



ALL AT SEA

SOUTH FLORIDA

Inside:

**Pee Wee Anglers
Steal the Show**

CARBON CRAFT:
Luxury Yacht Tenders

Biscayne Bay's
COLUMBUS DAY REGATTA

SOUTH FLORIDA NEWS



SCIENTISTS STUDY PREDATOR-PREY BEHAVIOR BETWEEN SHARKS AND TURTLES

MIAMI – A new collaborative study led by scientists at the University of Miami (UM) Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science & Abess Center for Ecosystem Science & Policy examined predator-prey interactions between tiger sharks and sea turtles of the Northwestern Atlantic Ocean.

The research team used long-term satellite tagging data from large tiger sharks and adult female loggerhead sea turtles, common prey of tiger sharks, to examine their movement patterns and evaluate if turtles modify their behaviors to reduce their chances of a shark attack when turtle and shark home ranges overlap.

The study revealed that tiger sharks undergo seasonal movements to take advantage of turtles nesting off the Carolinas during the summer. Tiger sharks are ambush predators, primarily attacking surfacing turtles from below. In theory, loggerhead turtles should reduce their exposure at the surface in regions of high habitat overlap with tiger sharks. However, surprisingly, the researchers found when shark-turtle overlap in the study region was high, turtles did not alter surfacing behavior to risk-avoidance. Whereas, sharks did exhibit modified surfacing behavior believed by scientists to enhance predation opportunity.

“We suggest that sharks may not be an important factor influencing the movements of turtles in the study region,” said Research Assistant Professor Neil Hammerschlag at the UM Rosenstiel School & Abess Center. “In addition to the unpredictability of a shark attack over such a large area, it is possible that fishing of tiger sharks has reduced their populations to levels that no longer pose a significant threat to turtles, with other factors becoming more important such as the need to avoid boat strikes”.

The study is one of the first to test if the “landscape of fear” model, a scientific theory that has been used to explain how animals move and interact with the environment based on their fear of being attacked by their predators, is applicable to large open marine systems involving wide-ranging species.

WEST MARINE FT. LAUDERDALE DIVES DEEPER INTO SCUBA

BY ANN EICHENMULLER

Divers in Ft. Lauderdale will soon have another alternative for tank hydros and equipment maintenance. The downtown West Marine, which became the third of the chain's Florida locations to incorporate the company's trial “dive shop within

a store" concept, is phasing in service as the last stage of their new program. Following an agreement late last fall between Mares, Scuba Schools International, and West Marine, the Ft. Lauderdale store has joined Jacksonville and North Palm to provide dive gear and tank fills, as well as diver certification through Guardian Scuba, an SSI affiliated dive center. The last piece of the plan is the incorporation of local repair and maintenance, a goal West Marine hopes to achieve this fall.

West Marine is staging its dive program in Florida as a two-year test; if successful, the company hopes to expand nationwide. The effect of this partnership on local dive shops remains to be seen. Cristina Kochevar, category manager for the company's watersports division, stresses that "What we are trying to do is grow more divers." She points to West Marine's entrance into the paddleboard market, a move which has led to growing popularity for a previously little-known sport, as a scenario she hopes will be repeated with diving. And Kochevar believes local shops, which have been leery of big box stores, will benefit from West Marine's presence in the scuba industry. "We get people started in sports," she observed, and as a large retailer, West Marine can invest in nationwide advertising to draw in a new demographic. If those new divers continue to advance their skills in scuba, they will likely be in the market for high end, specialized equipment—a market the local shop can satisfy. For now, would-be and experienced divers in South Florida should benefit from the increased competition of West Marine's plunge into the dive industry.

WORLD'S LARGEST IN-WATER BOAT SHOW INCREASES FUN FACTOR AND VIP ALLURE

FORT LAUDERDALE - The 56th Annual Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show (FLIBS), taking place in the "Yachting Capital of the World" Nov 5 - 9, is unveiling new attractions to further enhance the show experience for the thousands of boating enthusiasts and marine businesses attending from around the world.

