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WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 72 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! Colleen Carroll drops in this month with some of the best female freestyle riders on the planet as they go exploring in Egypt for the upcoming film, The Sum Of 5. Reo Stevens heads off into the Pacific to discover the kitesurfing on offer in

Tuamotu and Lukas Pitsch gives us the lowdown on snowkiting. Christian and Karine are on hand with some slick moves to add to your bag of tricks and we've also got lots of 2019 gear on test. As ever there is plenty more inside, the magazine is packed with the best photos, stories and videos!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE



- Click on the corners to turn the pages or use the navigation bars. If you are viewing on a touch screen device then you can use swipe gestures. Swipe left and right to turn the pages and up and down to bring up the navigation bars.



- BEYOND KITESURFING -

THE SUM OF 5 / TUAMOTU ADVENTURE / SNOWKITING
KITE MANSION KPL / TESTS / TECHNIQUE AND MUCH MORE INSIDE

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE

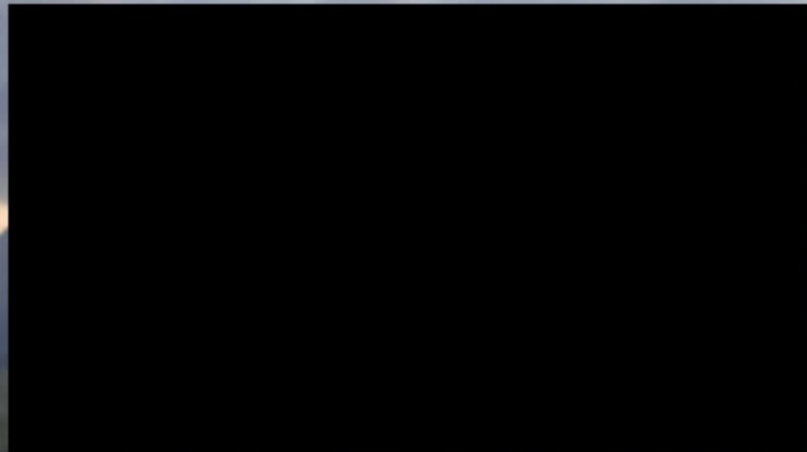


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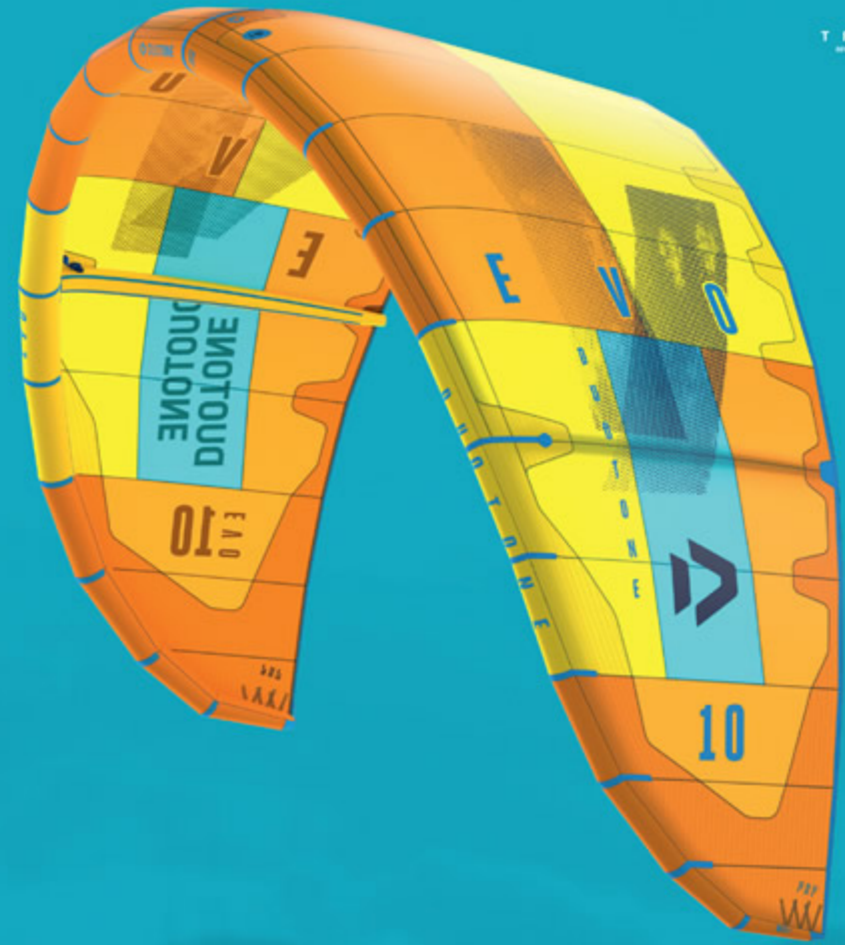
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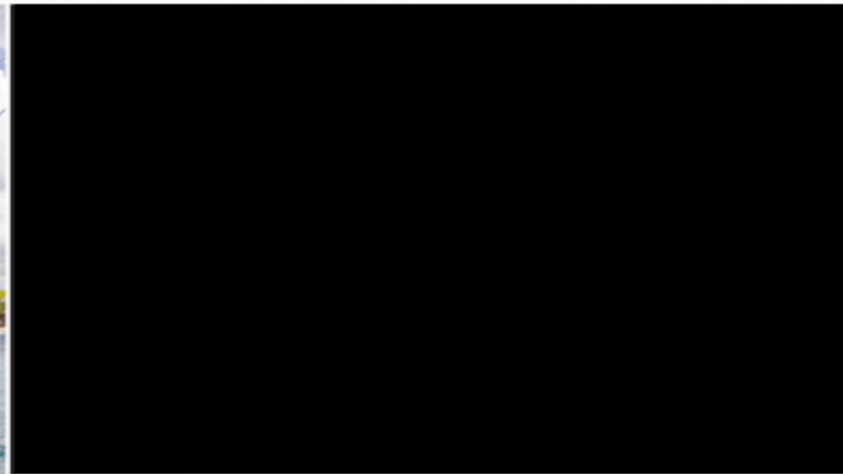
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COMPETITION



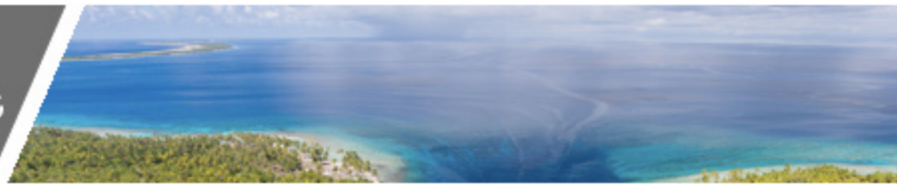
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dangerous sport & none of the
activities depicted within this
magazine should be participated in
without full instruction in person by a
qualified instructor.

MARK SHINN AND BLAZEJ OZOG CRUISING IN THE RED SEA!
PHOTO ROBERT HAJDUK





WIN

We've teamed up this issue with Odo Kiteboarding to bring you this amazing prize. A brand new Compact Series Surfboard in a size of your choice! The board is ideal for riders who want to learn, or improve their strapless kitesurfing skills with a high performance and easy to use surfboard.

This board is extremely versatile in different conditions from chop to small and medium sized waves.

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Remember you've got to be in it to win it!

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ISSUE 72 The last issue I wrote about my accident and injury, well, I figure an update is in order... I've now been learning to walk for two months, and it's going really well, I've still got a limp, but I can now traverse up and down stairs relatively normally. Losing the limp is the next goal I have set myself...

I did a podcast with Gee Atherton recently; he's a very well decorated DH racer from the UK. He's had some horror crashes over the years, and I asked him about how he copes mentally with the comeback. One of the many interesting observations he made was that in the immediate aftermath the last thing you want to do is ride a bike. Your brain goes into safety mode, if you will, and any desire to do anything out of the ordinary is gone. I've definitely felt that over the last few months, however as the recovery progresses these feelings pass. I've been riding the new motorbike a fair bit, and I'm not scared of speed anymore. The bike doesn't involve much use of the dodgy ankle so I can ride that just fine. I'm still a long way off doing any kind of impact sports such as kitesurfing though.

The trouble is, the brain is starting to feel ready, even if the body doesn't. The last few weeks I have really started to crave going to the beach for a session. I'm writing this from one of my favourite places in the world, Perth, Australia and every time I go to the beach I get a pang of regret in my stomach. It's the Red Bull Lighthouse To Leighton race this weekend, which is why I am here, and sitting in the boat watching the guys and girls blast across the ocean is going to be hard.

It's much easier in England to cope when the weather is foul and cold, but out here, I'll be honest, I'm struggling. Kitesurfing is addictive, we all know that, and right now I could do with a hit. I guess I'll just have to settle for physio and gym sessions so I can be stronger than ever and ready for that magical moment on the water when the time comes...

Enjoy every session you can, you never know when it might be your last for a while!

Rou Chater
Publishing Editor

LIAM WHALEY IS NOW BACK ON THE WATER AFTER COMING BACK FROM AN INJURY THIS SUMMER IN TARIFA, KEEP RIPPING LIAM, YOU ARE GIVING ME HOPE!
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



NOT THE RPM, THE NEW RPM.

FROM SLACK TO SOAR

FOR YEARS, THE RPM WAS FINE-TUNED TO LOAD, POP AND GO SLACK IN THE AIR BEFORE REENGAGING. WE HAD THE TUNING DOWN TO A SCIENCE, AND IT HELPED GIVE MULTIPLE FREESTYLE WORLD CHAMPIONS THEIR GOLD MEDALS. OUR MISSION WITH THE 2019 RPM WAS TO CHANGE THAT- NOT TO ELIMINATE ANYTHING, BUT TO SHIFT THE KITE'S TUNING TO WHERE WE SEE THE SPORT SHIFTING. AT THE LEVEL THE RPM IS DESIGNED FOR, THAT MEANS BIGGER, BETTER, LOFTIER IN-AIR PERFORMANCE.

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- SAM LIGHT

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"I HAVE WON TWO TITLES ON THE RPM, ITS THE GREATEST KITE EVER MADE. HOWEVER IN THE PAST YEAR I STARTED COMPETING ON ANOTHER WORLD TOUR. ONE THAT INCLUDED BIG AIR. I FOUND MYSELF RIDING THE RPM FOR MY FREESTYLE TRICKS AND THEN SWITCHING TO THE RALLY FOR BIG AIR. I WONDERED HOW NICE IT WOULD BE TO HAVE ALL THAT PERFORMANCE IN ONE KITE. I DON'T HAVE TO WONDER ANYMORE."

- CARLOS "BEBE" MARIO

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THE SUM OF 5

WORDS COLLEEN CARROLL/HANNAH WHITELEY
PHOTOS TOBY BROMWICH

What happens when you take five of the best female kitesurfers on the planet and put them in the same spot for a couple of weeks of riding?



“OUR CHAMPIONS ARE EAGER FOR A TRIP OF A DIFFERENT NATURE, A BRIEF RESPITE FROM THE PRESSURES OF PERFORMING UNDER SUCH HEAVY CRITIQUE.”

COLLEEN CARROLL

Five women, from five different nationalities, board their respective flights for a kiteboarding trip; although this one is unlike the countless others, they have been on. The Czech Republic's Paula Novotna, Italy's Francesca Bagnoli and Brazil's Mikaili Sol are fresh off a well-deserved podium finish at the World Kiteboarding Championship's second event of the year in Akyaka, Turkey. Tired from the physical and mental stress of competing at the world's highest level for kiteboarding freestyle, our champions are eager for a trip of a different nature, a brief respite from the pressures of performing under such heavy critique.

Paula, also known as the 'Czech Charger', has been a dedicated competition freestyle rider for as long as I've known her. Relentless in her pursuit of being the best athlete she can be, both on and off the water. Paula constantly has competition on her mind and bursts with energy and excitement for kiteboarding, unlike many others.

Francesca, on the other hand, could almost be the antitheses to Paula's competitive strategy. Mellow and laid back, Francesca channels a performance mindset through practicing yoga, summoning an almost hawk-like focus. While she loves a good joke and is always down for a laugh, Francesca exudes calm and confidence in the most humble way.

Mika only jumped onto the competitive kiteboarding scene this year, and already has taken it by storm. At just 14 year's old, she's already claimed both the GKA Air Games world title as well as most recently,





the World Kiteboarding Championship title, making her one of kiteboarding's youngest world champions in history. While Mika is very much a world-class athlete, she's also a kid already living out her wildest dreams. Born and raised in Brazil, she's dreamt of joining the ranks of kiteboarding's elite as long as she can remember; but don't think she's all kite and no play! Mika loves kiteboarding with a new appetite, and can quickly check out of competition mode enjoying it for its simplicities.

Joining Paula, Francesca and Mika would also be the United Kingdom's long time kiteboarding legend, Hannah Whiteley, who more recently joined the Duotone team.

**" SHE'S ALSO A KID
ALREADY LIVING OUT
HER WILDEST
DREAMS. "**



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“ SHE’S BEEN A PROFESSIONAL KITEBOARDER LONGER THAN MOST OTHERS, AND HAS SEEN KITEBOARDING THROUGH ITS PHASES ”

While Hannah hadn't been touring alongside the other women, she had recently claimed a solid second place for the newest world tour in kiteboarding, the GKA Air Games just behind Mikaili Sol who has been running double duty all season long. In addition to top-notch freestyle tricks, Hannah is known for sending big loops and being down for whatever excitement comes her way. She's been a professional kiteboarder longer than most others,

and has seen kiteboarding through its phases; with that has adapted to the styles, which give her a significantly bigger bag of tricks than most.

As for me, I've never seriously competed in freestyle; however, I have poured myself into park riding over the years and mostly focused my efforts on tuning a style that gives me an incomparable feeling and works well for the camera. Having attended many Duotone photoshoots over the years, I've learned a thing or two as well as gained the trust to organise and execute a video shoot for the brand. For me, this was an opportunity I was thrilled to take and an idea

I had been thinking about for quite some time. In my opinion, we've built the most influential women's team in kiteboarding and the time is rife to show it off.

We planned the trip for late September, which was the best timing to bring all of the needed components together, however somewhat of a tricky time of year for many of my favourite places. I started to ask around throughout my group of kite friends for suggestions on their certain fire spots, and one country that hadn't been on my radar seemed the obvious choice, Egypt.

Paula and Hannah had spent extensive time there before and confirmed that it was as close to a guarantee as you can get in kiteboarding. I was sold.



“ WE WOULD QUICKLY FALL INTO A ROUTINE OF EARLY MORNINGS, EVEN WITH THE OCCASIONAL PRE-5AM SUNRISE SHOOT, KITING HARD UNTIL OUR STOMACHS BEGGED REPLENISHMENT. ”

However, the reaction of my friends and family at home in the States was disbelief that I felt safe enough to bring a team of female kiteboarders to explore the intricacies of the Red Sea.

They may have jolted me for a split second, sending me down a rabbit hole of Google searches only to come to my conclusion that we would be as safe as anywhere. I've learned over the years of travelling to kiteboarding beaches and towns, that often, the small fishing village that is home to an idyllic kiteboarding spot, even if in a 'dangerous' country can be plenty safe to visit. Even some of the safest countries, if not treated with a sensible wit, can get you into trouble before you realise.

One by one, everyone landed at Hurghada airport and took the short taxi ride to The Breakers in Soma Bay, our temporary home. We'd kiteboard from 7 Beaufort Kite House, which is the best mainland kite spot due to the straight offshore wind that picks up strength as it crosses the small peninsula jutting into the Red Sea. A bit of an oddity, the kiting at 7 Beaufort is often best early in the morning before the temperatures rise to scorching digits. We would quickly fall into a routine of early mornings, even with the occasional pre-5am sunrise shoot, kiting hard until our stomachs begged replenishment. Some afternoons, we'd book a dingy to bring us offshore to a nearby island, or other evenings we'd recover from long hours in the desert sun.

