

Ten Reasons why (Yngling)- sailors should not miss any Regatta on Lake Garda (Andreas Knittel, Yngling Austria)

1. The first glance of the Lake when passing the bend in the road at Nago!
2. The welcome greeting "Salve, come stai?" by Fragilia della Vela and "At last back again" as well as "tutto a posto" answered with relief
3. The craning "sempre senza albero"
4. A quick ristretto served at the Club's terrace before the Ora sets in
5. Sailing a training course upwind to Capo Reamol, turning around, hoisting the spi and planing all the way back!
6. Competent race management irrespective of the number of competitors or the strength of the wind
7. Pasta doppo le regatta, showering, dinner, deserts at Cristallo and a final drink at the Oca-Bar
8. A satisfied and good sleep
9. New day, Ora again with sailing at its best
10. Looking forward to the next Year!

Life could not be any better!

Georg Skolauf has summed up his feelings after the Spring European Championship in 2012 as follows:

Carne Salada at the Belvedere, Cozze at the Prateria or rather a pizza at Bella Napoli. Like every year it is hard to declare a winner. In any case we have tried them all and they all were exceptionally delicious! The highlight of each day always was the dinner while the best of them all was the Austrian-Pasta-Party at Hotel Angelini. This year a record number of 107 persons attended and enjoyed the never-ending pasta melting on their tongues.

Some serious sailing was done as well in spite of the social life. This year the Austrian team consisted of 12 sailors out of which 6 sailors were Austrian champions. This was not a pre-condition but it happened to be that way. Accordingly, the expectations in each Austrian team were up to World-Class standards, however, the newly established Triple-World Champion Marteen Jamin (Netherlands) was the favourite competitor.

The wind did not hold any surprises. The Ora was blowing with 4 – 6 Beaufort thus only allowing a beat to the right side along the rock wall. Whoever tacked closer to the rocks had an advantage. Some even said they could have touched the rocks, and that in waves with some foam on top! It was a miracle that nobody lost his Yngling to the rocks. Since the daily start was always scheduled for 13:00 hours it was easy to sleep long and digest the dinner before preparing for the next start.

Team AUT 293: The experienced champion Rudi in his typical Lake Garda sequence: A fulminant start in 1st or 2nd position, hardening up each wave and pumping downhill as much as possible. His speciality is jibing in strong winds as well as sailing an Yngling slalom on the beat. Andreas – I believe – at one instance shut his eyes for a short moment and broached!

Team AUT 300: On the first day Martin had to rush back to Vienna to attend to some urgent matters at work. On the second day 4 Austrian teams reached the first windward mark in positions 1 – 4, a historical moment! But then fate struck: Martin broached and went overboard also ripping the tiller off its pintels. While Susi and Christoph were recovering the sails unable to maneuver the Carabinieri's fished Martin from the water. For the team this took care of the day's 3 races (apart from dinner...)!

Team AUT 82: At last they had the right weight for Lake Garda. Heavy-weight crew members combined with a light-weight helm produced perfect results on the first day. On the second day, however, during a start one crew went overboard. From the third day onwards one crew was exchanged against a young Dutch female Opti-sailor. An overall result was no longer possible.

Team AUT 276: The first day was used to trim the boat to local conditions. Thereafter the boat performed well. The new crew tried out the spi-pole in all possible and impossible positions. The highlight: At a leeward mark he had managed to jam the shrouds between the spi-pole and the boom. Luckily the subsequent jibe did not break the rig but "only" the spi-pole and eyelet. On the last day in a dying Ora the best course was to go along the extreme left side. The team realized this change and won. Franz rocks!

Incidentally the Overall Winner was the favourite, Jamin. Congratulations also goes to Rudi as Runner-Up! Excellent!

Sailing, dining and sleeping. The "dolce vita" at Lake Garda pays off every year!

11. Looking forward to the next Year!

Ci Vediamo a Riva!

Yours truly, Andreas*

* Sailing the Yngling on Lake Garda since 1981, IYA Honorary Member since 2018