

LUXURY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

Robb Report

THAILAND



CRUSADERS AND VISIONARIES

The luxury trends and technologies set to shape the new decade



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HIGH WATER MARKS IN MARINE PHILANTHROPY

Superyachts owned by the super-rich descend on Phuket for a four-day event that combines saving the oceans with luxury-laden good times.



By invitation only, the Kata Rocks Superyacht Rendezvous is designed to bring like-minded people together from a curated guest list.

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now in its fourth year, is its Soiree
by The Sea Charity Gala Dinner.***



From left: Bee Bhornthip Prasertsong, Michael Nurbatlian, Richard Pope and Gulu Lalvani, with friends.

THE KATA ROCKS Superyacht Rendezvous (KRSR) 2019 brought wealthy yacht owners and crews together to celebrate this leisure sport of kingpins, while raising public awareness about the threats facing our seas and, in a triple-win, combining business with leisure through networking on all sorts of outings.

The high point of KRSR, now in its fourth year, is its Soiree by The Sea Charity Gala Dinner. Sponsored by Leading Yachts of the World, the exclusive event was hosted at Kata Rocks on behalf of The International SeaKeepers Society (ISKS) and the Oceans for All (OFA) foundation.

Lucas Yang, head of communications for ISKS, expressed his gratitude for being a beneficiary of the

event, calling it “the perfect platform for us to reach out and work with a new group of super-yacht owners who will hopefully allow us to collect even more data on micro plastic levels at sea”.

Founded in 1998 by a group of yacht owners outraged by the degradation of our oceans, the non-profit’s Scientific Security Council outlined its goals in a mission statement that said they wished “to inspire the leaders of the world to become a voice for the oceans by bridging gaps between good science and the business and yachting communities”.

In practical terms, this means that yacht owners will help with oceanographic research by providing a vessel so marine scientists can work on projects like shark tagging, coral reef research and water quality

The late co-founder of Microsoft had a long career as a philanthropist keen on addressing ecological matters.



Ben and Simone Reymenants (left) with Gigi and Hugo Van Schaik.



Aimi and Jonas, generous supporters of the silent auction.

monitoring. The non-profit's education and outreach events bolster such research.

Of all the famous members, from the last leader of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, to TV star Ted Danson, filmmaker James Cameron, and Jean-Michel Cousteau, who is carrying on his famous father's ocean explorations, perhaps none made greater contributions to the organisation than Paul Allen. The late co-founder of Microsoft had a long career as a philanthropist keen on addressing ecological matters and loved exploring the high seas.

For many of the super-yachties attending KRSR in Phuket, Allen's spirit of altruism was very much on display during a silent auction at the gala dinner that included a custom OFA logo-stamped Triton Subphotique timepiece, a bespoke Soiree by The Sea charm, an iAQUA Stingray watercraft, and a Royal Thai Navy memorabilia shirt worn during the widely

publicised cave rescue of the Wild Boar football team in Chiang Rai in 2018.

Adding even more lustre to the silent auction was a stunning 37-carat Tanzanite ring (with 18-carat white gold and diamonds) generously donated by Fred Mouawad, the co-guardian of Mouawad, and valued at more than two million baht. Mouawad is renowned for crafting exquisite pieces of jewellery and timepieces. This splendid example of *joaillerie* attracted multiple bids which helped to extend KRSR's charitable reach.

The second charity organisation, Phuket-based OFA, not only took part in the charity gala, but also held a special beach clean-up in tandem with ISKS. OFA was formed in 2019 on Phuket. The foundation works with the travel industry to promote responsible, marine-savvy tourism. Co-founder David Martin is an underwater cameraman and documentary filmmaker




The event is open to sailing and motor yachts measuring over 24m in length, visiting or based in Phuket.

whose work has been shown on Netflix, the BBC and National Geographic. Martin said: “Seventy per cent of the oxygen we breathe is produced by the oceans. We can’t wait any longer for someone else to take care of them. Each of us must act now.”

The event also showcased works by Fin Arts, a social enterprise dedicated to combining art and marine conservation. One of the artists it works with is Alex Loew, a German national and former scuba instructor in Thailand. The designs he paints on these shark sculptures combine his love of tribal tattoo art and cartoons. One-fifth of the price of every sculpture, which ranges from €75 to €95, goes to projects such as Shark Guardian.

During the event, many of the other outings were based on the water, such as a trip on Lobster Yacht, which is perhaps Thailand’s largest and coolest catamaran, and a journey up the coast to the newly

opened InterContinental Phuket Resort at Kamala Beach for a barbecue on the sand.

In spite of all that seafaring glamour and dry-land feasting, the event’s message of protecting the seas did not get sidelined. Richard Pope, CEO of Infinity Luxury, summed it up by saying: “KRSR has helped put Phuket on the global yachting map and it’s great that this event is now able to give back to the oceans that we all love.” 

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