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Thailand's rocking rendezvous

The Kata Rocks Superyacht Rendezvous tempts funloving superyachts to Asia – and flies the flag for Phuket



he second Kata Rocks Superyacht Rendezvous, organised by property investment company Infinite Luxury, welcomed an impressive fleet of more than 20 yachts to Phuket in December to help raise the profile of Thailand as a cruising destination.

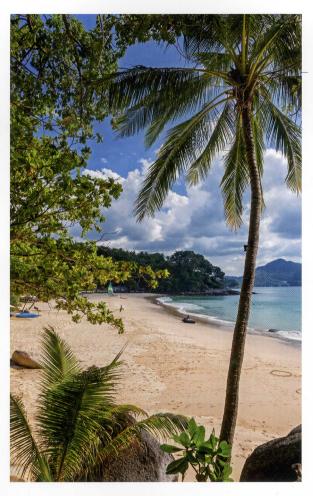
Richard Pope, CEO of Infinite Luxury, wants the annual three-day event to encourage more yachts to "turn left" and head to South East Asia, rather than the Caribbean, for the winter season. "It is a little bit further to come but it is a bigger sailing area and not as explored by most yacht owners," he says. "I think Phuket offers some of the best cruising grounds anywhere in the world."

The invitation-only event welcomed an increased fleet to this year's rendezvous, including 68 metre Feadship *Lady Christine*,

50.9 metre Northern Sun and 53 metre Phinisi schooner Zen. Guests were invited on board to experience the local waters as the fleet headed to watch the King's Cup Regatta on the first day. The following day a cruise in company went up Phuket's western coastline for a lobster brunch held at the Surin Phuket.

There was also a packed social programme with parties, brunches, private dinners and a caviar and vodka tasting. As official media partners, *B*oat International Media hosted a welcome cocktail party on the first evening, followed by the opening reception. The event concluded with the Kata Rocks charter season opening party.

"Word is spreading and hopefully that encourages the boats to come and join in," Pope adds. "I want to see this build year on year, with more boats coming to Asia because they know there is fun to be had. Boating is all about having fun." katarockssuperyachtrendezvous.com





Organised by Phuket-based Infinite Luxury, the rendezvous was an invitationonly event



