



Flash presse – 4 août 2025

## **GRAND PAVOIS LA ROCHELLE : BOAT EVENTS FOR ALL ENTHUSIASTS !**

**The 2025 Grand Pavois La Rochelle boat show will host 800 international brands, showcase 700 boats, including 300 afloat, and welcome over 70.000 visitors in just six days. On average, the show features 100 world or national premieres, as well as 1,500 sea trials, test sails, and discovery trips. The Grand Pavois La Rochelle is the main gathering point for the French and European marine industry and for sailing enthusiasts from around the world.**

**2025 upcoming edition : La Rochelle, France — From Tuesday September 23 to Sunday September 28 (open Tuesday to Saturday, from 10am to 7pm; closes at 6pm on Sunday)**

Grand Pavois La Rochelle aims to inspire dreams, make the impossible possible, share inspiring stories, and offer visitors the rare chance to step aboard boats that are usually not accessible to the public.

And like every year, Grand Pavois La Rochelle will display boats with extraordinary stories. A dreamlike journey, experienced with eyes wide open!

### **FROM MAGIE NOIRE... TO MAGIE BLEUE**

This sailboat has an incredible story — and Grand Pavois La Rochelle is proud to share it with its passionate visitors, who will surely be moved by its remarkable past and extraordinary rebirth. Magie Noire was launched in 1985, designed by Jean-Yves Tanton. This exceptional 21-meter schooner displaced 14 tons and featured two freestanding, rotating fiberglass masts.

This long monohull has crossed the Atlantic nine times over the years, before settling in the Caribbean as a charter destination.

Clients not paying and costly repairs put an end to Magie Noire's journey in 2001. It was declared unseaworthy in 2002, Magie Noire was shipped back to France on a cargo ship and ended her trip in a field in Augé (Deux-Sèvres, France), where it was dismayed, abandoned, keel sunk into the earth, and left to squatters. Its destruction seemed inevitable.

Then, in March 2021 a last SOS was sent out and the unthinkable happened: the Icape Planète Bleue Foundation stepped in to rescue the boat, in line with its mission to preserve maritime heritage and protect the oceans.

A long remodeling and renovation process began at the Grassi Bateaux shipyard in La Rochelle as soon as the boat arrived in July 2021. Backed by many local partners and professionals.

It is a real comeback! Naval architect Erik Lerouge led the redesign of the boat, keeping only the hull intact.

It took six months just to strip the hull bare.

Everything was completely rebuilt. The interior was redesigned, there is a new roof, a new cockpit and stern platform.

The concept of the two 21 meters freestanding, rotating masts has been retained but they are now made of carbon fiber. The principle of the two « thick » mainsails has also been kept, they have been crafted by incidence.

Between six and seven people have been working full time on the project.

The boat has changed its name from Magie Noire to... Magie Bleue and it has returned to the sea this summer, and it will be present here at the Grand Pavois La Rochelle for the first time.

Its mission today? To serve as a platform for educational, social, scientific, and environmental initiatives; to preserve the boat's revolutionary concept and design, while optimizing it. To support associations engaged in the protection of the marine world and provide the Icape Planète Bleue foundation with funds and a maritime tool to support its social, environmental, and humanitarian work, both in France and internationally.

Magie Bleue is here for all to see!

***Here all week***

***Boat Event Area – Dock 2***

### **T-ONE-ONE OR... ECUREUIL D'AQUITAINE II**

This boat has made a lasting impression on many and it remains and will always remain legendary. Beneath its gleaming white exterior, this monohull is in fact no other than the former Écureuil d'Aquitaine II, winner of the very first Vendée Globe (1989/90), completed in 109 days, 8 hours, 47 minutes and 55 seconds under sailor Titouan Lamazou.

The boat sailed under many different owners and names, such as Groupe LG skippers Bertrand de Broc and later Gerry Roufs, and finally Hervé Laurent.

