



New York Yacht Club Race Week at Newport Presented by Rolex

The Event

New York Yacht Club Race Week at Newport presented by Rolex, now in its 6th biennial year, has become a favorite of sailors for its split format. This year the Classics Regatta – held over the weekend of July 19-20 during the club's 100th birthday celebration of America's legendary yacht designer Olin J. Stephens – will host some of the sport's most awe-inspiring yachts, including historic 12-Metres and Sparkman & Stephens designs. For Race Week at Newport's second session – from Thursday, July 24 through Sunday, July 27 – up to 200 modern racing machines will converge on Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island Sound for IRC, PHRF and one-design competitions.

The week-long event was created in 1998 by merging two popular regattas hosted by New York Yacht Club and Rolex, the IMS National Championships and the One-Design Championship Regatta. The regatta was designed with a split racing format, to give sailors the opportunity to compete in handicap (then PHRF) fleet racing for the first half of the event and one-design class racing during the second half.

A feature of the regatta is the traditional distance race around Conanicut Island, which adds to the unique challenges and epic beauty of a racing arena that from 1930 to 1983 hosted the America's Cup and continues to make Newport one of the country's most popular sailing destinations.

Over the years, as racing rules developed, Race Week expanded from PHRF racing to include a division for racing under IMS. In 2000, the regatta doubled as the 2000 Rolex IMS World Championship, attracting 175 competing yachts. It has embraced each measurement rule as they develop and with the emergence of IRC handicap racing in the U.S. – an effort led by NYYC, the Storm Trysail Club and the St. Francis Yacht Club – Race Week 2006 included divisions for IRC alongside PHRF.

With the increase in the popularity of one design racing, many one design classes utilize Race Week as the venue for major titles, such as national and North American championships.

Highlighting the Corinthian tradition of the NYYC, a Classics weekend was added and now stands as the most important vintage sailboat regatta held in the U.S. In 2004, Sparkman & Stephens, the prestigious design firm, coordinated an elaborate 75th Anniversary Celebration with Race Week, and the legendary S&S designed 12 Meters *Columbia*, *Courageous*, *Intrepid* and *Freedom* sailed in the event's first half. *Bolero*, a 73' yawl designed in 1949 by Olin Stephens as "the largest modern ocean racer of its time" also competed and was awarded, by Olin Stephens himself, with a special trophy for being the top boat S&S-designed boat.

At the conclusion of Race Week, Rolex timepieces are awarded for best overall performances in Classics, IRC, PHRF and One-Design divisions.

Since 1994 Rolex Watch U.S.A., Inc. has been the exclusive presenting sponsor of New York Yacht Club events, a relationship that has created unique events and hosted the world's top sailors. In commemoration of the partnership between the NYYC and Rolex, a 10' 6" Rolex pedestal clock was installed on the club grounds at Harbour Court in 1999.



2008 Schedule

Thursday, July 17

1500-1800 12 Metre check-in

Friday, July 18

1100 **12 Metre racing**
1400-1800 Classic, S&S designs, Shields and "S" Class check-in
1800-2000 Classics Regatta Captains' Meeting and Reception, MoY

Saturday, July 19

1100 **Classics Regatta racing**
1800-2200 Daily awards and Olin Stephens 100th Birthday Dinner Party

Sunday, July 20

1100 **Classics Regatta racing**
1600-1800 Cocktails and Rolex Awards

Wednesday, July 23

1400-1800 Handicap and One-Design Series check-in (weigh-in as required)
1800-2000 Captains' Meeting and Opening Reception

Thursday, July 24

1100 **Handicap and One-Design Series racing**
1400-1800 Melges 32 and J/105 check-in (weigh-in as required)
1800-2000 Daily Awards and evening party

Friday, July 25

1100 **Handicap and One-Design Series racing**
1800-2000 Daily Awards and evening party

Saturday, July 26

1100 **Handicap and One-Design Series racing**
1800-2200 Daily Awards and Regatta Dinner Party

Sunday, July 27

1100 **Handicap and One-Design Series racing**
1700-1900 Final Rolex Awards and reception



About the Organizers

The New York Yacht Club Race Week at Newport is organized by the **New York Yacht Club** and is sponsored by Rolex.

