

Palermo - Montecarlo 2022 – Report by ita10267

My commitment to Sailonline started more than ten years ago. It was the golden age of SOL, with more than 1000 skippers on the water for the well know SOR (Sailonline Ocean Race). Then work and family duties forced me to stop online sailing consistently so I decided to stop it altogether. But I always wanted to come back, so I decided to join the Fremantle-Bali to dust off some rust and I prepared for the Pa-Mo by polishing the hull, getting new sails, and losing some weight after SCARABOCCHIO's suggestion!

The planning for the regatta was careful, there was a vast area of high pressure over the Tyrrhenian Sea and a low-pressure system approaching from the west. So, the first leg to Costa Smeralda was basically decided by staying on the left side and going west (actually SW) before the fleet. During that night a delayed manoeuvring allowed my fellow mate Mediterranean to take the lead. It was a long lay line to Olbia and then Porto Cervo.

After a zigzag through the Maddalena Archipelago and the wonderful Budelli island, it was basically a restart. Also in this case it was a matter of how much west you wanted to go because of the huge speed gain of these boats in strong wind. There was a small option to gain some water late at night on the 21st when an anticipated tack which was not covered by Mediterranean allowed ita10267 to recover most of the gap. Mediterranean, WRmirekd, TarassBoulba and some others extended the starboard tack a tad too much, so I took the lead and the subsequent update was in favour of the right side so, on the final day, the lead extended to almost 1 mile. Which was quite enough to close in the top spot despite the low winds in Monaco Bay!

Ita10267

December 2022