



How do you say “*Serious Sailing Serious Fun*” in Italian?:

!!! **PIADA** !!!

I have made travels to visit Italy in the past but not one can match my recent experience to sail in the Piada. This is due to the hospitality and spirit of our Snipe family who converge in Cervia. And yes, you guessed it there is also plenty of opportunity for dining over fresh pasta, seafood, wine and the tasty **Piadina di Stregga**. You will recall our friend Kathleen Tocke who sailed the Piada last year and referred to living in a cappuccino and gelato heaven of sorts, well, when I arrived in Italy this year, I was in pasta paradise!

The warm and friendly open doors of the hosting yacht club **Circolo Nautico Cervia** ran a very successful and smooth regatta with 51 boats in attendance from various countries including Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Italy and the United States. Competition was at its best with Bart Janssens and Eva Jacobs of Belgium winning the regatta. Pietro Fantoni and Marinella Gorgatto placed second with a very close third place finish by Brazilians Alexandre Tinoco and Jose Tavora only one point behind Fantoni and Gorgatto. Conditions varied from very light to 12 knots with the race committee responding fantastically to each including waiting for the ocean breeze to fill in under blue skies and flat water of the Adriatic before starting a race. It should be noted that a large percentage of the Belgian fleet attended the regatta with the Danes and Germans driving close to 18 hours to attend the fun and competition.

So why is the regatta called Piada? A ‘piadina’ or piada is a wonderful Italian flatbread only found in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy. In Cervia, near the yacht club it is served at a little stand called the **Stregga** or witch. A piadina is stuffed with ingredients of choice, then folded over and cooked closed into a half-moon shape, called a crescione, and is one of the most delightful foods to enjoy before or after a race. My favorite is stuffed with arugula and cheese before a race with a cappuccino.

If this is not enough for you to make reservations now for the Piada 2011 just consider this: the club will serve hot cappuccino while you tune your boat in the morning. After the races you can go and get a piadina and have drinks at the club with other sailors and compare notes or share language and country Snipe tales. In the evenings you will be served a delicious dinner of fresh pasta, local seafood, and a night of **Piada Bingo**. Try to follow Franco when he shouts out the winning numbers while you drink “**Dracone**” the delicious red wine produced by regatta sponsor Alberto Perdisa. Look for he and his family (Antonella, Francesco, Federico, Felipo, Filiberto and Catarina) in Miami at the Don Q 2011 along with the super fun Giovanni Stella, super fast Pietro Fantoni, super smooth Dr. Enrico Solerio and super man Poalo Lambertenghi.

I couldn’t put it any better than Kathleen: “If you ever need a regatta to remind you why you sail a Snipe, then attend next year’s Piada Trophy. You won’t be disappointed, no matter how well you sail!”