



Press Release – Tuesday, May 13, 2025

GRAND PAVOIS LA ROCHELLE: A WAVE OF NEW FEATURES IN 2025...

Key points:

- **2025 dates:** Tuesday, September 23 to Sunday, September 28.
- **Fort Boyard**, guest of honor at the 2025 Grand Pavois La Rochelle – €1 per entry donated by Grand Pavois Organisation to the Fondation du Patrimoine to support the preservation project.
- **A new multihull marina** with better access to exhibition areas,
- **A Spanish-language website**,
- **"How to get to the Grand Pavois"** destination guides available in 10 languages,
- **An interactive map** with geolocation,
- **Free admission** for French Sailing Federation license holders,
- **All major brands** present at the Grand Pavois Fishing,
- **Grand Pavois Beach**, second edition.

Fort Boyard, 2025 Guest of Honor

More than just a fort and a true heritage gem, **Fort Boyard proudly symbolizes the maritime Charente 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 also challenging the boldest participants of the iconic show "Fort Boyard." Despite its sturdy appearance, Fort Boyard has been battered by waves and time for decades and is now under threat. To prevent its demise, the Charente-Maritime Department has launched a major preservation project and partnered with the Fondation du Patrimoine to lead a sponsorship campaign. As the 2025 guest of honor at the Grand Pavois La Rochelle, the moment is perfect to rally public support: **Let's save Fort Boyard!**

IMPORTANT: For this occasion, the Grand Pavois La Rochelle will donate €1 from each ticket sold to the Fondation du Patrimoine, directly contributing to the preservation of this monument.

A new Multihull Marina in 2025

With the number of multihulls on display increasing, the Grand Pavois La Rochelle is unveiling a new floating marina in 2025. Nearly 40 boats will be featured, from long-distance cruising to coastal voyages. **A new exhibition layout was needed to better showcase this growing offer and ever-expanding market.** This year, pontoons 6 and 7 will host the new marina setup, with cross pontoons, upgraded floating reception tents, and improved visitor flow closer to the boats. A new access footbridge will also lead visitors directly onto pontoon 7, right into the heart of the multihull exhibition.

A Spanish-language website

In addition to English, **the Grand Pavois La Rochelle website will be available in Spanish in 2025**, catering to the growing number of Spanish-speaking visitors. Whether discovering, visiting, exhibiting, finding partners, or booking tickets—it will now be much easier for Spanish visitors, exhibitors, and journalists to navigate the international in-water boat show website before attending.

"How to get to the Grand Pavois" guides in 10 languages!

Helping international visitors plan their trip and easing the exchange of information based on their origin is a true priority for the Grand Pavois La Rochelle. As such, **10 destination-specific travel guides are now available on the website**. Whether you're coming from Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, England, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, or the Netherlands, you'll find clear instructions for arriving in La Rochelle by land or air. By train, plane, or car—everything's covered! These guides are also available to French and foreign professionals inviting prospective clients to the show.

An interactive show map

The interactive map keeps improving each season. Available on the Grand Pavois La Rochelle website and accessible directly on your smartphone, **it allows visitors to search for any exhibitor or service**. Where is this exhibitor located? Where are the food courts? Where can I attend a Grand Pavois Beach roundtable or conference? Where's the La Rochelle train station or the recommended visitor parking? It's easy—you're geolocated directly on the map. Enhancing the visitor experience and meeting expectations remains a top priority for the Grand Pavois La Rochelle.

Free entry for French Sailing Federation license holders

Once again this year, **Grand Pavois La Rochelle, in partnership with the French Sailing Federation, will offer free admission to all licensed members**. The goal is to enable all sailing enthusiasts to visit the show, explore new boats and equipment, connect with Federation representatives, learn about club activities, and meet top-level athletes and champions. Grand Pavois La Rochelle—committed to staying close to all sailing lovers and active participants!

35 boats registered for the only sport fishing competition exclusively for brands: the Grand Pavois Fishing.

The Grand Pavois Fishing continues to grow, with 35 boats expected to participate in 2025—the only sport fishing competition reserved for brands. Alongside the on-land Fishing Area, the event is a major opportunity to present new boats, engines, and gear (rigging, electronics, accessories...) on the water. Professional staff, ambassadors, fishing guides, and brand representatives will be on hand to share their expertise, enthusiasm, and fishing techniques with visitors. This is a genuine moment of interaction where fans can meet and connect with experienced anglers—some of whom are social media stars. This space also promotes environmentally responsible sport fishing practices: respecting legal fish sizes, breeding seasons, and emphasizing safety at sea, including live SNSM demonstrations.

Grand Pavois Beach, year two!

The 2025 edition marks the second year of Grand Pavois Beach (open for 4 days, from September 25 to 28), with the goal of celebrating gliding and water sports such as windfoil, wingfoil, kiteboarding, dinghy sailing, canoe-kayak, and paddleboarding. Several dedicated areas will be featured on the Grand Pavois Beach: Le Spot, the main animation tent hosting conferences, screenings, meet-and-greets, and book signings; the pool, for beginner sessions and aquatic games; the sand area, for sea initiations and beach activities; and the Beach Bar, offering refreshments with a sea view. The priority is to open these experiences to as many people as possible, and above all, to engage brands in promoting the practice and appeal of these passion-driven activities—all in a spirit of fun and sharing.

REQUEST INTERVIEWS AT: +33 (0)5 46 44 46 39 – PRESS OFFICE

Quick Recap

Grand Pavois La Rochelle – the go-to event for all enthusiasts

Location: Port des Minimes, La Rochelle

2025 Dates: Tuesday, September 23 to Sunday, September 28 – 10 AM to 7 PM (6 PM on Sunday)

Visitors: 70,000 expected over 6 days

Guest of Honor: Fort Boyard and the Charente-Maritime department

Thematic areas for every interest: Boats ashore and afloat, Multihull Area, Equipment Area, Services & Tourism Area, Charter & Cruise Area, Heritage & Craftsmanship Area; Fishing & Grand Pavois Fishing Area; Grand Pavois Beach (Sept 25–28); Event Boats Area; Sea Trials Area; Guest of Honor Area; Eco-navigation & Sustainable Innovations Area (in partnership with EDF)...

High-resolution royalty-free photos available – Press Room: www.grand-pavois.com – Photo credits: O. Blanchet and JM. Rieupeyrou / GPO

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GRAND PAVOIS ORGANISATION – CREATOR AND ORGANIZER OF NAUTICAL EVENTS!

GPO offers tailor-made expertise, consulting, know-how, and a unique experience in nautical events in France and abroad. Thanks to its non-profit status, GPO has a close relationship with the international boating industry and a well-established reputation in nautical event planning (offshore races, corporate events, boat shows...).

References include: the Grand Pavois La Rochelle International In-Water Boat Show since 1973 (top 5 international in-water boat shows), Nice Boating Tomorrow (France, 2026), Salao Nautico de Salvador com Grand Pavois (Brazil, 2023), Les Nauticales in La Ciotat (France, from 2013 to 2021), Shenzhen China International Boat Show (China, from 2009 to 2011), Rallye des Îles 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), naming ceremonies of the Imoca 60 Maître CoQ V by Yannick Bestaven (2022), Macif by François Gabart (2011), Class40 Le Conservateur by Yannick Bestaven (2014)...

More info: www.gpoevents.com

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