

Press Release n°1

Arrival of the 2007 Mediterranean Tall Ships' Races in Genoa

The most beautiful vessels of Europe will meet in the port of Genoa from July 28th to 31st 2007

It all started with the northern passion of sailing in any sea, with any weather: it was considered necessary for a man's *education*.

In 1956 **Bernard Morgan**, a lover of sea and boats, had the idea of gathering the sailing tall ships, heirs of the big vessels of the past and making them sail from Torbay to Lisbon. He managed to gather 14!

It seemed to return to the era of the big vessels of the nineteenth century, the Clippers, which loaded with tea, sailed all together with the aim of arriving first in London to sell their goods.

The enthusiasm in the participation was great, and the press was greatly impressed and called the sailing vessels "**Tall Ships**", that is "*vessels with high masts*".

STA (Sail Training Association) was born. Morgan's spirit went on and took root in the following fifty years and did not remain confined in the United Kingdom, but it gradually spread in all the world, so that nowadays all the countries that boast a maritime tradition, have their own national STA.

STA-Italia started its activity in 1996 for the will of the Italian Navy and Yacht Club Italiano.

Thousands of youngsters, between 16 and 25 years old, which represent the 50% of each crew, in our days sail in the North seas, in atlantic crossings and, recently, even in the Mediterranean.

It is lovely to see the happy faces of the youngsters that disembark from the vessels in the ports; they don't speak the same language, but they understand each other. It becomes a cultural event, a school of life, an experience to repeat. A mutual knowledge that overcomes geographical, political, racial barriers.

This is the reason why the **Sail Training International** (new name of STA) has earned the **nomination** for the **2007 Nobel Award for peace**, "for its international activity in promoting friendship and brotherhood among the youngsters through sail training".

What a long way we have gone!

And it is with the same spirit and aim that the **Tall Ships' Races 2007 Mediterranean** will be organized.

In fact, **in 2007 Genoa** will be finishing port of the race, which leaves **Alicante** (July 4-7) for **Barcelona** (July 12-15), followed by the sail in company for **Toulon** (July 21-24) and the second race up to **Genoa (July 28-31)**.

It is very significant to see the involvement of the four Mediterranean ports (Spanish, French and Italian), which operate in close contact with and under the aegis of STI, promoter of the race, and the choice of the dates, that follow the end of the America's Cup.

The carrying out of the **Tall Ships' Races 2007 Mediterranean** has been possible for Genoa thanks to the help of the Institutions: **Region, Province, Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, Port Authority and Porto Antico**.

STA-Italy has also the privilege of having the sponsorship of **MSC Crociere**, which, with its intervention, will allow us to organize a unique event of this kind.

For further information on STI and Sta-Italia look on our website: www.sailtraininginternational.org, and www.sta-italia.it

Genoa, May 11th, 2006