"This is an exciting year for the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show as we roll out enhancements designed to make this the best show ever for our exhibitors and attendees," said Brett Keating, vice president of consumer marketing for Show Management, the organization that annually produces the Fort Lauderdale boat show. "We're elevating the overall experience in many different ways, ranging from very attractive VIP packages to a Friday night Blue Party at the Convention Center especially for our valued exhibitors. Even before you arrive, you'll notice attractive new touches when you visit the new FLIBS website and see our new logo."

VIP Boat Show Experiences

Show organizers have partnered with QuintEvents for the VIP Boat Show Experiences program, offering registered guests the convenience of onsite valet parking, entry to the boat show and all-day access to the air-conditioned, VIP lounge located at the Hall of Fame Marina, which will feature gourmet food and a premium open bar. Other perks include access to a variety of private boat show events.

One-day VIP Boat Show Experiences passes are \$399 per person for Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Three-day passes are available for \$1,099 per person.

The Blue Party

On Friday, Nov 6, the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center will glow blue for a fun-filled night especially planned for exhibitors and featuring entertainment, music and fashion at the show's Sailfish Pavilion. Raffle tickets and great prizes will benefit the Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center, a non-profit organization that annually serves more than 11,000 children with special healthcare needs in Broward County.



©2014 FOREST JOHNSON

ACR ELECTRONICS STRENGTHENS COMPREHENSIVE PRODUCT PORTFOLIO WITH AIS TECHNOLOGY OFFERING

Global leader in safety and survival technologies ACR Electronics, a Drew Marine Company, has broadened its range of innovative maritime devices with the introduction of its new Class A and Class B Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) transceivers. ACR's new AIS product offering. Combined with the recent ac-

quisition of UK-based safety and communication specialist Ocean Signal, this further establishes the company as an industry leader with the capabilities to provide a comprehensive portfolio of devices to the marine marketplace.

By March 2016 most US and foreign-flag commercial vessels operating in US navigable waters are required to install a USCG Type Approved AIS. The premium, fully-featured ACR AISLink CA1 Class A and CB1 Class B transceivers are suitable for installation on commercial vessels affected by this mandate, and ideal for a range of other workboats and recreational boats. The transceivers are also certified around the world to the latest AIS regulations.

"ACR is already known for developing reliable products suitable for the harshest conditions, so we are confident that the Class A and Class B AIS transceivers will enhance this reputation. The ACR AIS transceivers offer high reliability, performance and compliance with regulations at a competitive price," said Gerry Angeli, president of ACR Electronics.



The AISLink CA1 Class A transceiver is a commercial standard system which demonstrates the highest AIS transmission power and the most frequent transmission of AIS information. Approved worldwide for both deep sea and inland waterways, it offers an extensive feature set including an easy-to-use graphical interface with multilingual capability which positions it as a leader amongst other AIS Class A options.

The ACR AISLink CB1 Class B transceiver is also certified worldwide to the latest AIS regulations, and is ideal for recreational boaters, as well as some commercial vessels. It features NMEA0183 and NMEA2000 data output which allow for seamless interaction with navigation systems and can be placed in silent mode for privacy and security.

Visit www.acrartex.com for more information



TACO MARINE TEAMS WITH SHIP SHAPE TV TO UPDATE A BOAT FOR CHARITY

MIAMI – Taco Marine, the premier manufacturer of rub rail in the marine industry, teamed up with Ship Shape TV, the popular DIY show for boaters, to update a 1989 Pursuit 2650 boat to 2016 standards. A separate Taco Marine Project Boat blog site has been established to watch the transformation while providing valuable information for the do-it-yourselfer. In addition to video clips from the Ship Shape TV show, the blog will include product installation insight and handy how-to tips. Every week there will be another posting on the boat's progress, and you'll learn how to take something apart, and then put it all back together – better than it was before.

