

NEWSLETTER

 MIRABAUD

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THE VENDÉE GLOBE
THE EVEREST
OF OCEAN RACING!
QUALITY OVER QUANTITY
PREPARATIONS

THE VENDEE GLOBE: THE EVEREST OF OCEAN RACING!



With the double-handed Barcelona World Race and Transat Jacques Vabre behind him, Dominique Wavre is now gearing up for the Vendee Globe, which starts in November of this year. This Everest of ocean racing is the third phase of the Mirabaud partnership.

The Vendee Globe is without doubt the toughest of all round the world races. It is single-handed, without stopovers or outside assistance and the yachts are powered by wind alone. Suffice to say it is one of the hardest competitions in the sporting world and we are absolutely delighted to experience it alongside Dominique.

So far our partnership has been thrilling; we have been involved in some amazing adventures and have shared some incredible moments. Dominique and Michele's tenacity and determination in the face of adversity during the Barcelona World Race was very impressive. What an adventure! What a lesson in professionalism and courage!

Last autumn's Transat Jacques Vabre was the Mirabaud duo's second big event and proved extremely physically demanding. Dominique and Michele demonstrated both their fitness and the reliability of the boat during the race across the Atlantic Ocean and finished eighth out of 13 after two weeks at sea.

Dominique now has ten months to prepare for the Vendee Globe and we are overjoyed to be at his side throughout the journey. We are also delighted to have this opportunity to underline our commitment to yacht racing, and most of all, thanks to Dominique, to be able to live and share our passion for the sport!

Antonio Palma
Mirabaud partner and CEO

VENDEE GLOBE 2012: QUALITY OVER QUANTITY



In 2008, there were 30 yachts on the Vendee Globe start line. As we go to press, there are 15 entries confirmed for the 2012 edition and 18 have registered an interest. So far, half the entries are 'foreign' (non-French) – a positive for an event that has historically been a French affair.

In addition to the eight French entries, there are three British competitors (Samantha Davies, Mike Golding and Alex Thomson), two Swiss (Bernard Stamm and Dominique Wavre), one Italian (Alessandro Di Benedetto) and one Spanish sailor (Javier Sanso).

As the race director, Denis Horeau points out: "We expect foreign sailors to make up 30 to 40% of the fleet again, perhaps even more this time, they too are fascinated by this unique race. I have noticed that there are many 'repeat offenders' in the fleet. They do it once and want to come back again and again!"

This is very true in Dominique's case – this will be his fourth Vendee Globe and his eighth round the world race!

"OUR VENDEE GLOBE PREPARATIONS WILL KEEP US BUSY ALL YEAR"



Dominique Wavre and his team took a short break over the winter: "We had a good two-week holiday in the south of France riding our mountain bikes and generally relaxing," he said. "We are back in La Rochelle, thoroughly refreshed, and completely submerged in planning for the Vendée Globe."

The first preparation phase involves a two-month spell in the boat yard to fit a spray dodger that protects the helmsman and to do a number of modifications down below.

"We are basically modifying the yacht for single-handed racing and finishing off a few bits and pieces around the new mast. These changes are relatively superficial and mainly relate to the ergonomics of the boat."

As soon as the work is finished, Dominique plans to sail as much as possible. "We plan to make the most of spring and summer to focus on crew work and boat speed and then would like to compete in a few informal regattas, events such as the SNSM or the Tour de Belle-Ile. These sorts of regattas are friendly and fun."

From September, Dominique will enter a pre-race phase in his preparations, which will include routing, provisioning and detailed checks of every little thing ahead of the big adventure!



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