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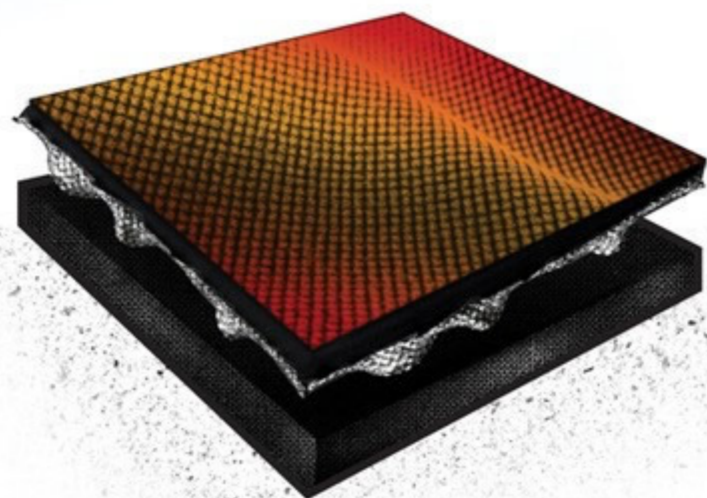
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COLLEEN CARROLL



“ WE ALL RUSHED TO THE TOP DECK TO ASSESS THE SPOT AND SEE IF IT WAS AS DREAMY AS IT APPEARED, AND IT WAS. ”

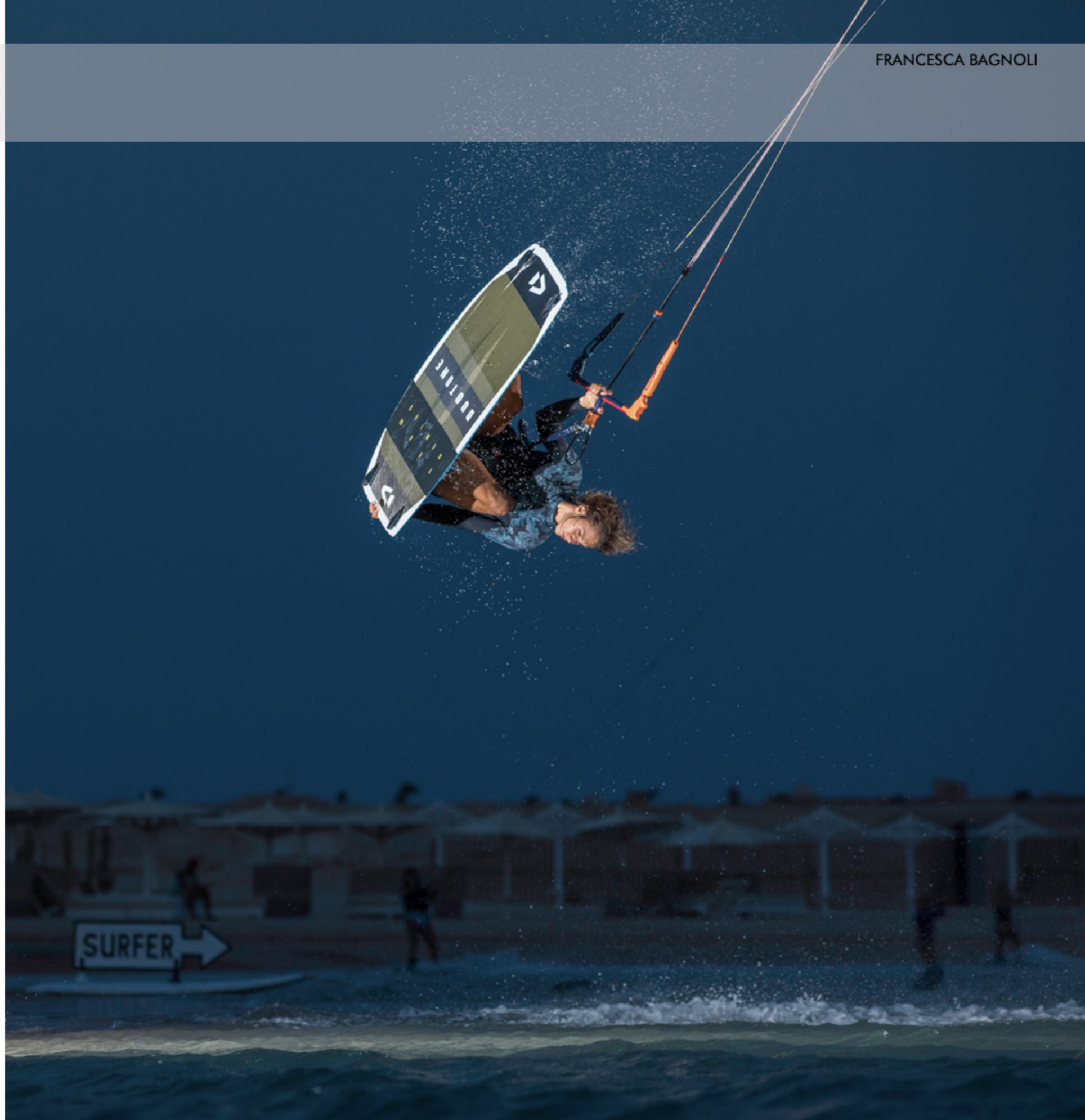
FRANCESCA BAGNOLI

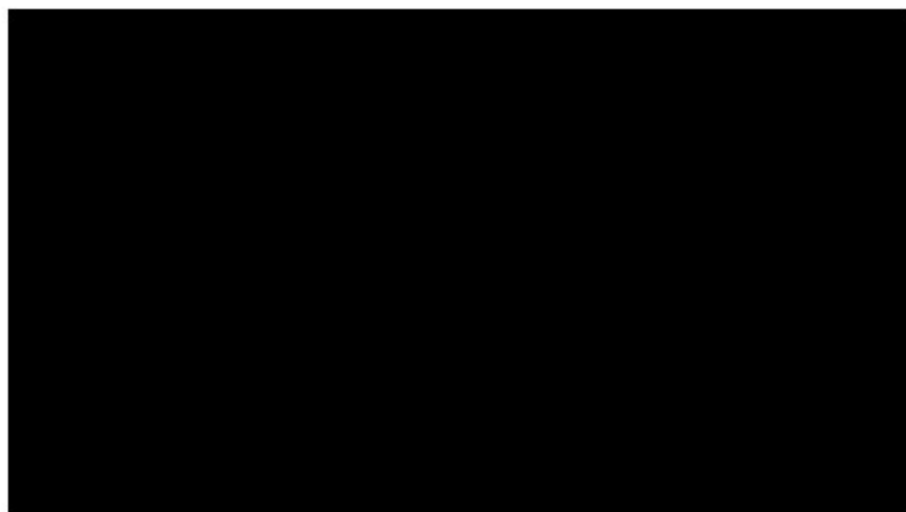
One afternoon, the team at 7 Beaufort even surprised me with a small slider setup that Francesca and I had a blast on. It was her first time hitting sliders with a kite and while at first, she approached the single tube incline hesitantly, a few pointers and words of encouragement later and she was well on her way to catching the kite park bug!

A few fast-paced days spent in Soma Bay, and already we felt aching muscles, sun-scorched everything and a festering appetite to explore the other nearby kite spots! We arranged to join Big Dayz Kite Safari that should satiate just that desire. Paula had cruised with the Big Dayz crew several times before and assured us that we wouldn't be disappointed.

Barely out of the Hurghada harbour, a winding sandbar appeared rising just enough to break up the chop, leaving us with buttery waters on the downwind side. We all rushed to the top deck to assess the spot and see if it was as dreamy as it appeared, and it was.

For the next week, we cruised the Red Sea, living aboard our mega-boat. A floating kite centre, the crew set us up at just the perfect spots, finding vacant sandbars and even helping us rig when the tide hadn't entirely dropped enough to expose the coveted little strips of sand that create a kiteboarders freestyle paradise. We rode a new flatwater location daily and even experienced several sunsets where the wind blew until the colours hit points of saturation I didn't know existed in real life.





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“ WE MUST HAVE KITED MORE THAN WE DO LIVING AT OTHER KITE SPOTS IN ONE MONTH ”

The conditions ranged from winds strong enough for Hannah and Mika to want to grab their Jaime twintips for board offs and kitemanoeuvres, to perfect consistent 9-12m freestyle sessions, and we even scored a few days that were ripe for foiling. In one short week living aboard the Big Dayz boat, we must have kited more than we do living at other kite spots in one month; our trip wasn't over quite yet. We'd have one more spot to check out on our tour, which would be the secluded spot a few hours south of

Hurghada called Hamata.

We arrived at night, exhausted from a busy week and checked in to our hotel, The Kite Village. Currently undergoing a full remodel, we relished in the brand new rooms and cushy furnishings. Awaking the following morning, I decided to take a walk around the complex, and get a lay of the land. Although we had been in Egypt for nearly two weeks now, I hadn't witnessed anything stereotypically Egyptian, so I almost had to do a double take when I found myself directly in the path of a caravan of camels headed to get a morning drink.

I made my way to the waterfront to check out

the kite spot, and the beachside digs. It was a cool setup; with everything a kiter needs only steps from the launch in a casual setting that is primed for kicking back and taking a load off. We got up early, as it had become the norm, and we were ready to explore the particulars of the spot.

Hamata is part of a protected national park so while serene; there are a few no-go zones that you have to be mindful of. Upwind from the main launch area, is a beautiful mangrove forest that it is best to keep your distance from, to avoid disrupting young mangroves, which are working to build their root structure, but this isn't the best place to explore anyways. Straight out from the resort, is an island whose shallow waters glow fluorescently.

MIKALI SOL





We had been seeing 50 shades of turquoise for the past ten days and still, the colour of these waters attracted me like a moth to a flame. Not only was the watercolour vibrant and translucent, but I could see a healthy reef ecosystem living below the surface with loads of passing fish and colourful corals. A decent reach offshore, it felt like you had arrived at your undiscovered island oasis although, in actuality, you were only minutes from a frosty beer or a frothy macchiato.

" I COULD SEE A HEALTHY REEF ECOSYSTEM LIVING BELOW THE SURFACE WITH LOADS OF PASSING FISH AND COLOURFUL CORALS. "

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“ WHILE I HAD DREAMT OF MAKING A TRIP WITH ONLY MY FEMALE TEAMMATES, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW IT WOULD PAN OUT. ”



Day after day, provided another opportunity to have a session, gather photos and video clips and get to know each other better. While I had dreamt of making a trip with only my female teammates, I didn't know how it would pan out.

We've all known each other for years, but have put our kiteboarding focus on a variety of disciplines. We've never spent this much time together as a group, and how the dynamic would play out was a bit of a wildcard. I have to say; it worked out better than I could have ever imagined!

Everyday cultivated a supportive team atmosphere that by the end of the trip, had the whole crew working as one fluid unit — everyone acting for the interest of the group, helping where needed, stepping in as photo support crew, coach, luggage hauler, problem solver or friend. We were stronger as a unit than the sum of our parts.

Look out for the video coming soon by Vincent Bergeron, we introduce, The SUM of 5!

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NAISH

THE TUAMOTU KITEBOARDING ADVENTURE

"If it were easy, everyone would do it."

Through my years as a professional kiteboarder, I've seen so many people follow the trends, and head to convenient and overpopulated kiteboarding destinations. Year after year, these locations have been exhausted by the crowds, leaving the opportunity of that magical session with just you and your friends nearly impossible. I find that if you are willing to put in that "little extra" you'll be able to find something so much more special and discover that "little extra" was worth it.





“ A FEW ATOLLS ARE DREAM DESTINATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL SCUBA DIVING, SNORKELLING AND KITEBOARDING! ”

Over the past ten years, I've been exploring The Tuamotu Archipelago and found some of the most phenomenal kiteboarding spots I'd ever visited.

The Tuamotu Archipelagoes are a group of about 80 island and atolls, 300 miles North-East of Tahiti. It is a part of the governing body of French Polynesia, and it is the largest chain of atolls in the world. It also holds the two largest lagoons in the

world; Fakarava and Rangiroa, which doesn't have much aside from an endless cluster of coconut trees.

They base their economy on small amounts of agriculture, consisting of Copra (dried coconut kernels used to make oil) and vanilla beans, and if you can believe it, Rangiroa even grows grapes and produces a Rosé wine from them (leave it to the French!) There is also a strong presence of pearl production on a handful of atolls. A few atolls are dream destinations for recreational SCUBA diving, snorkelling and kiteboarding!

CHALLENGES OF THE TRIP

Because of the lack of tourism in the area, there is a lack of accommodation. Far from the luxury resorts of Tahiti and Bora Bora, most accommodation options are limited to the local pensions (bed and breakfasts) which are usually at the reef passes and only catering to the diving tourist, leaving the reality of travelling there with the intention of kiteboarding nearly impossible.

It wasn't until recently when I started the Reo Stevens Coaching Kitesurfing Adventures to the most beautiful and remote locations, that I could share what I had discovered, and learned over the years.

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 MANERA
- STAY SALTY -



“MANY OF THE ATOLLS BEING UNCHARTED AND LITTERED WITH HAZARDS THAT CAN QUICKLY SINK A BOAT, IF YOU’RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION.”

The logistics aren’t easy; the nearest charter boat is 300 miles away. The ability to stock fresh vegetables is a premium, and the Tuamotus are regarded as “extremely dangerous” for cruising boats, with many of the atolls being uncharted and littered with hazards that can quickly sink a boat, if you’re not paying attention.

HOW WE GET THERE VS HOW YOU GET THERE

We are on night two of our three and a half-day crossing from the island of Raiatea towards the Tuamotu Archipelago; it’s 2 A.M, the mainsail is set at the 2nd reef, headsail out, with an apparent wind of 14 knots. The motors are off, and the air is silent and smells of salt. The boat is breezing along with the autopilot set, and the boat’s course over ground (COG) is at 60 degrees, maintaining an average speed of 7.2 knots (which is good for a sailing catamaran) I adapt better than expected to my assigned 12 A.M.- 3 A.M. watch.

The job’s requirements are simple; keep the boat on course and afloat by avoiding other ships, reefs, and possible rainsqualls that could dramatically increase the wind, all while maintaining the navigational instruments within a list of parameters set by the captain. Anything outside of that, wake the captain with no hesitation!

Over the years I have become accustomed to the “watch” job during crossings, but I don’t believe I’ll ever get used to being awake at night – I prefer to be sleeping and resting for the daytime activities.





“ WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, AND THE DARKNESS TAKES OVER IS WHEN THERE IS THE MOST TO SEE.”

Mostly, it's a routine task that leaves you alone in the dark with nothing but your thoughts and imagination. However, being on a boat, in the middle of the sea during a crossing at night, you'll discover that when the lights go out, and the darkness takes over is when there is the most to see.

Look up, and you'll find that the density of stars is so thick, it can make the sky can appear almost alien. With no air or light pollution, the stars light up brighter and more vividly than you can imagine. Look down at either the bow or the stern and enter a trance while watching the phosphorescence light up as the hull of the boat stirs the water.

I am alone with just my thoughts until the next crewmember awakes to relieve me from my shift. There's another day and a half until of this routine until we reach our destination where we will meet the first round of guests for the season.

The incoming guests have a much easier time getting to the Tuamotus by joining us from Tahiti on a comfortable 45-minute flight (compared to our three and a half day journey) for ten days of kiting, SUPing, spearfishing and overall relaxation. Filled with delicious food and memorable moments, in one of the few places in the world you can experience all of that surrounded by a minimal amount of people.

THE REMOTENESS, AND WHAT THAT MEANS

There's not much in the form of connectivity in this part of the world, and with what little that is offered is unreliable (or slow enough) to only frustrate you, but really its waste of time!



We do have a satellite phone and texting capabilities for weather updates, keeping up with families and emergencies, but they are there for just that. The typical day-to-day fast connection is not an option. It's a bittersweet taste, but separating from the rest of the world allows you to reconnect to things that matter most at any point in time; the people and world around you.

