

I had good memories of the BA-Rio race from last year, so I was looking forward to the race.

The start was a bit difficult for us Europeans, it required tacking along the shoreline, so I spent quite a while calculating my DCs. That paid off as I was about 8<sup>th</sup> after Punta del Este and quite close to the leaders.

As I had anticipated, the race would be a tacking contest. I just checked hmm's excellent statistics, and it looks like I was doing over 80 % of the race on sub-40 TWAs. Add to that the 15-25 kn winds and IRL this would have been a gruesome race!

Doing good in the race was pretty much up to correct timing of tacks, and keeping to correct pressure (one interesting fact about this polar is that VMG upwind decreases when wind speed exceeds 20 kn). Thus it was checking wx after wx for the correct times to head east to get the best angles for the more northerly tacks.

On Monday evening I gave up hope on catching ita10267 and decided to concentrate protecting my position against rafa and Franci. On Tuesday evening I set my last COG DC to get to the finish line, an almost hit Ilha Redonda, that would have been a disappointment!

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