

DECEMBER 19/JANUARY 20

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 78 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! It's another amazing issue this time around, absolutely packed with the best stories, photos and videos from around the world. Rou Chater sits down with one of the best kitesurfers on the planet, Keahi de Aboitiz, and talks to him about his upcoming swell

hunting movie. We also take a look at the cost of kitesurfing, is it too expensive, or perhaps too cheap, read on to find out. In a new feature we ask the same questions to different brands, this issue it's Eleveight under the microscope. Plus we have Posito Martinez, Rita Arnaus, Tests, Technique and much more inside!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE



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- THE SWELL HUNTER -

THE COST OF KITEBOARDING / SAME QUESTIONS DIFFERENT BRAND
TECHNIQUE / TESTS / AND MUCH MORE INSIDE

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE



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MEN**

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- 3. JAMES CAREW (DUOTONE)
- 4. JAN MARCOS RIVERAS (DUOTONE)
- 5. PEDRO MATOS (DUOTONE)
- 6. SIMON JOOSTEN (DUOTONE)

WOMEN

- 3. JOHANNA-CATHARINA EDIN (DUOTONE)

**GKA FREESTYLE
MEN**

- 1. VALENTIN RODRIGUEZ (DUOTONE)
- 6. GIANMARIA COCCOLUTO (DUOTONE)

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- 1. MIKAILI SOL (DUOTONE)
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- 6. CLAUDIA LEON (DUOTONE)

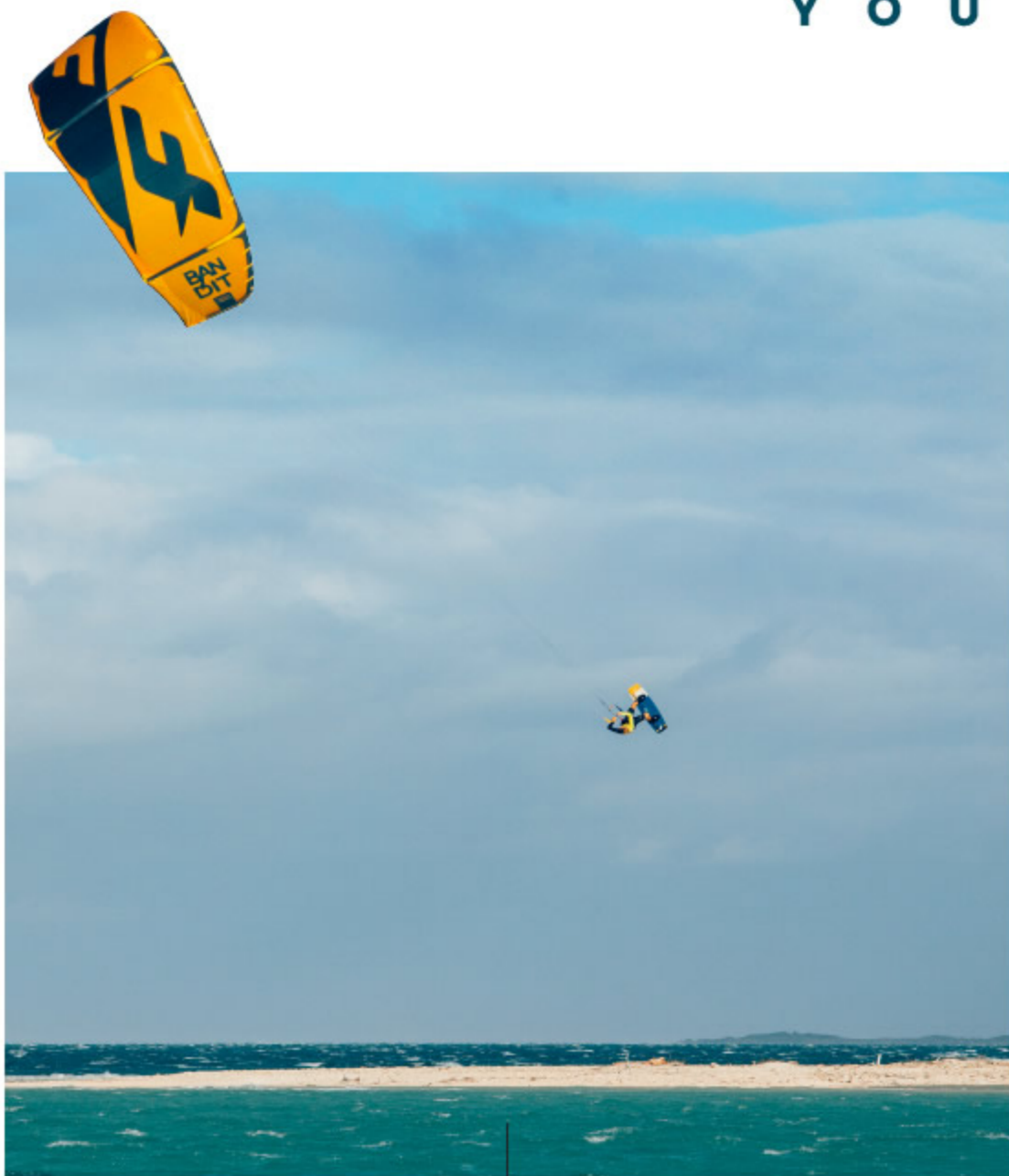
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NEW DESIGN

