

RORC Caribbean 600 Race

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The RORC Caribbean 600 Race starts tomorrow Giovanni Soldini and *Maserati* ready for the Caribbean island challenge

Giovanni Soldini and the crew of *Maserati* are ready for the start of the seventh edition of the RORC Caribbean 600 Race, the Caribbean's longest and most important offshore gallop.

At 10.50 sharp local time (15.50 in Italy) tomorrow, Monday, February 23, cannon shots will begin ringing out from Fort Charlotte overlooking Antigua, marking the staggered starts of the various classes in the race between 68 yachts from 14 different nations.

Getting underway and finishing in front of English Harbour with a route that weaves its way between 11 different Caribbean islands, this is an extremely tricky and technical challenge because of the level of the boats competing and the unpredictability of the weather conditions, particularly close to shore.

A 15 to 20-knot easterly and two-metre waves are forecast for the start – less than ideal conditions for *Maserati* as she is at her best in stronger winds. On day two of the race, the wind is set to drop and turn southerly. In the days that follow, however, it should veer north and rise to up to 20 knots.

Giovanni Soldini had this to say: “The crucial passages in the race will be on the leeward sides of the islands, with Guadeloupe particularly delicate as it has very high mountains. The strong completion will also make it a tough challenge: *Bella Mente* is a recent 72' which won last year and the light trade winds should work to her advantage. *Rambler* is a just-splashed 88' carbon-fibre yacht designed by Juan Kouyoumdjian who also penned *Maserati*. She has a super crew and, with her electric winches, is practically an aeroplane.



Owner George David also holds the race record which he set in 2011 (40 hours and 20 minutes). *Leopard* is a 100' Farr with electric winches. She's a big, light boat with a canting keel. Also there should be our old friend, *Ragamuffin*, a 100' maxiyacht which gave us such a hard time in the Transpac. The number of gigantic boats in port in Antigua is impressive. *Maserati's* mast just disappears in a megayacht forest there. But tomorrow, we'll be giving it our all as usual!"

Updates with video footage and still photographs from the boat can be found at www.maserati.soldini.it (<<http://www.maserati.soldini.it/>>) and on the following social networks: Facebook (Giovanni Soldini Pagina Ufficiale, over 35.400 friends) and Twitter @giovannisoldini (over 127.200 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 **ZZegna** (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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