

PRESTIGE

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CHAYUDA 'NINA' JIARAVANON FORGING HER OWN PATH

ROAD TRIP THROUGH AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH-WEST | 2019'S MOST
DESIRABLE WHEELS | HENNESSY: THE TSAR OF SCENT
PATCHARAVIPA BODIRATNANGKURA'S LITTLE TREASURES
CHIANG MAI'S DESIGN SCENE UNCOVERED



THE YACHT SPOT

Phuket is the preferred playground in Asia for the rich and famous, so when the world's most influential yachting brands gather annually for the KATA ROCKS SUPERYACHT RENDEZVOUS it is an occasion to see and be seen, SUZY RAYMENT discovers



Now in its third year, the Kata Rocks Superyacht Rendezvous (KRSR) is on track to become the most influential superyacht lifestyle event in Asia. The invitation-only event in early December saw over 350 guests enjoying four days of lavish parties, private gourmet dinners and luxury yachting experiences. Local and international VIP guests, major trendsetters and luxury partners celebrated the superyacht lifestyle and enjoyed first-hand experiences of some of the most luxurious superyachts in the region.

Richard Pope, CEO Kata Rocks & Infinite Luxury, says, "It is really gratifying to create a relaxed and fun environment where yacht owners and top shipyards can meet and become genuinely connected. This year

we were delighted to welcome Oceanco, one of Holland's top superyacht shipyards. We feel that they are an ideal fit for the KRSR, as they are perfectly aligned with Kata Rocks' spirit of innovation and luxury."

Another internationally famous Dutch shipyard attending KRSR was Royal Huisman, launching their new partnership with French yacht designer Oliver Racoupeau. They are already creating waves with their luxury custom-built multihull superyachts, both power and sail, that provide the perfect yachting entertainment platform for Asian clients.

A number of spectacular superyachts were part of the KRSR 2018 line up, including the 34m M/Y Xanadu (built by Moonen) that features

ultra-modern stabilization systems, and the 33m M/Y Nymhaea, which is available for charter in the Caribbean and Alaska. For the sailors there was the 30m S/Y Aphrodite, designed by Andre Hoek and built by the renowned Vitters shipyard in Holland. She has recently undergone an extensive refit and is now available for charter in Phuket, the Mergui Archipelago (Burma), or – for real adventurers – the remote Anambas islands of Indonesia. The exquisite S/Y Dallinghoo, a classic schooner just under 30m, is also available for charter in Southeast Asia.

On the luxury yacht front, this year's KRSR fleet included a number of top international motoryacht brands such as Ferretti, Princess, Monte Carlo Yachts and Sunseeker. The SeaKeepers Society was also on hand to raise local awareness of the current situation of the world's oceans, and to protect, conserve, and restore where possible. Torqeedo promoted a green ethos with its water-based electromobility,

sustainability, and clean energy with through all-electric and solar powered RIBs and tenders.

The opening party was inspired by Phuket's unique Peranakan roots and the Sino-Portuguese heritage of old Phuket Town. And later, the KRSR Charter Season Opening Party brought the Rendezvous to a close in grand style, celebrating the start of Phuket's yachting season with a Mediterranean lifestyle theme enjoyed by all. This is undoubtedly one of the most important dates on Phuket's maritime calendar, and delivered another fantastic evening of hip entertainment and cool sounds for the VIP guests in attendance.

Other programme highlights included the annual KRSR superyacht fleet cruise up Phuket's west coast – a spectacular sight that culminated in a champagne BBQ beach feast at The Surin Phuket. Hugely popular with participants for the third consecutive year, every one enjoyed beautiful weather, epic cuisine, and water activities.

The Oceanco Owners' Dinner was well attended by Asia's more prominent superyacht owners and prospective buyers, while the inaugural Captain's Dinner with Benetti and Hemisphere Monaco helped promote Southeast Asia and encourage more captains and owners to visit Phuket and the region. Other highlights included the Royal Huisman and Camper & Nicholsons opening night cocktail party, the Hemisphere Monaco Gin Party, a Northrop & Johnson Brunch on board M/Y Xanadu, and the Media Champagne Brunch by Benetti.

With the KRSR smartphone application debut, participants enjoyed a fuller and richer social experience; going forward, such innovation will no doubt help shape the future of superyachts and superyacht charter in Asia.

Perfectly positioned to remain a major and proactive player in the development of the industry, the KRSR hoists the colours of international superyachting in Phuket, the heart of Southeast Asia. This year's event is scheduled for December 12-15, so mark it in your calendar now! 📅