It then changed names several more times, it was named Hawaiian Express, Margaret Anna, Carrecamino, and Capitaine Flint, before ending its wild journey in Venezuela, laid up on the shore and put up for sale.

On November 27, 2019, Alexandre Treillard announced that he had found the original Vendée Globe winner, after two years of searching: « I inspected the boat, which I have to admit was not in very good condition, but it could still be restored. The hull is sound, but the balsa deck is delaminating, all the standing rigging is rotten, however the carbon mast is still in good shape. As for the sails, they are unusable... ».

The boat reached Guadeloupe by sea, then crossed the Atlantic on a cargo ship to Brest. Fully restored, it was renamed T-One-One, and was sailed by Titouan Lamazou once again.

An incredible story and an extraordinary rescue for a boat that will forever hold a special place in the history of offshore racing and, of course, in Vendée Globe's history.

The boat will be present on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The movie : « Ecureuil d'Aquitaine II: The Story of a Legend » will also be screened, under the tent « Le Spot », on Sunday at 2pm, the movie will be followed by a time for discussion.

***Here on Friday, Saturday and Sunday***

***Boats Events Area — Dock 2***

### **33 EXPORT : SAILING AROUND THE WORLD**

Now this is a remarkable story! Originally launched in 1968 under the name Raph, this racing sailboat was designed by French naval architect André Maurice for sailor and Neptune Nautisme editor Alain Gliksman. But the upheaval of May '68 in France caused delays in delivery. Thanks to the support of his colleagues, Gliksman still managed to get the boat to the start of the OSTAR, the English solo transatlantic race. Of the 34 competitors, only 18 made it to Newport. Raph, despite being among the leaders, retired at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.

Her name came from her first sponsor, a company based in Saint-Raphaël (83). Like Pen Duick III and Pen Duick IV (later Manureva), Raph was one of André Maurice's first prototypes in France built from lightweight aluminum alloy.

In 1973, Jean-Pierre and Daniel Millet bought the boat to compete in the very first Whitbread Round the World Race, the pioneering crewed, stage-based circumnavigation. Renamed after her new sponsor, 33 Export, set off with a crew of eight, including a young cameraman named Georges Pernoud.

Tragedy struck between Cape Town and Sydney, when co-skipper Dominique Guillet was lost at sea. 33 Export was rigged as a ketch until 1977 to make solo sailing easier. For that year's Whitbread, skipper Alain Gabbay converted her to a sloop rig and even managed to win a leg (Cape Town–Auckland).

In 1986, American sailor Tony Lush purchased the boat with the ambition of entering the BOC Challenge, but she ultimately never competed. Abandoned in a Newport shipyard, she was saved from demolition in 2018 by her current French owner, whose dream is to restore her and enter the 2028 Ocean Race, though a major restoration is very much needed.

In 2024, 33 Export sailed from Martinique to the Maritime Museum of La Rochelle, where she became a centerpiece of the exhibition dedicated to Thalassa, the iconic TV program created by Georges Pernoud.

In short: a true legend, now on display at the Grand Pavois La Rochelle 2025!

The boat will be present all week, along with the film *The Big Ocean*, screened under the tent *The Spot* on Sunday at 1pm.

***Displayed all week — on view at the Maritime Museum of La Rochelle  
Heritage & DIY Area – Pontoon 7***

## **JOSHUA**

The legendary Joshua of Bernard Moitessier will be here... What more can one say about a boat that forever marked the history of sailing, inspiring a whole philosophy of long-distance voyaging and life at sea?

The iconic red ketch is inseparable from the figure of Bernard Moitessier, great sailor-writer and the first man to sail halfway around the globe, alone and without stopping. This 12-metre steel yacht was christened Joshua in tribute to the famous navigator Joshua Slocum. Aboard her, Moitessier entered the very first Golden Globe Race in 1968, the inaugural solo, non-stop round-the-world competition. Man and boat became instant legends. After passing the Capes of Good Hope, Leeuwin, and Horn with a commanding lead, Moitessier shocked the world by abandoning the race and changing course. More adventures and long voyages followed until 1982, when Joshua was swept up by a cyclone and cast ashore.