I will not lie to you; connectivity withdrawals are real! It's a concept you laugh at, but you reach for a phone in your pocket every ten minutes, only to realise that does not do much more than snap a photo or play a song (don't forget to download your Spotify list before coming!).



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“SEPARATING FROM
THE REST OF THE
WORLD ALLOWS YOU
TO RECONNECT TO
THINGS THAT
MATTER MOST”

THINK LESS - KITE MORE



WESTPOINTDAKHLA.MA



“ PARK YOUR KITE OFF THE STERN AND SIT BACK IN THE SHADE, RECHARGING YOUR BODY, WHILE YOUR KITE IS WAITING FOR YOUR NEXT SESSION.”

However, the bitter turns to sweet after a few days, when the need addiction subsides, and you relax and settle into your new surroundings. Then you truly experience what this pristine location has to offer without any distractions.

SPECIAL MOMENTS THAT ONLY HAPPEN ON A BOAT!

The thing about atolls is, it's always offshore somewhere. Even with variable wind directions, all you need to do to find that perfect kite spot is to see an area with a big enough of a gap in the endless palm trees that the wind can freely pass over the land to find your next personal kite spot.

Most of these “kite spots” don't have a beach or even a proper launch area; however, that's not a problem when you're living on a launch pad! Where ever you go on the boat, you can quickly launch and land from the stern.

Once your kite session is over, you can head back to the anchored boat, park your kite off the stern and sit back in the shade, recharging your body, while your kite is waiting for your next session. Can it get any better than that? Well, it kind of can! During our trips, I like to say; our “Plan B is most peoples Plan A”. It doesn't matter where you go, even the most reliable kite destinations have their down days, and there's always a chance that the weather doesn't cooperate. It would be nice, but not every day is filled with 20knts. So what do we do? We make sure other options are just as amazing!





“EVERYONE PROMPTLY SCRAMBLED TO GRAB THEIR SNORKELING GEAR. SWIMMING WITH MANTA RAYS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GOAL OF MINE; I HAVE SWUM WITH SHARKS AND STINGRAYS BUT NEVER MANTA RAYS!”

In my opinion, a perfect ten-day trip in the Tuamotus consists of about five-six days of wind and the rest with perfect glassy conditions. What makes the Tuamotus so unique isn't just the kiting conditions, but also what is offered underneath in the clear blue waters.

One highlight of our last trip happened on a light wind morning while everyone was

relaxing after breakfast. We were anchored near one of the reef passes when someone noticed some action going on underwater in the distance. The water was stirring with what looked like a group of shark fins.

Grabbing the binoculars, and having a closer inspection the fins were not from sharks, but rather, manta rays! The Captain's enthusiasm quickly turned the quiet lazy morning into a fast-paced frantic, as everyone promptly scrambled to grab their snorkeling gear. Swimming with manta rays has always been a goal of mine; I have swum with sharks and stingrays but never

manta rays! I was just as excited as the rest of the group to cross "swimming with manta rays" off my bucket list.

We loaded the dingy up with as many people as we could fit, while still keeping it afloat, and slowly motored towards them. As we approached the rays, we noticed that there was a lot more than we had initially thought. There were about 15 rays, each at least with a 6ft (2m) wingspan, doing laps in the pass feeding in the outgoing current. Mantas are filter feeders, and feed on plankton, small fish and crustaceans and are harmless to humans. We continued to slowly motor up, a little closer to them and prepared to jump into the water for a swim.

Full carbon foils



As the whitewater bubbles clear from the front of my mask, a deep, dark and breathtaking blue fills my vision. The current, too strong to swim against, took the group quickly toward the manta rays; staring straight ahead, with my eye wide open in anticipation of what's coming I see the large "hovercrafts" appear in the distance.

With the current taking us quickly in one direction, and the mantas swimming in the other, we pass through the group of mantas like a scene out of a Star Wars movie! Everyone froze and watched in awe as these large majestic creatures swam through the group just a few feet away from each of us. So just like that, and just as quickly as they came into view, they breezed past us unaffected by our presence and disappeared into the distance up current.

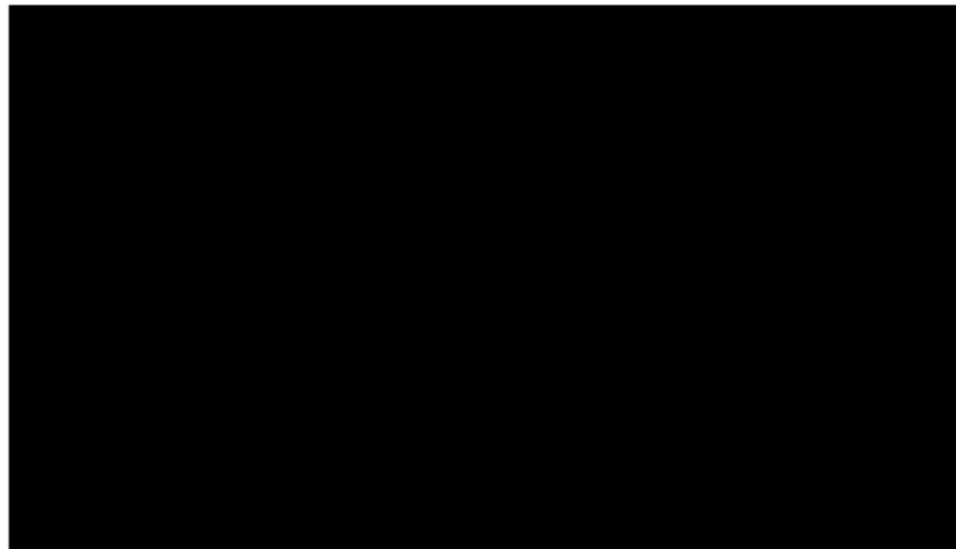
**" WE PASS
THROUGH THE
GROUP OF
MANTAS LIKE A
SCENE OUT OF A
STAR WARS
MOVIE! "**



 **MADE IN EUROPE**

 **ULTRA LIGHT**

 **EASY TO MOUNT**





“EACH OF US HAD AN UNCONTROLLABLE SMILE ON OUR FACE, FROM WHAT WE HAD ALL JUST EXPERIENCED!”

“WOW! That was amazing! Let’s do it again!”

“OK!”

We gathered up the group and climbed back into the dingy to motor back up current to do it again. We repeated this for a few rounds. As we slowly motored back to the boat each of us had an uncontrollable smile on our face, from what we had all just experienced!

PARTING WAYS

After a solid 10-days of kiting, swimming with manta rays, spear fishing, beach bonfires and tons of laughs, it’s time to part ways and begins the journey home. The guests, once again, with a quick 45-minute flight back to Tahiti before their flights to each of their homes, and us with what should be a beautiful two day downwind sail. However, the forecast has other plans for the crew and myself. 40 knots and 15ft swell are now forecasted to hit a few hours after we’re scheduled to begin the journey back.

After all the smiles and hugs goodbye, we part ways battening down the hatches to prepare for what will be a not so pleasant sail back to Raiatea, but rather two days of no sleep, broken dishes and constant state of being cold, wet and salty. Is it too late to jump ship and fly back with the guest?

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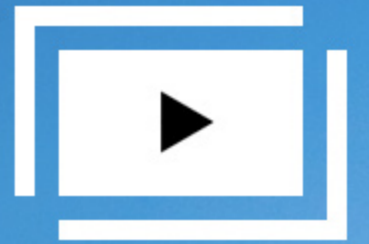
GOING ON A TRIP? OUR FULL BOARDBAG RANGE HAS BEEN UPDATED! THE NEW HXCOMB SHELL AND HEAVY DUTY TARPAULIN IS PREPARED TO TAKE A BEATING. THE XL WHEELS MAKE IT EASY TO TAKE YOUR GEAR ANYWHERE, EXTRA PROTECTION ON THE INSIDE PREVENTS WEAR FROM THE SHARP EDGES OF YOUR FINS AND THE 3D MESH AIRVENTS KEEP YOUR GEAR FRESH!

M Y S T I C B O A R D I N G . C O M

Every kiteboarder knows the feeling when the forecast predicts wind, and suddenly it changes to dead calm. We have this internal urge, waiting for the wind to pick up, and our hearts beat faster when the wind ever so slightly starts to come through. But what happens when the wind is not the only factor you need to consider? What if you live far away from the sea and the lakes are frozen during the wintertime? This is what we do.

BEYOND KITESURFING

CHASING WINDS ABOVE SEA-LEVEL



“ WHAT IF YOU LIVE FAR AWAY FROM THE SEA AND THE LAKES ARE FROZEN DURING THE WINTERTIME? THIS IS WHAT WE DO. ”

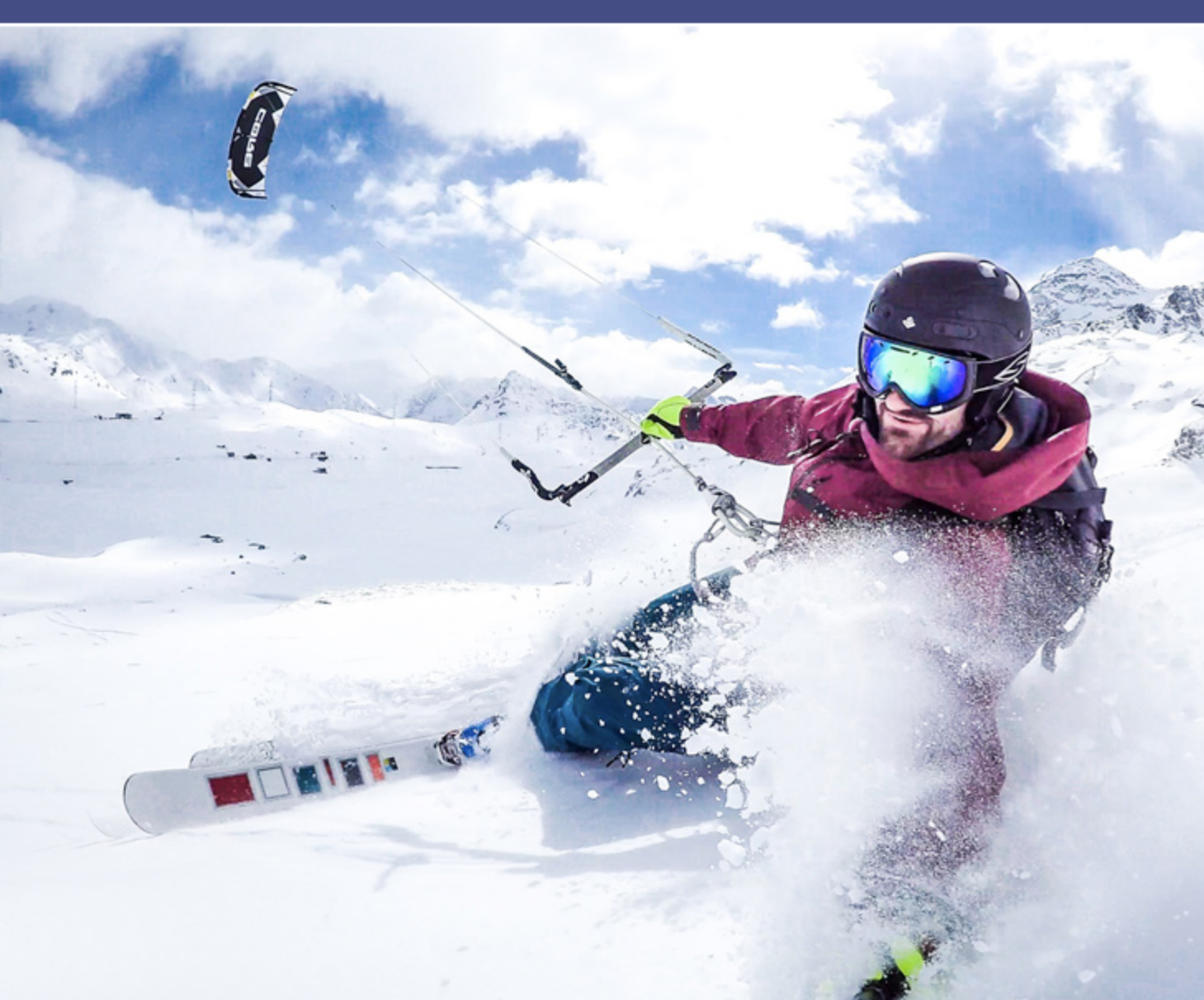
Every kiteboarder knows the feeling when the forecast predicts wind, and suddenly it changes to dead calm. We have this internal urge, waiting for the wind to pick up, and our hearts beat faster when the wind ever so slightly starts to come through. But what happens when the wind is not the only factor you need to consider? What if you live far away from the sea and the lakes are frozen during the wintertime? This is what we do.

LIVING FARAWAY FROM THE SEA

I'm not complaining about living in Switzerland; I'm confident that there are even some people that wish they lived in this little country in central Europe. However, this is not due to our kiteboarding conditions or beautiful beaches, we don't have palm trees, and a Caipirinha will cost you 15 Euros in a bar. Nevertheless, just like you, we have an endless desire to kiteboard all year round, so we do!

There is no sea, no ocean, no sandbanks with steady wind or flat water, but we have mountains and a lot of them! Sometimes, they are blocking the wind or transforming a steady flow into gusty storms. They can also be helpful to channel the wind, building a local thermal system, and forming a never-ending playground. The mountain peaks reach 5000m above sea-level and are covered with an abundance of snow during the winter months. Most people enjoy walking up the mountains with the skis, but we prefer using the winds to ride up!





THE THIRD DIMENSION

Our snowkite addiction started as the sport began to develop. Only a few of us were crazy enough to trade in their bikinis and boardshorts, for heavy winter clothes and boots so we could head into the unknown.

Ten years on, the sport has become more and more popular, and a lot of information about snowkiting spots are available, thanks to the internet (shout-out to our friends from unhooked.ch and windfenster.ch!)

“ ONLY A FEW OF US WERE CRAZY ENOUGH TO TRADE IN THEIR BIKINIS AND BOARDSHORTS ”

BEFORE

THE IMITATORS AND KNOCKOFFS
THERE WAS RIDEENGINE



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“ IT’S A DEEP PASSION FOR CHASING WINDS AND SEARCHING FOR PERFECT CONDITIONS, HIDDEN SPOTS, WHICH ALSO CONNECTS PEOPLE ”

Snowkiting has become so popular that on a perfect day at the famous Bernina-Pass spot, more than 100 snowkiters are sharing their passion. Like us, they love to have the flexibility to enjoy skiing in the fluffy powder snow as far away from the crowds at ski resorts as possible and explore the backcountry instead.

Snowkiting is one of the most versatile sports around. Depending on your skills,

anything is possible, from relaxed exploration to hooked, and unhooked tricks. There is an additional important aspect: the terrain and mountains, adding a third dimension.

PLANNING - WIND, WEATHER AND SPOTS

Exploring nature seems to have become popular these days. Instagram is packed with adventure stories (or at least people pretending to spend time outdoors) but honestly, is there anything better than steering your kite in the blue sky, while the wind is blowing into your face? It makes you feel complete freedom, despite getting cold hands, carrying heavy camera equipment on

your shoulders and enduring exhausting walks through deep snow. It’s a deep passion for chasing winds and searching for perfect conditions, hidden spots, which also connects people, and builds lifetime friendships.

Despite the fascination and the versatility of snowkiting, only a minority of kiteboarders ever explore the mountains. Of course, snowkiting cannot be compared with kiteboarding in a flat-water lagoon, with steady winds or wavekiting on a nice point-break. Most lagoons and wave spots are famous for their kiteboarding conditions, so people venture to postcard locations, where the table is set for a perfect session.



