

AN EXCITING CHALLENGE by Asia Bernardini

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Venice Hospitality Challenge, the exclusive regatta of the maxi yachts in the Giudecca Canal, will come back on 15 October this year.

For the third consecutive year, this event involves eight teams in combination with the most prestigious and spectacular five stars hotels of the lagoon: Danieli, Westin Europa Regina, Gritti Palace, Centurion Palace, Belmond Cipriani,

JW Marriott delle Rose, Ca' Sagredo and Hilton Molino Stucky. Still, there are two other hotels who want to become part of the venetian Olympus. The coveted award – the Cappello del Doge (the Doge's Hat), realized by the unmistakable artistic touch of the glassmaking Seguso Vetri d'Arte – has been awaiting the new winner since last year. "In the sailing world, the Venice Hospitality

Challenge – sponsored by the Municipality of Venice – represents the Grand Prix of the city of Venice, because of its peculiar characteristic, that is to be played in a city circuit, like the Grand Prix of Monaco for Formula One", says Mirko Sguario, creator of the event and President of the Yacht Club Venezia.

The winner of the last edition, Maxi Jena, captained by Furio Benussi in combination with Hotel Ca' Sagredo, is ready to win again. For the upcoming edition, the technical briefing will be organized in the offices of the Scuola Navale Militare "Francesco Morosini" (Nautical Military School "Francesco Morosini") at Marina Sant'Elena, in the presence of legendary skippers such as Mauro Pelaschier and Furio Benussi, joined to the splendid hotels by the selection by lot. As Baricco says: "The sea. The sea enchants, the sea kills, it moves, it frightens, it also makes you laugh sometimes, it disappears every now and then, it disguises itself as a lake, or it constructs tempests, devours ships, gives away riches, it gives no answers, it is wise, it is gentle, it is powerful, it is unpredictable. But, above all, the sea calls". The extraordinary answer comes from the next Venice Hospitality Challenge, to culminate in the gala dinner of the awards at Granai, by the prestigious Cipriani.

venicehospitalitychallenge.it