

TEAM *Malizia* PRESS KIT 2026

Update: June 2026

Malizia



ABOUT TEAM MALIZIA

Team Malizia is an international offshore sailing team, skippered by German sailor Boris Herrmann and co-founded by Pierre Casiraghi, Vice President of the Yacht Club de Monaco. We compete in the biggest offshore races around the world and use this unique platform to communicate the excitement of our sport and to inspire ambitious climate action. Our slogan and logo combine both facets of our identity: A Race We Must Win - Climate Action Now! accompanied by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals wheel on the sails of our IMOCA racing yacht. The team has four main pillars to the campaign - sailing, science, education, and partnerships which are co-dependant on each other for success. We raise awareness by collecting Ocean climate data, educating the public and children on climate change topics with an education programme, and by partnering with companies, NGOs, scientists, and institutions to achieve change and further our mission.

Boris and Team Malizia



THE MALIZIA JOURNEY

SO FAR...



THE MALIZIA JOURNEY

GOING FORWARD



2025

THE OCEAN RACE EUROPE

MAJOR OCEAN
CONFERENCES

Ambassador to the
One Ocean Science
Congress

UNOC3

TEAM MALIZIA KIDS EVENT
WITH UNICEF



2026

NEW BOAT LAUNCH

Launch of Malizia 4
yacht, 6 July

THE OCEAN RACE
ATLANTIC 2026

ROUTE DU RHUM 2026



2027

THE OCEAN RACE 2027

UN OCEAN DECADE
CONFERENCE RIO DE
JANEIRO



2028

UN OCEAN CONFERENCE IN
CHILE

VENDÉE GLOBE 2028-
2029

Set to participate
for the third time



2029

2030

RACING



SAILING TEAM 2025-2027

Team Malizia's sailing squad includes seven sailors and onboard reporters hailing for 7 countries and led by Boris Herrmann (GER) and permanent co-skipper Will Harris (GBR). The five other co-skippers includes Cole Brauer (USA), Francesca Clapcich (ITA/USA), Justine Mettraux (SUI), Loïs Berrehar (FRA) and Julien Villion (FRA). Team Malizia has chosen a larger, more diverse crew than required for The Ocean Race Europe 2025 and The Ocean Race Atlantic 2026, reflecting its values and long-term vision. The aim is to build a larger, tight-knit group that grows together over time with The Ocean Race 2027 in mind and to ensure best possible preparation for the round-the-world race, even as sailors pursue other projects in between.



BORIS HERRMANN

GERMAN, BORN 28 MAY 1981

In 2020, Boris Herrmann became the first German to compete in the Vendée Globe, racing solo non-stop around the world and finishing 5th, an achievement widely covered in German and international media. He has completed six circumnavigations: doublehanded, fully-crewed, and solo. These include the 2009 Portimão Global Ocean Race, the 2010 Barcelona World Race, a 2015-16 Jules Verne Trophy attempt, the Vendée Globe in 2020-21 and 2024-25, and The Ocean Race 2022-23, where he and his team finished 3rd overall, winning two legs. In 2025, he took part in The Ocean Race Europe for the first time, starting on home waters in Kiel, Germany. In 2026, he is leading his crew in the inaugural The Ocean Race Atlantic, their first race aboard his Team Malizia's new race yacht.

Boris Herrmann, who studied economics and sustainable management at the University of Bremen, is an unwavering champion of climate action and a sought-after speaker on sustainability. Over the past decade, he and his team have combined elite offshore racing with a bold climate and science mission under the banner "A Race We Must Win - Climate Action Now!": raising awareness, educating children globally, and collecting vital Ocean data. As an outspoken advocate, he uses his platform to urge the public to act now in the face of the climate crisis. At the end of 2025, he joined a scientific expedition to the Danger Islands in Antarctica aboard Team Malizia's research sailing vessel Malizia Explorer.

SKIPPER FOR
 **THE OCEAN RACE**
ATLANTIC

Click on the photo to access the image bank



WATCH BORIS' PORTRAIT



WILL HARRIS CO-SKIPPER

ENGLISH, BORN 22 JANUARY 1994

Will Harris joined Team Malizia in 2019 and has since raced as co-skipper alongside Boris Herrmann in major double-handed events (Fastnet Race 2019, Transat Jacques Vabre 2019 and 2023), as well as the crewed Ocean Race 2022-23. There, he skippered two legs, becoming the youngest skipper of the edition, and won the Hans Horrevoets Rookie Trophy. In 2025, he returned to the skipper role when Boris Herrmann was not onboard, leading the Malizia crew in the Course des Caps and the longest leg of The Ocean Race Europe. He also won the Admiral's Cup with the Yacht Club de Monaco, sailing as navigator onboard Jolt6, skippered by Pierre Casiraghi, and finished second in the Transat Café L'OR, racing as co-skipper to Francesca Clapcich after Malizia - Seaexplorer was handed over to her team. In 2026, he is also racing in The Ocean Race Atlantic aboard her boat, bringing his experience and building on the collaboration between the teams while creating further opportunities for the Malizia squad to race together ahead of The Ocean Race 2027.

Will Harris plays a key role at Team Malizia, not only as co-skipper but also supporting Boris Herrmann's Vendée Globe preparation and as meteorologist, navigator, and speaker. His two goals are winning The Ocean Race 2027 and the Vendée Globe 2028-29, aiming to become the first Briton to win the latter. With a degree in oceanography, he is passionate about marine science and uses his sailing career to promote research and sustainability.

Click on the photo to access the image bank



WATCH WILL'S PORTRAIT



COLE BRAUER

AMERICAN, BORN 24 MAY 1994

Cole Brauer grew up on Long Island and discovered her passion for the Ocean early on. She built expertise in regattas and offshore sailing, and after studying science at the University of Hawaii, she specialised in single- and short-handed racing. In 2023, she became the youngest and only female participant in the Global Solo Challenge, racing her Class40 First Light. After 130 days at sea, she finished second in March 2024, breaking the Class40 round-the-world speed record and becoming the first American woman to race solo around the globe. Sharing her journey on social media, she grew from 10,000 to 400,000 followers with her transparent, human approach, showing both moments of doubt and frustration, as well as lighter ones.

