

Race Report — Magical Mediterranean 2026: Benghazi → Korčula

By BRENTGRAY

*The Magical Mediterranean 2026 delivered classic Med unpredictability, with shifting pressure and narrow lanes of breeze shaping every decision. After realising at the second WX that I had loaded the wrong polar, I corrected it — and **was suddenly in a good position on the western side of the fleet.***

*From there I relied heavily on **qtvlm**, routing each WX as it arrived. I often used **POIs pinned slightly off the main route** to test alternative approaches, which helped reveal cleaner angles into developing pressure and avoid weakening lanes. Upwind and deep downwind I sailed by **TWA**, while on tight to broad reaches I switched to **COG** to hold the best geometry through the shifts.*

The decisive moment came with the 1030 WX on Day 2, showed a narrow corridor of stronger breeze forming ahead of the fleet. Positioning early for that corridor proved critical, and from then on it was about protecting the lead and keeping the angles clean into Korčula.

*I finished at **00:12:39 UTC on 1 August**, securing first place in a tight and tactical race. Thanks to Jan and the SOL team for another superb Mediterranean challenge.*

“Fair winds to all — see you on the next start line.”