



## **International Maxi Association introduces Maxi European Championship for 2022**

**Press release issued by the International Maxi Association on 2 December 2021**

The International Maxi Association is to introduce a new European Championship for maxi yachts in 2022. Taking place over 14-20th May out of Sorrento, Italy with racing based around the Gulf of Naples and Capri, the IMA Maxi European Championship will provide a complete test for competitors, with a mix of inshore and coastal courses and an overnight race.

Supported by Rolex, this first ever IMA Maxi European Championship is organised by the Circolo Remo e Vela Italia and the International Maxi Association under the patronage of the FIV and in cooperation with Yacht Club Italiano and the Reale Yacht Club Canottieri Savoia. The International Maxi Association is officially tasked by the sport's governing body, World Sailing, to oversee and develop maxi yacht racing internationally.

The championship will begin with the second oldest event in the Italian yachting calendar after the Rolex Giraglia – the Regata dei Tre Golfi offshore race, the 67th edition of which will set sail on Saturday 14th May. This will start from a line off Naples' magnificent Castel dell'Ovo, next to the Circolo del Remo e della Vela Italia (CRVI) clubhouse in the Santa Lucia Marina. While the race previously was famous for its midnight start following a party for competitors at the CRVI, in these post-pandemic times, the race will instead depart at 1900 with a separate start for the maxi fleet.

The 150 mile course for the Regata dei Tre Golfi takes the boats northwest from Naples, around the island of Ponza before returning southeast. Competitors then have the choice of leaving Capri to port or starboard before rounding the Li Galli islands off the Amalfi coast, and then returning clockwise around the south side of Capri to the finish off the island's Marina Grande.



*Cippa Lippa approaches the Faraglioni islands. Photo: Studio Borlenghi*

Following this, over 17-20 May, the Championship will continue with up to six windward-leeward and coastal races – eligible to the Maxi Yacht Sorrento Trophy - taking place on the north side of the Sorrentine peninsula and close to Capri. Set by the event's own PRO Alfredo Ricci, courses will be on or around the Gulf of Naples with the magnificent backdrops of Capri, the Sorrentine peninsula and Mount Vesuvius. The schedule may include a race around Capri, passing the island's famous landmarks such as the Faraglioni Islands and its Blue Grotto.

Open to all maxi yachts (ie with LH of >18.29m) having an IRC endorsed certificate, the IMA Maxi European Championship will form part of Tre Golfi Sailing Week ([www.tregolfisailingweek.com](http://www.tregolfisailingweek.com)).

The winner of the IMA Maxi European Championship does not have to have a European owner nor be a European flagged yacht. Results will carry a 1.25x weighting for the Regata dei Tre Golfi with the inshore races having a 1.0 coefficient, with one discard if four or more races are completed. While all the maxi yachts will start together, the fleet will be grouped into classes, but the event will still culminate in one IMA European Maxi Champion being crowned.

The IMA Maxi European Champion will receive the ROLEX Trophy, while there will be other trophies for the first European yacht; the highest placed IMA members; the line honours winners and winners of the Regata dei Tre Golfi and the Maxi Yacht Sorrento Trophy and the podium placers in each class.

Due to berthing restrictions in Sorrento, entries will be limited to 25 and will be on a 'first come, first served' basis with priority given to IMA members, who also get to enjoy a 25% reduction in their entry fee.

Andrew McIrvine, Secretary General of the International Maxi Association commented: "We are greatly looking forward to holding this first ever IMA Maxi European Championship. We expect this first edition especially to be very popular and as spaces are likely to fill up rapidly I would advise owners/teams to register as soon as possible."

Regata dei Tre Golfi will also be the third event of six in the International Maxi Association's 2021-22 Mediterranean Maxi Offshore Challenge (MMOC) which began with last October's Rolex Middle Sea Race and continues in 2022 with La Larga, the new offshore race of the Real Club Nautico de Palma's PalmaVela on 30th April.

The Maxi Yacht Sorrento Trophy will be second event in the International Maxi Association's 2022 Mediterranean Maxi Inshore Challenge (MMIC). This begins next year with PalmaVela over 4-8 May and concludes in October with Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez.

**See the Notice of Race for the IMA Maxi European Championship [here](#)**

**More on Tre Golfi Sailing Week [here](#)**

by James Boyd / International Maxi Association

**For more information on the International Maxi Association visit [www.internationalmaxiassociation.com](http://www.internationalmaxiassociation.com)**

*To download photos in high resolution, click on them.*



Scenic circumnavigation of Capri. Photo: Studio Borlenghi



The IMA Maxi European Championship will be based out of Sorrento in 2022. Photo: Studio Borlenghi.



Competition at the IMA Maxi European Championship will take place on the Gulf of Naples. Photo: Studio Borlenghi.



Racing at the IMA Maxi European Championship will include an overnight race plus coastal and windward-leeward courses. Photo: Studio Borlenghi



Regata dei Tre Golfi 2021 sets sail from off Naples' Castel dell'Ovo. Photo: Studio Borlenghi



Racing at the IMA Maxi European Championship will enjoy the most dramatic of backdrops. Photo: Studio Borlenghi

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#### Editor's notes:

#### About the International Maxi Association

The International Maxi Association (IMA) represents the owners of Maxi yachts from all over the world. It was established as the International Class A Yacht Association in 1979 by founder members François Carn, Raul Gardini, John B. Kilroy, Baron Edmond de Rothschild and William Whitehouse-Vaux. In 2010 the IMA was recognised as the World Sailing international class of Maxi yachts, entitling it to organise officially-sanctioned world and continental championships for Maxi yachts. The IMA now has 60 members all over the world. The current President of the IMA is Benoît de Froidmont, owner of the Wally 60 Wallyño. Secretary General is Andrew McIrvine, former Admiral and Commodore of the Royal Ocean Racing Club.

The IMA is registered in Geneva, has a base in Porto Cervo and an office in the UK, for rating and technical matters. It has two affiliated classes (Maxi 72s and the J Class) and one associated class (Wally Class) and links to others such as the International Schooner Association. Its remit is to "guide and structure maxi yacht racing. The IMA rule defines and categorises maxi yachts: it aims to embrace all maxi yachts and as such follows, instigates and encourages developments that are deemed to have a positive effect on the construction and racing of maxi-sized boats."

It is supported by Rolex and Credit Suisse.

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