



CHALLENGE PRINCE ALBERT II

Monaco



2 & 3 DÉCEMBRE 2023

CHALLENGE PRINCE ALBERT II

FIRST EUROPEAN COASTAL ROWING REGATTA

DECEMBER 2 & 3, 2023

CHALLENGE PRINCE ALBERT II

MEDIA KIT

A unique race format

Since its launch in 2004, the Challenge Prince Albert II (CPA2) has always stood out for its desire to contribute to the development of coastal rowing. This avant-garde spirit reached a new milestone in 2021 when the organizers have chosen to develop a new format, innovative and unique in the world. The 2023 edition takes up these codes while adding yet another new feature, to the delight of participants and the public.

Indeed, in addition to the traditional offshore races in the Bay of Monaco, lasting 4km, the competitors will compete in sprint format races with a distance of 500m. These will take place in the emblematic Hercules port, providing a magnificent setting for this "Speed Tournament" never seen before.

The principle of registrations has not changed and they must be done in mixed teams. Each is made up of two women, two men and a cox (man or woman).

Team members must present a boat in each of the Challenge races (men's solo and women's solo, mixed doubles and mixed quadruple).

Each race counts for the general classification and the team which pockets, at the end of all the races, the greatest number of points wins the prestigious Challenge.

A historic fact in coastal rowing, a financial prize rewards the first 4 teams who will leave with: €4,000 for the first, €3,000 for the second team, €2,000 for the third and €1,000 for the fourth.

The positioning of the CPA2 at the end of the calendar, after the World and European Coastal Rowing Championships makes it the peak of the season and offers an unequalled level of participation thanks to the presence of the best rowers of the discipline.

The best of sport in front of the Prince's Palace in Monaco

With the help and active support of Monegasque institutions, the Challenge Prince Albert II clearly displays its ambitions and gives itself the means to achieve them: to offer coastal rowing enthusiasts from around the world a spectacle that lives up to the reputation of the Principality of Monaco.

In order to make this spectacle accessible to as many people as possible, the Organizing Committee has opted, this year, for video recording of the two days of racing. Drones and on-board cameras will contribute to quality broadcasting of the races. These will be broadcast live on YouTube and Facebook platforms.

Eager to bring the action closer to the spectators, the Sunday races no longer take place offshore but in the prestigious Hercule's port.

The competitors will compete in a speed tournament: 500m sprint races, duels, with direct elimination. Enough to bring dynamism to coastal rowing. With the yachts and the Condamine district in the background, there is no doubt that this new setting will satisfy the most demanding rowers.

- **22 international teams**
- **18 nations**
- **Olympic medalists**
- **World champions on the river**
- **World champions at the coastal rowing**
- **The world's best rowers in coastal rowing**

An exceptional sporting level

With 22 teams and 18 different nationalities, the 18th edition of the Challenge Prince Albert II reaches new records!

The rowers, from 3 continents, will proudly represent their country: Algeria, Germany, Austria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Spain, United States of America, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Monaco, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom, Sweden, Tunisia and Turkey.

Flat-water rowers will be well represented with in particular: 10 Olympians, including 2 Olympic medalists (Marieke KEIJSER and Magdalena LOBNIG).

Not to mention no less than 9 medalists at the World Championships, including 6 gold medalists.

Same observation at the European level of the discipline with 12 medalists at the European Championships, including 5 Champions.

If we stick to the coastal rowing experts, the results are even more impressive with no less than 18 World Champions spread across the different teams.

To this we can add 10 medalists at the Coastal Rowing World Championships.

Finally, we still have 7 medalists at the European Coastal Rowing Championships, among whom 6 have already won first place at least once.

With such a sporting field, it is impossible to know which team will lift the trophy at the end of the two days of racing.

The competition is open!



A high patronage full of symbols

Under the High Patronage of the Prince of Monaco, the Prince Albert II Challenge was first called the Hereditary Prince Challenge and occupies, for the Prince, a very special place. Indeed, for our Sovereign, rowing is a passion deeply rooted in the heart of family tradition on the American side.