The Taco Marine Project Boat also serves a good cause. When Ship Shape TV has completed updating the boat from bow to stern, the boat will be displayed at several Florida boat shows beginning in October 2015. The proceeds from the sale of the boat will be donated to I'M LOGAN IT Foundation (<http://www.imloganit.com/about-the-foundation/>).

Get on aboard and follow the Taco Marine Project Boat at <http://tacomarineprojectboat.com>

ALL AT SEA SOUTH FLORIDA

Editor:
TERRY BORAM
terry@allatsea.net

Production Editor:
JANICE WEIGAND
janice@allatsea.net



Resort-style marina featuring 117 slips for vessels up to 180 feet. Daily and contracted rates available. Enjoy private pool & spa, tennis courts, two 18-hole golf courses, and Bourbon Steak, a Michael Mina Restaurant at Turnberry Isle Miami Resort, as well as shopping at nearby Aventura Mall. Private charters and sports fishing adventures may also be arranged.



*Turnberry Isle Marina
Yacht Club*

**N 25° 57.450' W 080° 07.660'
MONITOR CHANNEL 68**

19735 Turnberry Way, Aventura, FL 33180 | P. 305.933.6934 | F. 305.933.6908 | turnberryislemiami.com | omellado@turnberry.com

CARBON CRAFT: LUXURY YACHT TENDERS

BOATING BY CAPT. JEFF WERNER
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARBON CRAFT



Bringing a new product to market begins with an aha moment, followed by the realization of a great design once only seen in the mind's eye. From there, it is carried forward by an individual with the passion for and a vision of the future for that product. Carbon Craft is a perfect example of this scenario, as they bring small luxury tenders to yachting.

Four years ago, two business partners wondered why small tenders were usually limited to rigid inflatable boats. While easy to maneuver, RIBs aren't very elegant and not too functional for seating, unless you don't mind sitting on an inflatable tube. And if a passenger is finely dressed for evening ashore, that seat can become a very wet ride, quickly ruining a special occasion. It was exactly this experience which led to the the founding of Carbon Craft and the development of a prototype 13-foot hard tender built of carbon fiber with 75 percent more interior space than a RIB of the same size.

Today, Carbon Craft has a unique line of three tenders in different sizes made at their production facility in Tampa, Fla. Each

tender takes advantage of lightweight carbon fiber hulls, and elegant interior appointments of teak and marine leather. The tenders are powered with high performance jet drives and each boat is wrapped bow to stern quarter with a padded fendering system, a closed-cell foam collar covered with ballistic nylon. All Carbon Craft luxury tenders have great eye appeal in any harbor.

The man tasked with making Carbon Craft the tender of choice for discriminating yacht owners is Chief Operating Officer Steve French. "About four years ago, I had my boat up on the Maine coast, and one of the founders of Carbon Craft had a new Lazzara with the prototype tender on back. He happened to dock at my stern in Portland, and I had to go over and ask him about this tender because I hadn't seen anything like it," said French. "This product just stuck with me, I thought it was a such a cool concept. And here I am."

The hull, deck, steering console and other parts are laminated in a climate controlled clean room in molds from pre-preg carbon fiber. After the lamination process is completed, the molds are moved to a 20' X 40' curing oven for eight hours.

The result is lightweight and strong parts assembled into very roomy boats, while keeping their finished weight on par with inflatable tenders.

The CC110, the smallest model at 11 feet long, has a teak deck and comfortable seating for five as well as plenty of stowage. It is a refreshing change from a RIB of similar length, and at first glance it is hard to believe how much boat is packed into the almost six foot beam. Powered by a 120 hp Weber four-stroke gasoline engine with water jet drive propulsion, the tender handles very easily. Since the jet drive uses vectored thrust, like an outboard engine does, the learning curve for a jet drive is very small for those used to operating outboards. Very maneuverable at slow speeds, the tender will also zip along at 37 knots under complete control.

