

G Spot the star of Swan Croatia Challenge

- **Fair and friendly ClubSwan 36 fleet launches ClubSwan Racing season**
- **Historic venue of Split delivers a welcome challenge for crews**
- **Monaco's G Spot puts down a Nations League marker**

The Swan Croatia Challenge launched the ClubSwan Racing season in sensational style this week with a range of wind and weather conditions delivering exceptional racing for the 10-strong fleet of one design ClubSwan 36s.

Based at the ACI marina in the historic and atmospheric Croatian port of Split, the race teams were first greeted with a classic 'Bora' wind - a strong North-Easterly breeze - on the Adriatic Sea, which soon dropped to provide ideal race conditions, which returned again on the second day.

By contrast, the penultimate day of the first regatta of The Nations League 2023 produced a slight breeze requiring the crews to showcase their light wind racing skills and tactical know-how. A lack of wind on the final day on Saturday curtailed further racing.

However, Giangiacomo Serena di Lapigio's *G Spot* had already demonstrated she is one of the boats to beat this season, with the Monaco-flagged ClubSwan 36 taking victory in all five races held.

That said, Edoardo Ferragamo's *Cuordileone (ITA)*, Edoardo and Vanni Pavesio's *Fra Martina (ITA)*, Nikolai P. Burkart's *Goddess (GER)*, Lorenzo Mondo's *Farstar (ITA)*, Haakon Lorentzen's *Mamao (BRA)* and Richard Thompson's *Black Seal (GGY)* had all claimed at least one podium finish during the regatta, leaving two of the top-three spots up for grabs all the way to the final race.

At the end *Cuordileone* was able to hold off *Fra Martina*, who had overtaken *Farstar* in pursuit of a top-three finish, but the plaudits deservedly went to *G Spot*, the star of the Swan Croatia Challenge.

"This is the first time in my life that we have been able to achieve five bullets out of five races, so we are very happy," said a delighted Giangiacomo. "The crew is fantastic, and we have done well because we have been sailing together for a long time. It is a good feeling."

Like most teams in the ClubSwan Racing family, *G Spot's* crew is a mix of committed Corinthian sailors and pro-racers, including Olympic sailors, the Slovenian Karlo Hmeljak and the Italian Michele Paoletti.

And another pro, Croatian Olympic skier turned offshore sailor Ivica Kostelic, an ACI ambassador, raced with the *Go Racing - University of Split* team on the Wednesday.

As the first event in The Nations League 2023, the Swan Croatia Challenge has seen Italy take the top spot in the inter-nation contest courtesy of *Cuordileone's* and *Fra Martina's* combined score in second and third places. The





League will be contested by all four ClubSwan Racing One Design classes across six more regattas throughout the season.

Aside from the excitement on the water, the owners, crews, and families and friends were treated to daily prize-givings, dinners and regatta village parties courtesy of ACI Sail and JK Labud, the local yacht club who also provided expert assistance on the water. Day 3 prize-giving was powered by ClubSwan Racing Technical Partner Garmin Marine and during the final prize-giving La Thuile - a Swan One Design Nations League 2023 Lifestyle Partner - offered the prize of a Ski Pass at their resort on the slopes of Mont Blanc for one lucky sailor.

And in a new move for 2023, Sailmon are providing The Nations League with their state-of-the-art tracking and replay system, which was greatly appreciated by the attending teams.

"Congratulations to the winner, Giangiacoimo Serena di Lapigio and the whole G Spot team for their superb results. Our season's kick-off could not be better, within the extraordinary setting of ACI Marina Split and its surroundings," said Federico Michetti, Head of Sports Activities at ClubSwan Racing.

"It was a gorgeous week both at sea and ashore, with tricky and challenging conditions for the teams. Great smiles on the dock are the perfect way to dive into another fantastic season."

It was a view fully endorsed by ACI d.d.'s CEO Kristijan Pavić: *"Last year, the ClubSwan 36 Europeans here in Split marked the perfect ending to the racing season, and this year's Swan Croatia Challenge was a superb start for The Nations League 2023. ACI with ACI Sail is honoured to be hosting another great Clubswan36 event."*

"I hope everyone enjoyed not only the racing but also the social events that Croatia and Split can offer. I'm glad that Split has been recognised as a great sailing venue by Nautor Swan and ClubSwan Racing."

The ClubSwan 36 racers will gather again next month for the Swan Sardinia Challenge – May 16-20 – when they will be joined by two more of the Swan One Design family, the ClubSwan 50 and ClubSwan 42 classes.

How to follow the racing

- Click [here](#) for Race tracker
- Click [here](#) for Race results

The Nations League 2023:

- April 25-29: SWAN CROATIA CHALLENGE Split (CRO) | (CS36)
- May 16-20: SWAN SARDINIA CHALLENGE Sardinia (ITA) | (CS50, CS36, CS42)
- June 20-24: THE NATIONS TROPHY Sardinia (ITA) | (CS50, CS36, CS42)
- July 31 - August 5: COPA DEL REY Mallorca (ESP) | (CS50, CS42)
- September 12-16: CLUBSWAN 50 CHALLENGE Mallorca (ESP) | (CS50)
- September 12-16: CLUBSWAN 36 CHALLENGE Sardinia (ITA) | (CS36)



SPECIAL THANKS TO



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- October 10-14: SWAN ONE DESIGN WORLDS Tuscany (ITA) | (CS50, CS36, CS42, S45)

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Note to Editors

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Nautor Swan and its racing world

Founded in 1966, Nautor Swan is recognised all over the world for its performance sailing yachts, and embodies the values of elegance, quality, performance, innovation, and reliability. With a state-of-the-art facility in Pietarsaari, Finland, a Global Service with four hubs in the Med and 18 service points, plus the ClubSwan Racing, Brokerage and Charter divisions, Nautor is a 360° brand. More than 2,350 yachts have been built over the last five decades of between 36 and 131 feet. The range is divided into four different lines: ClubSwan Yachts, Swan Yachts, Swan Maxi Yachts and the motor yacht division, with the Swan Shadow and Swan Overshadow.

ClubSwan Racing manages the entire Nautor Swan racing world and represents a benchmark in high-performance yacht racing organisation and events. With top-level, friendly and fair competition, ClubSwan Racing aims to represent the best expression of the spirit of Swan. It provides both One Design regattas with The Nations Trophy and the Swan One Design Worlds, as well as Rating events, such as the Rolex Swan Cup, the jewel in the crown.

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