

Insider

Wind Speed

Riding the wave of victory, Hap Fauth, an accomplished sailor and Naples resident, heads back to the sea for the next of several worldwide-regatta events planned this year aboard his Maxi 72 yacht, the *Bella Mente*. In February, Fauth and his international team of 26 sailors were declared the overall champions of the 2015 RORC Caribbean 600, a 600-mile race around 11 Caribbean islands. After tackling Les Voiles de St. Barth in the Caribbean in the spring, Fauth will take *Bella Mente* to the United Kingdom, where he and his team will set sail on the challenging waters of the Solent, the strait separating the Isle of Wight from England's mainland, for two more races before starting the world-class Rolex Fastnet Race in August. "We finally have a rig in that is to our satisfaction and a crew that has been put together very carefully in terms of chemistry, ability and commitment, so it should be a good year for us," Fauth says. "The Fastnet is a particularly hard and unpredictable race with cold-water conditions and a very difficult sea state, so it will take 100 percent of our efforts to be victorious." —Anna Bjorlin

ABOVE: BELLA MENTE RACING OWNER/DRIVER HAP FAUTH AT THE HELM DURING THE COPA DEL REY MAPFRE 2014 IN PALMA DE MALLORCA.