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13, 15, 17, 19

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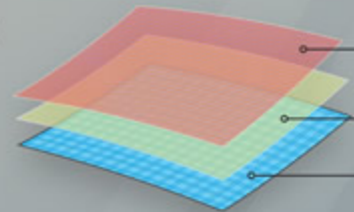
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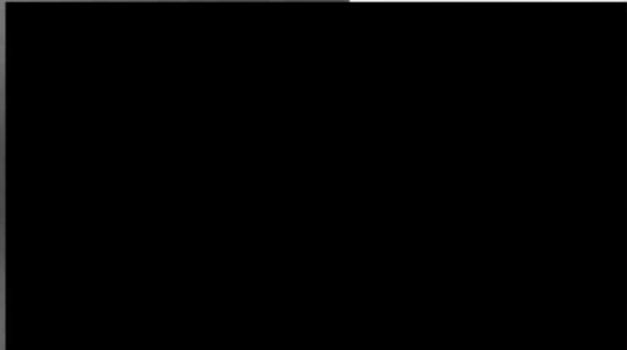
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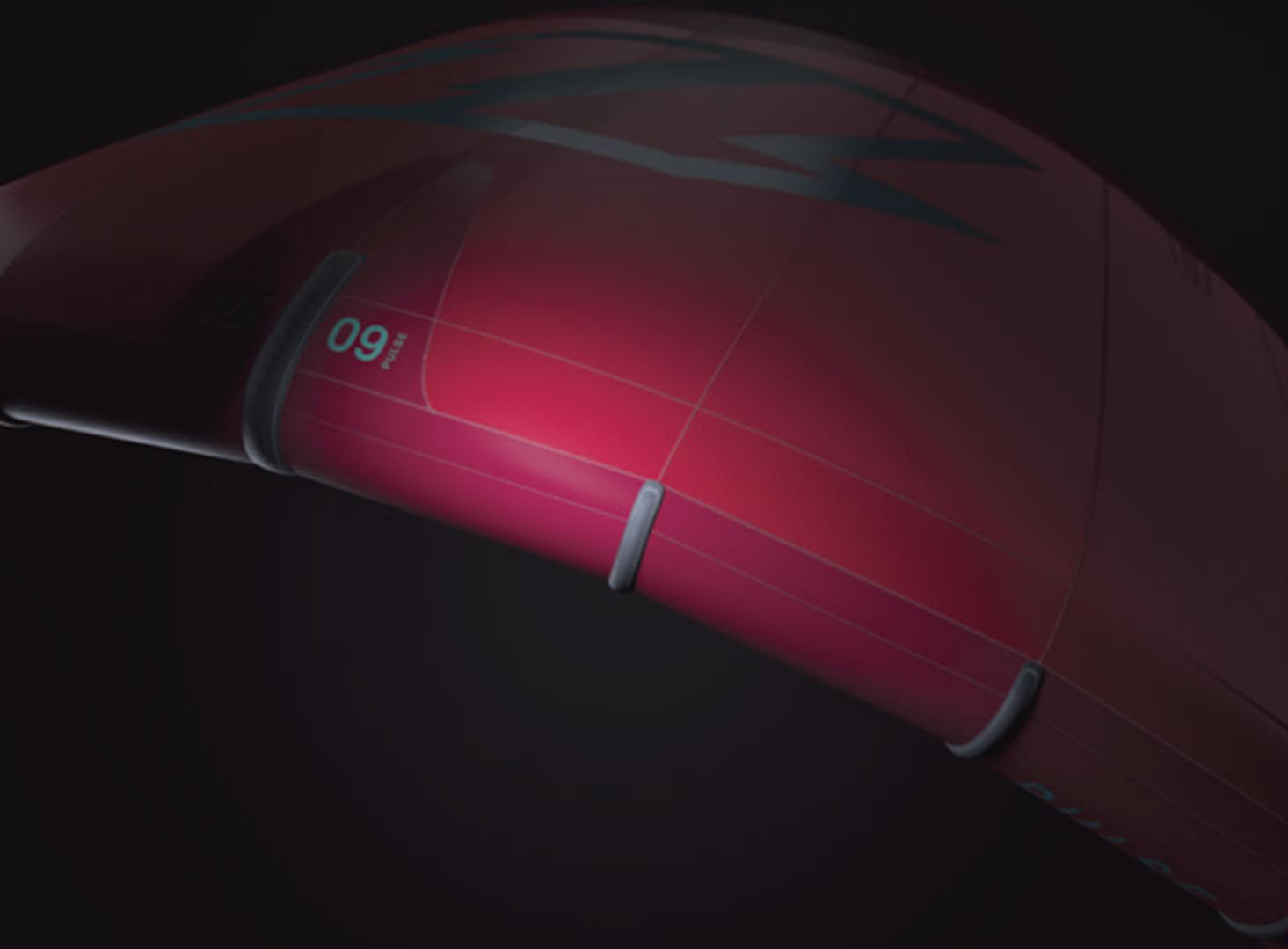