In 2004 the New York Yacht Club (NYYC) celebrated its 160th Anniversary and 150th Annual Regatta. The club, now 164 years old, was the keeper of the America's Cup from 1851 to 1983. In 2005, the NYYC hosted the Rolex Transatlantic Challenge in cooperation with the Royal Yacht Squadron.

The NYYC organized the first transatlantic race in 1866 and started the fastest race in 1905, won by *Atlantic*, a NYYC vessel skippered by the famous Charlie Barr. This record was broken 100 years later in 2005 by *Mari-Cha IV* in the aforementioned Rolex Transatlantic Challenge – the 11th transatlantic race organized by the NYYC.

In 1898, the NYYC was billeted on the second floor of a house on Madison Avenue. Commodore J. Pierpont Morgan stunned fellow members by announcing he would donate three lots on West 44th Street to build a new clubhouse. The building, designed in the beaux-arts style by Whitney Warren, opened in 1901. It is known for its Model Room and Library. The clubhouse is 107 years old.

In 1987, the NYYC acquired Harbour Court in Newport, the former summer home of NYYC Commodore John Nicholas Brown. When it opened in 1988, 1,500 members and guests attended. Harbour Court created a new energy and focus at the NYYC. In 1994, it hosted its Sesquicentennial Celebration, for members and friends. In 1998, the NYYC hosted the first Race Week at Newport presented by Rolex, the Disabled World Sailing Championship and the ILC Maxi World Championship. In 2000, as part of Race Week, the NYYC hosted the Rolex IMS Offshore World Championship. In 2003, the club hosted the Laser Masters North Americans and the Swan North Americans.

Harbour Court has twice hosted the Optimist Dinghy Association U.S. Championship and the IYRU O'Neill World Youth Sailing Championship. In 2000, Harbour Court hosted the U.S. Junior Championships for Sears, Bemis and Smythe Trophies. In 2002, the NYYC hosted the Intercollegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) Sloop National Championship with Brown University and in 2008, the ICSA National Championships with Brown University and Salve Regina University.

In 2005, the NYYC also hosted the Rolex Swan American Regatta, the 12-Metre Worlds and the ISAF Team Racing Worlds. In 2006, the NYYC hosted the IFDS Blind Sailing World Championship and the Rolex Farr 40 World Championship.

The club has been active in Team Racing since 1984. It purchased 13 one-design Sonars that are dedicated to these activities. NYYC Silver Panda is the current ISAF Team Racing World Champion and the recent winner of the 59th Wilson Trophy.



Rolex and sports: a pioneering spirit in the name of excellence

Precise, waterproof and robust – at its launching in 1926 the Oyster was already synonymous with modernity. Adapted to the lifestyle of a rapidly evolving society in which leisure played an increasingly more prominent role, this wristwatch was destined to, over time, replace the traditional pocket watch.

The sports world offered an extraordinary field of validation and expansion for this timepiece of unprecedented quality. Hans Wilsdorf, founder of Rolex, had a first stroke of genius in 1927 when he equipped Mercedes Gleitze, a young English woman, with a Rolex Oyster when she swam across the English Channel. He reserved the front page of the Daily Mail to announce the event to the public at large. Although the watch was immersed for a number of hours in frigid seawater, it continued to keep accurate time, proof of its undeniable waterproofness and robustness. The young entrepreneur had just created the “Testimonee” campaign.

From then on, the advances of the Oyster would be inextricably linked to sports achievers excelling in developing disciplines: Malcolm Campbell in automobile racing, and Stewart Blacker and Chuck Yeager in aviation, to name a few. These highly visible personalities all represented victory, prowess and adventure, underscoring the technical qualities of the Oyster.

