

**Giovanni Soldini and *Maserati* crew finish fourth in
Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race,
their final outing aboard the Italian VOR 70**

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Rolex Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race

“It was a fantastic race!”: the words of Giovanni Soldini as he disembarked from *Maserati* at Hobart, having just crossed the finish-line of the 71st Sydney Hobart Yacht Race in fourth position. “Yet again *Maserati* proved herself a solid boat and she got excellent preparation. We also managed to avoid damaging anything. The crew was excellent too: very tight and efficient. We had a bit of everything thrown at us in this race. At the start, we ended up with three buoys and at least 50 metres of line tangled around the keel and wasted a good half-hour freeing ourselves of them. The other competitors had flown on ahead about a dozen miles by then. When we got going again though, we decided to just do our own race, cool and calm. And it turned out very well. The sailing was excellent for the first part of the race, both in terms of the front and beating all the way to Tasmania. We were always on the button when the wind turned and we had some great angles. In fact, we managed to not only catch up with *Ragamuffin*, a 100’, but also engage her in a fabulous match race. Unfortunately though, a high pressure area arrived and *Ragamuffin* was able to make a speed of 10 knots in a five-knot wind. Plus we also got stuck in a couple of big clouds with absolutely no wind. The arrival into Tasmania wasn’t entirely favourable to us either. In the end, we managed to get beyond the high pressure area, catch a northerly and then made landfall at Hobart with the spi out. This marks the end of our adventure with the VOR 70 after three years of sailing around the world and I’m happy to have closed the circle on a high note”.

Maserati’s tactician Matteo Ivaldi adds: “The incident at the start didn’t demoralise us. We managed to stay cool, calm and collected because we knew it was a very long race. It was an excellent race and just a pity that we had that enforced halt in a windless bubble. We are satisfied though because the wind jumped around a lot: in the space of a few minutes, we would go from a 30-knot tailwind to beating into a 40-knotter. That was when a lot of boats had breakages and were forced to retire. We did a good job of dealing with the situation. Finding ourselves just a few miles from the 100 footers was very satisfying. An excellent experience that I want to repeat again right away!”



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Maserati crossed the finish-line at 11:54:33 local time (00:54:33 GMT, 01:54:33 in Italy), having covered the 628-mile distance between Australia and Tasmania in 2 days, 22 hours, 54 minutes, 33 seconds.

Line honours went to the American 100' *Comanche* in a time of 2 days, 8 hours, 58 minutes, 30 seconds. She was followed into Hobart by the Australian yacht *Ragamuffin 100* (2 days, 19 hours, 47 minutes, 30 seconds) and the American craft *Rambler 88* (2 days, 19 hours, 51 minutes, 42 seconds).

Skipper Giovanni Soldini is flanked aboard *Maserati* by a first-rate international crew: Italians Guido Broggi, Matteo Ivaldi, Francesco Malingri, Corrado Rossignoli and Carlo Castellano; Spaniards Carlos Hernandez and Oliver Herrera; Pierre Casiraghi of Monaco; Brit Sam Goodchild; Aussies Elizabeth "Liz" Wardley, Drew Mervyn Carruthers, Trevor Brown, and journalist and "special guest" Nick Vindin.

Video footage and still photographs from the boat can be found at www.maserati.soldini.it and on the following social networks: Facebook (Giovanni Soldini Pagina Ufficiale, over 40.000 friends) and Twitter @giovannisoldini (over 127.000 followers).

The challenge is sponsored by the main partner, Maserati, after which the yacht is named, and by co-sponsors Swiss Bank BSI and Unipol SAI Assicurazioni.

The official suppliers to the challenge are Z Zegna (clothing), Vodafone Italia (telecommunication services and official website development) and Boero Bartolomeo S.p.A. (specialist hull paints and enamels).

Also aboard Maserati are Eataly (provisioning), Beta Utensili (all professional tools), Corderia Lancelin (specialist lines and cables), Jeppesen (cartography), B&G Navico (technical assistance with onboard instrumentation), Cantiere Picchiotti of La Spezia (Maserati's home base ashore), and the La Spezia Port Authority (Maserati's home port afloat).

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