Trouble with Beneteau is the total plethora of boat classes they have built over the years. The Figaro is a case-in-point. Which one is that you may wonder? There is the 3, the 2, the 1 and the Solo. Well, SOL’s is the Solo, designed in 1990 by Finot as the one-design solution for the annual single-handed multi-stage race on the Atlantic waters off the coasts of France, Spain and Ireland, sponsored by French daily “Le Figaro”. The Solo morphed into the 1, so SOL’s Figaro could be the 1, for which a full-crew version was also conceived, which in turn became the 31.7, which definitely is not SOL’s Figaro. Are you with me still?

SOL first organized a multi-stage race offshore France in 2009, and fittingly enough the Beneteau Figaro was our yacht of choice, although IRL the Figaro itself was being held in 2’s by that stage! According to those who have sailed them: “They are strong and seaworthy, and they have typically had the crap kicked out of them.” So, you can expect to be sailing them on SOL for many years still.

Racelist