Over the years, new fields of endeavour would be added to these early sports disciplines. Today, Rolex is involved in five major sports: golf, sailing, tennis, equestrian, and motor racing. All of these disciplines call for endurance and surpassing oneself to achieve success.

Rolex and sailing

Rolex has always enjoyed a privileged relationship with the sea, the world of sailing and the call of the deep. Among the sports that Rolex has been sponsoring for many years, yachting undoubtedly holds a special place. The spirit and philosophy of the sport are in perfect harmony with values that Rolex holds dear: excellence, precision and team spirit.

The partnership between Rolex and yachting dates back to the late 1950s. The close ties that bind the company to the world of sailing have continuously grown stronger ever since. Today, Rolex is the Title Sponsor of over 20 major international events in three distinct categories:

- classic ocean races, such as the **Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race** and the **Rolex Fastnet Race**;
- high-prestige regattas, such as the **Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup**, the **Rolex Swan Cup** and the **Giraglia Rolex Cup**;
- the most coveted world championships, such as the **Rolex Farr 40 World Championship**.

Through its support of the **International Sailing Federation** (ISAF), the world reference in sailing, Rolex participates in the development of this spectacular and exciting sport. Since 2001, Rolex has been sponsoring the ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Awards, honorary prizes that celebrate the top men and women sailors that have particularly distinguished themselves in the course of the past year. The winners are selected by their peers. Rolex Watch U.S.A. also sponsors the Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year Awards in America.



Rolex and sailing *(continued)*

Over the years, Rolex has also cultivated close associations with the best-known yacht clubs and the organisers of major events in the world of sailing, including among them:

- **New York Yacht Club** (USA)
- **Yacht Club Costa Smeralda** (Porto Cervo, Italy)
- **Royal Yacht Squadron** (Cowes, England)
- **Yacht Club Italiano** (Genoa, Italy)
- **Yacht Club Ilhabela** (Brazil)

Among its Testimonees, Rolex counts a number of exemplary sailors:

- the Dane **Paul Elvström**, a legendary regatta winner with four Olympic gold medals and 19 medals in World Championships, is today considered an icon;
- the American **Paul Cayard** is a complete sailor counting among his achievements seven World Championships wins, 1st place in the 1997/98 Whitbread Round the World Race, competing in five America's Cups, and two times in the Olympic Games;
- the young Greek sailor, **Sofia Bekatorou**, a 470 gold medallist in the Olympic Games in Athens, has twice received the ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Award in the women's category;
- the American **Gary Jobson**, Ted Turner's tactician when the 12-metre Courageous won the America's Cup in 1977, is now a sports journalist. He was inducted into the America's Cup Hall of Fame in 2003.

In 1992, a new watch intended for professional navigators was created in the Oyster Perpetual collection. Named Yacht-Master, this officially certified Swiss chronometer is immediately recognisable by its bi-directional graduated rotatable bezel with raised markers.

Drawing on ancestral know-how, Rolex continually expands the limits of technology and in 2007 it launched the Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master II. Featuring a countdown with a programmable memory – an unprecedented watchmaking complication – this innovation constitutes an indispensable tool for experienced skippers and yachting aficionados alike.



Presentation of Rolex

Rolex is recognised the world over as a leader in the Swiss watchmaking industry and enjoys an unparalleled reputation for quality and know-how.

The birth of Rolex

The origins of Rolex date back to the beginning of the 20th century. At a time when pocket watches were still the order of the day, Hans Wilsdorf, a young Bavarian just 24 years old, wagered on the future of the wristwatch. The pioneering spirit of the founder is the subject of some of the finest chapters in the history of contemporary watchmaking and was the source of two major innovations. In 1926, Rolex invented the Oyster, the first truly waterproof and dustproof watch, and, in 1931, the Perpetual Rotor, the first self-winding mechanism. Over the years, Rolex created a full line of Oyster watches, with a strong identity and intrinsic features. Recognisable at a glance, this collection of timepieces includes over 170 models available in 3,200 possible combinations. The Cellini collection later enhanced the choice offered to consumers loyal to the legendary Rolex quality. The reliability and performance of the product have built the worldwide reputation of Rolex.

