

**Maserati and Giovanni Soldini ready for the Rolex Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race
Challenging conditions forecast for first part of the event**

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Rolex Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race

There are now just three days to go to the start of the 71st edition of the Rolex Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race. One of the most important and historic international events on the sailing calendar, it is renowned for the gruelling conditions both boats and crews must face as they grapple with the notoriously challenging seas of the south.

Maserati and her 14-strong crew will cross the start line at 13.00 local time (2.00 GMT, 3.00 Italian time) on December 26 and then race against 109 other craft from 20 different nations on a 628-nautical mile route that also crosses the fearsome Bass Strait.

Aboard, skipper Giovanni Soldini will be flanked by Italians Guido Broggi, Corrado Rossignoli, Matteo Ivaldi, Francesco Malingri and Carlo Castellano; Spaniards Carlos Hernandez and Oliver Herrera; Pierre Casiraghi from Monaco; Brit Sam Goodchild; Australians Elizabeth “Liz” Wardley, Drew Mervyn Carruthers, Trevor Brown and journalist and “special guest” Nick Vindin.

Daily training sessions aboard *Maserati* aside, Soldini and his crew are also carefully monitoring weather developments for the coming days with models and forecasts often contradicting each other. However, what is becoming increasingly clear is that a front will be arriving on the day of the start.

Soldini explains: “This morning’s models confirm that a front will be coming in in the first few hours of the race. It will be followed by south-south-westerly winds of around 30 knots, maybe even higher. Today’s model, however, sees the front moving away fast and so conditions should improve. For the second part of the route, there should be light easterly winds, tending to north-easterly. Right now, the second half of the race looks trickier and we’ll really have to work hard to get to Hobart. We can’t wait to get going!”



Organised by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia and the Royal Club of Tasmania, the Rolex Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race was first held in 1945. The current race record was set in 2012 by the Australian yacht *Wild Oats XI* (winner of eight of the last 10 editions) which covered the distance in 1 day, 18 hours, 23 seconds and 12 hundredths of a second.

Video footage and still photographs from the boat can be found at www.maserati.soldini.it and on the following social networks: Facebook (Giovanni Soldini Pagina Ufficiale, over 40.000 friends) and Twitter @giovannisoldini (over 127.000 followers).

*The challenge is sponsored by the main partner, **Maserati**, after which the yacht is named, and by co-sponsors **Swiss Bank BSI** and **Unipol SAI Assicurazioni**.*

*The official suppliers to the challenge are **Z Zegna** (clothing), **Vodafone Italia** (telecommunication services and official website development) and **Boero Bartolomeo S.p.A.** (specialist hull paints and enamels).*

*Also aboard Maserati are **Eataly** (provisioning), **Beta Utensili** (all professional tools), **Corderia Lancelin** (specialist lines and cables), **Jeppesen** (cartography), **B&G Navico** (technical assistance with onboard instrumentation), **Cantiere Picchiotti of La Spezia** (Maserati's home base ashore), and the **La Spezia Port Authority** (Maserati's home port afloat).*

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