



Press Flash – Friday, April 25, 2025

## GRAND PAVOIS LA ROCHELLE: FORT BOYARD, GUEST OF HONOR 2025

### Key points:

- **Fort Boyard, guest of honor at the Grand Pavois La Rochelle 2025,**
- **A 750-square-meter hall entirely dedicated to the monument and Charente-Maritime,**
- **A major project to safeguard Fort Boyard launched by the Département de la Charente-Maritime with the Heritage Foundation,**
- **1 euro per ticket donated by Grand Pavois Organisation to the Heritage Foundation as part of the preservation project.**

More than just a fort and a true heritage jewel, **Fort Boyard proudly represents the Charente-Maritime identity, shining both in France and internationally.** Imagined by Louis XIV, initiated by Napoleon I, and completed under Napoleon III, it has hosted cinema legends such as Alain Delon and Lino Ventura, while challenging the bravest participants of the cult TV show "Fort Boyard."

Its mystery has always intrigued visitors, and every year, thousands of cruisers circling it ask to visit. **A dream that will become reality in 2028, thanks to the restoration work undertaken by the Département de la Charente-Maritime, owner of the site.** Thus, the mystery will give way to the wonder of standing within this stone ship in the middle of the sea.

Unfortunately, as robust as it may seem, Fort Boyard has suffered for several decades from the assaults of waves and time and is now under threat. To prevent its demise, the **Département de la Charente-Maritime has embarked on a major project to preserve this monument, partnering with the Heritage Foundation to lead a sponsorship campaign.** Taking advantage of its guest of honor status at the Grand Pavois La Rochelle 2025, the opportunity is perfect to rally the greatest number: Save Fort Boyard!

**For 6 days, in a 750 m<sup>2</sup> hall,** the public will be able to support this great project through activities and meetings, along with a dining area for all gourmets in a Charente-Maritime-inspired atmosphere.

### **Sylvie Marcilly, President of the Département de la Charente-Maritime:**

*"By acting to safeguard Fort Boyard, we are making a historic gesture for the next 100 years, for both Charente-Maritime residents and visitors who are so attached to this building."*

### **Alain Pochon, President of Grand Pavois Organisation:**

*"What an honor for us, Grand Pavois La Rochelle, to welcome Fort Boyard as the guest of honor for our 53rd edition in 2025. We must fully contribute to the preservation of this true heritage jewel, and we are convinced that the dedicated hall will attract many visitors. Grand Pavois Organisation will further its commitment to Fort Boyard by donating 1 euro from each ticket sold to the Heritage Foundation, to concretely support the safeguarding of this monument. Knowing that in 2028 it will be possible for everyone to visit Fort Boyard is a wonderful achievement for this preservation project that we must see through."*

**INTERVIEW REQUESTS AT: +33 (0)5 46 44 46 39 – PRESS OFFICE**

**Key facts to remember...**

Grand Pavois La Rochelle, the must-attend event for all enthusiasts

Location: Port des Minimes in La Rochelle

2025 dates: from Tuesday, September 23 to Sunday, September 28 – 10 am to 7 pm, except Sunday until 6 pm

Visitors: 70,000 visitors expected over 6 days

Guest of honor: Fort Boyard and Charente-Maritime.

Thematic areas for every passion: Boats ashore and afloat, Multihull Area, Equipment Area, Services and Tourism Areas, Rental & Cruise Area, Heritage & Know-How Area; Fishing & Grand Pavois Fishing Area; Grand Pavois Beach (September 25 to 28); Event Boats Area; Sea Trials Area; Guest of Honor Area; Eco-navigation & Sustainable Innovations Area with EDF...

Royalty-free high-definition photos - Press Area [www.grand-pavois.com](http://www.grand-pavois.com) – Photo Credits: O. Blanchet and JM. Rieupeyrou / GPO

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GPO brings bespoke expertise, advice, know-how, and unique experience to nautical event organization both in France and abroad. Thanks to its associative status, GPO maintains strong ties with the international professional nautical world and has recognized expertise in nautical events (offshore races, corporate events, boat shows, etc.).

References: organizer of the "Grand Pavois La Rochelle" International In-Water Boat Show since 1973 (top 5 international in-water boat shows), Salao Nautico de Salvador com Grand Pavois (Brazil, 2023), "Les Nauticales" Boat Show in La Ciotat (France, 2013–2021), Shenzhen China International Boat Show (China, 2009–2011), Rallye des Iles du Soleil (since 2017), Défi Atlantique Guadeloupe / Horta / La Rochelle (2019 and 2023), Class40 World Championship (2010 and 2022), IFBSO / Icomia Congress (La Rochelle, 2024), Imoca 60 Maître CoQ V of Yannick Bestaven's naming ceremony (2022), Macif of François Gabart (2011), Class40 Le Conservateur of Yannick Bestaven (2014)...

More info: [www.gpoevents.com](http://www.gpoevents.com)

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