In 2024, Cole Brauer joined Team Malizia under the mentorship of Boris Herrmann through The Magenta Project. By 2025, she became one of the team's co-skippers and raced in the Course des Caps and The Ocean Race Europe. She was also named 2024 Rolex Yachtswoman of the Year and won the prestigious Admiral's Cup with the Yacht Club de Monaco in July 2025, sailing onboard Jolt6, skippered by Pierre Casiraghi. In 2026, she return as Team Malizia's co-skipper in The Ocean Race Atlantic, which begins in her home state. Through her performance and positivity, she represents a new generation of sailors.

CO-SKIPPER FOR
THE OCEAN RACE
ATLANTIC

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WATCH COLE'S PORTRAIT



JUSTINE METTRAUX

SWISS, BORN 4 OCTOBER 1986

Justine Mettraux, a Swiss sailor born in Geneva in 1986, grew up in Versoix and began sailing at a very young age on her family's boat. At the age of 16, Justine Mettraux joined the Geneva Regatta Training Center, where she honed her passion for competition. She later became part of the crew of the D35 Lady Cat owned by Dona Bertarelli, and in 2013, she competed in her first Mini Transat, finishing in second place. This was followed by offshore racing experiences in the Solitaire du Figaro and the Volvo Ocean Race. In 2022, the Vendée Globe adventure began, marking her first solo steps in the IMOCA Class. In 2024, supported by her long-time sponsor TeamWork and the Snef Group, she set off on the solo round-the-world race, finishing in 8th place as the first woman and record holder of the event.

The adventure continued in 2025 with Team Malizia, as she joined the crew as co-skipper and navigator for The Ocean Race Europe. Since then, she has been racing in several events in her own campaign while overseeing the build of her first new IMOCA yacht. In the summer of 2026, she rejoins Team Malizia for The Ocean Race Atlantic, returning as co-skipper in the inaugural edition of the crewed transatlantic race.

**CO-SKIPPER FOR
THE OCEAN RACE
ATLANTIC**

Click on the photo to access the image bank



WATCH JUSTINE'S PORTRAIT



JULIEN VILLION

FRENCH, BORN 27 JULY 1987

Julien Villion has been passionate about sport from an early age, and becoming a professional sailor quickly became a clear ambition. Drawn to the many facets of sailing - solo or crewed, offshore or inshore racing, on multihulls or monohulls - he thrives in a demanding and multidisciplinary environment, where a modern sailor must be both an athlete, a technician and a strategist. Since 2014, he has developed strong expertise in weather analysis and routing, a field he values for its analytical and decision-making dimensions. He has taken part in major offshore campaigns such as the Route du Rhum, the Transat Jacques Vabre and The Transat, contributing to significant achievements, including the solo round-the-world record and the solo North Atlantic crossing record.

In 2019, he began a collaboration with Justine Mettraux, later becoming performance manager on her IMOCA project. He continued his career at the highest level by joining Team Malizia's sailing team as co-skipper and navigator in 2025, with The Ocean Race 2027 in sight. He took part in the crewed Course des Caps 2025 and is racing The Ocean Race Atlantic 2026 as part of the team's campaign, where he will be reunited with Justine Mettraux. Alongside this, he continues to pursue other projects with the Gitana and Actual Ultim teams between races.

**CO-SKIPPER FOR
THE OCEAN RACE
ATLANTIC**

Click on the photo to access the image bank



WATCH JULIEN'S PORTRAIT



FRANCESCA CLAPCICH

CO-SKIPPER

ITALIAN-AMERICAN, BORN 28 JANUARY 1988

Francesca Clapcich is a record-setting offshore sailor and versatile athlete. She represented Italy at the London and Rio Olympics, won The Ocean Race 2022-23 as the first Italian to do so, and raced for the USA in the 2024 Puig Women's America's Cup. She also skippered UpWind by MerConcept, the first all-female team in the Ocean Fifty Series. In 2025, she announced, alongside title sponsor 11th Hour Racing, the start of her IMOCA campaign and journey to qualify for the Vendée Globe 2028-29, aiming to become the first sailor to compete in all four major sailing events: the Olympics, the Puig Women's America's Cup, The Ocean Race, and the Vendée Globe.

In 2025, she joined Team Malizia as co-skipper for the Course des Caps and The Ocean Race Europe, before the Malizia - Seaexplorer yacht was handed over to her team. For the Transat Café L'OR, she selected Team Malizia's Will Harris as her co-skipper, with the pair delivering a second-place finish. In 2026, she competes in The Ocean Race Atlantic with her own project and a crew including him. She is expected to rejoin Team Malizia during The Ocean Race 2027, racing with the team on selected legs before returning to her own project. Alongside her sporting goals, she aims to drive positive change in sailing and beyond by promoting belonging, equity, and sustainability. Her team uses the IMOCA campaign, her experience, and sailing to fight discrimination and climate change through education, advocacy, and collective action.

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WATCH FRANKIE'S PORTRAIT



LOÏS BERREHAR

CO-SKIPPER

FRENCH, BORN 30 OCTOBER 1993

After ten years in high-level catamarans, Loïs Berrehar switched to offshore sailing in 2016 with Team Sodebo and moved to the demanding Figaro Bénéteau Class in 2017, quickly standing out as first rookie in the Solo Maître Coq and 15th in the Solitaire Urgo - Le Figaro. In 2019, he took the helm of the Figaro 3 Performance and in 2021 finished 10th in the Transat Jacques Vabre with Fabrice Amedeo. In 2023, he raced with Romain Attanasio in the Défi Azimut and Transat Jacques Vabre. After a strong Figaro season, he was named Charlie Dalin's replacement skipper for the 2024-25 Vendée Globe.

