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**Sail Into The Americas Cup 2007 In Valencia Spain**

**By Rob Carlton**

The America's Cup competition all started on August 22, 1851 when the British challenged the

United States in a sailing event which the British thought they would easily win. The British have always been known for their naval supremacy and for having been more technologically advanced in its time than the rest of the world. But it was at that event, held around the Isle of Wight, that Queen Victoria had to hand over the prize of 100 Guineas to the American team who had sailed in their 90 foot schooner called precisely `America', from the United States to England in just 21 days. The America's Cup name does not come from the fact that the Americans had been on a winning streak for over the past 132 years, winning 25 times in a row, but from the name of the first non-British boat that achieved taking away the trophy from them. The British pride was badly hurt and they even tried to come up with some accusations like- the Americans had taken a short-cut or having used other types of propellants, but it was all rejected and ever since then, up until 1983, the American teams have been challenged by many countries, all trying to win this prestigious cup.

The next challenge was held in 1870 when England's Royal Thames Yacht Club entered the competition with their sailboat named `Cambria' against 18 other American challengers. Unfortunately, the Cambria had an accident with another boat and came in in one of the last places. But like we said, the British are very proud people and the itch to bring the America's Cup back to England has made some very curious people become participants such as Sir Thomas Lipton, the tea millionaire or Sir Thomas Sopwith, famous for his aircrafts used in different wars. And some wealthy Americans have also sponsored this event such as Harold Vanderbilt or more recently, the T.V. magnate Ted Turner.

In the 1970's, shipbuilders started to realize that design was a minimal part of winning and that with all the new technologies, much faster boats could be made without ignoring design and comfort in handling. In 1983, five different countries wanted to take their shot at this thrilling activity, and one above all really stuck out. The Australia II, owned by Alan Bond, was said to have a top secret designed keel which Bond kept protected and hidden from spying eyes until the main event was underway. The question that was in the minds of all was whether the keel was legal, keeping within the regulations that had been set down for the competition. In the end, he keel complied to all standard rules and the final race was set - the U.S. Liberty against the Australia II. It was a neck to neck race but in the last few miles, the skipper of the Australia found a way to make a quick escape with a gust of

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wind and won by only 25 seconds. Up until that time, the majority of the people in the world had no idea about sailing or even dreamt about owning a yacht, let alone being interested in the America's Cup. But news quickly spread about Australia's victory and having broken the spell that had lasted for 132 years. The Americas Cup 2007 in Valencia Spain In 1992, this event was really becoming something big and it was necessary to set up a new organization which would set down strict rules controlling the size and design. Therefore, the International America's Cup Class or the IACC kicked into action to supervise all the details. Now that the size and design were being watched over, the shipbuilders went for new and better materials making the sailboats lighter but more durable. Some of the recent changes have been longer masts and more sail area, increasing the potential wind to be caught and used for speed. With this, more crew and manpower have also been added making it 17 with one more VIP for a total of 18, to be able to handle this new found speed and power.

But do not fret if you are thinking that you are going to miss out on this wonderful happening which will take place in June 2007 in Valencia

<http://www.valencia-information.com/spain/americas-cup.html>

There will be great television coverage, newspaper articles and internet details for all. Maybe you are even lucky enough to find a cheap flight, hotel and car hire deal and make your dreams come true. And if you are really curious, there is an America's Cup Museum founded in 1983 which is in Australia, depicting a great collection of all the sailboats which have ever participated in this event. And most probable too, is that in the Fallas of Valencia, there will be more than one carton figure paying honour to this incredible event.

Robert Carlton contributes to

<http://www.valencia-information.com>

, a specialised source on travel and

city tips around Valencia Spain. The author is covering topics such as sightseeing and the top events like the americas cup

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## **Congratulations Valencia Spain**

**By Peter Wilson**

For many years, Valencia Spain has been struggling to be recognized as the third most important city after Madrid, its capital and Barcelona. It has long been notorious for its Valencia Fallas Festival but now, after having been chosen for the Americas Cup host city and having opened its latest building in

## Sail Into The Americas Cup 2007 In Valencia Spain

the impressive 'City of the Arts and Sciences', Valencia is becoming well-known world-wide. Sail along with Valencia Spain On November 26th, 2003, Valencia was proclaimed the official welcoming city for the upcoming Americas Cup 2007. The Swiss team 'Alinghi', the winner of the America's Cup 2003, had the chance to choose the headquarters for the following competition because Switzerland was obviously at a loss without a sea or ocean and Valencia among others was a good option. The main priority was that the host city had to have excellent weather conditions not forgetting all the other services that would go along with size event. The weather in Valencia is quite warm in summer with mild winters and a nice long coast line with great sports ports in many of the neighbouring cities like Denia, Javea and Alicante. So, on January 23rd, 2003 the ACM ( America's Cup Management ), the only organization responsible for this event, published its document 'Terms of Challenge' and on January 27th, 2003 it opened its door for inscription.

For the first time in 152 years, this encounter will be one lasting four years with various races, each one being called An Act, leading up to the climax race of Louis Vuitton Cup in 2007. The points that each team get in Act 1 being celebrated in Marseilles will count towards the lining up for the main race. This is the first time that these teams are going to use this format in this particular event. There is going to be an interesting mixture of fleet racing ( group of sailboats) and match-race ( one on one) to produce an exciting visual show, guaranteeing good entertainment. Marseilles to Start Valencia to Continue On September 5th, 2004, Act One of the America's Cup started, exactly from pier J4, where large TV screens were set up so that the interested public could actively participate in this fantastic happening. The reason why Marseille was chosen was because it had a lot of places from where the race could be watched first hand. The new concept that the organizers want to push is the idea of getting the public as close to the competitors as possible so that every feels the warmth and emotion. In Act One there were only five teams signed up: The defender 'Alinghi', and the challengers BMW Oracle Racing, Le Defi from France, K-Challenge and the South African Shosolozha. Act Two and Three were held 'at home' in Valencia which let the teams get familiar with their new landscape and weather conditions such as the wind and waters of the Valencian coast. After Act Three was finalized in October, there was a champion for 2004 with the accumulation of the points from the three acts.

When the inscription date expired on April 29th, 2005 there were a total of eleven challenging teams signed up; BMW Oracle from U.S.A., +39 Challenge, Mascalzone Latino Capitalia Team and Luna Rossa all from Italy, Team Shosholozha from South Africa, Emirates Team from New Zealand, K-Challenge from France, Victory Challenge from Sweden, United Internet Team Germany from Germany, China Team from China and last but not least the Desafio Espanol from Spain. Now, after Nine Louis Vuitton Acts, it is time to slow the engines a little and get some strength back. We will see the beginning of three new Acts in May 2006 (

<http://www.valencia-information.com/spain/americas-cup.html>

). Valencia, the Most Lively City

Thanks to all its innovative tourist attractions, and with the up coming Americas Cup, Valencia airport is busier than ever with new flight expansion plans for easier travel to and from this bubbling city. Some of the best hotels like the Silken Puerta Valencia, built right near the port area or the Posadas de Espana in the industrial and Fairgrounds area will make your stay quite pleasurable when in Valencia

Spain.

Peter Wilson has been writing as a freelancer every since he settled in the Valencia region in Spain with his Spanish born wife and daughter. He wants to bring us closer to the marvellous country of Spain at his website

<http://www.valencia-information.com>



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