As the models of Carbon Craft luxury tenders increase in size, so do the features available. The CC130 (13' LOA) and the CC160 (16' LOA) have folding hardtops serving as biminis available as an option. While all three models come standard with gasoline engines powering the jet drives, the 16 foot version can also be purchased with a diesel jet drive. The diesel engines are FNM, a marinized Fiat engine that is becoming popular with American yacht builders. The 135 hp diesel engine is coupled with an Alamarin jet drive with a top speed of 32 knots.

As many production boat builders with top notch products have found, yacht owners are always looking for bigger and better. In response to one such request, Carbon Craft recently launched a custom built 18-foot diesel jet tender which exceeds 40 knots of boat speed. No doubt the mold for this tender will soon become a production version.

Currently Carbon Craft's target market is owners of yachts 60 to 110-foot LOA. Over the next few years, the company plans

BOAT SHOW:

TAMPA, FL

OCTOBER 2 – 4

Tampa Boat Show

www.tampaboatshow.com

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

NOVEMBER 5 – 9

56th Annual Fort Lauderdale Boat Show

www.ShowManagement.com

800-940-7642

SAILING REGATTA:

MIAMI, FL

OCTOBER 10 – 11

Columbus Day Regatta

columbusdayregatta.net/

OCTOBER 24 – 25

Halloween Howler

Youth Regatta

www.cgsc.org

NOVEMBER 12 – 13

Nassau Cup Ocean Race

www.nassaucuprace.org/#

305-858-1733

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

NOVEMBER 14 – 15

Opti Team

Race Regatta

www.lyc.org

INDUSTRY CONFERENCE:

ORLANDO, FL

NOVEMBER 15 – 18

Marine Dealers

Conference & Expo

MRAA.com/MDCE

liz@mraa.com

www.tampaboatshow.com

to utilize new technology such as large format presses for compression molding of carbon fiber parts which will make even lighter boats. These tenders will eventually find their way onto larger and larger mother ships.

Visit Carbon Craft at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show Nov 5 - 9. For more information go to www.carboncraft.com or call 800-709-1387.



Capt. Jeff Werner is a 23 year veteran of the yachting industry. In addition to working as a captain on private and charter yachts, both sail and power, he is a certified instructor for the RYA, MCA, USCG and US Sailing.



PEE WEE ANGLERS STEAL THE SHOW

FISHING STORY AND PHOTOS BY JENA BRADLEY



As Dockmaster at the Palm Beach Yacht Center, I'm honored to facilitate many fun events but my favorite is the Never-ending Fishing Derby. It's a simple tournament beginning anew every three months, opened to all in-house slip and dry dock tenants. While there are three age categories competing, my favorites by far are the Pee Wee anglers ages seven and under. They steal the show every time.

Anglers compete for gifts cards, trophies and medals and are rewarded at the end of each round with a fun barbecue award ceremony. It is always exciting when the Pee Wees receive their medals and take the microphone to tell us all about their catches.

There are definitely no outlandish fish stories here. These Pee Wees speak the truth! I have been told, "My dad caught the



Gillian

FISHING TOURNAMENTS:

JUPITER, FL
OCTOBER 2 – 3
 Ladies KDW Bluewater
 Babes Fish for
 Cure Tournament
fishforacure.com/

KEY LARGO, FL
OCTOBER 9 – 11
 Baybone Celebrity
 Tournament
www.redbone.org
 (305) 664-2002

ISLAMORADA, FL
OCTOBER 9 – 10
 Mad Dog Mandich
 Fishing Classic and
 Family Fun Weekend
www.maddogclassic.com
 305-667-0399

NOVEMBER 12 – 14
 The Cheeca Lodge
 All-American Back-
 country Tournament
[www.cheeca.com/
 experience/fishing/all-
 american-fishing-tournament](http://www.cheeca.com/experience/fishing/all-american-fishing-tournament)

NOVEMBER 6 – 8
 Redbone Celebrity
 Tournament
www.redbone.org
 (305) 664-2002

STUART, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 16 – 17
 30th Annual Ladies
 Fishing Tournament
[www.stuartsailfishclub.com/
 tournaments.php](http://www.stuartsailfishclub.com/tournaments.php)

MADEIRA BEACH, FL
NOVEMBER 5 – 7
 Fall King of the Beach /
 Mad Beach Food Fest
[oldsaltfishing.org/
 tournaments/](http://oldsaltfishing.org/tournaments/)

BIMINI, BAHAMAS
NOVEMBER 12 – 14
 Wahoo Smackdown Series
[www.biggameclub
 bimini.com](http://www.biggameclubbimini.com)



Dylan



Logan



Sal

fish and said tell Miss Jena you got him." or "You have to get a little dirty to get the job done." They always make me chuckle.

The Pee Wee anglers could not be prouder as I hang their pictures in the dock office. Each time they visit the office to get the daily fishing report, their small heads peek over the counter just to get a glimpse of themselves hanging on the derby board.

These little tykes are so much fun we have now included them in our major tournaments. Though the rules were altered to suit the young anglers – the biggest fish wins, period – just competing in the "real" tournaments is a big deal for the Pee Wees.

Recently I handed out to the Pee Wee participants, small trophies which had marlins on top. One angler actually handed his trophy back to me saying he had not caught a marlin yet!



Rhys and Rowan



G-man



Dylan

I assured him one day he would catch a marlin and besides, I didn't have one with a jack atop. They are a hoot!

It is not all fun and games for these anglers. Along the way they have learned boating safety, rules of the water, what fishes are legal fish to take, and the proper way to release the fish without harming the catch. Identifying the fish has also

become a fun game. They just don't realize how much they are learning.

Their enthusiasm is contagious! They make me smile every single day.



Jena Bradley, Dock Master

ULTIMATE SUMMER DESTINATIONS

IGY
MARINAS

CABO
SAN LUCAS,
MEXICO

MONTAUK, NY
NEW YORK
HARBOR

FORT LAUDERDALE

BIMINI, BAHAMAS

TURKS & CAICOS

ST. THOMAS

ST. MAARTEN

ST. LUCIA

BOCAS
DEL TORO,
PANAMA

SANTA MARTA,
COLOMBIA

Panama
Canal



THE MARINAS AT RESORTS WORLD BIMINI, BAHAMAS

As the largest yacht and marina complex in the Bahamas, and only 50 miles off the coast of South Florida, the marina offers guests full use of its modern Resort.

- Hilton® at Resorts World Bimini featuring 318 Rooms and Suites
- 230 berths welcoming vessels up to 180ft
- Manned security and on-site customs and immigration
- Single (50 amp/100 amp) and three-phase power
- Deep-water access channels/berths
- Casino, 6 restaurants & bars, miles of white sand beaches & turquoise waters

CONTACT: +1 305-374-6664 (ext. 1035)

marina@rwbiminibahamas.com | www.rwbimini.com

BLUE HAVEN MARINA AND RESORT, TURKS & CAICOS

This brand new facility is positioned within the Blue Haven Resort, surrounded by nearly 20 acres of waterfront land on the exquisite northeast coast of Providenciales.

- 78 berths for yachts up to 220ft and an 8.5ft draft
- Secure destination and facility with concierge services
- Access to all resort facilities such as 2 restaurants, crew bar, spa, grocery store and deli, serviced beach and pool.
- Immigration and Customs services
- Showers for visiting yacht crew
- Premium gasoline and diesel fuel

CONTACT: 649-946-9910

afoster@bluehaventci.com | www.bluehaventci.com

IGY
MARINAS

www.igymarinas.com

Book your berth today.

CONNECT WITH US:     



IGY ANCHOR CLUB
Strategic Partners



COLUMBUS DAY REGATTA

SAILING BY CAROL BAREUTHER



MARCO OCUEANDO/IMAGESBYMARCO.COM

A regatta that commemorates a small boat cruise in 1492 is not only one of the longest continually held sporting events in South Florida, but one that has made its mark on the local sailing scene as has its namesake on the New World. The Columbus Day Regatta, set for October 10 and 11 on Biscayne Bay, attracts 100-plus boats and thousands of people who come for the competition and the camaraderie.

"It is a great opportunity to sail distance courses against great competition while staying close to shore and in the protected waters of the bay. There is also a party atmosphere, with lots of spectators on the bay and of course the '3 B's' back on shore, that being the Open Bar, Barbecue and live Band at the Miami Shake-A-Leg hanger in the (Coconut) Grove," says regatta chairman, Christopher Lanza.

The event was started in 1954 by Timothy Sullivan, today known as 'the father of the Columbus Day Regatta.' Six years

later, the Columbus Day Cruising Regatta Club flew the 17th duke of Veraguas, Cristobal Colon, a direct descendant of Columbus, and his duchess, from Spain to Miami to witness the annual regatta. While here the Duke gave the committee permission to use the coat of arms of the original Columbus as a club emblem. The regatta originally ran out of the Coconut Grove Sailing Club before being hosted by Coral Reef Yacht Club. With the exception of 1992 when Hurricane Andrew decimated South Florida and most of the sailboats located in the Miami area, the Columbus Day Regatta has been an annual mainstay of yacht racing on Biscayne Bay.

"What I like most about this regatta is that instead of racing against the same boats as we do all year long, we get a lot of different boats from all over the state," says Eamonn deLisser, manager at Miami's Doyle Sail Loft, who won the prestigious Sons of Italy Trophy in 2014, aboard his Farr 395, Senara. "The real secret to winning is to try and stay consistent in both days of racing. Sounds easy, but it's not. In all my years of com-

**NO
WORRIES**
YACHT MANAGEMENT

**SERVING
DADE BROWARD
& PALM BEACH**

SERVICE • PARTS • MAINTENANCE • CHARTERS

Wash, Wax, Inside cleaning & Detailing • Engine, A/C, Running Gear, Metals & Fiber Glass Repairs
Electronics Installation & Repairs • Captain & Mates • Yacht Brokerage
Shipping & Delivery (US & International) • USCG Captain Lesson for Yacht Owners

Address: 3390 Mary Street • Suite 116 • Coconut Grove, FL 33133
Office 305-677-2446 • Cell 305-525-6479
ricardo@noworriesym.com • www.noworriesym.com

SO REAL...
IT COULD FOOL **MOTHER NATURE**




NUTEAK
THE LOOK AND FEEL OF **REAL TEAK**

MAINTENANCE FREE
NON-SKID WET OR DRY
STAIN RESISTANT
CAN BE PRESSURE WASHED
COSTS LESS THAN TEAK

NUTEAK.com • 954-321-2447



MARCO OQUEENDO/IMAGESBYMARCO.COM



EAMONN DELISSER OF DOYLE SAILS MIAMI



MARCO OQUEENDO/IMAGESBYMARCO.COM



MARCO OQUEENDO/IMAGESBYMARCO.COM

peting in the regatta, I have only managed to win the overall twice, in 2011 and last year."

The Columbus Day Regatta is open to PHRF, ARC and some One Design classes. There are additional classes known as 'Gunkhole' and 'Dowager' for older cruising boats. There is a wide spectrum of both boats and motivation, and a total of 10 trophies up for grabs. The PHRF A fleet boasts some of the top race teams in South Florida, while many of the Gunkholers are out for a day of fun. There are a variety of courses all set outside of the Biscayne National Park boundary. All classes start on Saturday off the Rickenbacker Causeway; then the racing classes traverse the bay sailing courses from 11 to 20 miles long while the cruising classes generally sail a straight line to the finish off of Black Ledge. The Committee is looking at offering longer

courses in the future as boats become faster and faster.

New is the continuation of a tradition that started last year, the Saturday night Conquistador's Ball at Coconut Grove. The party features an open bar courtesy of the regatta's title sponsor Bacardi, LTD. There are a barbecue buffet and live music featuring one of Miami's top bands, 'PUSH'.

"Last year, we had over 250 people enjoying food, drinks and dancing the night away. This year is also the 25th anniversary of Miami Shake-A-Leg, which was started at the Columbus Day Regatta in 1990. Come help us celebrate a great regatta and a great cause. The event is open to the public and tickets can be purchased on the regatta website www.columbusdayregatta.net," Lanza invites.



Destination: Fort Pierce

Experience Florida's Newest Marina in the Heart of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

- ⚙️ Fueling 22 hours/day, 7 days/week
- ⚙️ Free wifi
- ⚙️ 12 restaurants within 2 blocks
- ⚙️ Close proximity to Bahamas
- ⚙️ State-of-the-art concrete floating docks
- ⚙️ #1 Farmers' Market every Saturday on-site
- ⚙️ Within 2 nautical miles of best all weather inlet
- ⚙️ Visit our website to view live webcams



FPCM@CITY-FTPIERCE.COM | 1-800-619-1780 | FORTPIERCECITYMARINA.COM

MATUSALEM GRAN RESERVA SOLERA 15

RUM BY CLINT AND TERRY BORAM

With the diplomatic relationship restored between the United States and Cuba, we thought it was time to explore a Cuban rum. As the commercial embargo is still intact, U.S. shelves will not have product directly from Cuba, however rums made in the Cuban style, produced and distributed elsewhere, can be found. Matusalem Gran Reserva Solera 15, rich in Cuban history, was a rum worth exploring.

In 1872, brothers Benjamin and Eduardo Camp, and Evaristo Álvarez opened a distillery in Santiago de Cuba utilizing the Solera aging system most often used to produce sherry, brandy and cognac. The fractional blending process flows through a pyramid. New rums are put in barrels at the highest level of the pyramid. As aged rum is pulled for bottling from the lowest Solera barrel the volume is replaced by the younger rums above. The blending of old and new is said to soften and refine the rum.

The distillery closed after the Cuban Revolution in 1959, forcing the rum to disappear until it was relaunched in 2001 by the great-grandson of Álvarez, Claudio Álvarez Salazar. Of course he could no longer produce or bottle the rum in Cuba, so today Matusalem is made in the Dominican Republic.

We selected Matusalem Gran Reserva Solera 15 due to our affinity for sipping rums.

HE SAID

The nose has an ever so slight hint of vanilla. The vanilla is on the tongue, however the finish is almost devoid of flavor. There is a warmth which comes in and lingers ever so slightly. Subsequent tastes bring out a hint of tobacco yet it doesn't stay with me in the finish.

SHE SAID

Very subtle nose. I can't truly get a line on what the rum is presenting. Definitely sweet not a spice. Hopefully on the tongue the rum will show its colors. Well, that didn't help. Initially, I get a fiery spice with a warm finish. Definitely taste the tobacco but I can't truly identify the sweet. I agree with Clint, the finish dissipates without any fanfare.



OVERALL

Ho Hum! There certainly isn't anything to contemplate about this rum. We actually wonder if the Solera process produces a different rum with each bottle. Don't discount this as a sipping rum for when you just want the cane sugar quality without having to think hard about what the rum is presenting. In our house though we probably would mix this into a good Cuba Libre.

SCORE 2.5 OUT OF 5



SIPPING RUM SCALE

- 1 – An expensive mixer
- 2 – A quick celebratory shot
- 3 – Wouldn't be embarrassed to share with friends
- 4 – Are my friends worthy of a sip
- 5 – Special moments rum

ABOUT CLINT AND TERRY: *We have sampled many a dram over our 32 years of marriage and quite often we don't fully agree. Could be the difference is male/female taste buds. Or, somebody is just wrong.*