In 2025, he announced with Banque Populaire the build of a new IMOCA, a sistership of Team Malizia's future boat, aiming for the Vendée Globe 2028-29. While awaiting his IMOCA (to be launched in 2027), he joined Team Malizia as co-skipper for The Ocean Race Europe. Though it was his team debut, he and Boris Herrmann have known each other for years: in 2008, a young Loïs christened Boris' Class40 Beluga Racer. As part of the broader Malizia squad, he is also aligned with the team's Ocean Race ambitions and continues to build IMOCA experience through participation in various projects across the class, including a third-place finish in the Transat Café L'OR as co-skipper to Sam Goodchild onboard MACIF Santé Prévoyance, just behind Francesca Clapcich and Will Harris.

Click on the photo to access the image bank



WATCH LOÏS' PORTRAIT



GAUTHIER LEBEC

FRENCH, BORN 3 NOVEMBER 1993

Gauthier Lebec's early years in La Trinité-sur-Mer, growing up in a sailing environment, strongly shaped his personality and way of life. Put on a sailboat before he could even walk, sailing quickly became a central part of his life. After 10 years of competing in windsurfing and catamaran racing, he stepped back from sailing for a time to focus on studying and travelling. Following sports management internships in Australia and Switzerland, he joined an IMOCA sailing team for his first professional role. If he wasn't destined to become a professional sailor, he would at least be the one telling their stories.

For four years, camera in hand, he documented the adventures of Jérémie Beyou and his team. That experience launched his career as an onboard reporter—an embedded storyteller—leading him to work with other skippers, including Benjamin Dutreux during The Ocean Race 2022-23 and Paul Meilhat during The Ocean Race Atlantic 2025. Since 2024, he has been working closely with Justine Mettraux, racing several events together. Their collaboration now continues under the Malizia colours, as they are sailing together onboard the team's brand new IMOCA race yacht in The Ocean Race Atlantic 2026.

ONBOARD REPORTER
THE OCEAN RACE
ATLANTIC

Click on the photo to access the image bank



THE TEAM

BEHIND THE SCENES

In the past three years, our team has grown to over 35 people from 13 countries across technical and commercial roles, from boat building to partner management, electronics, communications, and education. Every role strengthens our mission and supports our A Race We Must Win - Climate Action Now! campaign, which aims to inspire ambitious climate action through the emotion of sailing and education on solutions to the climate crisis.

During The Ocean Race 2022-23, we launched the **Malizians docu-series**, created by journalist Carsten Behrendt and following the lives of our team through twelve 20-30 minute episodes released every 2-3 weeks as we competed in the round-the-world race. With interviews, real-life moments, and unique insights, the series brought fans closer to the team than ever before. We have continued this storytelling through regular vlogs and other features, including a **second season** of "Malizians" which followed the team during The Ocean Race Europe 2025.

Click on the photo to access the image bank



**WATCH OUR MALIZIANS
ADVENTURES**



MALIZIA - SEAEXPLORER

OUR FORMER RACING YACHT

FOILING IMOCA

LENGTH: 18.28M

LAUNCHED
19 JULY 2022

WIDTH: 5-6M

ARCHITECT VPLP

MAST HEIGHT: 27M

MULTIPLAST BUILD

DRAUGHT: 4.5M

BOAT NR: 1297

TOP SPEED: 39 KNOTS



MALIZIA - SEAEXPLORER

FORMER RACING IMOCA

Launched on 19 July 2022, Malizia - Seaexplorer was built by Multiplast and designed by VPLP, with about 6 months of design work and a year of construction, with some overlap, going into the boat. Boris Herrmann played a major role in the design, applying lessons from his first Vendée Globe. The boat features a distinctive cutaway rounded bow, designed to ride over waves rather than cutting through them, improving seaworthiness. She was built with strength in mind to withstand the heavy Southern Ocean swells, proven when the team won Leg 3 of The Ocean Race 2022-23 and during Boris Herrmann's second Vendée Globe. The deck mould and honeycomb core material were made by Schütz, the sails by North Sails, electronics were from B&G, and ropes partly from Gleistein. The boat most recently flew on her version 3 foils and carried solar panels and hydrogenerators. In 2025, a hybrid propulsion system by Molabo and Fischer Panda was added to run entirely on renewable energy. The boat also carried scientific equipment. Designed for both crewed and solo racing, she has a larger living space. True to form, the IMOCA has no toilet or kitchen. Drinking water comes from a desalination system, and meals are freeze-dried, prepared on a Jetboil, and eaten from the bag. In October 2025, Team Malizia sold the boat to Team Francesca Clapcich Powered by 11th Hour Racing and is since then managing the technical side of her campaign.



NEW BOAT BUILD

LAUNCH: 6 JULY 2026

In May 2025, Team Malizia announced the build of a new IMOCA racing yacht and with it, an unprecedented collaboration. For the first time in recent IMOCA class history, three teams, Team Malizia, TR Racing (Thomas Ruyant), and Team Banque Populaire (Loïs Berrehar), have united to co-design and construct three new boats. Combining their expertise and ambition, they are working with naval architect Antoine Koch, design office Finot-Conq, and structural engineering firm Gsea Design. The yachts are being built at the CDK shipyard.

While they share a common platform, each team is making specific modifications to reflect their skipper's unique approach to offshore racing. This joint project brings teams together to share knowledge, reduce costs, and lower our climate impact. Filmed and released monthly during the build, the **Born to Race docu-series** captures Team Malizia's human, technical, and strategic journey of creating a top-performance racing yacht. Team Malizia's IMOCA will be launched on **6 July 2026**.



