

DECEMBER IN PHUKET, AND THE FLEET
GATHERS FOR SOME SEASONAL FUN AT THE
ASIA SUPERYACHT RENDEZVOUS

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THE YACHTS



THAT ROCK





What do superyachts do in Asia when they are not cruising through idyllic island archipelagos, or hot-footing it from one legendary location to another? There are lots of possible answers to the question, most of them prosaic – such as cleaning and maintenance – but the proper answer is “they go to the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous”.

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, now 14 years old and sponsored by Feadship, was hosted at the spectacularly positioned and perfectly appointed Kata Rocks Resort. Perched on a headland overlooking the Andaman Sea, Kata Rocks provides not only world-class accommodation and service, but also a world-class view of the anchorage. If you were the owner of a 40m superyacht, then sitting beside the horizon pool, imbibing a well-built gin and tonic and admiring your boat moored immediately below you might just be one of life’s ultimate luxuries.

This year’s socials started with a skippers’ briefing for those owners and Captains not entirely familiar with racing flag etiquette. Suzy Rayment, Editor-in-Chief of Yachtstyle

dispensed bottles of Roger Coulon champagne courtesy of the Hong Kong Cruise Plaza (the perfect place to moor a superyacht), saying, “this Rendezvous is about having fun, right? So here’s the champagne.”

This was followed by a cocktail party on board the 130’ Indonesian phinisi schooner Si Datu Bua. Owner Patty Seery and her tribe of Indonesian crew do this sort of thing probably better than anyone else on the planet. “When we are on charter we don’t see a great many other vessels, so the Rendezvous is a great meet-and-greet opportunity for the crew.”

Next morning Si Datu Bua and Sunshine shook out their canvas - and Escapade simply unrolled hers – for a short race. Escapade made the most of the moderate breeze and clocked 14kts downwind but her competition was cut short when equipment failure on Peter Wood’s heart-stopping Sunshine (designed by William Fife in 1900, built in Burma in 2003) put paid to further racing activities.

The evening’s entertainment was of course the annual Feadship Challenge, in which crews are allowed an hour in

PREVIOUS PAGE:
Superyachts line up for the Rendezvous Parade

OPPOSITE PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
Titania moored in front of Kata Rocks; Moon Sand; Escapade; Samax; Northern Sun; Sunshine

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:
Poolside at the Kata Rocks Resort; Feadship flies the flag; Race Officer Andy Dowden; Owners, Skippers and Race Officers gather for a race briefing and a beer





OPPOSITE PAGE:
Si Datu Bua under sail



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
On board Sunshine; Pirate party; Feadship Challenge contestants; Titania crew making their model yacht for the Feadship Challenge



which to build a model boat from 'scraps' – and then race it. Fine naval architecture is not at the top of the required skills list, but a big 'sail' area and plenty of puff are. This year's worthy winners were the crew of the 155' Feadship, Samax, and they were awarded their prize by the Feadship representatives, Farouk Nefzi and Jan-Bart Verkuyl. Then both the Feadship representatives and the designer Jody Chapman awarded the special design prize to the crew of Si Datu Bua.

The blue skies disappeared for the second and last day of the event. Rain combined with precious little breeze and a shortage of competition caused racing to be cancelled, but all boats present were out on the water for a fleet photo call – which is a great deal more difficult than most people imagine. However, the line-up was achieved in the end (see picture) and





- Participating Superyachts:**
- Sunshine (31m, Fife)
 - Escapade (37.5m, Dubois)
 - Si Datu Bua (40.2m, Konjo Boat Builders)
 - Yanneke Too (36m, Dixon)
 - Titania (72m, Lurssen)
 - Samax (55m, Feadship)
 - Moon Sand (41m, Sovereign)
 - Northern Sun (50m, previously Japanese ice-class marine research vessel)

many thanks go to all the boat captains who had both patience and nerve.

That afternoon there were Indonesian pirates on Kata Beach, - the dastardly crew from Si Datu Bua – along with everyone else with an appetite for theatricals, or with young crew members to entertain (or both!), who spent the afternoon building sand castles on Kata Beach and searching for the Pirate Booty which was of course cunningly concealed at Kata Rocks.

And so to closing time, which at the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous means the Boat International Media Gala Dinner. The amazing Vie Trio pushed the evening off to a great start, the magnificent cuisine and setting of Kata Rocks carried it forward, and DJ Nemo picked it up the ball and carried it to the end of the party and the end of the ASR 2014.

For sure “a great time was had by all”, from the Owners’ Dinner to the Crew Party at the famous (infamous?) Ska Bar, and from the pirate treasure hunt to the parade of boats, ASR 2014 was another resounding success for organisers Asia-Pacific Superyachts, venue hosts Kata Rocks and principal sponsor Feadship. Again please! 🍷

CLOCKWISE, FROM OPPOSITE TOP LEFT:

Farouk Nefzi from Feadship welcomes guests to the Gala Dinner; Asia Superyacht Rendezvous organisers and sponsors; the amazing Vie Trio; Si Datu Bua are the winners of the Feadship Challenge Design Award; Team Samax win the Feadship Challenge Race; the BIM Gala Dinner; crew party at the Ska Bar; the party rocks thanks to DJ Nemo