An international company

Today led by Patrick Heiniger, Rolex is present in some one hundred countries. The company ensures the distribution of its watches and the quality of their maintenance through a network of 28 affiliates and several thousand official Rolex jewellers.

A Rolex watch is made to last. Assembled by hand, it benefits from the company's know-how and decades of cumulative expertise. An after-sales service, unique in its genre, ensures the proper functioning of the watches over time. It is based on the competence of nearly 4,000 watchmakers, trained by Rolex, who work for the affiliates or for jewellers of the Group worldwide.

A universal and timeless brand, Rolex continues to conquer new markets and expand its presence worldwide.

State-of-the-art technology

Responding to a growing demand while integrating the latest technologies requires a constant evolution of the means of production. As of the late 1990s, Rolex opted for a vertical integration of its production facilities which ensured its control over the manufacture of all the watch components and guaranteed its autonomy. In the interest of coherence and efficiency, the company consolidated all its activities in Switzerland at four functional sites.



Presentation of Rolex *(continued)*

In Geneva

The Acacias headquarters is home to all the administrative activities of the company as well as to those related to the final assembly of the watches, sales and after-sales service.

The Chêne-Bourg site brings together all the activities related to the development and manufacture of the dial and gem-set elements.

The Plan-les-Ouates site groups all the activities related to the development, manufacture and quality control of the case and bracelet.

In Bienne

The Bienne site is the location of all the activities related to the manufacture and assembly of the Rolex watch movements.

An image of excellence

In 1927, a Rolex Oyster crossed the English Channel, strapped to the wrist of Mercedes Gleitze, a young English swimmer, and reached the French coast in perfect working order. The company then took out an advertisement in the Daily Mail proclaiming the success of the waterproof watch and the beginning of "the triumphant march of the Rolex Oyster around the world". This event also marked the start of a long association between Rolex and exceptional personalities who bear witness to the excellence of the product and are Testimonees of the brand. These associations give rise to numerous partnerships and sponsoring activities in fields as varied as art and culture, tennis, golf, yachting, equestrian and automobile sports.

Perpetuating the spirit of enterprise

Patrick Heiniger, the third Chief Executive Officer since the company was founded, is today at the head of a Group having some 7,000 employees around the world. Committed to the principles that are the foundation of the brand, he is also able to break with tradition to respond to changes in an ever evolving world, thus reinforcing Rolex's position as a leader in the watchmaking industry, be it by conquering new markets or by increasing the visibility of the brand.

Official website: www.rolex.com



Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master II

The **Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master II** regatta chronograph spells uncompromising adventure. Inspired by the winds of change, this model sets new sights in the art of watchmaking.

Intended for experienced skippers as well as yachting enthusiasts, this regatta chronograph is born of the longstanding relationship that Rolex enjoys with the sea, sailing and the mysteries of the deep. It perpetuates the supremacy of the Oyster, designed to resist water and conquer the elements.

The latest addition to the family of professional watches, featuring an unprecedented horological complication, the **Yacht-Master II** and its programmable countdown memory signal a new generation that draws on a wellspring of know-how and innovation.

Today, total autonomy in research and production grants Rolex the freedom to create, design and manufacture resolutely innovative watches while rigorously adhering to the demands of quality.

Rolex relies on the competence and ingenuity of its watchmakers and the resourcefulness of the men and women – designers, engineers and other specialists – in its laboratories and workshops.

The **Yacht-Master II** is much more than the culmination of Rolex technology or that indispensable instrument at the starting line of a regatta. It is a moment of pure pleasure to be savoured both on land and at sea.



2008 Rolex Yachting Events Calendar

Circuito Atlántico Sur Rolex Cup

January 14 – 20, 2008

Buenos Aires, ARG - Punta del Este, URG

The Circuito Atlántico Sur Rolex Cup organized by the Yacht Club Argentino, offers a competitive challenge of both offshore and inshore handicap racing. The regatta will include an offshore race, for boats 26 feet and longer, from Olivos/Buenos Aires to Punta del Este, Uruguay; following this race, in Punta del Este will be two days of inshore windward/leeward racing, the Circuito la Barra day race, and a race around Isla Gorriti on the final day. For 2008, the event will host the first leg of the IMS and ORC South American Championship.

Rolex Miami OCR

January 27 – February 2, 2008

Miami, FL, United States

Established in 1990, the annual Rolex Miami OCR (Olympic Classes Regatta) organized by the Olympic Sailing Committee of US SAILING, is sailed on Biscayne Bay and features elite-level competition in the classes selected for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. As the only International Sailing Federation (ISAF) grade-one ranking event in the U.S. for Olympic and Paralympic classes, the Rolex Miami OCR has a track record for high attendance by foreign teams.

Offshore Race Rolex Buenos Aires – Rio de Janeiro

February 9 – 21, 2008

Buenos Aires, ARG – Rio de Janeiro, BRA

The Offshore Race Rolex Buenos Aires - Rio de Janeiro began in 1947, and held every three years, has endured as a classic ever since. The 1,123-mile race is organized by the Yacht Club Argentino and the Yacht Club do Rio de Janeiro, and has attracted many well-known international ocean racers and their yachts over the years. The 22nd edition will mark the second year that Rolex has added their support to this race on the world ocean racing circuit. The current race record belongs to the Brazilian Navy Academy's Cisne Branco that covered the distance in 4 days, 18 hours, 52 minutes and 57 seconds.

Rolex China Sea Race

March 20 – March 24, 2008

Hong Kong/Subic Bay, PHI

Since its inauguration during Easter 1962, the China Sea Race has been held every two years. In 1968, it was included for the first time in the newly-organised World Ocean Racing Championships and, in 1972, it was officially recognised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club and is a RORC Offshore Category 1 race. For 2008 – the 24th edition – Rolex will be title sponsor of this 565-nautical mile race that starts from Hong Kong harbour and finishes in Subic Bay, Phillipines – a true Asian blue-water classic.



International Rolex Regatta

March 28 – 30, 2008

St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

Highlighting the Caribbean racing calendar with its unique blend of island-style hospitality, competition and camaraderie, the St. Thomas Yacht Club's International Rolex Regatta will celebrate its 35th year in 2008, and Rolex has been a partner since the very beginning. The event features IRC and CSA handicap racing as well as one-design and beach cat racing in a beautiful setting, with professional race management and dependable Caribbean tradewinds. On the social agenda are festive shore-side events and the Rolex prize giving partnered with a beachside farewell party at the yacht club. With over three decades of history, the tradition of a Rolex watch awarded to every class winner still stands.

Rolex Farr 40 World Championship

April 16 – 19, 2008

Miami, FL, United States

This year the Rolex Farr 40 World Championship moves to Miami, Florida, and upwards of 40 racing sailboats – 40 feet long and all identical in design – will race over four days in ten challenging races for the World Cup and a coveted Rolex timepiece. The Farr 40 class is one of the most competitive and exciting one-design fleets, and each Farr 40 crew is made up of a maximum of four professional and five to six amateur sailors. Each yacht must be driven by its amateur owner/helmsman. Racing is precise, tactical and intense. With all other factors equal, skill and timing are crucial

Rolex Capri Sailing Week

May 20 – 24, 2008

Capri, Italy

Following a successful introduction in 2005, the Rolex Capri Sailing Week returns to the turquoise waters of Capri providing spirited competition for the start of the Mediterranean racing season. Hosted by the Yacht Club Capri, the regatta provides a week of highly competitive racing for the Swan 45 and Farr 40 one-designs, IMA Mini Maxi, and the Comet 41S, 45S, 50, 51S classes. The regatta is an official leg of the 2008 Farr 40 European Circuit, Swan 45 2008 Class Circuit, and the IMA Mini Maxi Division 2008 Circuit. The strikingly picturesque island provides a stunning backdrop to the on-the-water racing action in the Bay of Naples, off Capri.