MORE ABOUT THE BUILD HERE

RACING HIGHLIGHTS

VENDÉE GLOBE 2020-2021

Boris Herrmann made history as the first German to compete in the Vendée Globe, the legendary solo, non-stop, unassisted round-the-world race. Departing Les Sables-d'Olonne on 8 November 2020 aboard Seaexplorer - Yacht Club de Monaco, he spent 80 days alone at sea, facing storms, sleep deprivation, and isolation, while also collecting vital Ocean data. Among the front-runners for much of the race, he impressed with his calm determination, strategic choices, and consistent performance. But just 90 nautical miles from the finish line, his boat collided with a fishing vessel at night. Despite the damage, he brought the boat home safely and finished in 5th place. Besides the impressive result, he stood out for his raw, personal storytelling through onboard videos, offering millions an unfiltered view of life at sea. His first Vendée Globe campaign was a powerful display of skill, resilience, and purpose—bringing solo Ocean racing and its climate mission to a global audience.



RACING HIGHLIGHTS

THE OCEAN RACE 2022-2023

The Ocean Race is widely regarded as the toughest team competition in sport. In 2023, Team Malizia and their newly built Malizia - Seaexplorer took on this legendary round-the-world challenge for the first time. Over six months, they raced 37,000 nautical miles across 7 legs and 9 cities, from Alicante to Genova. Led by skipper Boris Herrmann, the crew faced relentless conditions and despite major setbacks, including injuries and a cracked mast, they pushed through to claim 3rd place overall. Highlights included winning the Southern Ocean leg, passing Cape Horn first, winning the final sprint to Genova, and breaking the 24-hour monohull distance record. Their story reached millions through real-time onboard coverage, a behind-the-scenes documentary series, and a book. Driven by teamwork and resilience, Team Malizia proved they belong at the top of offshore racing, and they did it while continuing their climate mission, collecting vital Ocean data and educating children all along the way.



WATCH THE DOCU-SERIES



RACING HIGHLIGHTS

THE TRANSAT CIC 2024

An arrival as iconic as New York City deserved a great result, and Boris Herrmann delivered. On 6 May 2024, the German skipper finished second in The Transat CIC, the solo North Atlantic race. After departing Lorient, France, he crossed the finish line 8 days, 9 hours, 14 minutes, and 31 seconds later, covering 3,251 nautical miles at an average speed of 16.16 knots against 32 competitors. On arrival, Boris Herrmann commented: "I feel great, this race gave me confidence for my upcoming second Vendée Globe, which was my main objective. I also validated my qualification and this 2nd place is my best IMOCA result so far." Despite a torn mainsail on Day 3 and rough conditions, Boris Herrmann climbed steadily from the top 10 to 2nd place, finishing just over two hours behind winner Yoann Richomme after a suspenseful battle. "I really found my solo legs. I felt great alone on board and Malizia is Vendée Globe ready!"



RACING HIGHLIGHTS

NEW YORK VENDÉE 2024

In a race full of decisions and excitement, Boris Herrmann crossed the finish line of the New York Vendée in second place, achieving consecutive second place finishes in 2024's transatlantic solo challenges. Racing against 27 competitors from New York to Les Sables d'Olonne, Boris Herrmann took a risky yet well thought-through strategic decision. He was the only sailor to go for a very northern route which saw him fight through light winds, and sail within as little as 300 nautical miles of Greenland. He then reached the downwind conditions he had been chasing and raced fast towards France, claiming 2nd place in the process, on Sunday 9 June 2024 after 10 days, 20 hours, 52 minutes, and 32 seconds at sea and 4,112 nautical miles sailed. With his impressive consecutive achievements, Boris Herrmann made a big statement highlighting his outstanding potential for the Vendée Globe.



RACING HIGHLIGHTS

VENDÉE GLOBE 2024-2025

On 29 January 2025, Boris Herrmann finished his second Vendée Globe in 12th place, completing the legendary solo, non-stop, unassisted round-the-world race in 80 days, 10 hours, 16 minutes, and 41 seconds. The “Everest of the Seas” lived up to its name: the German faced storms, a lightning strike, damaged electronics, a ripped sail, and his fear of heights during two mast climbs, all while battling a highly competitive fleet of 40 boats. Despite a collision with an OANI (unidentified animal or object) on 16 January that broke his boat’s port foil, he never gave up. Instead, he shifted his goal to “bringing her home safe” and succeeded, completing his second solo circumnavigation all while raising awareness for Ocean and climate protection and collecting vital Ocean CO₂ data from some of the most remote areas of the planet. His finish marks another milestone in the Vendée Globe, a race so tough that across 10 editions, there have only been 146 successful finishes.



WATCH THE POST-RACE FILM



RACING HIGHLIGHTS

THE OCEAN RACE EUROPE 2025

The second edition of The Ocean Race Europe set off from Kiel, Germany, on 10 August 2025 and ended six weeks later in Boka Bay, Montenegro. This fast-paced race featured a mixed crew of four sailors and one onboard reporter per leg. Team Malizia competed in this European event for the first time and lined up in a fleet of seven IMOCA boats. The five legs of the race connected key cities across the continent, with stops in Portsmouth, Matosinhos-Porto (pit-stop), Cartagena, Nice, and Genova before finishing in Montenegro.

The Kiel start held special meaning for Boris Herrmann, who recalls the electric atmosphere of the 2023 The Ocean Race Fly-By, thousands of fans and escort boats lining the Kieler Fjord, as one of the most emotional moments of his career. Achieving an overall fourth-place finish, the team continued its science and education mission. They collected crucial Ocean data and hosted My Ocean Challenge events in Kiel, Portsmouth, and Genova, engaging young people in climate action.