“ A SUCCESSFUL SNOWKITE TRIP REQUIRES A LOT OF FLEXIBILITY, AND IT’S USUALLY NOT UNTIL FRIDAY NIGHT THAT A SPOT GETS FINALLY SELECTED ”

However, the weather in the mountains changes more often, much faster, and additionally, you need snow as well (you don’t like kiteboarding in a dried out lagoon either, do you?) and this makes snowkiting slightly more complicated. You need to understand the local conditions first before you launch your kite. If you do not belong to the group who immediately end their snowkite-career after their first try on harsh snow on a gusty spot, you’re probably already addicted, and have become one of us!

We spend almost every weekend somewhere in the Swiss mountain region. The addiction begins with days and nights spent discovering new potential spots on Google Earth and studying wind directions. In parallel, all weather forecasts and webcams are being checked. It’s not unusual that a snowkite day starts with ski-touring (i.e. walking!) until you reach a windy location. The realisation of a successful snowkite trip requires a lot of flexibility, and it’s usually not until Friday night that a spot gets finally selected; mountain weather can completely change within a short period.

Snowkiting requires even more gear than kiteboarding. Besides all the essential gear, you also need dedicated freeride equipment, food, and of course, a proper camera! If this hasn’t intimidated you yet, and you’re still keen for your first steps into the best thing on earth, you’ll be interested in the following.

“ YOU NEED LESS WIND ON SNOW, AS THERE IS NO NEED OF A MINIMAL FORCE HOLDING YOU ABOVE WATER-LEVEL. ”

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR YOUR FIRST RUNS ON THE SNOW

- Make sure you have good weather forecasted to start with. It not only makes snowkiting much more enjoyable, but it is also safer. You have more control with a better view of the ground, and this gets even more essential when you start with your first jumps; you don't want to be flying in a complete whiteout!
- The wind in the mountains is in generally stronger than predicted! Sometimes, a forecast of 5 knots can lead to a perfect snowkiting day. The wind becomes gustier the stronger it gets in the mountains. Keep in mind, that you need less wind on snow, as there is no need of a minimal force holding you above water-level.
- Make sure not to bring too much gear on your trip. We usually pack all our kites (7m, 9m and 12m) in the cars, and decide at the starting point. Depending on the planned tour, and the actual wind at the spot, plan to leave one out of the three kites behind.
- You can ride steep tracks, downhill, and uphill but don't overestimate yourself. For your first snowkite sessions, choose a flat terrain and be aware that the terrain also affects the wind. If there is no area, select a spot where the wind blows uphill. Thereby you can comfortably ride down the slopes with gravity, and kite back uphill using the wind.
- Keep in mind that the wind increases with higher altitudes. Sometimes the wind is light at the launching spot, and it's hard to keep the kite up in the air,





“ WE APPRECIATE THEIR STABILITY IN THE AIR, ESPECIALLY IN GUSTY WINDS. ”

but that’s ok, as you can loop the kite to increase power and to reach higher altitudes, where you will find stronger winds.

THE MAIN QUESTION: TUBE AND SOFT KITES

We always get asked the same question: Tube or soft kite? For sure, both kites can be used and have their advantages; it depends on what you like to do. The main benefits of soft kites are their minimised weight, and there is no need to carry around a pump. They are also easier for self-launching and landing. This makes them suitable for exploratory tours, especially when you combine your trip with hiking, climbing, or longer ski tours.

There are also many reasons to use tube kites. We appreciate their stability in the air, especially in gusty winds. We use the CORE GTS tube kites because they are versatile all-around kites. Their fast and precise steering and looping ability are great in the summer, but it will also help you ascending the summits in the winter. They also have a very easy reverse launch and are extremely powerful, if you fly them actively, as you often do on the snow. Just be careful, as tube kites are not usually tested for freezing temperatures. Materials behave differently below zero degrees, adding a risk of material failure, and probably voids any warranty claims.

SAFETY

You need to take all the precautionary measures, as you need for kiteboarding, such as the quick release and the safety leash. It also makes sense to wear a helmet, and protective equipment, as the landings on snow, can be much harder than on water.



If you are exploring the mountains, you have to get back to the valley on time even when the wind dies. Always stay uphill from your starting point and have ski touring equipment with you. Don't even think about walking back from the backcountry in your boots, as you would be exhausted within minutes!

Avalanches are another threat while in the mountains and this is no different for snowkiters. Always check the local avalanche bulletin before every session, and stay away from very steep slopes. This gets even more important when there are other snowkiters around, and below you. We always have avalanche detectors and rescue equipment with us. Not only avalanches but also material failures can be very dangerous especially in the mountains. Always carefully check your gear, use equipment that is developed for mountain use, and respect nature and protected areas.

" ALWAYS CHECK THE LOCAL AVALANCHE BULLETIN BEFORE EVERY SESSION, AND STAY AWAY FROM VERY STEEP SLOPES. "

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" MANY KITEBOARDERS SEE THIS AS THE MOST EXTREME DISCIPLINE YOU CAN DO. THE FEELING WHEN THE KITE PULLS YOU DURING THE LOOP IS INDEED INCREDIBLE. "

VERSATILE SNOWKITE DISCIPLINES

Freeriding And Backcountry

Snowkiting is all about enjoying nature as far away from the crowds of the ski resorts as possible. After a heavy snowfall, there is nothing better than freeriding. On these days, you want to loop your kite up the mountains, followed by downhill turns in the deep powder. Even on the popular snowkite

spots, you'll always find some untouched areas, somewhere in the backcountry.

Mega Loops

Many kiteboarders see this as the most extreme discipline you can do. The feeling when the kite pulls you during the loop is indeed incredible. It also works on snow, but there is one significant difference: The days with good mega loop conditions on water are sporadic, in comparison to snowkiting. Even in light winds with a 12m kite, you can build-up enough speed by skiing downhill, taking off, and steering into a mega loop. The kite abruptly accelerates you in the

opposite direction, which throws you back to the slope; no heavy Cape Town storms and kickers needed here!

Sailing/Gliding/Hangtime

Be careful, sailing (jumping off the hill and gliding down the slope) with a kite on snow can lead to serious addiction! In comparison to the other disciplines, sailing is only possible while snowkiting, as you need a slope with the wind blowing uphill. If you're a skier, ride-up to the top of the hill, and park your kite on the summit and let your bar go, turn yourself 180°, and grab the bar from the other side. This will feel very strange at first, but after a while, you'll get the hang of it.

“ YOU CAN FLY AS HIGH AS YOU WANT, BUT IT'S STRONGLY RECOMMENDED ALWAYS TO STAY CLOSE TO THE TERRAIN! ”

Then you start skiing downhill straight against the wind direction, with long arms to depower the kite. Once you reach enough speed, the take-off begins by pulling the bar. The bar is used for steering and for controlling the height. With this technique, you can fly as high as you want, but it's strongly recommended always to stay close to the terrain! To get started with sailing, practise skiing downhill with the reversed bar, without take-off. The hill should preferably run out flat, to minimise the risk of sailing down too far. In general, it is easier to fly with large kites in light and stable winds.

Just keep in mind, kites are not developed for sailing. If one of your four lines disconnects by accident, your flight will end immediately! For this reason, paragliders use different safety and redundancy systems made for flying.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Not many people are crazy enough to chase storms at the most unusual spot on this planet. It's a small circle of adrenaline-seeking snowkiters that you meet on these remote adventures.

Last winter, Andrea Luca Ammann (2x European Champion in snowkite-freestyle), called me up; I met him for the first time in Sicily in 2017. Andrea was in desperate need for some snowkite action. Coincidentally, I had planned to spend a few days in the mountains with my girlfriend, so I told him to pack his gear and join us. Without asking any questions, that same evening, he arrived at our apartment.





It was only the second time we met, and he raved about “wakestyle” in the snow. I was intrigued, and now we had a mission!

When I asked Andrea what intrigued him about wakestyle snowkiting, he explained: “Well, snowkiting to me adds a whole different part to kiteboarding. This third dimension of terrains, hills and mountains, it provides another feeling of freedom. For wakestyle riding, this particularly means you can find decent natural kickers out there, just waiting for you in the backcountry. If they do not fit perfectly, you can easily tweak and tune them using a shovel!”

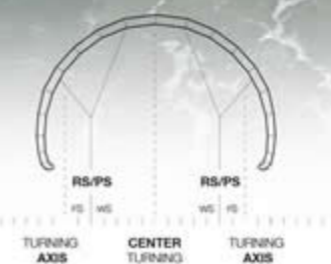
“ THIS THIRD DIMENSION OF TERRAINS, HILLS AND MOUNTAINS, IT PROVIDES ANOTHER FEELING OF FREEDOM. ”

Eleveight



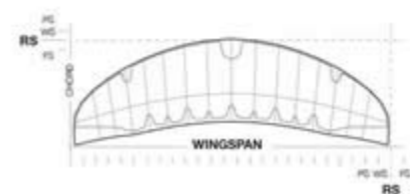
We designed the RSeries to deliver highest performance for a broad variety of weather conditions and riding styles. The kite adapts to anything you throw at it.

Peter Stiewe



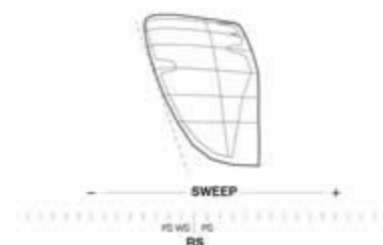
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- Wingtip to pivot turner
- Grunty turn



ASPECTRATIO

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SWEEP

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- Grunty power
- High hangtime



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" THE FORECASTS FLUCTUATE, BUT WE'VE LEARNT A LOT ABOUT WEATHER, MOUNTAINS, PREDICTIONS, PROBABILITIES AND WE CAN'T STOP OUR DESIRE TO BE THERE AT THE RIGHT TIME. "

On this shoot with Lukas, on the Berninapass in Switzerland, it was clear to me that I wanted to create something different and more challenging than the usual big air shots we've all seen. There is a relatively small wakestyle scene on the snow, and there are even fewer photographers understanding what shooting snowkiting in backcountry demands. So this

was a unique opportunity for both of us to team-up and create something special.

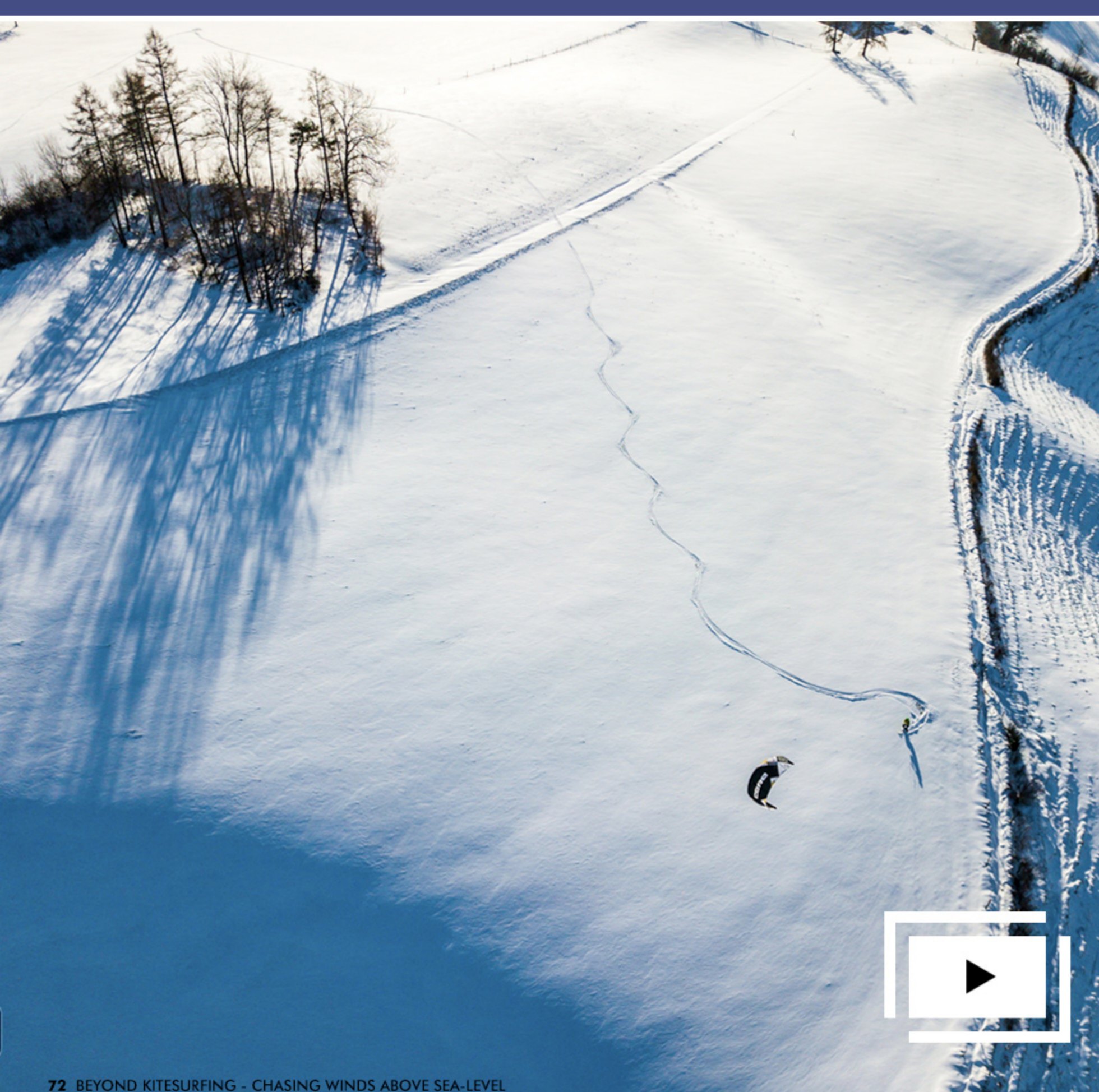
ADDICTION

Snow, in combination with wind, is not an exclusive privilege of our mountain regions. During the last few years, we found more and more spots transforming into little snowkite paradise during the wintertime, not far from where we live in Zurich. We got to know places all over Switzerland that we'd never heard of before.

We are checking their weather forecasts during the winter every single day, patiently

waiting to go back again. Every spot offers a variety of options, and there's always something new to explore in the backcountry, whether it's a new photo spot or sailing hill. If the wind only changes directions by a few degrees, the playground changes its characteristics significantly.

The forecasts fluctuate, but we've learnt a lot about weather, mountains, predictions, probabilities and we can't stop our desire to be there at the right time. When you've packed all your gear on your shoulders, ski-touring uphill, surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, you never know what nature has planned, and what winds are waiting for you up there.



“ WHEN THE MOMENT FINALLY COMES, THAT YOUR KITE IS FLYING TOWARDS THE SKY, AND YOUR SKIS ARE GLIDING THROUGH THE FRESH POWDER-SNOW, YOU KNOW WHY YOU GO THROUGH ALL THE EFFORT ”

When the moment finally comes, that your kite is flying towards the sky, and your skis are gliding through the fresh powder-snow, you know why you go through all the effort, over and over again.

ABOUT / BIO “LUKAS.”

Lukas grew up and still lives in Switzerland. He has an immense passion for kitesurfing and snowkiting and loves nothing more than riding on windy lakes, travelling to the sea, and enjoying fresh snow in the mountains! His pictures are regularly published in kitesurfing magazines all over the world, and you’ll rarely see him without his camera gear. In 2014 he met Julian Meister, and they travel around the world for one year to kitesurf in 18 countries. Check out his work on www.prolmageHub.ch and www.instagram.com/lupi.proimagehub

ABOUT / BIO “JULIAN.”

Julian was born in Austria where he discovered his passion for the wind and waves in his early years. With an age of only 12, he competed at the youth sailing world championship in Gran Canaria, when he already started travelling the world to find the windiest places. Since he took his first kitesurfing lessons when he was 17, the passion for kitesurfing quickly took over. He is one of the snowkiting pioneers in Austria, and his love for this sport grew even more after moving to Switzerland.





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FEATURING HELIIARDE CABRINHA DA SILVA

We're rather hoping that there's something for every taste this issue, with a couple of appetising twin tip moves and a very makeable strapless classic for pudding. For starters we'll navigate through the twin tip heel to toe tack. A jolly fun move low impact move, with the bonus of building blocks towards foiling shenanigans. After that, main is served with a hefty portion of toeside polishing in preparation for a sent back roll off your toes with a grab of the tail. And finally Heliarde is here with dessert, tickling the taste buds with the very delicious strapless hand plant back roll. Hope you enjoy!

C&K and Heliarde.

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TWIN TIP HEEL TO TOE TACK



BACK ROLL GRAB FROM TOESIDE



STRAPLESS HAND PLANT BACK ROLL



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TWIN TIP HEEL TO TOE TACK >

Kite: FX 9m Board: X Caliber Wood 138 + H2s

It's funny how moves that are the norm on other kite craft are not so often practiced on the trusty twin tip. The Duck Tack and Toeside Duck Tack were legitimate rip offs from the surfboard collective. This issue we're unashamedly borrowing from kiting's most recent, at least in popularity terms, evolution. Not quite loyal to the foil, but cheers for the move.

Yet again, much like the aforementioned surfboard tacks, this is also a great way to get your head around performing the move on a foil or surfboard, whilst remaining in the comfort zone that is footstraps and twin tip. However, rest assured that this is still very much a bona fide move in its own right. So, what is the twin tip heel to toe tack. A 180° turn upwind, starting in a heelside riding position. Crank it up and through the wind, throw your weight forward, and power out on your toes in the other direction. Read on for a more depth...

Your Approach Pic A

To make this achievable, hunt out some flat water. You need speed and momentum so that you can carve your board as far as possible, and chop will only slow you down. As such make sure that you approach on a good upwind edge with plenty of speed. However, make sure that you don't hold too much power on the bar, leave it gently on or just above the sweet spot and keep your weight up on the board. You'll want your kite parked around 11 or 1 o'clock,



but no lower. You will need to drift your kite up, and if it's low it'll take too long and potentially generate unwanted lift. You can see in the pic that Christian is flying in, but he's not holding the same power as he would coming in for a jump or transition. This move needs to flow, so it's about efficiency and not grunt. As Christian approached he takes his front hand off the bar and slowly drifts the kite up towards 12 o'clock. If you feel the kite lift, ease out the bar so that it doesn't lift you or slow you down.

Carve Up Pic B

Once the kite is high enough your job is to carve the board up and as far through the wind as feasible. If there is any tension on your back/steering lines this will not be possible. Here Christian has sheeted the bar out, while still keeping the bar steering the kite up.



With little or no tension, he is able to drop his weight both low upwind and back over the tail of the board. In this position Christian can turn his head and shoulders, and carve the board hard up into the wind, leading with his free hand. It is important to keep weight on your feet, so that you can drive the board up into the wind. If you drop your weight but support yourself in the harness you won't be able to carve up.

Keep Going Pic C

This part is a continuation of the carve. It's important as the temptation is to ease off once the board starts to turn, whereas the opposite is true, you must keep applying pressure through the edge of your board so that it continues to carve. You can see that Christian is driving through his back leg as it slowly extends.



This straightening of the leg is done with feeling to keep pressure. You can't kick the leg away from you (yet), rather slowly increase the pressure on your heel. This pressure will also hold you up. As the nose of the board approaches the eye of the wind try to reach up and get your free hand back on the bar, but don't pull in just yet as you want the kite to carry on drifting over 12.

The Final Push Pic D

The crux of the move, your success hangs in the balance here! You need to eke out as much from the carve as

possible. The further you get around the better your chances. It is however a rather counter intuitive position. Looking at Christian you can see that he is downwind of his board, the kite is high and his body weight is fairly low. The obvious solution is to pull on the bar for support, whereas in fact you need to drive the board even further, extending the back leg more, pushing hard against the tail so that the board turns to face in the new intended direction. If you pull on the bar now the kite will lift you and plonk you unceremoniously onto your behind.

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D

Looking at Christian's bar you can see that his kite has drifted past 12 o'clock. This is perfect. As the kite drifts into the other side of the window, any power will pull you in that direction, so patience is indeed a virtue.

Pull & Kick Pic E

To ride out of this you need to get the board back underneath you and pointing off the wind nose first. To get here is a question of timing. Simultaneously you must pull gently on the bar for support whilst also kicking your back leg fully away from you. Turning your head and shoulders to look downwind and finally pulling your front leg underneath you while diving the kite with your new front hand. That's a fair list on the multi-tasking scale, but it is this combo that will rotate you and the board into position. With the kite supporting Christian's weight, he is able to scissor his legs, pushing the tail away and pulling the nose



E

under him. However, be subtle with the bar. Too much pull and you'll get lift rather than support and suddenly you're in the air and it's no longer a tack but a dodgy BLT to toeside!!!

Dive Captain Dive Pic F

All that's left is to get moving and claim this puppy. The kite has continued to drift so it should be patiently waiting where you want it, which is in the new side of the wind window. Here Christian gives the kite a healthy dive with his new front hand. The kite then pulls him back up and over the board into a toeside position. Only note of caution here, as demonstrated, is to keep your weight back over the tail of the board and keep your body tight, so you and the board start moving together, as opposed to the board sinking and you being hauled on the handlebars.



F

TOP TIPS

Whilst attempting this for the first time you should really concentrate on sheeting the bar out and dumping your power. It's the only way to carve upwind, and if you've never practiced a move like this it'll be a very odd sensation. You will however find that it works a treat and that your board will start carving through the wind as long as you have weight on your feet.

It's worth noting that if your sweet spot is trimmed a long way out, it will be difficult to dump the power and carve. Ponder that it's all about dumping the power, drifting the kite and carving your board.

Now have a gander at the sequence and videos for a slice of reality.



COMMON PROBLEMS

If you're having trouble getting the board to carve. As already hammered out, make sure you feather the bar out so that you can turn the board. If all is good and you're letting the bar out and the kite is high, then the chances are that the problem is that as you start to push against your back foot, you're also swinging your hips forwards toward the nose of the board, as if you're about to transition. Keep your hips back.

If you're getting lifted at any stage during the move, you're pulling on the bar. As the kite is high, it won't take much of a pull for it to pick you up.

And finally, if you're getting around but then get pulled onto your back rather than out onto toeside. This is a result of the kite not drifting across into the other side of the wind window. If you dive the kite from 12 o'clock it'll pull you straight downwind, and because you're facing upwind it'll be onto your back. Make sure the kite drifts across to at least 11 or 1 o'clock. Dived from here the kite will pull you forwards and out of the move. Sweet.

KEYSTONES

1. Speed and gentle on the bar
2. Drift kite up, bar out and carve

3. Hips back and drive board through the wind
4. Gentle pull and hefty kick
5. Dive kite from new side of window



BACK ROLL GRAB FROM TOESIDE >

Kite: FX 9m **Board:** X Caliber Wood 138 + H2s

A cheeky embellishment on a classic. Adding a tail grab to a sent back roll from toeside sums up the joys of kiting, so many possible variations to spice up any move. This is a great one to add to your armoury. You can bang it out in pretty much any conditions and it'll keep your toeside foundations strong for a whole plethora of other moves. What's not to like?

We'll have a look at this in its entirety, reminding you what is required for both the back roll from toeside using the kite to jump, as well as the mechanics of squeezing in the grab. It should be no secret that your toeside will dictate just how well the rest of the moves continues. You're aiming to grab what will be the tail of the board as you come down heelside, and you'll be using your back hand to grab so that you have the front hand for steering and landing.

Let us ponder the details!

Your Toe Side Pic A

We've said this before, and we'll say it again now. Much like heelside, if we are to attempt anything sent, using the kite for jumping, it's all about resisting. To resist efficiently and effectively you need a whole lot of edge. The more edge you have in the water the more resistance you get, but without drag. Drag slows you down, resistance squirts you forwards. Now think about your early attempts at toeside, or perhaps toeside on your weaker foot – where is your weight. Right back over the tail of the board. You're sinking the board, it's



dragging through the water and slowing you down. It might feel like resistance but really, it's no different from towing your laundry behind you. To make it efficient you have to learn to get your weight forwards, trimming the board from front to back whilst still edging. Look at the picture and you can see plenty of Christian's board in the water. Suffice to say you need to get your weight forwards and onto your front foot. The easiest way to do this is to open your chest and hips, facing forwards down the board so that you have a shoulder each side. This with a bent front knee, hips and head dipped forwards and both knees driving forwards, pointing in the same direction and working together opens the door to a world of possibilities. Think of a surfer racing down the line or a slalom snowboarder in hard boots. Coming into any toeside trick this is your approach position - speed, no drag and kite flying at 11 or 1 o'clock on the edge of the



window, ready to send. You can see in the picture that the other advantage of this position is that Christian is able to control the bar with two hands and therefore send the kite with the usual push pull, dropping his weight to resist the kite as it lifts towards 12 o'clock.

Kick Off Pic B

With the aim of adding a back rotation you will need to add a bit of back leg kick, which can only be done with your weight back. However as discussed in the last paragraph you can't just be back as it all goes Pete Tong. Also, it's impossible to kick off your back leg if all the power you're edging against whilst sending the kite is already transferring through it, unless you've got legs like a Dutch Speed Skater. The art here is to time perfectly when to drop back over your back foot to kick up into your rotation. If you have a look at Pic B. Christian has sent the kite from 11 o'clock and was still edging on all his board during the approach.



As the kite reaches around 12, he's edging super hard but then drops his weight quickly back by moving his hips and extending his front leg. However, he doesn't bend his back leg any more as he would then lose his edge! From here he's ready to kick. It's a sudden movement, from edging to suddenly rocking back a kicking off. The result of moving your weight back on the board also gets it carving which will help initiate your back rotation.

As you take off, the kite will pull you slightly back as it lifts you. As you feel it pull, you must stamp down against your edge, digging the tail in as this

will encourage more up and less back. You can see in the pic that Christian's shoulders and his head are leaning back. As long as you go up you'll have time to rotate. Once you do start to go up it is super important to stop the kite going any further back in the window. As a result of being toeside, and thus it potentially being a weaker edge your kite will likely fly further back than you'd like, so stop it on take-off by levelling the bar as Christian has here.

The Slow Back Roll Pic C

The rest of the rotation should be simple enough once you're up as

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long as you can keep control of the kite. Your aim is to rotate slowly so that you have time for the grab. With the kite keen to go back, you need to be aware of where it is at all times. Even though it'll help pull you back and start your rotation, if it carries on back it'll just dump you down again. Your next goal is to get your knees up. This will only be possible if you keep the bar in on the sweet spot. As you lift the knees the board will come up nearer to you and into a position that you can grab it. If you look at Christian his bar is in, he's steering the kite forward slightly, he's looking where he wants to grab, and his knees are lifted.

The Grab Pic D

As long as your knees are up, you're looking at the tail of the board and you're not spinning, reaching the



grab shouldn't be too problematic. If you're well versed in the art of tail grabbing the movement should be natural. As a result of a slow rotation what you have really done is allowed your legs, feet and board to catch up with you. You may have taken off toeside, but by this stage you're actually performing a standard sent back roll with the board where it would normally be. You can see that Christian is looking at the tail and reaches for the grab as he has done many times before. The advantage of focusing on the grab, is that it prevents you from turning your head and therefore effectively stalls your rotation, giving the board time to catch up, and you time to reach the grab.

Complete the Rotation Pic E

Once you've got hold of the board it's time to "unstall" your rotation and get the second half



underway. Christian has his grab, so he now turns his head and shoulders, looking over his front shoulder towards the water. To further encourage his body and board to turn Christian also starts to steer his kite forwards, pulling gently on his front hand. As the kite starts to move across the window above him it will pull on his harness and help him complete the back roll.

Prepare for Landing Pic F

All that's left to do is get yourself in a comfortable place for landing and you can claim this. This should be standard issue. Once you're on your way down release the grab and get your back hand back on the bar. Focus on where you hope to land, drop your undercarriage and dive the kite for a smooth downwind landing.



TOP TIPS

Your take off is everything in this trick so work on getting it smooth and predictable. This is a sent move, so you do need to give the kite a decent sharp sending. Maybe not for as long as a heelside jump, but certainly with meaning. The kite moving fast is what will give you the lift, so be positive.

As you drop your weight back, rolling onto the tail of the board be sure to keep your back leg pushing against the power. If it goes soft, the kite will go too far back and not a lot will happen, so keep driving against your board.

Now have a look at the sequence and videos to get an idea of this move playing out in full...

COMMON PROBLEMS

The real problem here is not getting any rotation,

so either flopping back and getting a small amount of air, or launching yourself out of the straps. As already mentioned, your toeside edge is key, but it's nothing without a bit of speed. If the board is moving well, it won't stick and will therefore come with you.

If you're still not getting air and rotation, the problem lies in your bar movement. This is after all a sent jump, so you do need to give the kite a positive send with the bar. If your sweet spot is trimmed to far out it will be very difficult to send the kite without stalling it, which in turn will pull you up off your edge and make the take off very tricky. So make sure you can position yourself in a dynamic stance from which you can use both hands effectively.

KEYSTONES

1. Speed and edge

2. Short but sharp send
3. Kick off and level but don't turn head
4. Knees up and grab
5. Turn head and complete



STRAPLESS HAND PLANT BACK ROLL >

Kite: Switchblade 9m Board: Squid Launcher 5'2

This is a lovely surfboard trick that doesn't require loads of board sticking wind or cat like agility. It's very much a support move, so if you spend some time on a twin tip and have the back roll hand wash in the bag, with a few tweaks, this could very well be less difficult than you think. Even if you're not a twin tipper, don't be discouraged, this hand plant is in the post. We've once again enlisted the help of Heliarde to demonstrate in his inimitable style what is needed to see you through to the other side. Without further ado, let's have a butchers at the separate stages that we'll piece together to nail this in the box.

The Approach Pic A

Always a good place to start, the set up here is equally important as any other form of showboating. First rule of thumb for any support move is that you need lift in the kite, and therefore you need tension in the lines. Best to have your sweet spot trimmed out a tad. Approach with your kite at either 11 or 1 o'clock so that you can maintain a good edge and you'll want some speed too, as this will keep lift in the kite for longer. Your feet want to be comfortably wide enough on the upwind edge of the board, and get your back hand centred on the bar. In Pic A you can see that Heliarde is doing all of the above, as the more lift that he has, the longer the kite will hold him and the more support he'll have.



Get Down Pic B

Keeping contact with the board throughout this move is essential. This way it'll come with you and you'll have control of it. It's important that you make contact before you start rotating into your back roll. As such you need to get as low as possible while still keeping an edge. You can see that Heliarde has really squatted down and is reaching down and forwards with his front hand, looking towards the rail of the board just in front of his front foot.



At the same time, he has started to drift the kite up slowly towards 12 o'clock. As the kite drifts he keeps the bar on the sweet spot. It's tempting to let the bar out as the kite drifts and starts to lift, but you want this lift - keep it in.

Plant and Roll Pic C

This is the crucial moment, get this right and your chances of success are rocketing. Your signal to go is the lift from the kite. As you feel it lift you must start



your rotation and look to make contact with the board. You can see that Heliarde has the bar in for support. To start the rotation, he reaches his front hand down, rocking forwards on his front foot whilst lifting his back foot, turning his hips forwards. This movement forwards into the back roll guarantees that he'll make contact with the board early. It's easy to throw yourself

backwards into this, blindly groping for the board, but if you move forwards you won't waist any lift and the move will be more controlled and as such more consistent...

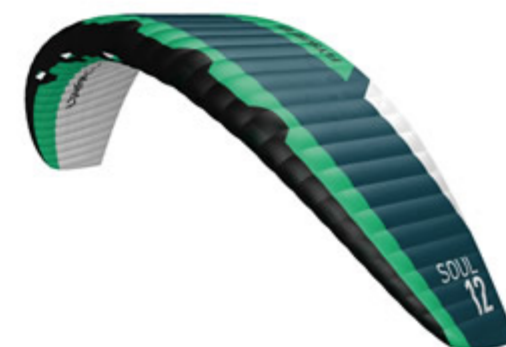
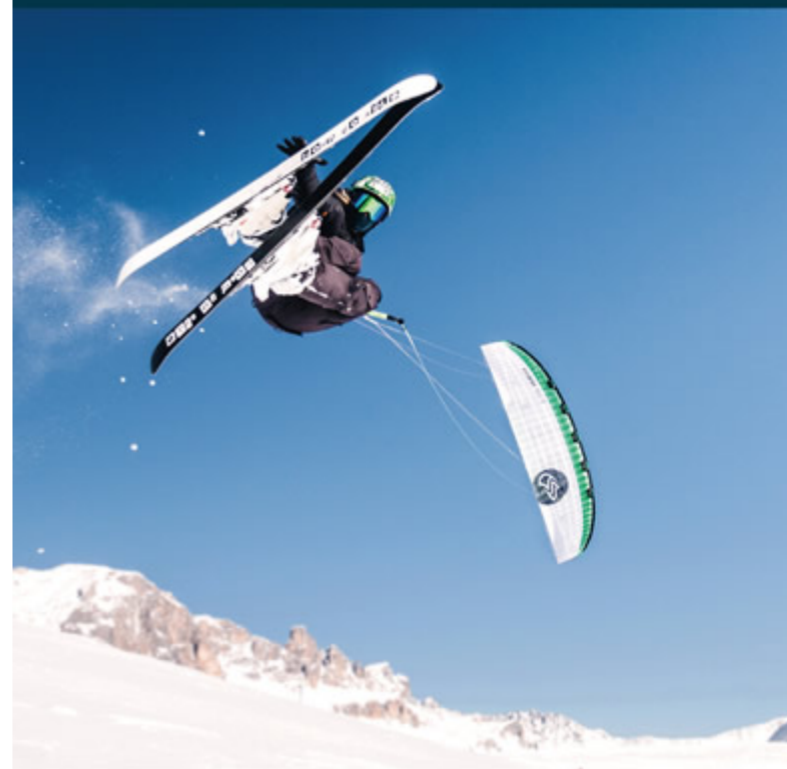
Hang & Roll Pic D

As you feel the board you need to get a good solid push down with your hand or get a grab on the rail. Although Heliarde is grabbing here,

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it's not a must, but some form of positive contact is. Now that you have control of the board you can drop your head and shoulders back, which in turn will rock your legs and feet up. With no weight on the board you'll need all the support you can get from the kite, so hold the bar in on the sweet spot. Now that you're hanging on the bar, the kite is likely to start drifting a tad quicker. You can see that Heliarde is looking over his back shoulder, just as you would for a back roll, so that he'll keep rotating.



Hand Axis Pic E

Your hand is the axis around which you'll turn. You need to keep it forwards on the board, near where it started, as this will enable you to pull the board along with you and eventually allow you to get back on it! As you rotate around, allow your hand to turn on the board. If you have grabbed the rail, you'll need to loosen your grip so that your hand can slide onto the deck. You also need to keep yourself up, away from the board and the water, and as long as the kite is still drifting, and you have the bar in you'll have ample



support. As Heliarde comes around, he is leading with his head, so he can see where he is and where the board is. If you throw yourself back into the rotation, you'll have no idea where you are!

Claim It Pic F

Now that you're all the way around, all that's left is to get yourself back on the board and upright! With your eyes on the target (the board) and the kite supporting you, you can aim to place your feet back on the upwind edge of the board. You can pull your front hand forwards, placing the board under your feet.



Keep your knees bent and make sure that your heels grip. As long as they are in place you'll be fine. As the kite has been drifting and supporting you, it should now be behind you, over at the edge of the window, which means that you can use it to pull you up onto the board. Looking at the picture you can see that Heliarde is very low and his weight is back over the water. From here there is no way that even he can stand up. However now he simply pulls harder on his back hand to loop the kite. With the kite looping around, it pulls him back up as Heliarde rolls forwards onto his feet. Brilliant!

TOP TIPS

Support is everything, so learning this underpowered on a fast small wave kite will be harder. The bigger the kite the slower it will drift and the simpler this will be.

Start off by trying to get the rotation and plant sorted. If you can get low and then succeed in getting

around, then working on getting the feet back on the board should be simple next step. The late kite loop is the final part of the puzzle, so you shouldn't worry about it until it's time.

Hunting out some flat water will make this easier as the board will be happy to come with you.

Now have a look at the sequence and videos....

COMMON PROBLEMS

Not making contact with the board. This really is the number one problem. The reason for this is that in order to be supported and get the feet up you may feel the need to invert, and the natural way to do this is to throw your body back and legs up. As such your front arm is blindly stabbing in the dark, groping for the board. Resist this urge and bend forwards.

Concentrate on twisting the hips forwards and lifting the back foot up first. This will ensure contact is made.

Landing on your bum, not your feet. If you're too low as you come around it means that you have lost

support. This could mean that you need to enter with more board speed. However, it's likely that you have either drifted the kite too quickly or let the bar out and therefore given away tension. Make sure the kite moves slowly and that you keep the bar sheeted in, on the sweet spot.

KEYSTONES

1. Enter with good speed on an edge
2. Crouch low and drift kite
3. Turn hips and plant forwards
4. Turn head, feet up and bar in
5. Pull board under feet, heels and loop





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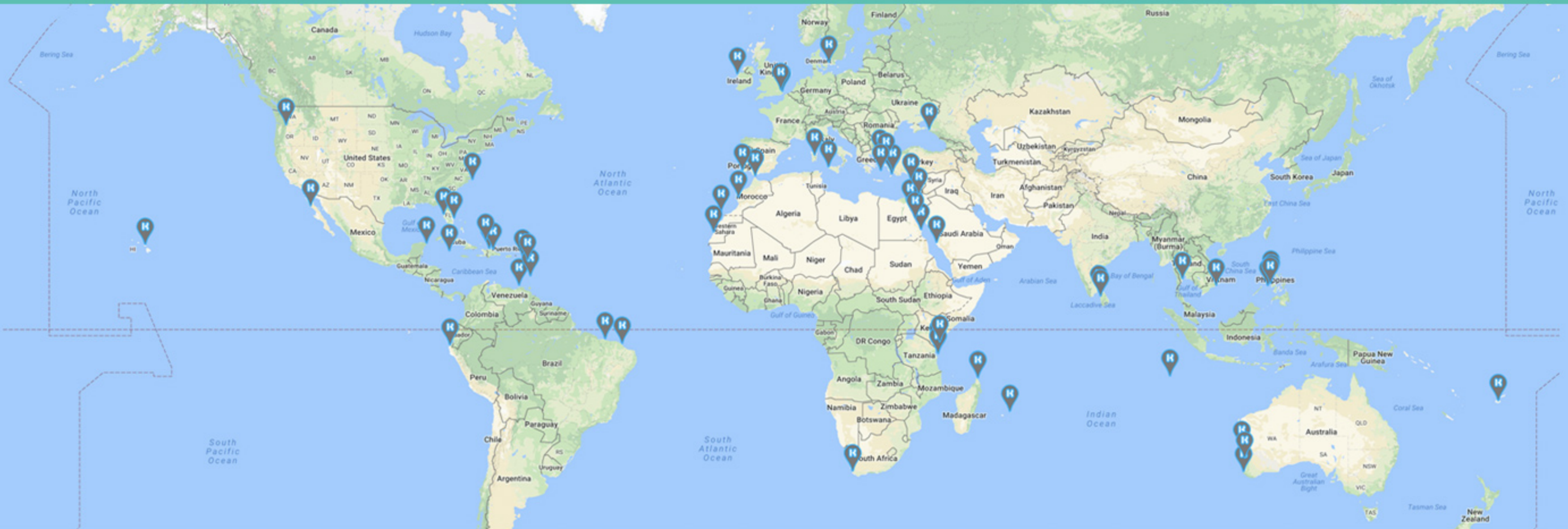
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2019 Product is well and truly underway now, which is about right as 2019 is just around the corner! The gear is looking better than ever at the moment and we have kites and boards on test from Cabrina, Eleveight, CrazyFly, Kitelement, Slingshot, Liquid Force, Odo Kiteboarding, Duotone and Ozone!

KITES

CrazyFly Hyper
Eleveight RS
Liquid Force NV
Odo Kiteboarding YO
Ozone Alpha V1
Slingshot RPM

BOARDS

Cabrinha XO
CrazyFly Raptor
Duotone Select
Kitelement re solve
Odo Kiteboarding Compact Pro Series

WORDS AND PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM
THIS PAGE... LILOO "GRINGA" FOURRÉ THROWING DOWN ON THE CRAZYFLY RAPTOR
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

BRAND CRAZYFLY

MODEL HYPER

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2019



“ THE HYPER
LIVES FOR BIG
SPEEDS INTO
BIG SENDS ”



AT A GLANCE

An entirely new kite for 2019 from CrazyFly, the Hyper sits in their range as a high performing freeride and big air specialist. This seems to be a new big trend within kitesurfing, and it is great to see brands moving with the wants and needs of the riders.

The Hyper is a 5-strut kite, with a high aspect ratio delta bow design. In simple terms, it is designed to be efficient both into the wind and up into the sky whilst maintaining usability. There is a small bridle that stays cleanly out of the way with no chance of any unwanted wraps around the struts or such like.

We are becoming familiar with the high standards of construction, and CrazyFly have gone one better again with the Hyper. Utilising the latest developments in their European factory, the Hyper features firstly a Dacron frame which ensures the rigidity of the kite through those loops and boosts without compromising on weight. Next up, the canopy is made with CrazyFly's exclusive Triplex Ripstop. This 3 yarn fabric is not only incredibly strong, it has been triple coated to protect the fabric

TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND ELEVEIGHT

MODEL RS

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2019



" GREAT FLOATY JUMPS, A HUGE RANGE, AND MASSES OF VERSATILITY "



AT A GLANCE

Eleveight have been on our radar for a couple of years, but it is for 2019 where they jump in with the big boys with a full line up of kites and boards. We had the all-round RS on test this issue and, as always, were excited to get our hands on gear from a new brand.

The RS is Eleveight's do-it-all kite. Designed as a cross-over kite, it is for those who enjoy all sides of kiteboarding and need a kite to keep up with them. Its has an emphasis on big air and floaty jumps, but will feel at home with everything from foiling through to a bit of wave riding and freestyle fun.

The RS has a delta hybrid shape, which means there are long swept wingtips on the moderate to high aspect canopy, a supportive bridle system and an open C shape design. The RS has 3 struts, and also houses a one-pump system with large inflate/deflate valve for maximum efficiency in set up and pack down. The kite itself is made with the high quality Teijin Techno Force X4 Ripstop to keep things incredibly strong, and the leading edge seam has been triple stitched to ensure maximum longevity.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



BRAND LIQUID FORCE MODEL NV V9 SIZE 12M YEAR 2019



"ULTRA-STABLE
THROUGHOUT
UNHOOKED
MOVES"



AT A GLANCE

With a wakeboarding background Liquid Force make some awesome boards and have some seriously good kites in the stable to compliment them too. One model that has undergone another refinement and update is the NV v9.

The NV v9 is a 3-strut high performance freestyle kite that aims to excel at freeride and wakestyle too.

For the 9th version the NV comes with a new airframe design, Teijin Triple Ripstop fabric, Tension trailing edge and an increased leading edge diameter.

The NV v9 comes in 5 different colourways and is compatible with the Mission Control V2 control systems.

Sizes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.5, 12, 13.5, 15m

THE BAR

The Mission Control system V2 is a refinement of its predecessor. However, we see a major addition in a new Compact 40-46cm variant as well as the standard 49-55cm bar. To the general kiter bar size isn't so much of a worry, however for the riders throwing down passes on 7m kites it's pretty important.

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TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLCK HERE





" A SOLID PERFORMER "

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



AT A GLANCE

Odo Kiteboarding started in 2014; they set out as a group of wave riders aiming to develop new products for the strapless market. We recently got our hands on their YO kite.

The YO is a 3-strut medium aspect kite aimed at excelling in the wave, strapless freestyle and freeride markets. The YO is packed with technology and construction features like C3 Ripstop, TE Reinftech, low windage bridles and more. All of these design features are aimed at bringing us a smooth, easy to use, predictable and stable kite.

Upon first inspection I noticed that the C3 Ripstop felt a little softer than usual canopies and was worried this may wear differently or have issues with UV, however upon finding out more about this material it comes with a PFOA-free water repellency coating, which is aimed at giving a better UV degradation, increased durability and increased performance.

The YO comes in 9 sizes, 3 colorways and is compatible with the Odo Kiteboarding Quick Vario control system.

Sizes: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12m

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND OZONE MODEL ALPHA V1 SIZE 10M YEAR 2019



“ THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL COMPANION ”



AT A GLANCE

Another genre of kite we are seeing boom recently is the single strut. Single strut kites are a brilliant addition to your quiver, or even replacements for your quiver. They tend to be very lightweight, pack down much smaller for traveling, have huge amounts of depower and many are now performing incredibly well.

Ozone have the Uno which is a small 2.5m, 4m & 6m single strut kite. This has always been incredibly popular with schools and the groms of the world due to its small sizing. However, it has always lacked a bigger sibling: welcome the Alpha V1!

Ozone have recently dropped this new addition to their line up into the kite market and it looks like it's going to be a corker. Targeting the travel, freeride, surf and foiling aspects of our sport the Ozone aims to deliver a smooth, effective, lightweight kite with the Alpha V1. We see the usual Ozone build quality put into this medium aspect single strut kite, in sizes up to 12m.

The Alpha V1 comes in three standard colorways (custom colors available,

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BRAND SLINGSHOT

MODEL RPM

SIZE 10M

YEAR 2019



" THE RPM
SIMPLY
EXPLODES
FORWARD WITH
INCREDIBLE
FORCE "



AT A GLANCE

One of the original 3 strut high performing hybrid kites, the RPM is synonymous with power, performance and success. Designed for riders in average conditions who need a kite to keep up with their progression, all the way through to World Champions who need a kite they can, quite literally, pay the bills with.

The 2019 RPM has had some quite revolutionary design built into its bridle in the form of the Flyline Bridle System. This unique system allows both sides of the kite to be engaged at all times when turning; the result is like power steering for your kite! An added bungee line works with a pulley system to limit the length of travel yet maintain optimum structural control. With this new bridle system, the geometry of the kite has also been altered to create a deeper C-shape resulting in bigger boosts, loops and drifting potential.

As is standard with all Slingshot kites, the 2019 RPM has been built to last with the legendary SurfTough construction. Featuring SplitStrut technology, One Pump speed system for ultra fast inflate and deflate, bumper pads in the key areas and reinforced bridle attachment points.

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" DESIGNED BY CABRINHA'S TEAM FOR WOMEN WHO NEED A BOARD TO PERFORM WHATEVER LEVEL THEY ARE AT "



BRAND CABRINHA **MODEL** XO
SIZE 136 X 39.5 CM **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

Cabrinha's successful women's range, the XO, is back for 2019 in the shape of the Moto kite and the XO board. The XO is based on the high performing Ace board, but has been tuned and shaped with the help of Cabrinha's talented female riders to create a board which works for those starting out all the way through to those who are performing advanced unhooked manoeuvres.

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" WE COULDN'T BE ANYTHING BUT IMPRESSED WITH THIS UPGRADE OF AN ALL-TIME FAVOURITE "



BRAND CRAZYFLY **MODEL** RAPTOR
SIZE 137 X 41 CM **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

Though the Raptor is an old favourite in the CrazyFly line up, for 2019 it has had its biggest revamp yet. At its core, the Raptor is an all round freeride board with freestyle aspirations. It is suited to those who are looking for a board to do a little bit of everything with whilst still allowing them to bolt their boots on and throw some passes. The best of both worlds, it has been fine-tuned to deliver only the highest performance.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE



" INCREDIBLY
REFINED
ALL-ROUND
TWIN TIP "



BRAND DUOTONE **MODEL** SELECT
SIZE 141 X 42CM **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

Recently undergoing a brand name change Duotone Kiteboarding is still producing those ever-classic boards and kites we know and love. This issue we are going to be taking a look at the 2019 Duotone Select twin tip.

The Select is an all-round twin tip targeting the freeride market. Featuring a stepped mono concave base, soft flex and new space flex technology,

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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



" PROVIDED SUCH
A LEVEL OF
COMFORT WE
FORGOT WE
WERE ON A
BOARD WHICH
SPENDS HALF
ITS LIFE AS TWO "



BRAND KITELEMENT **MODEL** RE SOLVE
SIZE 136 X 41 CM **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

Another split board from specialised board manufacturer Kitelement. The Re Solve is their freestyle specific board which houses some impressive technology and performance whilst being able to be thrown into a suitcase at the end of your session.

The Re Solve has been made to join together with their impressive A Lock joining system which uses full carbon slates embedded in the wood core to slot together before being bolted in for security.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



"EXPLOSIVE POP
AND DIRECT
RESPONSE"



BRAND ODO KITEBOARDING **YEAR** 2019
MODEL COMPACT PRO SERIES **SIZE** 5'2"

AT A GLANCE

With a huge boom in strapless freestyle over the recent years it's no surprise that we are seeing many new additions to this market. Odo Kiteboarding is a relatively new brand so to speak (2014 onwards), however they have a great line up of goodies already. We recently got our hands on some crackers to put through their paces.

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THE KITE MANSION OPEN

WORDS SENSI GRAVES
PHOTOS ANDRE MAGARAO

If there's one word I would use to describe the Kite Mansion Open, it would be "Heart". Heart from the organisers, heart for the spot, and heart from the riders participating. It takes dedication to produce an event with a small sponsorship budget, and yet, the Kite Park League is able to move mountains to make this event possible. Last week, The Kite Mansion Open at Tremembe Beach, Brazil was the final stop of the 2018 Kite Park League, rounding up the three-stop tour for the KPL, during which tour champions were decided.



“ EACH OF US LOVES KITEBOARDING, AND WE ARE ADDICTED TO HITTING RAILS AND KICKERS. PARK RIDING IS AN ACQUIRED TASTE, BUT JUST AS THE KITE BUG IS CONTAGIOUS, SO IS THE PARK BUG. ”

The story of the KPL continues to be one of sheer grit, determination and struggle. As an unsanctioned “world” tour, we are the rogue players in a game of sponsorships, exposure and industry support. We struggle to find enough prize money (the Kite Mansion Open having none), have “homie” live stream run by our friends, and an iPhone (most often duct taped to a camera tripod), and it’s a requirement that competitors help position features before, during and after their heats. Despite these barriers, the determination of this group of individuals is what makes rad shit happen! Each of us loves kiteboarding, and we are addicted to hitting rails and kickers. Park riding is an acquired taste, but just as the kite bug is contagious, so is the park bug.

Two of the most impassioned kites in our group are, Alex Maes and Annelous Lammerts; they have huge hearts! Over the last three years, they’ve worked to build various iterations of kickers, install sliders in the water, and worked tirelessly with local officials to ensure that access to the spot stays open. It has always been a dream of theirs to host a KPL stop, and 2018 marks the first year they were able to make it happen.

Two other players that are critical to the Kite Mansion Open and the proprietors of the Kite Mansion are, Nicolas “Nico kite” Baeten and Sam Gaillard; they are two of the friendliest people you’ll ever come across!





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“ QUICKLY FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE PLACE, AND SEEING TONS OF POTENTIAL AT TREMEMBE BEACH, NICO AND SAM BUILT KITE MANSION LITERALLY FROM THE GROUND UP ”

Tall, blonde and fluent in five languages, Nico greets everyone with a hearty “good morning!” He always has a smile on his face and is still offers to lend a hand or fix your kite as the self-proclaimed ‘Kite Doctor’. He worked tirelessly with Alex and Annelous to secure sponsors, arrange meetings with local officials, and gather materials for the features. Nico also ran the live stream every day during the event, speaking in multiple languages, and fueled the atmosphere with enthusiasm.

Sam is Brazilian by birth but grew up in Belgium. He has been a friend of Nico’s since they were 12 years old. Sam was a bit more behind the scenes; ensuring all of the riders were fed and watered, making sure all the features were in position, and making sure everything that makes an event run smoothly happened without a hitch. During the event, Sam was out there with us in the sun and wind, to ensure we had everything we needed. The heart and effort of these two made the entire event possible.

Hailing from Belgium, Sam and Nico moved to Brazil 10 years ago with the intention to start a kite school and pousada. They found

the right conditions in the southern, lesser known spots around Icapuí. Quickly falling in love with the place, and seeing tons of potential at Tremembe Beach, Nico and Sam built Kite Mansion literally from the ground up. Slowly, over the last ten years, they’ve also built up the local kite community, employing local Brazilians, and introducing them to the sport.

The town of Icapuí is a small fishing village, and not much happens there. Having Nico, Sam and the Kite Mansion there has created an exciting vibe in the area, and motivated local riders to get involved. While I was there, I went for a ride with Jaedson, a 22-year old local rider that started kiteboarding at The Kite Mansion a year ago. I asked him, in my broken Spanish/Portuguese mix,



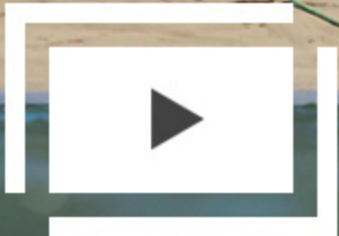
“ THIS PARTICULAR LOCATION IS A RIVER MOUTH THAT EBBS AND FLOWS, FILLING AND DRAINING WITH THE TIDES.”

if he liked it and he spoke with a fervent passion and his face literally lit up; we all know that feeling!

Alex Maes has been around the whole time, travelling with his parents to the pousada next door to Kite Mansion every year, watching as Nico and Sam pursue their kite school dream. Initially, unbeknownst to Alex, Nico and Sam have had the dream to host a world-class kiteboarding competition for ages. With Alex following their every move as they built their kite school, the guys planted the seed into Alex's mind, and he also began to see the potential for a future competition to take place in Tremembe. In 2017, the idea was solidified when Eric Rienstra mentioned that there was an opening for a tour stop for the KPL; the wheels were already in motion by then.

The spot itself is a lagoon much like what Brazil is famous for, although this particular location is a river mouth that ebbs and flows, filling and draining with the tides. As the tide comes rushing in, corralled through the channels of the sand, the physical force of it is enough to make you stagger on your feet. Every day requires heaving and hoeing the various features for the event from along the shoreline of the river, where they are safely stored away from the passing fishing boats into the middle of the lagoon.

The water depth is slightly shallower than competitors would like, the spot is somewhat smaller than is required for our numbers, and the tides don't let us ride for quite as long as we'd want to, but the water is butter flat, and we had a slider park, so we were happy!





During the Kite Mansion Open, we had nineteen riders; fifteen men and four women. The Kite Mansion Open was a unique event, and we held the competition on 'The Lines'; meaning we placed two features in a line so that a rider could hit one feature, do their manoeuvre, land and then immediately edge into the next feature. This format has been talked about for years on the KPL, and it was interesting to finally see it in action.

On the right-foot-forward line, we had a short, double barrel hand-rail incline and the flat bar, a single-barrel steel tube that was feet out of the water. Left-foot-forward we had "Cop City"; a massive incline and the flat bar rail. We also hit the kicker on both the left-foot and right-foot setups.

" THIS FORMAT HAS BEEN TALKED ABOUT FOR YEARS ON THE KPL, AND IT WAS INTERESTING TO FINALLY SEE IT IN ACTION. "

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THE KITE MANSION OPEN THE KITE MANSION OPEN THE KITE MANSION OPEN THE KITE MANSION OPEN THE KITE MANSION OPEN THE KITE MANSION OPEN THE KITE MANSION OPEN THE KITE MANSION OPEN THE KITE MANSION OPEN THE KITE MANSION OPEN

“ 'THE LINES' PROVED FUN TO WATCH, BUT THE SHIFTING WIND DIRECTION AND SPEED MADE FOR CHALLENGING CONDITIONS AS HEATS PROGRESSED.”

Each feature was scored out of ten points and for the 'The Lines'; an additional five points were automatically added for flow. Flow points could only be deducted based on mishaps, while in between the rails on each line. These mishaps were: grabbing your chicken loop, bad kite control, switching your stance or your leash or anything that messed up the flow.

Organising any sort of competition is a feat, but hosting a competition in a new location in Brazil, with a new format and a tiny budget? That's another level. Overall, 'The Lines' proved fun to watch, but the shifting wind direction and speed made for challenging conditions as heats progressed. This park isn't for the faint-hearted, with some features requiring a massive ollie-on and others simply big, scary and covered in barnacles, but every single competitor brought their game face.

Stand out riders at the event were the ever-consistent Brandon Scheid, with Christophe Tack looking good too. Ewan Jaspán made a big push for the win but in the end it was relative newcomer to the park scene Ramiro Gallart who took the top spot on the podium. Brandon did enough to secure the overall title for the year and a special mention goes to Alex Maes who rode to an incredible fourth place which was impressive considering he had so much other stuff going on with the organization of the event.

Over in the ladies fleet, Colleen Carroll was ripping as usual, I was doing my best to keep up with the new charger on the block Annelous Lammerts, but in the end it was Annelous who came out on top and took the win!





“ YOU GET A “WHOOOP” WHENEVER YOU HIT THE KICKER, AND EVERY SINGLE RIDER IS SUPPORTING AND PUSHING ONE ANOTHER THAT MAKES IT ALL SO WORTH IT. ”

It’s been great to watch her park riding come on in recent years and she thoroughly deserved the top spot on the podium! The competitors on the KPL are a core group of passionate riders, and the drive and passion of the group are what makes the events happen. Whether it’s pushing each other on the water, or working to bring in sponsors for the events, it’s the riders that make this tour what it is.

Often, we are riding in swamps, frequently there are too many of us on the water; usually, you have to do a lot of work before you can even start your session, and often there’s carnage! But it’s those magical sessions, where everyone you ride by flashes a grin, you get a “whoop” whenever you hit the kicker, and every single rider is supporting and pushing one another that makes it all so worth it.

Huge thank you to Alex, Annelous, Nico and Sam for making this event happen. If you’re interested in sponsoring a future KPL stop, email us at kiteparkleague@gmail.com

FINAL RESULTS:

Mens

- Ramiro Gallart
- Ewan Jaspan
- Brandon Schied
- Christophe Tack

Womens

- Annelous Lammerts
- Colleen Carroll
- Sensi Graves
- Julia Castro





SETTING UP HYDROFOILS WITH THE PROS...

Hydrofoils have come a long way in the last few years, as kites, we have different needs to some of the other sports that are joining the hydrofoil revolution! Surf wings are traditionally thick and wide with a deep profile and chord depth to offer maximum lift at low take-off speeds. Race wings for kite foiling often resemble a 30cm ruler that you used to take to school, or perhaps still do. Between these two extremes, there is just about every shape imaginable.

WORDS ROU CHATER
PHOTOS FRANKIE BEES

FLY ON THE WALL





“THE SUP WING GENERATED SO MUCH LIFT AND WAS SO STABLE, YOU COULD MAKE MISTAKES WITH YOUR FEET, AND THE FOIL WOULDN'T SPIT YOU OUT THE FRONT DOOR.”

SO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Well, it really depends on your level and what you want to do, if you are learning then a bigger, easier to ride foil will make a real difference to your learning curve. I was in Sardinia this year, and I rode a kiteboard with a SUP wing underneath it. Walking to the water, I felt this would be a terrible combination as I'm more used to racier foil shapes for kiting.

How wrong could I be! The SUP wing generated so much lift and was so stable, you could make mistakes with your feet, and the foil wouldn't spit you out the front door. Slowing down on a gybe, no problem, this wing was seemingly floating underwater, never wanting to lose lift. The revelation was evident, as kites we have the advantage of the lift of the kite, but equally, we can use a massive range of foils for different purposes.

For sure the SUP wing was slow, it topped out at about 19 knots, but it was incredibly good fun to ride. These days I pan my foiling around what I want to do on the water.

If I'm looking to cover some distance, then the freeride or race foil comes out. If I want to just work on tricks and turns and having fun in a small area, the SUP wing goes on the bottom. The SUP wing also works great in the waves too, it's slower and allows you to keep the power from the wave, rather than running out in front of it!

We were on the beach recently with some of the Naish crew and decided to ask them what their favourite set up for foiling was. Remember, your setup needs to be personal to you, your level and how you want to ride!

Nils Rosenblad, Naish Designer:

Because kites produce their own vertical lift, there is a vast range of wing designs that will work since wing lift



is less critical. The key considerations when deciding between a surf wing and the KS2 for kiteboarding are as follows:

Performance: The KS2 will obviously be faster, and have a wider range, (especially at speed, where it is much easier to control). However, the surf wing with its greater lift will both take off earlier and allow you to use a smaller kite.

Stability: The KS2 will have a much smoother, more 'locked in' feel in a straight line, whereas the Surf - that is specifically designed to mimic the response of a shortboard - it's more about zigging and zagging.

**“ THE KS2 WILL
OBVIOUSLY BE
FASTER, AND HAVE A
WIDER RANGE ”**

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The Slingshot Turbine is no longer just a light-wind weapon. For 2017, Slingshot is offering the Turbine in sizes ranging from 5m to 19m. In the larger sizes, the Turbine will continue to be a reliable light-wind choice and, in the smaller sizes,...

New For 2017 Slingshot Expands Turbine To Full Size Range
The Slingshot Turbine is no longer just a light-wind weapon. For 2017,...

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“ IF YOU'RE SAFE AND HAVE FUN, THEN YOU WILL RIDE YOUR BEST AND LEARN MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT POSSIBLE ”

THE TAKEAWAYS:

The KS2 kite wing is unquestionably the better all-around choice - faster, wider performance range, more controllable, and smooth thru transitions and manoeuvres.

The Surf wing is easier for your first flights, has more surfboard like response, but in normal kiting, a rider will quickly outgrow it unless they are surfing waves and/or interested in using very small kites for the conditions and working on freestyle moves.

Jesse Richman:

There's something very magical about flying over the water on a foil. Foil's have completely changed the game on light wind days and allow us to have an incredible time on the water in a wider range of conditions. My favourite foil set-up is pretty simple; I rock the 112cm Hoverboard usually with the Abracadabra Thrust Kite Foil.

I use the Thrust Kite Wing as it goes fast and rides smooth. Some days when the wind is very light, or I want to focus on riding waves, I swap out the Thrust Kite Wing for the Thrust M Surf Wing. The Thrust Surf Wing makes foiling more relaxed and leisurely; learning new tricks at a slower speed is much more comfortable and controlling speed on waves becomes a lot smoother.

Eventually, I learn new manoeuvres, and then I want to try them going faster, that's when I go back to the Thrust Kite Wing. Find the foil set up that works for you and get out there. If you're safe and have fun, then you will ride your best and learn more than you thought possible.





Kevin Langeree:

There is no need to check the waves or the wind forecast any more. Just show up at the beach, and you are guaranteed to get action on a foil. I know it sounds crazy, but that's what I've been doing the past 2 years. The foil makes the worst conditions the best ever. In Holland, we get a lot of small and junky surf but since I have my XL wing and the Hover Comet 5'2" I'm catching some of the longest rides of my life. And all of a sudden Holland is one of the best surf spots in the world! It's basically the same with foiling with a kite. I can go out on the Medium Surf wing, 90cm mast, Hover 112 and my 9m Pivot in less than 8 knots. The summers now in Holland are the best ever because I can kite almost every single day.

If you don't live in Hawaii and you want to surf or kite Hawaii like conditions then definitely get yourself a foil. You will be amazed how much fun shitty conditions are!

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MAKES THE
WORST
CONDITIONS
THE BEST
EVER."**



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“ THIS GIVES ME THE WIDEST RANGE OF USE WHETHER IT BE KITE TRICKS, SPEED, CRUISING OR SOME FUN MOVES ”

Ewan Jaspán:

Foiling has come a long way in the last few years, and we are always experimenting with new gear to see what the ultimate set up is. I've been through a few phases of different wings, boards, kites and masts, but what I've finally settled on being my ultimate set up is the Hover 112 with 90cm mast and the Kite Wing, and the Dash 10m.

This gives me the widest range of use whether it be kite tricks, speed, cruising or some fun moves. I also love the Dash as it's a more familiar feel for me as I ride a lot of unhooked specific gear, and it works really well for foiling with it's added depower over the Torch. My other favourite setup is the 5m Boxer on the Surf Medium foil also on the Hover 112. This is great for learning new tricks as the Surf wings provide a lot of added stability, especially at lower speeds and learning. I choose the Medium wing out of the surf range as it's far more snappy and fun than the Large and XL, which are more stable, but I find a little slow for kiting.

The most important thing in the board for me is stiffness. The Hover 112 and 127 provide a small platform, and the stiffness means you feel a perfect connection to the foil and have instant response.

I've been loving foiling as it has given me not only a whole new aspect of the sport to explore, but it gets me on the water nearly every day of the year, with only about 8 knots needed to fly. It's been a super fun time getting more proficient in this side of the sport, and I suggest all kiteboarders give it a go, just remember to be persistent, it's worth it!

What if you I told you how to manipulate the wind window to your liking?

Playing with the wind has always been my favourite part from kiteboarding, as most of the time; we are quite limited with the wind. You have a wind window, and your kite should stay there otherwise it will fall, but what if you could manipulate or alternate that wind window, to your liking.

This trick here goes by many names; Kite 360, deadman's turn and around the world, are the ones I've heard the most.

AROUND THE WORLD

PHOTOGRAPHER LARS STENVELD
EDIT STEVEN AKKERSDIJK
SPOT KORNWEDERZAND, THE NETHERLANDS



What happens in this trick is that you make the kite fly a full 360 around you. The way to do this is relatively simple; you need to ride faster than the wind. Like that, you create your wind; this created wind is also called apparent wind.

A simple way to explain apparent wind is by jumping on your bike. If there is a bit of a breeze and you're standing still with your face downwind, you will feel the wind in your back. If you then start cycling in that direction and you go faster than the wind you'll feel it from the front (you just created your apparent wind)

I didn't come up with this trick (the credit goes to

the buggy kites), but I used to do it running when I was younger at the kite school when we had a kid's camp. I saw a video of someone doing it a couple of years back on a foil, and instantly knew I wanted to do that as well.

When I got my foil kites from Levitaz, I knew it was time to try it. I had a pair of short lines that I usually use for kiteloops, and decided that would be perfect.

At the time I was in Mauritius with Christian Rosenbrock and assured him I would get it right in three tries, that was my challenge. In the end, it took me five times, before I managed to ride one out!

The best gear for this trick is a foil kite that has a big front wing with not too much resistance (because you need to keep speed after the loop). I, for instance, use the Levitaz Cruizer.

For the line length, the shorter, the better. I learned with 10m lines, but to be honest, that was a little short. Now, I'm riding with 14m lines and find it perfect!

I've also tried the trick with 18m lines, and you need a little more speed for this one.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BEACH PERSPECTIVE



DRONE PERSPECTIVE



LIGHTROOM

MAXI GOMEZ MAKING AN IMPRESSION AS THE SUNSETS IN BRAZIL!
PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS



Lightroom

More shots with no particular place to go
this issue, feast your eyes!

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LIGHTROOM

PHILIPPE ANCELIN THROWING OUT SOME CRAZY SHADOWS
AT LE MEN-DU BRETAGNE, FRANCE
PHOTO CHRISTOPHE LE POTIER

Lightroom

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LIGHTROOM

SAM LIGHT GIVING THE NEW RPM A RUN FOR IT'S MONEY!
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

GABRIEL PAYNE GETTING HIS GRAB ON IN BRAZIL.
PHOTO ANDREA MAGARAO



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

POSITO MARTINEZ TAKES US TO HIS KIND OF SPINNING CLASS
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM



Lightroom

HYDROFOILS ARE DEFINITELY THE FUTURE, STEVE VERELST HAS ASSIMILATED, HAVE YOU?
PHOTO ROBERT HAJDUK

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LIGHTROOM

ARTHUR GUILBERT MAKING HIS OWN PURPLE RAIN IN BRAZIL
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

Lightroom

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LIGHTROOM

HARRI MAGENSCHAB RIDING ON THE CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS OF SALZKAMMERGUT, AUSTRIA!
PHOTO TOM OTT

Lightroom

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Lightroom



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

MAXI GOMEZ GOING FULL POWER IN BRAZIL!
PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS

Lightroom

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LIGHTROOM

LACI KOBULSKY GOING OLD SCHOOL UNDER MOODY SKIES
DURING THE CRAZYFLY PHOTOSHOOT!
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

SEBASTIAN RIBEIRO GETTING A LITTLE AIR UNDER HIS FEET IN BRAZIL!
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

Lightroom

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Lightroom

LIGHTROOM



Lightroom

REECE MYERSCOUGH SETTING UP FOR A HUGE HACK IN THE FRIGID WATERS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA.
PHOTO CHRIS CURRAN

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LIGHTROOM



Lightroom

MAXIME CHABLOZ HAS BEEN ON A TEAR RECENTLY WORKING HIS WAY UP THE FREESTYLE RANKINGS!
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

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10 QUESTIONS

WORDS JEN TYLER

.....

EMMANUEL NORMAN

Emmanuel Norman was born in Kiel, Germany, originated in Ghana, and grew up in the city of Mönchengladbach. A family friend of the Norman's introduced Emmanuel to kiteboarding at the age of

14. Like all of us he fell deeply in love with the sport, but the sea was far from where he lived; so he started landboarding. In 2009 he became 2x German Champion for kite landboarding in the categories of race and freestyle.



“ WHILE I WAS WATCHING HIM
KITEBOARD, I KNEW IN THAT INSTANT
THAT I HAD FOUND MY SPORT! ”



As soon as he got the opportunity to travel, he did not hesitate to go to the Gold Coast, Mexico, and West Africa among other hotspots to create content for his sponsors. Creative, kind-hearted and confident, are what best explains Emmanuel Norman. Having fulfilled his kitesurfing dreams, he became a brand ambassador for many brands.

Emmanuel, we are super stoked to have you featured this issue! Where are you from and where did you grow up? Who inspired you to become a landboarder/kiteboarder and how long have you been riding for?

Thanks for having me! My name is Emmanuel, but everyone calls me Emma. My family roots are from Ghana, but I was born in Kiel; a small Harbour-City in the northeastern part of Germany. A family friend called Daniel first introduced me to a kite in 2005. We went to the beach, and while I was watching him kiteboard, I knew in that instant that I had found my sport!

As I was learning to kiteboard and started getting the hang of it, my parents and I moved away from the beach, and to a small town near Cologne called Mönchengladbach. Landlocked and too young to drive to the coast, I missed kiteboarding every day.

One day, on my way back from school I saw loads of kites up in the air, but no sea in site. I went to check it out and that when I discovered landboarding. Mönchengladbach is home to one of the largest landboarding spots in Germany.



Have you ever visited Ghana? What's it like over there?

About five years ago, I thought it was about time I explore my heritage and visit where my family grew up, and I was not disappointed! Ghana is a hidden gem from kitesurfing and landboarding.

When I arrived, it was during the Easter holidays, and the beach was packed. Ghana is not a tourist destination, but the beach was jammed with locals. I started setting my kite up, and within minutes, I was the main attraction at the beach!

PHOTO NINA JONES

“ GHANA IS A HIDDEN GEM FROM KITESURFING AND LANDBOARDING.”



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“ IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE FEELING TO SHOW THESE CHILDREN SOMETHING NEW, DEMONSTRATE HOW TO FLY A KITE AND THEN SHOW OFF A FEW TRICKS ”

PHOTO FLYSURFER EGYPT

All the children began gathering around me, asking me questions, wanting to understand what I was about to do! They'd never seen a kite before in their lives. It was an incredible feeling to show these children something new, demonstrate how to fly a kite and then show off a few tricks, of course!

Crashing on land must be a lot more dramatic than hitting on the water! Can you tell us about the worst landboard bail you have had, including all the gnarly details?

I would compare landboarding to skateboarding when it comes to crashing; very painful! The worse crash I have had was during my very first contest. I had been training hard and had mastered my handle passes, but in my heat, it did not exactly go as planned! A strong gust came in, and I dropped to the ground, like a stone! I broke my ankle, which resulted in two surgeries, and unable to landboard for about six months.

How long have you been riding for Flysurfer? Which kite do you prefer using (foil or tube) while

landboarding and kiteboarding and what are the main differences you feel while on land and water?

I joined the Flysurfer team 11 years ago, I was 15 years old, and I am still riding for them today. I prefer using soft kites because of their hangtime, responsiveness and ease. My all-time favourite kite is the Soul; if you ever get the chance, you should give it a try!

The main difference between kiteboarding and landboarding, in my opinion, is not the kite, but rather the board. A kiteboard is light, flexible,

" WHILE I WAS WATCHING HIM KITEBOARD, I KNEW IN THAT INSTANT THAT I HAD FOUND MY SPORT! "



PHOTO NINA JONES

and easy to manoeuvre on the water while landboards are extremely heavy in comparison and grippy; they feel like a train on rails. Whether I am on land or sea, I prefer soft kites.

We know that you mainly enjoy landboarding, but also enjoy old school tricks on a kiteboard as well, what is your signature move.

My signature move is a HELIX (Helicopter), which is a boosted jump, and then throw in about as many rotations as possible! The maximum rotations I have counted are eight (although its hard to count while you are rotating!), but I've seen it in a video someone took. I am sure I've counted nine once before, I don't have it on video to prove it!

We saw that you just recently got back from a wild trip to Mexico, the photos looked insane! Can you tell us the reasons you chose to go there?

Earlier this year, I changed my contract with Flysurfer and switched over from competing to making promotional videos, equipment testing and mainly just taking more trips to promote the brand. When I got an email by the team manager at Flysurfer inviting me to do a video shoot for their latest products in Mexico, I agreed right away.

It was an unforgettable adventure, and I felt right at home there. I love being on the road, meeting new people, cultures and landboarded at some incredible locations. Check out the video I have shared called 'Chapter Dirt'.

Another (almost) crash comes to mind when I think about Mexico. It was during one of our photoshoots; the team was all hyped up, asking me to boost as high as I could. Encouraged by the team, I went for it,

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PHOTO GREGOR JOHN



and I went big! I landed about 2 centimetres from an enormous cactus; I was incredibly lucky that I didn't get hurt, and we got some great shots!

You spend quite a bit of time in El Gouna, Egypt. How do you like the spot over there? Do you mainly kiteboard there, or are there some hidden spots you've discovered for landboarding as well?

I initially went to Egypt to promote Flysurfer, and I fell in love with the spot, and now, it has become a second home to me! Even though I travel back and forth a lot, I always seem to end up there.

PHOTO FLYSURFER EGYPT

“EVEN THOUGH I TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH A LOT, I ALWAYS SEEM TO END UP THERE.”

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"IF I'M NOT KITESURFING, YOU'LL FIND ME IN THE DESERT, LANDBOARDING."

PHOTO GREGOR JOHN

I crave kiteboarding in the crystal clear water among the fishes in the Red Sea, and the beautiful sunsets over the desert are just astounding! If I'm not kitesurfing, you'll find me in the desert, landboarding.

You also have a clothing line called 'NIIOTU', can you tell us about the brand, how the idea came about and the concept behind it?

That's right! NIIOTU is my little creative project. I started NIIOTU back in 2015, and it kicked off from a tiny idea to a booming brand! Step by step we are producing limited amounts of t-shirts, caps, hoodies

and tank tops. I started by screen printing each t-shirt myself, but now I've expanded my production to Egypt, where high-quality NIIOTU products are made.

We produce limited editions, and each product has a specific number. It's interesting to see how many people are wearing NIIOTU products out there!

NIIOTU is my second name, it's a name that originates from Ghana, and it means 'Chief of a Village', which fit perfectly with the slogan which is "be NIIOTU". Check out: www.NIIOTU.de

Living in Germany, if you had a camper van, all

your gear, and was going on an extensive road trip, where would you go and what stops would you make along the way?

Reaching Norway would be my final destination. I would start in Kiel, pass through Flensburg and then hit the Danish islands, like Fanö and Malmö. After that, I would make my way to The Lofoten Islands (Norway) I've attempted this trip before, but unfortunately, I didn't manage to get as far as The Lofoten because of time restrictions. I have recently started foiling so my ultimate goal would be to foil around the Lofoten Islands!

" IT'S INCREDIBLY SATISFYING TO SEE THE HAPPINESS AND EXCITEMENT IN THEIR FACE THE FIRST TIME THEY HANDLE A KITE "

PHOTO MATHIEU VAN DOSELAAR

Do you have any projects in the pipeline for 2019 that you'd like to share with us?

For the past three years, I have been involved with 'Ewig Kite', which is a project that teaches recovering addicts how to kiteboard and this project that is very dear to my heart. It's incredibly satisfying to see the happiness and excitement in their face the first time they handle a kite and to know that you've opened up a whole new world to someone that needs that sort of motivation in their life.

The second project I am working on is the Flysurfer clothing line. They have recently put me in charge of the design and production, so I am very excited about that.

Where can we expect to find you this winter?

For the next couple of weeks, I have some fashion shoots planned around Europe. Christmas and New Years Eve, I'll spend in Germany with my family.

In January, I'll be on a plane to Africa. I'll be heading to Egypt first and then Cape Verde. After that, you'll find me snowkiting in Austria or Switzerland, we will see!

Thank you very much, Emma! It was great meeting you, and we wish you the very best!

The IKSURFMAG website is crammed with news and videos everyday, we only show the best videos, so to make it onto the site is an achievement in itself.

These are the 4 most popular videos that have been viewed on the site as voted for by you with your thumbs up likes in the last 2 months! Check out the full list [HERE](#), and if you see a video you like on the site, give it the thumbs up, it might just help to push it onto this page!

MOVIE NIGHT

#1 MITU & MICHAEL (6 YEARS OLD) FIRST FATHER & SON SESSIONS

Mitu Monteiro takes parent goals to a whole new level! Mitu is an absolute legend on the waves, and his 6-year-old son, Michael, is following in his footsteps. It's not hard to see why these two shredders have made it to our #1 Movie Night choice this issue!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2 ANGELY BOUILLOT KOTA 2019 VIDEO ENTRY

We don't see enough women entering Red Bull's most badass event of the year, King of the Air. So when a rider like Angely Bouillot drops an entry video like this, it goes off the charts! You need to watch this if you haven't already.



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3 JUMPING OVER BIG WAVES KEVVLOG #227

Once again, Kevin Langeree guarantees his spot in our top 4 Movie Night choices! KEVVLOG #227 is INSANE! Watch Kevin Langeree, Lasse Walker and Gijs Wassenaar head to Misty Cliffs, Cape Town in search for some massive ramps. Watch this, and find out how that went down!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4 THE HOVER HANDSTAND

Nailed it! Ken Adgate's shocked us with his jaw-dropping foilboarding techniques in this one! We've seen a lot of talented riders, but this 'Hover Handstand' is the cherry on top! We can't wait to see where Ken Adgate takes it from there...



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HANNAH WHITELEY STYLING THINGS OUT IN THE RED SEA
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

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