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Corinthian Spirit Class Adds Exciting Racing Option for Superyachts

Marblehead MA - The SuperYacht Racing Association (SYRA) membership, in conjunction with the Offshore Racing Congress (ORC) has developed a new initiative: the Corinthian Spirit Class.

The superyacht racing circuit is thriving with new yacht owners coming on the scene every year. Yet stakeholders agree that there is a need to broaden the appeal of superyacht regattas. Recognizing this need, a new class has been developed with the primary goal of attracting more yacht owners and growing participation. The Corinthian Spirit Class offers an alternative to what is viewed by some as increasingly competitive and resource intensive racing.

The new Corinthian Spirit Class is intended to differ with an emphasis on close, fun racing, featuring reduced regatta expenses, streamlined access to a superyacht handicap, and minimal impact on the yacht captain's resources in the lead up to regattas. By addressing concerns about what is required to get yachts 'race ready', this new class will attract yacht owners who have participated in the past and those who have yet to compete.

Event organizers are enthusiastic about offering this option to their racing entrants. "We feel this initiative has great potential for the Superyacht Cup Palma going forward," said Event Manager Kate Branagh. "We know yacht owners who love the superyacht racing scene, but aren't all about the racing. Providing them with an alternative that doesn't require excessive race preparation or augmenting permanent crew, while still enabling them to participate and compete has already been very well received."

The Corinthian Spirit Class features a modified eligibility criteria, with no spinnakers and only jibs on furlers or hanks. With no spinnakers, the need to augment permanent crew is minimized. The handicapping philosophy for the new class eliminates the need to optimize one's yacht for racing.

"This new class has been a discussion item at our last two SYRA annual meetings," remarked SYRA Executive Peter Craig. "An important part of our mission is to 'enhance the enjoyment of superyacht owners' and this initiative is all about that. The expected fleet building will not only be good for yacht owners, but the industry as well".

An important initiative goal is to keep the racing fun and close without owners having to optimize yachts. The handicapping process is simplified, with a shorter application and reduced fee from the ORC. They will issue special Corinthian Spirit handicap certificates (ORCCs) – a one-number handicap that incorporates a subjective pre-regatta assessment on the preparation / optimization of the yacht to race.

The SYRA is available to assist the captain as needed. Safe racing has been and will continue to be a top priority of event organizers and the SYRA. There will be no compromise to safe racing with the Corinthian Spirit class. The standard Racing Rules Appendix SY will be invoked and as with all superyacht racing, an 'RRS-Safety Afterguard Member' will be required.

At press time, the 2017 Loro Piana Caribbean Superyacht Regatta, St Barths Bucket, Superyacht Cup Palma and Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta are offering this new class.

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For more information, the regattas that will offer the Corinthian Spirit Class, and the new class requirements, please see these websites::

SuperYRA.org

BucketRegatta.com

Loro-Piana-Caribbean-SY-Regatta-Rendezvous

theSuperYachtcup.com

Loro-Piana-Superyacht-Regatta