WATCH THE DOCU-SERIES





PREVIOUS RACES

LIST OF BORIS HERRMANN'S PAST IMOCA RACES

- Fastnet Race 2017 - 3rd place
- Transat Jacques Vabre 2017 - 4th place (co-skipper Thomas Ruyant)
- Monaco Globe Series 2018 - 7th place
- Route du Rhum 2018 - 5th place
- Bermudes 1000 2019 - 6th place
- Fastnet Race 2019 - 7th place (co-skipper Will Harris)
- Transat Jacques Vabre 2019 - 12th place (co-skipper Will Harris)
- Vendée Arctique 2020 - 7th place
- Vendée Globe 2020 - 5th place
- Route du Rhum 2022 - 24th place
- The Ocean Race 2022-2023 - 3rd place (crewed)
- Défi Azimut 2023 - 7th place
- Transat Jacques Vabre 2023 - 7th place (co-skipper Will Harris)
- Retour à La Base 2023 - 4th place
- The Transat CIC 2024 - 2nd place
- New York Vendée 2024 - 2nd place
- Défi Azimut 2024 - 10th place
- Vendée Globe 2024-2025 - 12th place
- Course des Caps 2025 - 4th place (crewed, without Boris Herrmann, skipper Will Harris)
- The Ocean Race Europe 2025 - 4th place (crewed)

UPCOMING

THE OCEAN RACE ATLANTIC 2026

The Ocean Race Atlantic is a new fully crewed transatlantic event for the IMOCA fleet. Featuring mixed crews of four sailors and one onboard reporter, as well as a strong ocean-health focus, teams will race 3000 nautical miles from New York City to Lorient, France (where Team Malizia is based), over approximately 8 days starting on 1st September 2026. The race follows the The Ocean Race Europe 2025 and leads into the next around-the-world edition, which will start from Alicante in January 2027. For the first time, crews of four sailors will include an equal gender split: two women and two men.

For Team Malizia, the transatlantic sprint will also be their first race aboard their newly launched IMOCA yacht. Skipper Boris Herrmann, will be joined by co-skippers Cole Brauer (USA), Justine Mettraux (SUI), Julien Villion (FRA), and onboard reporter Gauthier Lebec (FRA). As they sprint across the North Atlantic Ocean, teams could even attempt to break the 24-hour monohull distance record held by Team Malizia since 2023.



UPCOMING

ROUTE DU RHUM-DESTINATION GUADELOUPE 2026

On 29 June 2026, Team Malizia and skipper Boris Herrmann announced his Route du Rhum-Destination Guadeloupe 2026 campaign, subject to qualification later that summer. The iconic solo transatlantic race, which starts from Saint-Malo, France, on 1 November 2026 at 13:02 local time, will mark Boris Herrmann's third participation in the event and his first solo race aboard Team Malizia's brand-new IMOCA, following the yacht's launch on 6 July.

Held every four years, the 13th edition of the race will see 117 solo sailors, potentially joined by a small number of wildcard entries, set sail from Saint-Malo in northern France to Pointe-à-Pitre in Guadeloupe in the Caribbean, covering a theoretical distance of 3,542 nautical miles (6,560 km). Professionals, leading figures in sailing and passionate amateur sailors will all line up together for the same start, racing across 6 boat classes. In the IMOCA class, the race also serves as a qualifier for the Vendée Globe 2028-2029.



UPCOMING THE OCEAN RACE 2027

Since 1973, The Ocean Race has provided the ultimate test of a team and a human adventure like no other. For 50 years, it has kept an almost mythical hold over some of the greatest sailors and been the proving ground for the legends of our sport. The last edition of The Ocean Race was the first to be contested in the foiling IMOCA boats, with Team Malizia taking on the challenge and finishing in third place. Over the past two years, the team has built a tight-knit squad of sailors, growing together and strengthening its ambition to compete at the highest level in the next edition, while preparing to launch a new high-tech IMOCA race yacht.

The Ocean Race 2027 will start from Alicante, Spain on 17 January 2027 and take the IMOCA fleet out of the Mediterranean Sea, down the Atlantic and into the Southern Ocean to Auckland before rounding Cape Horn and returning to Itajaí. The teams will then race to St. Pete-Clearwater, Cascais, and finish in AMAALA. Dates for all stopovers and the race finish will be confirmed when the full race route is finalised.



A RACE WE MUST WIN



OCEAN ADVOCACY

Team Malizia's Climate and Ocean campaign inspires and motivates people around the world to take action for our planet today. Besides concrete projects and initiatives, such as our science onboard and education programmes, we strongly advocate on a political level to shape the debate and get decision makers onboard, to join our mission to fight climate change globally. We engage across partnership networks, associations, on national, European and UN levels to use our influence, expertise and networks to push for ambitious climate action.

The boat stands as our billboard for this important message carrying the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on our sails and highlighting SDG13 Climate Action Now, we aim to raise awareness around the world.



SCIENCE

Team Malizia is about more than racing. Since 2018, our race boat carries the Ocean Pack, an onboard laboratory constantly measuring Ocean CO₂, temperature, and salinity, with data sent to the Max Planck Institute, GEOMAR, AWI, and Ifremer. This data is vital for understanding the Ocean's role in climate change, especially from remote regions where few research vessels go.

During the Vendée Globe 2020-21, Boris Herrmann collected the first full round-the-world lap of Ocean CO₂ data, with two more laps since. These measurements have contributed to key publications, including the IPCC report, and Malizia - Seaexplorer was cited as a top contributor to the Global Carbon Budget 2024 on the Ocean data side.

Boris Herrmann pioneered Ocean science in the IMOCA class, being one of only three skippers to deploy scientific buoys in the Vendée Globe 2020-21. He and the team have continued this with Argo floats and drifter buoys in subsequent races, inspiring others to contribute to Ocean research alongside racing. Since January 2024, Boris Herrmann has served as an ambassador for the German Committee of the UN Decade of the Ocean.



MORE INFORMATION HERE

Malizia Explorer

Building on the success of our campaign, we are expanding our climate research efforts with a new vessel: Malizia Explorer. Dedicated to science, communication, and outreach, this second sailboat complements our racing yacht by enabling focused research expeditions.

