

19 January, 2022

A POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR THE NEW YEAR The Return of the Bucket is on track

I trust this finds you well and hope it was a wonderful holiday season for you and yours.

The planning and preparations for the 2022 edition of the St Barths Bucket are on track. The citizens, local government and businesses are eager to welcome back superyachts and the Bucket Regatta. Our local team in St Barths report a spectacular Christmas week and New Year celebration. Like the rest of the world, Covid cases surged there during the very end of December and first week of January.

Just when you think we are turning the page... it's all about the latest Covid variant! While there is certainly reason for concern, we are encouraged about the consensus on this latest variant being relatively mild, with recently approved, effective therapeutics, and the expectation for a rapid drop in case numbers.

Although Covid protocols will continue to be a reality at all events globally, the entry lists for the *Superyacht Challenge Antigua* and *St Barths Bucket* reinforce that desire of yacht owners to get back into action. The Antigua organizers have <u>13 expressions of interest</u> while the Bucket's <u>30 entries</u> feature Corinthian Spirit and J classes along with the debut of the '90 Foot Class'. We will again provide two windward/ leeward races for the spectacular J Class yachts on the Thursday prior to the conventional pursuit races (Friday-Sunday). The preliminary event schedule is posted (<u>bucketregatta.com/race/schedule-of-events/</u>).

The St Barths government is managing the island extraordinarily well and they have instituted practical and effective protocols to bring the Covid case numbers back to pre-holiday levels. This is a dynamic situation of course with testing and travel requirements likely to change going forward. We will stay on top of it, and encourage you to check the WIMCO blog, which has proven to be a reliable and accurate source: <u>Traveling to</u> <u>St Barts WIMCO Blog</u>

The health and safety of all Bucket participants will be our highest priority during the event. We are also committed to providing you and all participants with the most accurate information available to help guide decisions and planning.

Please visit the <u>website</u> for periodic updates on event details. We look forward seeing many of our friends in St Barths in March and encourage you to call or email me anytime if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best,

Peter

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