Giraglia Rolex Cup

June 8 – 14, 2008

St. Tropez, France – Genoa, Italy

One of the most renowned distance races in the Mediterranean, the Giraglia Rolex Cup has been a tradition for European sailors for over 50 years. From the race start off the historic port of St. Tropez, France, the fleet heads through the idyllic Iles des Hyeres and across the sea to round the Giraglia, a rocky islet off northern Corsica, before racing for the finish off Genoa, Italy, a total distance of 243 nautical miles. Tactics and weather play a key part of this classic Mediterranean distance race.



Sardinia Rolex Cup

June 16 – 21, 2008

Porto Cervo, Sardinia, Italy

This coveted team trophy, organised by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, is competed for every two years. Each national team participating at the Sardinia Rolex Cup 2006 will comprise three yachts: a Farr 40, a Swan 45, and TP52. ISAF has designated the Sardinia Rolex Cup, the Offshore Team World Championship, and teams will also be racing for the Rolex Offshore Team World Championship Trophy.

Rolex Commodores' Cup

June 29– July 6 2008

Cowes, Isle of Wight, United Kingdom

First held in 1992, the Rolex Commodores' Cup is an international offshore regatta for three-boat national teams. Organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club, this biennial event is held over seven days at Cowes, Isle of Wight. The Rolex Commodores' Cup is designed to test the teams over a variety of inshore and offshore courses. Team challenges must be endorsed by Member National Authorities and strict nationality rules apply to the crew, along with limitations on the number of professionals allowed on each boat.

Rolex Ilhabela Sailing Week

July 3 – 12, 2008

Ilhabela, São Paulo, Brazil

The beautiful island of Ilhabela provides a stunning setting and a variety of challenging sailing conditions for the 2008 Rolex Ilhabela Sailing Week. The event, which had its first edition in 1973, has been a tradition for Brazilian sailors throughout the years and its unique blend of island-style hospitality, competition and camaraderie has been attracting sailors from all over the world. The steady trade winds produce great sailing conditions and offer a testing variety of both offshore and inshore handicap racing. The 2008 Rolex Ilhabela Sailing Week, organized by the Yacht Club de Ilhabela, will be the second and final leg of the IMS and ORC Club South American Championship.

Trofeo S.M. La Reina Rolex Cup

July 11 – 13, 2008

Valencia, Spain

The Real Club Náutico de Valencia is host of the Trofeo S.M. La Reina Rolex Cup. As in past editions, there is expected to be a very high turnout, upwards of 100 boats. The competitive fleet will comprise TP 52s, the new GP42s, X 35s, ORC 570 and 670, along with various RN classes and some classic yachts. The fleet will enjoy three days of racing in the waters off of Valencia.

New York Yacht Club Race Week at Newport Presented by Rolex

July 19 – 27, 2008

Newport, RI, USA

This biennial race week – in its sixth running – has become a favorite of sailors with its split format. The Classics Regatta, held over the weekend of July 19-20 during the club's 100th birthday celebration of America's legendary yacht designer Olin J. Stephens, will host some of the sport's most awe-inspiring yachts, including historic 12-Metres and Sparkman & Stephens designs.



For Race Week at Newport's second session – from Thursday, July 24 through Sunday, July 27 – up to 200 modern racing machines will converge on Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island Sound for IRC, PHRF and one-design competitions. The event is part of the 2008 US-IRC Gulf Stream Series, and three one-design classes—the NYYC Swan 42s, J/109s and Melges 32s—will use the event to determine their 2008 North American or National champions. In addition, the event will serve as the J/105 East Coast Championship and the Beneteau First 36.7 Northeast Championship.

Rolex US-IRC National Championship

July 25 – 27, 2008

Harbor Springs, MI, USA

Little Traverse Yacht Club's (LTYC) 48th Annual Regatta and One-Design Series, fondly known as the "Ugotta Regatta" that follows the Mackinac Races each year, doubles as the second Rolex US-IRC National Championship. The 2008 Rolex US-IRC National Championship will follow the two most famous long distance fresh water races in the Great Lakes, starting with the Bayview Mackinac Race, which was instrumental in the introduction and growth of IRC in the Midwest, and followed by the 100th running of the Chicago-Mac race.