Launched in April 2025 and christened by Dr. Sylvia Earle and H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco on 6 June 2025, the refurbished sailboat serves as a low-cost, low-emission platform for the global science and Ocean community. It accesses remote regions, supports diverse missions, and deepens our understanding of the Ocean's role in the climate system. Scientists, storytellers, and ambassadors come onboard to explore, research, and share the story.

In partnership with leading research institutions and equipped for biology, chemistry, and physics, Malizia Explorer is built to let science lead the way. Her first missions will take her to the Mediterranean, West Africa, Brazil, and consecutive antarctic expeditions to the Danger Islands and Western Antarctic Peninsula from November 2025 to February 2026, amplifying the Ocean's voice in the race against climate change.

More information here: <https://www.malizia-explorer.com/>



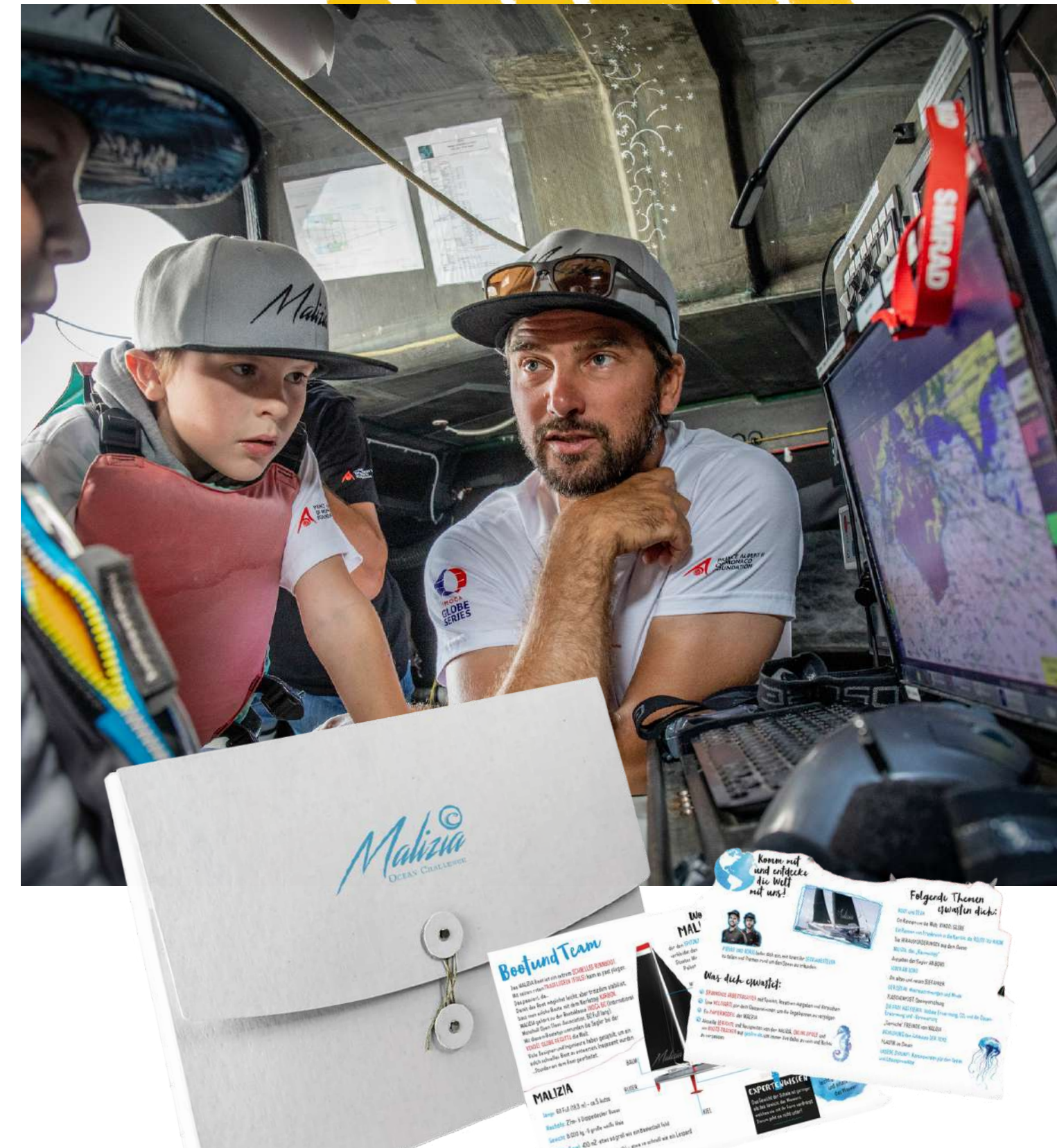
MY OCEAN CHALLENGE

Team Malizia is dedicated to educating and raising awareness about Ocean and climate issues. Our programme promotes Ocean Literacy, climate action, and environmental protection, inspiring both children and adults to understand and engage with these topics.

The programme includes an education booklet available for free in 11 languages and is supported by a full-time educator on the team. We also produce an educational YouTube series and a regular kids' newsletter in English, German, and French. The team visits schools and youth groups to run interactive workshops, sparking curiosity and passion for the Ocean.

To date, we have reached over 118,000 children worldwide. We continue to expand the programme by developing new materials, teacher training programmes, and strong partnerships with organisations such as UNICEF and UNESCO.

More information about the programme [here](#)



MALIZIA MANGROVE PARK

Together with the Mama Earth Foundation, Team Malizia created the Malizia Mangrove Park in the Philippines, where half the mangroves were lost over the past century. In collaboration with Davao Oriental State University and the local community, the goal was to plant one million mangroves to help restore the coastal ecosystem. Thanks to global donations, the team surpassed 3 million mangroves and now aims for 5 million.

