on points—and three wins—was Jim Clark's J-Class *Hanuman*. Hefting the silver trophy custom made by the London silversmith Gerards, Clark (pictured below with his wife, Kristy Hinze) said, "First of all, I want to keep this trophy... seriously. I will pay for a replacement, but this is mine."



Two Spirit of the Regatta prizes were awarded to motor yachts. Second place went to the 130-foot Westport *Constellation*, which struggled with a trapped anchor but still delivered her guests on time to Peter Island, while first prize went to the 110-foot Burger *Chanticleer* (owner and crew pictured below) for participating in every aspect of the regatta.



**PARTICIPATING YACHTS (SAILING)**

82' (25m) <b>AIYANA</b> Alia Yachts	82' (25m) <b>ASTRO DE L'EST</b> Nautor	138' (42.1m) <b>HANUMAN</b> Royal Huisman	191' (58.2m) <b>KOKOMO</b> Alloy Yachts	145' (44.2m) <b>LADY B</b> Vitters	122' (37.2m) <b>MOONBIRD</b> Fitzroy	115' (35.1m) <b>SOJANA</b> Green Marine	189' (57.6m) <b>TWIZZLE</b> Royal Huisman	163' (49.7m) <b>ZEFIRA</b> Fitzroy	100' (30.5m) <b>ZEFIRO</b> Southern Wind
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**RENDEZVOUS**

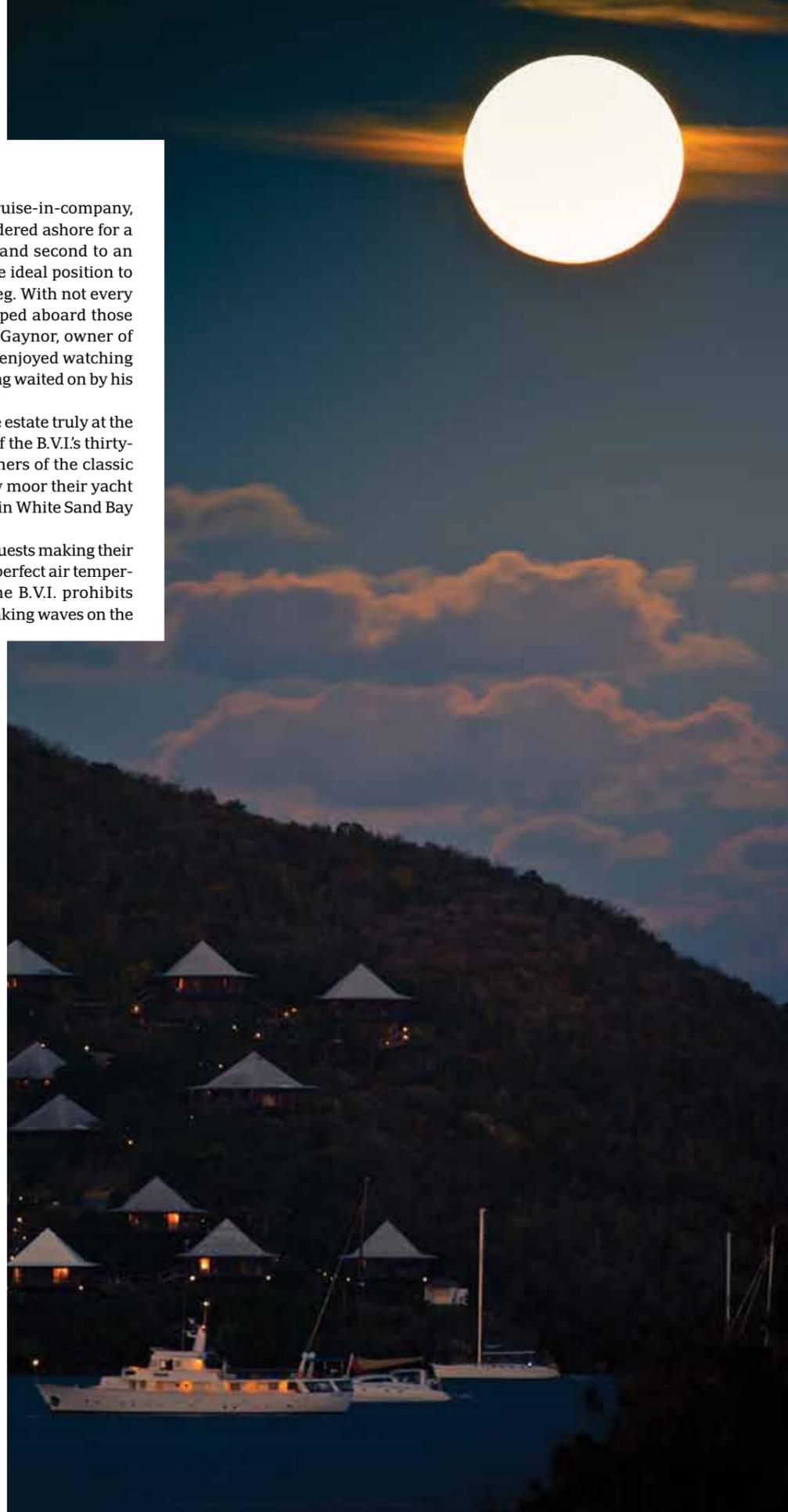
THE MOTOR YACHT SET had two opportunities to cruise-in-company, first to Peter Island where the owners and guests tendered ashore for a fantastic island lunch sponsored by B.V.I. Tourism, and second to an anchorage at West Dog Island where they were in the ideal position to watch the racing action at the end of the downwind leg. With not every boat joining in the cruises, guests and sponsors hopped aboard those going out, making new friends along the way. Mike Gaynor, owner of *Vitesse*, and a seven-time veteran of Transpac races, enjoyed watching the yachts from the comfort of his shaded aft deck, being waited on by his crew rather than crewing.

