

Sailing from Palermo to Montecarlo during this part of the season is usually very difficult, as the summer high pressure systems are weak and there is strong possibility of having Mistral blowing hard especially in the last stretch to MC. This year after a mild upwind start, a nice SE breeze was present. Only problem ... a large area of blue goo lurking NW of Corsica. That was the decision maker: a little movement of this area N or S-bound could have changed the results completely.

I sailed 50% of the time with the mobile client leaving tough decision after 0430 and 1630 updates which are usually the more reliable ones. Decided go E of Corsica even if that meant following at least 7-8 boats after the mark offshore of Porto Cervo. The second part of the leg was a nice steady recovery, taking profit of some errors of the competition. Ghibli was unreachable so I tried my best to get a spot on the podium. Big problem was coming from the W. The passage beneath the blue stuff had moved south, so two tacks were needed to avoid it. That resulted in about 45 minutes loss against RICOTINA. Fortunately the gap was still in the 10-15 minute range which was enough to be kept safe until the finish line. By looking at the final ranks it seemed clear that the italian fleet had smashed the competition from both sides of the course!

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