This sport takes him back to his childhood, during vacations with his maternal grandparents in Philadelphia, in the United States. Rowing was then present at every moment: for the Kellys, rowing is a reason for being. His grandfather, John B. Kelly, Sr. father of Princess Grace, won 3 Olympic gold medals in rowing for the USA: two at the Antwerp Games in 1920 (double scull and single scull) and a third in Paris

for the 1924 Games (double scull).

His son, John B. Kelly, Jr. uncle of Prince Albert II, also won an Olympic medal: bronze at the Melbourne Games in 1956 (single).

It is also in homage to John B. Kelly, Jr. that the pontoon of the Société Nautique de Monaco bears the name of the Kelly family.

Indeed, long before the meeting between Prince Rainier III and Grace Kelly, John B. Kelly, Jr. frequented Monaco, its lake and the Société Nautique. Thus, the Sovereign Prince has a particular affection for rowing and pays great attention to the place that the Prince Albert II Challenge has taken in the world of coastal rowing.





Challenge à l'Aviron
Prince Albert II
Créé en Principauté de Monaco le 20 février 2005
Société Nautique de Monaco

When equipment revives sport

The history of coastal rowing is long and tumultuous. We will have to wait until the 21st century to witness the revolution in the discipline.

Until then, rowing boats, made of wood and very expensive, had significant technical limitations making navigation often difficult in heavy seas. Losing these expensive boats one by one had quickly signaled, for the clubs, the end of coastal rowing competitions.

But, when at the end of the 1990s, unsinkable boats appeared, made of new composite materials, the horizon of the discipline opened up and the sun began to warm the clubs and federations, especially as these new boats negotiate at prices much lower than those of old skiffs.

Sea rowing then offers a dizzying progression with an increase in

clubs, practitioners and sporting events. From 8 in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur in the 70s/80s, the region now has 25 clubs competing in the Mediterranean Challenge.

This evolution of sport in the Mediterranean is similar throughout the world. The constant support of World Rowing, the international federation, has enabled the creation and development of the World and European Championships in the discipline, gaining popularity over the years.

The announcement, in October 2023, of the International Olympic Committee in favor of the entry into the official program of the Olympic Games of coastal rowing once again confirms, if it was still necessary, the growing interest in this sport. We will therefore find, for Los Angeles 2028, the Beach Rowing Sprint.

THE CHALLENGE PRINCE ALBERT II

Imagined in 2004 by the Committee of the Société Nautique de Monaco, under the leadership of its former president, Gilbert VIVALDI, and with the support of the Monegasque Sports Rowing Federation, under the direction of Henri DORIA, the first edition of the Challenge takes place in 2005.

Monaco then welcomes 250 rowers from neighboring clubs. Over the years, the competition gained in reputation and became the popular event for coastal rowing with more than 500 participants coming from

all over Europe but also from America, South America and Asia.

The expertise of the organizing committee, assisted by around a hundred passionate volunteers, enabled the organization, in 2016, of the World Championships in the discipline. Since then, the format has continued to evolve to focus on the quality and level of the participants. Now limited to 100 team members, we find the very high level of the discipline for a fabulous spectacle in Monegasque waters.



A word from the organizers



From a regional competition, we have always wanted to give this event an international character with the participation of the best rowers in the world in both coastal and flat-water rowing. This year, we can say that we have won our bet since we will find the best of coastal rowing on Monegasque waters.

Roland WEILL

Executive Director of the Organizing Committee



The development of this event is the result of many years of effort. I salute the unfailing involvement of my predecessors who had the audacity to lay the foundations of our event. Our role is to work towards the development of the Challenge and we are proud of the new step reached this year.

Mathias RAYMOND

President of the Organizing Committee

See you along the
Quai Louis II,
December 2 & 3, 2023!

DIGITAL VERSION :
WWW.CPA2.MC/PRESS



CHALLENGE PRINCE ALBERT II Quai
Louis II, 98000 Monaco
contactcpa2@monaco.mc
<https://www.cpa2.mc>
Facebook/Instagram: @cpa2.rowing