

## Zbraslav is heading to Malta

**Prague, 6 August 2015** – on Saturday, 17 October 2015, Benemedo Sailing, two-time winner of the CNR, will once again start at the famous Rolex Middle Sea Race. This was announced today by the Benemedo company. Last year the crew withdrew from the race near the island of Pantelleria, during unfavourable weather conditions after losing most of their sails. To continue to the last pivot point would have been dangerous for the health and lives of the crew. At that time, winds of 40 knots and gusting to excess of 60 knots and up to 7m waves, lead to a significantly reduced starting field, with only 49 of the 117 boats coasting to the finish.

“This year we are determined to complete the race and have a respectable placing. We are conscientiously preparing, we have new partners and the crew this year will be slightly different, because after last year’s drastic experience some will prefer to just watch the race from the shore.” says crew Captain Jan Hirňal, who is also the face of the Vitella Extreme protective vitamin ointment made by Benemedo, which protects extremely stressed skin on the hands and facial skin from whipping wind and salt water.

One of the new crew members is Jakub Liška, who, as the on-board reporter, conveys the atmosphere of the race to team fans and spectators. During the race, commentaries and photos will appear on the new Benemedo Sailing Facebook page, as well as reportage video thanks to cameras from the Lamax Electronics Company and other accessories from SP Gadgets. “If conditions allow, I would also like to try short live broadcasts,” says Liška, who has extensive experience with shooting reportage and documentary programmes, including projects for Czech Television and TV Prima. Jakub is also the author of the Benemedo Sailing trailer for this year, which can be viewed at [www.facebook.com/benemedosailingteam/videos](http://www.facebook.com/benemedosailingteam/videos).

The 606 nm (1122 km) route of the Rolex Middle Sea Race (RMSR) travels around Sicily anti-clockwise. It leads from the Malta’s Valletta harbour northwards around the eastern coast of Sicily, where Mount Etna can be seen spewing ash and lava on the coast at night. It passes through the Messina Strait, by the Aeolian Islands on the port side with another active volcano, Stromboli, then heading west to the Egadi Islands, where it passes between the Marettimo and Favignana islands. It then heads south and on the port side around the island of Pantelleria to the southernmost pivot point, which is the island of Lampedusa, from where the crews will head back to the finish in Valletta port. The race is considered to be a real challenge and puts captains and crews under great physical and mental strain. It is amongst the most demanding of races, but also has the reputation as one of the most beautiful as it offers truly unbeatable natural scenery.

Currently, over 60 boats from 18 countries have entered the race, including the prominent Comanche maxi yacht, which was designed for victory and to beat all records in similar races. It will definitely be viewed as the favourite in the time with no conversion competition, despite the fact that during its first big premiere last December in the Rolex Sydney Hobart race, her captain, Ken Read, had to settle for second place behind the Wild Oats yacht. Read is not a novice at the Middle Sea Race. In 2007 he was captain of the boat Rambler, which still holds

the course record of 1 day, 23 hours, 55 minutes and 3 seconds. The Benemedo Sailing Team is composed of staff and friends of Benemedo. Jan Hirnšal is the only professional on board as he holds a Captain's ticket with the boat Holland Company Lowland Marine and Offshore. For others on board yachting is a hobby. Benemedo Sailing team will be starting in the ORC 3 category and expects to finish on the fifth day after launch. The company and captain are based in Zbraslav that is why the team also uses the name of the Prague district as its victory cry at the finish – “Zbraslav!”

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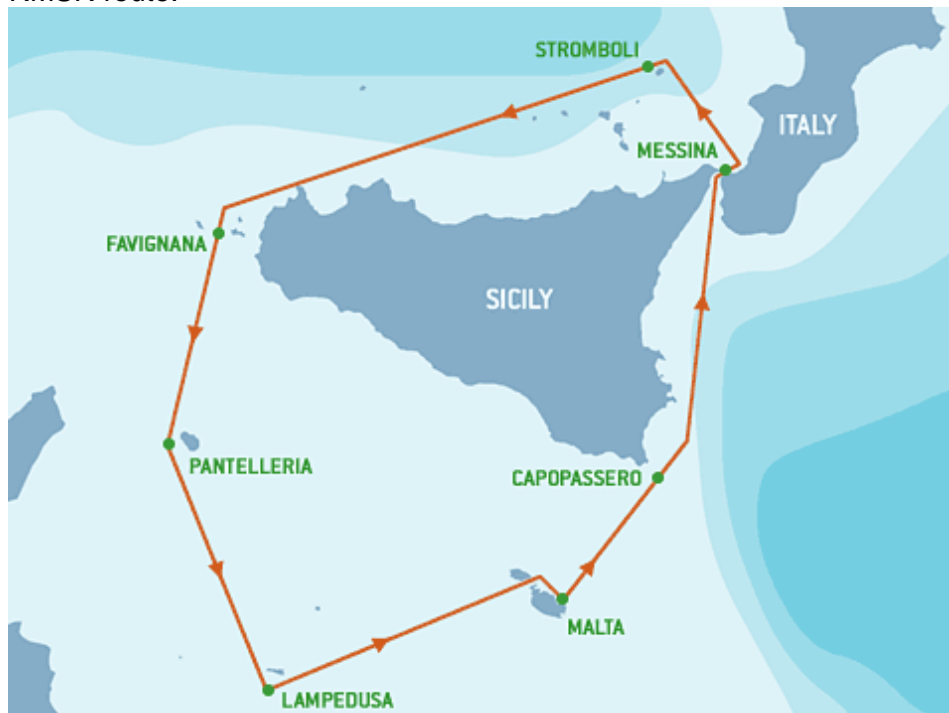
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RMSR route:



“The calm before the storm”, Benemedo Sailing, RMSR 2014



Vitella Extreme:

