

Superyachts meet in seasonal style

By Bruce Stanley

The sparkling waters off Surin Beach were dotted last week with some of the largest motor and sailing yachts around Southeast Asia in a recent rendez-vous where Captains and crew met to race, play marine games and dine at the gourmet tables set at the upscale resort, The Chedi.

Asia Superyacht Rendez-vous is becoming a major international sailing event sponsored by Feadship, one of the world's leading builders of luxury yachts.

Organizers Charlie Dwyer, Captain of the *Yanneke Too*, and Gordon Fernandes, MD of Asia Pacific Superyachts, invited owners of the world's most elegant yachts to sail to Phuket for the competition.

"We want to promote Phuket as a hub for superyachts in Southeast Asia. Currently, many of the world's largest private vessels spend the winter months tied up to a dock in the cold and rainy Mediterranean when they could be enjoying sailing in the beautiful surroundings of Phang Nga Bay," commented Gordon.

Yachts that joined in the festivities had to be at least 30 meters in length.

Thirteen yachts responded to the invitation, a mixture of motor and sailing yachts, including the *S/Y Silolona*, a wooden yacht built in Indonesia by an American woman with a local crew, who performed traditional music in native costumes for a gathering of participants.

The Asia Superyacht Rendez-vous 2009 began with an el-



The five sailing superyachts raced off Surin Beach as part of the 'informal' gathering of yachties. Photos: Sakhorn Saengthangsamarnsin

egant cocktail party at The Chedi and was following by the Feadship Challenge where selected crews from each yacht were given a small bag of materials, including string and canvas, to fashion a small sailing boat.

Then the completed model boats were placed in a narrow gutter of water and "blown" down the course. Eleven teams competed but the *M/Y Vie Sans Soueis* proved to have the winning boat.

Andy Dowden drew the course for the next day's race and Simon James, who co-ordinates almost every regatta in Thailand, was in charge of the competition.

Five sailing yachts competed against the winds, the currents and each other to sail the triangular course in front of Surin Beach. After three hours of competitive sailing, *S/Y Thalia* passed



(from left) Gordon Fernandes, GM Asia Pacific Superyachts; Francois VanWell, President Feadship America; Charlie Dwyer, Captain *Yanneke Too*.

first over the finish line.

That same evening, participants enjoyed Chedi hospitality at a beach dinner and party.

"The rendez-vous is an informal event where international

superyachts and their crews can gather for some elegant yet informal fun. We are already in the planning stages for next year's Rendez-vous on December 17 and 18, 2010," said Captain Charlie.

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A Magical Night of Illusions

The most memorable New Year Eve's at Millennium Resort Patong Featuring Joe Conrad the illusionist.

In magic, timing is everything. The sleight of hand, the art of deception and the wonder of surprise keeps an audiences attention. And so, Joe Conrad, Asia's premier international Illusionist Magician, will appear with his Magic & Illusion Show, just in time to catch 2009 for the New Year's Eve Party at Millennium Resort Patong Phuket.



Joe Conrad is performing at the Millenium Resort on 31st Dec.

Dubbed 'A Magical Night of Illusions' it will include Joe Conrad Magic and his entire team of dancers and assistants with an extravaganza of international cuisine with live cooking stations and the 6-piece Filipino house band 'Millenium Beat'.

Now you see him now you don't. This is Joe's only show in Phuket for 2009. He was a fixture on the entertainment scene in North America touring in his own right and also with world famous performers including Tom Jones. He has had appearances throughout the USA, including Disneyworld and three venues for the illustrious promoter Robert Earl, the former executive director of Hard Rock Cafe & founder of Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas.

He has now imported his stagecraft to Thailand with his own unique large-scale mega illusions and has a Bangkok based production company, rehearsal space and a personal zoo for animals used with his shows. The pure magic and illusion, his own western dance troupe and lovely assistants will ensure the Millennium Resort Show will be something special and extremely memorable.

After seeing in the New Year, guests will be welcomed to **Sound Club**, Phuket's most sophisticated nightclub, with a glass of Moet & Chandon and dance into the early hours of the 2010 New Year. Joe Conrad's specialty illusions will leave the audience mystified, wondering and wanting more.

Joe Conrad Magic is performing at the Millenium Resort Patong Beach, Phuket, 31st December 2009. Bookings from the hotel 076-601-999 or www.millenniumpatong.com

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