

# YACHTING – WITH ITALIAN STYLE



Regatta at New York Yacht Club



Comitti Venezia 28



Aicon 56

What is it about Italian style that is unmatched in fashion, food, wine....and yachting? Certainly equal parts elegance, skill, artistry, and the attention to detail that are all elements of Italian-made products from yachts to food and fine wine. All of which was on display on a September weekend in the historic sailing capital of Newport, Rhode Island.

The overcast and rainy weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of the "Italian Yachting Experience", co-hosted by the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, the Italian Trade Commission (ITC) and the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (YCCS). The Italian institutions were represented by Mr. Pietro Celi, Director of the International Trade Department of the Italian Ministry of Economic Development and by the President of ITC, Ambassador Umberto Vattani. The weekend highlighted the Italian boating and yachting industry and showcased the design, style, craftsmanship and advanced technologies for which its industry is recognized around the world.

"The Italian Yachting Experience in Newport" is part of a vaster initiative, the "Made in Italy" promotional campaign which is one of the main focuses of ITC and the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, that together support the diffusion of Italian products around the world. This year and next are particularly exciting for the Italian yacht industry because these two institutions have dedicated additional efforts to internationally promote Italian yacht building prestige and tradition; specifically with a series of important events during the 2008 edition of the world renowned Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show.

A regatta was held in the New York Yacht Club's fleet of Sonars with 12 teams, from six clubs participating, including NYYC and YCCS – the luxury destination in Porto Cervo, Sardinia, founded by H.H. The Aga Khan – and the Ida Lewis YC, Newport YC, Sail Newport, and Conanicut YC.

Racing was run by the NYYC Race Committee which showed patience in waiting for a suitable 10+ knot easterly breeze to fill in and managed to get in two races before the breeze dropped away to nil. Despite the challenging conditions with steady rain and shifting breeze, the teams enjoyed close, competitive fleet racing with the Sail Newport team, skippers Brad Read and Jamie Hilton, coming out on top by one point. In individual scoring, it was Newport Yacht Club's Charlie Shoemaker who finished in first place.

Also out on the water, following the racing action, were two striking examples of workmanship and design from Italian shipyards: the go-fast Comitti Yacht's Venezia 28 runabout, a composite/mahogany stunner, capable of top speeds of 45+ knots. The boat is constructed with a fiberglass hull and mahogany deck combination, but the company also offers models that are all-wood, cold-molded with clear topsides that showcase the mahogany veneers that run full-length from stem to stern. The boats, imported from Lake Como by Turner Marine Group in Burlington, VT are turning heads across the US, where they can be found on Lake Tahoe, Lake Geneva, in Florida and southern California plus the Muskoka Lakes region of Ontario. Comitti builds a complete line of luxury

runabouts from 21 – 34 feet plus the Venezia 28 water limousine.

If it is total comfort you're after, the Aicon Yachts' Flybridge 56 is a sporty yet luxurious motoryacht. The layout provides plenty of open deck space along with comfortable interior living areas and accommodations for six plus an additional crew quarter. The styling is contemporary, with all the well-thought out detailing that you'd expect from a top-flight yacht company. Its RINA "A" rated hull provides an exceptional ride and comfort in heavy seas. Shortly after its debut, the Aicon 56 Fly won the World Yachts Trophy at the Festival de la Plaisance in Cannes for best flying bridge yacht between 40 - 60 feet. Built in Messina, Sicily the yacht is equipped with twin Caterpillar 811hp diesel engines for a cruising/max speed of 25/30km, and a bow thruster for ease of maneuvering. Aicon offers a complete line of luxury performance yachts from 56 – 85 feet in both the flybridge and open style. Aicon is represented by Tom Sulentic and Newport Yacht Sales in the northeast.

Ashore that evening, a gala awards and cocktail party was held at New York Yacht Club's Harbour Court. Dinner followed with the 200 guests savoring a multi-course meal, paired with fine Italian wines, created by renowned Italian chef Odette Fada, from the venerable San Domenico in New York.

Ambassador Vattani offered the three key ingredients that distinguish Italian products "sun, soil, and soul"...which the convivial evening confirmed.



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