Mangroves are vital in the fight against climate change, store large amounts of CO₂, protect coastlines, support biodiversity, and are habitats for marine life essential to local fishing communities. The project provides better income for residents involved in raising and planting seedlings.

Launched in November 2020, the initiative is guided by scientists to ensure the right native species are planted for a resilient, sustainable forest. Students and schoolchildren participate, combining carbon research with education on environmental conservation. The Malizia Mangrove Park contributes to climate action, biodiversity protection, and community development, with the long-term goal of restoring a self-sustaining forest that can thrive for generations.



MORE ABOUT THE PARK HERE

PARTNERS

Team Malizia is known for its diverse partnerships, with six main partners supporting our programme and mission. We also collaborate with UN bodies, scientific institutions, schools, governments, and NGOs.

This broad network drives innovation and impact, merging science, education, environment, and business for a greener world. Through these collaborations, Boris Herrmann and Team Malizia members often speak at events to push for change and give the Ocean a voice. With each partner, we develop a sustainability-focused lighthouse project to raise awareness and inspire action.

More about our partners and lighthouse projects here:
<https://www.team-malizia.com/category/partners>

MAIN PARTNERS



PARTNERS

SUPPLIER PARTNERS



SCIENCE PARTNERS



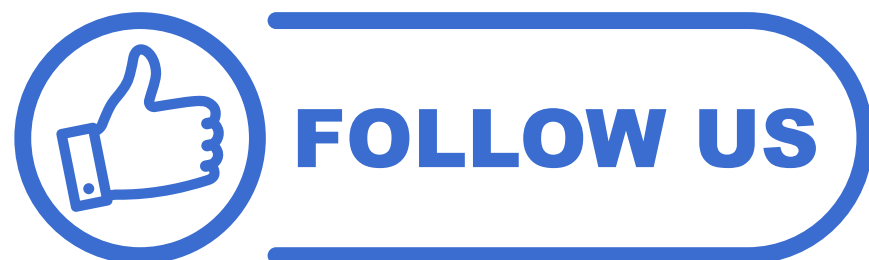
RESEARCH VESSEL



COMMUNICATION

Team Malizia excels in media, sharing the joint message around sustainability and using the racing platform to garner greater interest and excitement. Social media showcases our journeys, races and environmental protection efforts with updates, visuals, and videos. Traditional media like TV, radio, and print spotlight us via races like Vendée Globe, amplifying our cause worldwide.

We are also teaming up with filmmakers to capture our mission and stories, infusing our message with emotion. In short, media empowers us to raise green awareness, champion education, and globally spread our message. Using the human story to create a voice for the Ocean.



SOCIAL
MEDIA



MEDIA NUMBERS

For the Vendée Globe period alone (July 2024 to Feb 2025)

