

ALLA GRANDE-PIRELLI: AMBROGIO BECCARIA'S NEW BOAT LAUNCHED IN GENOA

Genoa, 12 August 2022 – The new Class 40 Alla Grande-Pirelli yacht has been unveiled at a special launch event at Calata Gadda in Genova. The vessel, designed by Gianluca Guelfi in collaboration with Fabio D'Angeli, with the support of the main and lead sponsor Pirelli, is the first Class 40 entirely built by an Italian team, will be commanded Ambrogio Beccaria, thirty-year-old Milanese sailor who in 2019 was the first Italian to win the Mini-Transat. The project is also supported by Mapei (global sponsor).

The launch took place in Genoa at Calata Gadda, in the heart of the Porto Antico, at the presence of the Alla Grande team; then, in early September, a moment is foreseen public to make the boat closely known to the project partners and to the press. A nice north wind welcomed the boat that was held in baptism by a very important godmother for the career of the Milanese navigator: the bottle was smashed with a sure shot by Roberta Oriani, the mother of Ambrogio.

The Alla Grande-Pirelli build lasted six months and took place at the newly built San Giorgio Marine shipyard, which is owned by former Olympian and ex-Persico Marine project manager, Edoardo Bianchi. A team of 10 people was trusted to deliver the latest high-quality prototype vessel for the most famous offshore sailing regatta of the season: two boat designers, Gianluca Guelfi and Fabio D'Angeli, Alberto Monaco, site manager, Alberto Riva, ocean navigator that he is in charge of on-board electronics, Tommaso Stella, in charge of the ropes in collaboration with Gottifredi and Maffioli, Bernardo Zin, boat captain, who followed all construction and work organization, Albane Seassau, preparer who took care of the safety equipment and systems.

"Alla Grande is a spaceship!" said Ambrogio Beccaria, who became the first Italian to win the Mini-Transat race in 2019. "I am very satisfied. With Gianluca we chose a boat, among the 40 that we studied, which was the easiest to handle in difficult conditions. Not the one with the lowest resistance but the one with the best attitude. We also drew the sails before designing the boat, which allowed us to have some idea of the Alla Grande's character in advance. We mixed Gianluca's scientific methods with my experience throughout the whole process. I wanted a boat that flew without a foil; in other words, with the bow constantly out of the water. I hope I succeeded!"

"An important novelty", continued Beccaria "is that we used Northern Light Composite, materials with low environmental impact. We built the bow and stern hatch and the instrument holder using linen fibre and recyclable resin. Now we will test them at sea!"

The most important innovation of Alla Grande - Pirelli is certainly that of being a boat, at the same time, performing and safe, born for the ocean and destined for go around the world alone. However it has been designed with safety requirements additional compared to other boats in the class. "The blanket line," says Gianluca Guelfi, the designer of the boat together with Fabio D'Angeli, "is special compared to other boats with the presence of a double edge that has the dual purpose of longitudinally stiffening the boat and optimizing the position of the center of gravity with respect to the tonnage limit imposed by the class 40 "

The debut in the Mediterranean

The Palermo-Monte Carlo race will start on Friday 19 August from Mondello close to Palermo, ending in the Principality of Monaco after passing through the gate in the waters in front of the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda in Porto Cervo.

In addition to the Alla Grande-Pirelli entry, a total of 43 crews have entered this 17th edition of the Palermo-Monte Carlo race, whose route traverses the Mediterranean; symbolically uniting Italy and France.

As has come to be expected with top-class racing vessels, the development curve is continuous, and the aim is to progress throughout the year, with an overall result in the Palermo-Monte Carlo not a priority for the team.

“Alla Grande-Pirelli was born for the ocean,” commented Beccaria, “but it seemed natural to us that a boat with an Italian soul should make its debut in the Mediterranean. And there is no better regatta than the Palermo-Monte Carlo race, which, for almost 20 years has been a landmark of offshore sailing in our seas. It's a first time for me too: I've never competed in this race before, and I'm very happy to do it on the Alla Grande. We still have many details to refine but we are not very focused on the result, as we don't yet have the confidence and experience with the boat to win a race like this one. The crew I chose is formed first of all by two friends: I've sailed and won various regattas with Alberto Riva and we always work well together. I call him "Swiss Army Knife", as he can do anything! Sailing with Gianluca Guelfi will also give us the opportunity to test and improve the boat's potential.”

The crew of Alla Grande-Pirelli at the Palermo-Monte Carlo race

Ambrogio Beccaria was born and raised in Milan but now resides in the French town of Lorient. The 30-year-old graduated with a degree in nautical engineering and became the first Italian to win the famous solo transatlantic Mini-Transat race on 15 November 2019. Beccaria was named “Sailor of the Year” in 2018 and 2019 and was awarded the Ambrogino d'Oro prize in 2020.

Alberto Riva was born in Milan in 1992. He studied physical engineering, specialising in nanotechnologies. He has travelled with some of the best-known Italian sailors, including Giovanni Soldini, Andrea Fantini and Beccaria himself. As an engineer, he carries out data analysis for racing teams and follows research and development of the latest electronic devices for navigation. In 2021, he finished second in the Mini-Transat race.

Gianluca Guelfi was born in Tuscany in 1988. The nautical engineer and yacht designer studied in La Spezia and graduated with a thesis on Class 40. He has since worked in La Rochelle in France, alongside Marc Lombard in 2011, and at the hydrodynamics laboratory in Nantes. He created a start-up based in La Rochelle creating a new type of aerodynamic support boat. He lives in Lorient, Brittany.

Bernardo Zin was born in Vicenza and began sailing on Lake Garda, quickly developing a passion for offshore sailing as well. After graduating in nautical engineering, he worked for many years in boat design, construction and management for MTZ Solutions. Together with Beccaria, he set the Portofino-Giraglia-Portofino route record, on an F18 sport catamaran.

Ambrogio's latest adventure has been helped through the loyal support of a number of organisations. In addition to title sponsor Pirelli, global partners include: Mapei, Gottifredi Maffioli, Solbian, B&G, Musto, Harken, Lombardini Marine, Studio Scandurra, Marine Electrics, North Sails, Elensys, Banca Passadore and SanGiorgio Marine. These partners have played a key role in providing the technical know-how to make the Alla Grande-Pirelli vessel a reality.

Ambrogio is also Ambassador of One Ocean Foundation, an Italian company founded in 2018 that operates internationally for the protection and conservation of marine life and coastal environments.

The Mapei Sport Research Centre supports Beccaria with athletic training along with medical and nutrition assistance.

Visit Ambrogio Beccaria's official site here: [qui](#).