



## **X-35 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP** **Cala Galera, Argentario 22-27 September**

The X-35 World Championship starts on 22 September next. The venue is Cala Galera (in Argentario, Tuscany) and the organisers are Yacht Club Italiano and the Circolo Nautico e della Vela dell'Argentario, partnered by Rolex. The number of boats entered to date is 54.

### **Programme**

Events will get under way on Monday 22 September, the first day being given over to registration and measurements. To ensure maximum uniformity between the boats they will be weighed pre-race, the sails will be checked to ensure compliance with Class Rules, and crew weight - which must not exceed 640 kilos - will be recorded.

On Tuesday 23, in addition to further registration and measurement procedures, a cocktail gathering will be organised to welcome the participants.

Racing starts on Wednesday 24, with races held daily up to Saturday 27 (Sunday 28 is booked as a reserve day in the event that less than 6 races are held). The programme provides for a minimum of two upwind-downwind courses per day for a total of ten races at the end of which the crew qualifying for world champion status will be declared.

### **X-35**

The X-35 is a one-design model from the Danish shipyard, X-Yachts, and its market debut dates back less than three years.

With its high-performance hull, which makes it nimble in regattas and perfect for short-distance cruising, the 11-metre X-35 has enjoyed much success, so much so that 200 have now been built and in 2007 it was boat of the year in the USA.

What has ensured the appeal of this craft are the stringent Class Rules applying to it. All the boats are identical, save for the materials used for the sails (boat owners are free to patronise the sail loft of their choosing), only two professional yachtsmen are allowed per crew, and the helmsman must be the owner.

All these factors make for races that are truly hard fought and spectacular. With boats capable of only marginal differences in speed, they compete more through luffing manoeuvres, by going very tightly about the race mark buoys, and by snatching victory at the finishing line by the merest whisker.

### **The participants**

Italy fields one of the biggest fleets worldwide (35 boats entered for the last national championship) and the participants, all in the role of tactical advisors, include some of the topmost yachting professionals on the international scene: Francesco Bruni, brothers Francesco and Matteo Ivaldi, Gabriele Benussi, Lorenzo Bressani, to mention but a few.

The Italian teams will be up against numerous competitors from all over Europe, where the X-35 claims many devotees.

Indeed, the 54 entrants due to arrive at Cala Galera include crews from eleven countries: England, Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Turkey, the Netherland, Russia, Estonia, Greece, and Turkey.

### **Partners**

In addition to Rolex, support to Yacht Club Italiano will be provided also by BMW. As a courtesy, its cars will be available for use.

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