€264 Million AVE for online media

8740 articles with a 28.5 Billion potential editorial reach

2 Million individual views on the German Boris Herrmann ARD two-part documentary Segeln Am Limit

Nearly half a million followers across all social media accounts

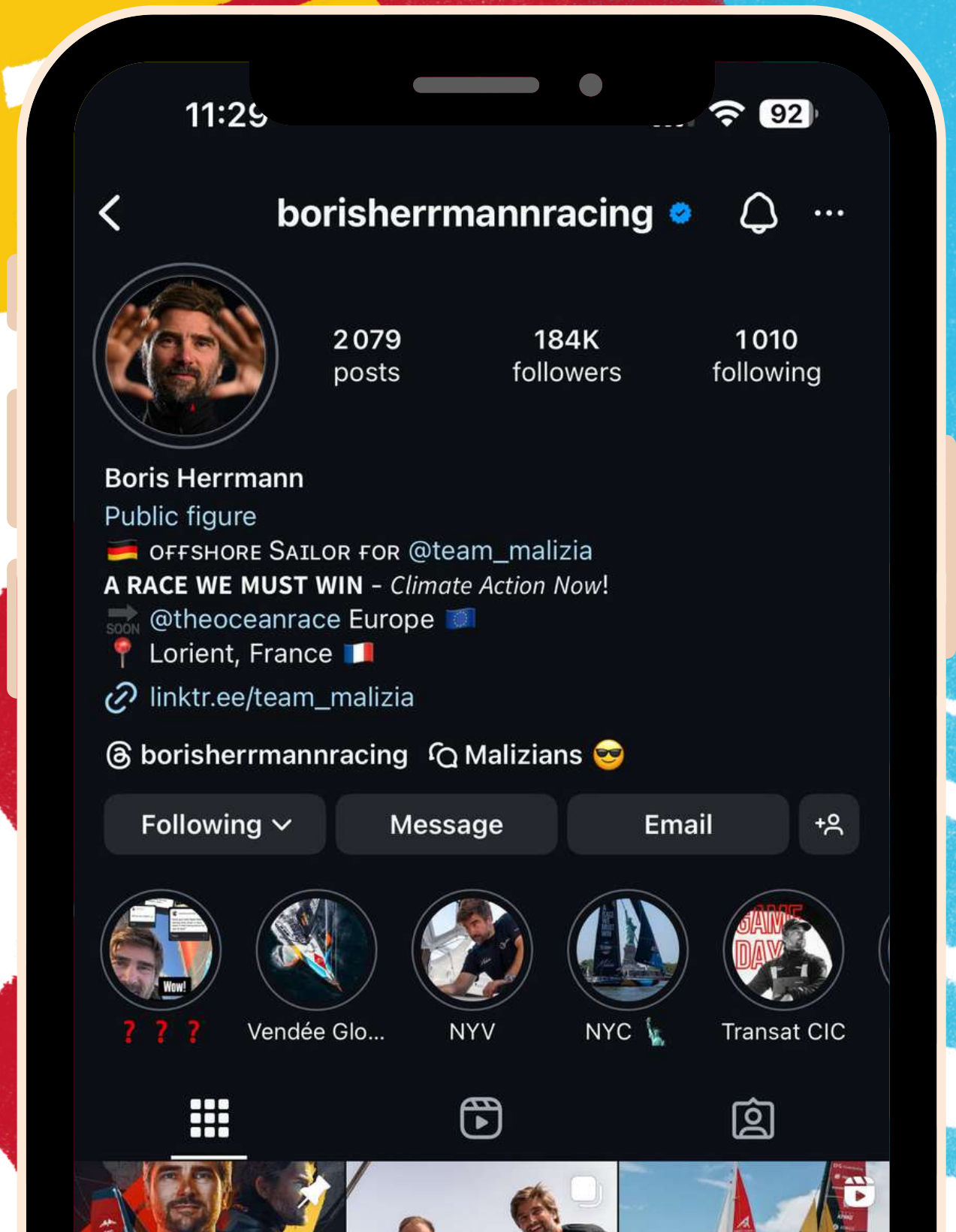
63.8 Million social media impressions

100,000 YouTube followers with 30,000 gained over the 6 months and 120 videos sent from onboard

6.2 Million unique website views

15.6 Million visit - Most visited team race tracker in history

"It's simple: only the official Vendée Globe and Route du Rhum trackers had more total visits than Team Malizia's custom tracker for the Vendée Globe 2024. No other sailing event, race, or record has reached such figures to date." - Yann Groleau (Head of Géovoile - race tracking)



USEFUL LINKS

PHOTO & VIDEO CONTENT

Access our image bank here: <https://imagebank.team-malizia.com/>

Password is Maliziapress and credits are provided in each description and must be indicated. If a 4K/HD version of a video is available, a link is included in the description. All content is rights-free for editorial use. Any commercial use must be approved in advance by Team Malizia. For any questions, please contact: marie@borisherrmannracing.com

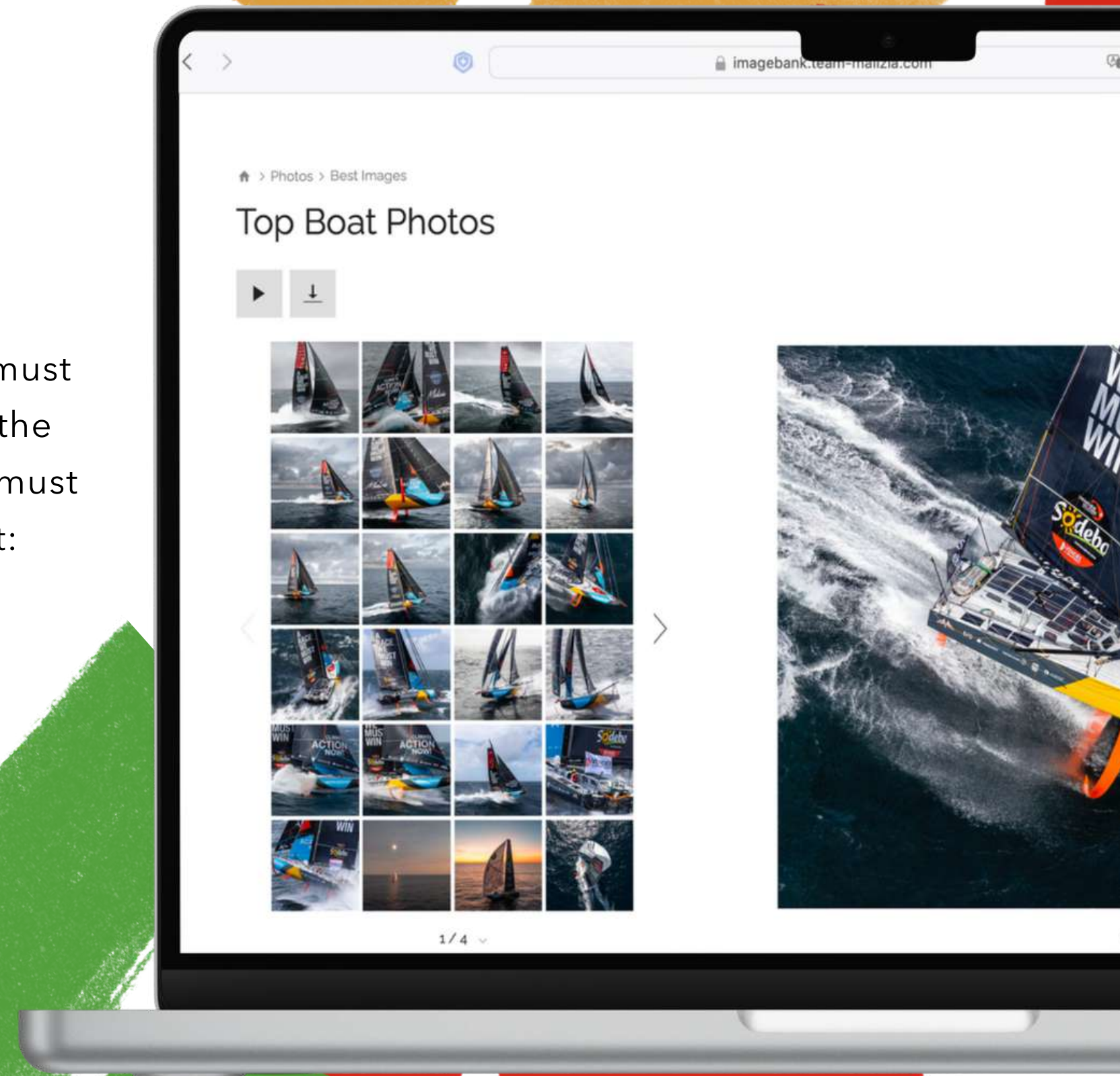
PRESS RELEASES

Read our press releases [here](#)

Should you wish to be added to the mailing list, please contact: helene@borisherrmannracing.com

WEBSITE

<https://www.team-malizia.com/>



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Malizia



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