On Day 1, the view from Falcon's Nest, a multi-house estate truly at the top of Peter Island, was, "spectacular with nearly all of the B.V.I.'s thirty-five islands in sight," said Marty and Lisa Sutter, owners of the classic Burger *Chanticleer*. The Sutters said even though they moor their yacht at Virgin Gorda each winter, they had never anchored in White Sand Bay before nor been to the top of Peter Island.

The sparkling blue water of North Sound astounded guests making their first trip to the region, and the spring breeze created a perfect air temperature for lounging outside or taking a dip. Since the B.V.I. prohibits personal watercraft use, the only sounds were the breaking waves on the rocks and the calls of seabirds.



Eight of the attending motor yachts began a cruise-in-company through North Sound to Peter Island. Rendezvous participants enjoyed the spectacle of the rare "super moon"—when a full moon coincides with its closest approach to earth for stunning results.



**TREASURE HUNT**

The pirate-inspired Tender Treasure Hunt turned into a contest between three yachts. Teams from *M/Y Go*, *M/Y Chanticleer* and *M/Y Kelly Sea* raced around North Sound in a battle of brain-power, horsepower and (occasionally) foot power to see which team could unearth the clues, puzzle out the riddles and claim the ultimate prize at the afternoon's end.

The teams departed from YCCS, where they received their first clue before jumping in the tenders and attempting to outrun each other to the first stop. Along the way, they got the opportunity to check out Leverick Bay, Prickly Pear, Mosquito Island and Saba Rock, ending at Oil Nut Bay in time for lunch. Between hiking Mosquito Island, swimming ashore to Prickly Pear and circling Saba Rock (several times), the teams battled hard, sometimes using trickery to win. But *M/Y Kelly Sea*, led by owners Bob and Kelly Schmidt, outmanned and outgunned the others, claiming victory by an hour and hoisting the winner's bottle of Mount Gay rum in triumph. — LAUREN BECK

**THE MOUNT GAY COCKTAIL AND CANAPÉ COMPETITION**

The Mount Gay Cocktail and Canapé competition had crew pulling out all the stops in the galley and stirring up deliciously cool cocktail combinations. From the elaborate to the elegant, each vessel's dockside table presentation was designed to impress the judges, but the element of fun was not forgotten. In fact, it was as plain as the shots stuck to the water ski on *M/Y Kelly Sea's* table that having fun was the only option—for the souls brave enough to dare. And yes, the judges took a shot in the time-honored B.V.I. tradition. Talk about judging fortitude.

After hours of sampling and sipping, the judges were forced to decide the winner. Chef Kerie Land of *S/Y Zefira* was awarded first place for her mango-pineapple rum punch and her salmon bruschetta with wasabi. "It was very close, but it was all about the combination of the cocktail with the canapé," said Judge Stefano Cuoco of Yacht Club Costa Smeralda in Sardinia.

Chef Ashley Cole of *M/Y Gran Finale* claimed top spot for best canapé with his reinvention of a Caribbean classic—chicken, rice and peas. — LAUREN BECK



The Full Moon White Party featured fire dancers and stilt walkers to the delight of the guests; the evening ended with a fireworks display that lit up the night sky.

**PARTIES**

WITH ASSISTS FROM MOUNT GAY RUM, Caribbean Cellars and B.V.I. Tourism, there was no shortage of exceptional food and drink. Oil Nut Bay and Biras Creek flew in extra chefs and catering managers from the U.S. for the weekend, not to mention thousands of pounds of seafood. At the YCCS, a steel pan band delighted guests dockside during the opening night buffet on the terrace and during the canapés and cocktail competition on the dock.

Part of Virgin Gorda's charm is that there are few cars and fewer roads; all of the Regatta guests arrived at the various venues by ferry, tender service or their own boats. The rides to the dock at Oil Nut Bay were particularly scenic and spectacular dashing past quirky Saba Rock and The Bitter End.

The magnificent clubhouse, open dining terrace and pool deck of Oil Nut Bay played host to an elegant owners' dinner and the final event, a Full Moon "White Party," following the prize giving. The last morning, it was a Bloody Mary farewell brunch on the beach at Biras Creek. ■