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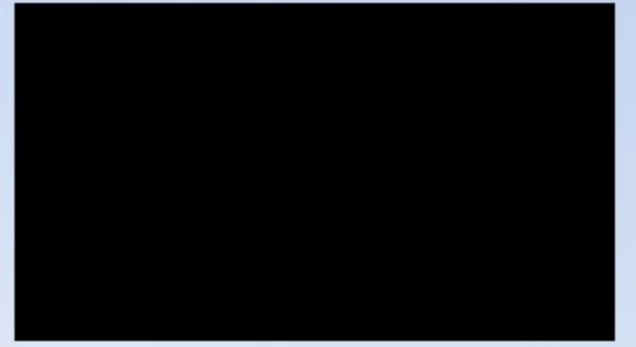
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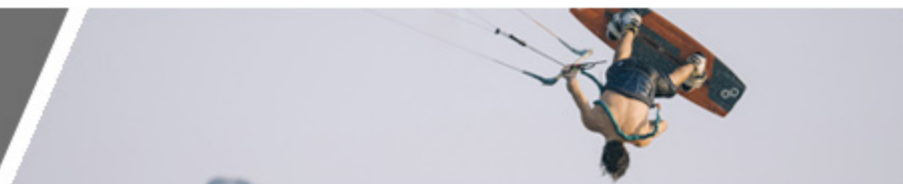
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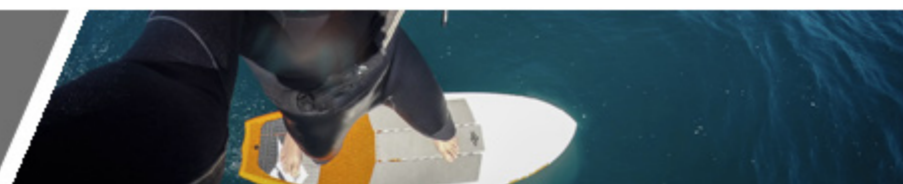
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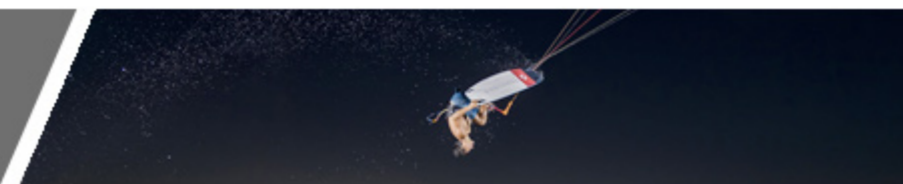
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SAM MEDYSKY STYLING THINGS OUT IN THE BAHAMAS
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This issue we have teamed up with Eleveight to offer one lucky reader a fantastic prize! The Process is their best selling freeride twin tip, designed to provide incredible performance coupled with a smooth ride in all conditions. Built with a paulownia wood core and reinforced with a carbon stringer, the finish is superb.

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ISSUE 78 The Most Fun You Can Have?