Rolex Baltic Week

August 26 – 31, 2008

Travemünde, Germany

The 2008 event will mark the fifth edition of the Rolex Baltic Week, Germany's exclusive sailing event on the Baltic Sea. Once again the regatta will feature a sportive highlight –the Rolex Farr 40 European Championship will be part of the competition. The new venue is a seaside resort near Luebeck; the regatta organizers from Norddeutscher Regatta Verein (NRV) Hamburg, the Luebeck Yacht Club (LYC), and the international Farr 40 Class Association will stage a first-class Farr 40 event.

Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup

September 1 – 6, 2008

Porto Cervo, Sardinia, Italy

The Costa Smeralda provides a stunning setting and a variety of challenging conditions for the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup, one of the highlights at the end of the Mediterranean yachting season. The first Maxi World Championship took place in 1980, created by the YC Costa Smeralda in Sardinia and its' president, the Aga Khan. The regatta is now an eagerly anticipated annual event and attracts a sizeable fleet of these majestic yachts to Porto Cervo each September.

Rolex Swan Cup

September 8 – 14, 2008

Porto Cervo, Sardinia, Italy

Porto Cervo becomes the center of the Nautor's Swan world in September 2008 with upwards of 100 Swan yachts competing in this week-long regatta. Recognized worldwide as one of the preeminent designers/ builders of luxury sailing yachts, this biennial event attracts both racing and racer/cruiser yachts. A draw for top sailors, the Rolex Swan Cup provides a spirited week of racing and gala social events that the YC Costa Smeralda is renowned for.



Rolex Big Boat Series

September 11 – 14, 2008

San Francisco, CA, United States

Established in 1964, the Rolex Big Boat Series takes place annually on San Francisco Bay. In 2005, Rolex became title sponsor of this prestigious regatta which includes very competitive one-design and handicap racing. Widely recognized as one of the most important sailing events on the U.S. West Coast, this "granddaddy" of grand-prix racing attracts the top competitors and boats from across the country.

Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez

September 27 – October 4, 2008

Saint-Tropez, France

Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez is an amazing rendezvous of yachts, first run twenty-six years ago as La Nioulargue. The regatta gathers together the most extraordinary modern sailing boats alongside the most beautiful traditional yachts during the first week of October. A host of racers and sailing enthusiasts come from all the corners of the globe to do battle in the bay of Saint Tropez. The Trophée Rolex is awarded to the winner of the Classic Division over 16 meters.

Rolex Middle Sea Race

October 15 – 25, 2008

Valletta, Malta

The Rolex Middle Sea Race takes place in the heart of the Mediterranean and covers one of the most beautiful courses in the world. Unique in that it starts and finishes in Malta, the 607-mile route includes the deep azure waters of Sicily and the Strait of Messina, the islands of Pantelleria and Lampedusa, and even features Stromboli's active volcano as a course mark. In 2007, in ferocious conditions the American Maxi, Rambler, set a new course record of 47 hours, 55 minutes and 3 seconds.

ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Awards

November 4, 2008

Madrid, Spain

These awards recognize the top male and female sailor in the world. The winners are selected by the 121 ISAF Member National Authorities from an impressive field of nominees. Recent winners have topped their fields, from one-design to offshore racing. This year's award ceremonies will take place in Madrid.

Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

December 26, 2008 – January 1, 2009

Sydney – Hobart, Australia

Mention the leading ocean races in the world, and the Rolex Sydney Hobart is certainly in the top three. This 628-mile offshore race organised by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia provides a tough test for skippers, tacticians and crews alike. This year's race will be the 64th annual edition of this time-honored event. In this race, Rolex sees a yachting classic that attracts a well-seasoned fleet ready to test themselves against the challenging conditions.



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