Drawn to new horizons, Moitessier entrusted his lifelong companion to two young Americans, who restored her. In 1989, Emmanuel de Toma, then editor-in-chief of *Voiles et Voiliers*, informed Patrick Schnepf, director of the Maritime Museum of La Rochelle, that Joshua had been found in the United States. He urged him to bring the legendary ketch back home. On September 14, 1990, Joshua was loaded aboard a cargo ship in Seattle and made a triumphant return to the Grand Pavois La Rochelle, with Bernard Moitessier himself once again at the helm. (Source: Maritime Museum of La Rochelle)

It was pure magic...

And as a special treat (to be confirmed): the two authors of the graphic novel *La Longue Route* (Gallimard), inspired by Moitessier's book, are expected to be present for a signing session.

***On display all week at the Boat Show – can be seen at the Maritime Museum of La Rochelle  
Heritage & Craftsmanship Area – Dock 7***

**For interview requests, please contact: +33 (0)5 46 44 46 39 – Press Office**

## Key Information

Grand Pavois La Rochelle: the must-see event for all sea lovers

Location: Port des Minimes, La Rochelle

Event dates 2025: Tuesday, September 23 to Sunday, September 28 – open daily from 10am to 7pm (closing at 6pm on Sunday)

Visitors: 70,000 expected over six days

Special Guest: Fort Boyard

Themed areas for every enthusiast:

Boats on land and afloat; Multihull Zone; Equipment Area; Services & Tourism Area; Charter & Cruise Area (new); Heritage & Craftsmanship Area (formerly Heritage & Tradition); Fishing & Grand Pavois Fishing Area; Grand Pavois Beach (new); Event Boats Area; Test Boats Area; Guest of Honor Area; Eco-navigation & Sustainable Innovation Area with EDF.

Press resources: High-resolution, royalty-free photos available in the Press Area: [www.grand-pavois.com](http://www.grand-pavois.com)

Photo credits: O. Blanchet and JM. Rieuepeyrou / GPO

More information: [www.grand-pavois.com](http://www.grand-pavois.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GrandPavois](https://www.facebook.com/GrandPavois)

Instagram: @grand\_pavois\_official

LinkedIn: @GrandPavoisOrganisation

---

## GRAND PAVOIS ORGANISATION, CREATOR AND ORGANIZER OF NAUTICAL EVENTS

Grand Pavois Organisation (GPO) provides tailor-made expertise, guidance, know-how, and unique experience in managing nautical events in France and abroad. Thanks to its non-profit status, GPO enjoys close ties with the international professional sailing community and is widely recognized for its expertise in offshore races, corporate events, and major boat shows.

Notable references include:

- Grand Pavois La Rochelle International In-Water Boat Show (since 1973, ranked among the world's top 5 in-water boat shows)
- Salão Náutico de Salvador with Grand Pavois (Brazil, 2023 and 2024)
- Les Nauticales Boat Show in La Ciotat (France, 2013–2021)
- Shenzhen China International Boat Show (China, 2009–2011)
- Rallye des Îles du Soleil (since 2017)
- Défi Atlantique Guadeloupe / Horta / La Rochelle (2019 and 2023)
- Class40 World Championship (2010 and 2022)
- Transat 6.50 Charente-Maritime / Bahia – Mini Transat (France–Brazil, 2001–2011)
- IMOCA 60 naming ceremonies: Maître CoQ V by Yannick Bestaven (2022), Macif by François Gabart (2011), Class40 Le Conservateur by Yannick Bestaven (2014).

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

**PRESS CONTACT GRAND PAVOIS ORGANIZATION : +33 (0)5 46 44 46 39**

Pierrick Garenne – [pgarenne@grand-pavois.com](mailto:pgarenne@grand-pavois.com) / [presse@grand-pavois.com](mailto:presse@grand-pavois.com)