I've written a pretty lengthy article this issue about the real cost of kiteboarding, posing the question "is it too expensive, or perhaps too cheap". I won't spoil that one for you by dropping the punch line here, but there is one thing no one can deny, and that's the pure fun of kiteboarding, no matter how or where you ride.

For sure it's great to be on some remote reef with perfect waves and boardshorts on. However, I get equal pleasure from dressing up in 5mm of all over body neoprene and braving freezing temperatures here in the UK. It's fair to say the key ingredients are really just wind and water, wherever they are in abundance you'll be guaranteed a good time.

How lucky we are to be part of this collective known as kiteboarders. Many people want to join us, a recent chat with a school owner revealed that despite record numbers of would-be kitesurfers booking lessons, a mere 25% on average ever make it upwind and take up the sport. That number is echoed in schools around the world, plenty of people give it a go, but a much smaller number actually join us.

Perhaps there is something wrong here. Having that much wastage at the school level can't be good for the future of the sport. Imagine the size of the kiting if 50% of students made it upwind and took it up seriously. Would that be good or bad? We could probably debate that all day.

One thing is for sure; if you're reading this, and you can kite, you're in a very small, select, club, on this planet. You're part of the 0.004% of people on earth who can kitesurf!

Which is pretty impressive, as we're all having the most fun!

Rou Chater
Publishing Editor

KEVIN LANGERÉE KNOWS A THING
OR TWO ABOUT ENJOYING HIMSELF!
PHOTO: FRANKIE BEES

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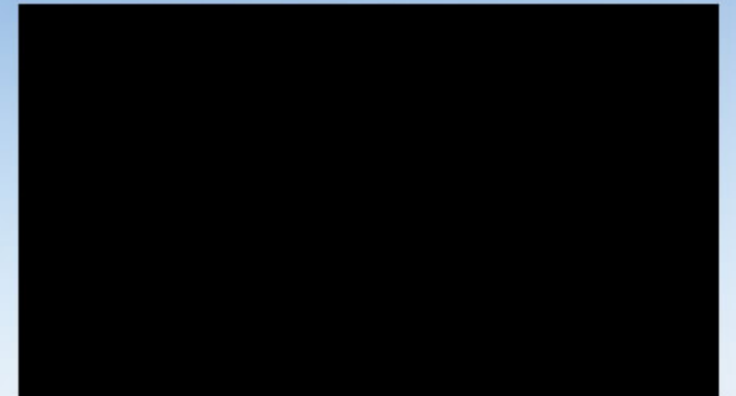
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WORDS ROU CHATER

Rou Chater talks to Keahi de Aboitiz about his new film project, which is going to blow everyone's mind early next year...

KEAHI DE ABOITIZ — THE SWELL CHASER



“ HE’S NOT ONLY A MULTIPLE KITESURFING WORLD CHAMPION, BUT HE’S ALSO A WORLD-CLASS SUP ATHLETE IN THE WAVES ”

There are a handful of kitesurfers I hold in really high esteem, by that I mean riders who I genuinely think are the full package. In a sport where anyone can spend three years riding every day and become a freestyle champion, it takes a little more to get my attention. This accolade usually goes to riders who transcend more than one discipline or change the direction of the sport as we know it. Kiteboarders who can handle a multitude of conditions and craft, and be a master at all of them.

There are probably only a handful or two of them in our sport. Keahi de Aboitiz, for me, is right up there with the best of them. He’s not only a multiple kitesurfing world champion, but he’s also a world-class SUP athlete in the waves, one of the best surf foilers around and he’s been nominated for Wave Of The Winter at Backdoor. Just let that last one sink in a bit, Backdoor is the right at Pipeline, one of the most hardcore waves on the planet. The place where the best of the best in the world of surfing hang out. To even get a wave there is incredible, to get nominated for Wave Of The Winter? Shut the front door.

Keahi has pulled back from the competition scene over the last year or so to concentrate on a full-length movie project. After being treated to an exclusive preview this year, I thought it was high time one of my favourite kitesurfing athletes answered some questions. As ever, Keahi doesn’t disappoint!





GET OUT THERE.

If you're guilty of rescheduling appointments, pushing back meetings, and neglecting to do that much needed yard work all because you're chasing the wind up and down the coast, maybe it's time to get a foil that can keep up no matter the conditions. The Liquid Force Foil line will reward those who continually go the distance to prioritize sessions over schedule.





PHOTO JOHN BILDERBACK

“IT’S BEEN NICE TO BE ABLE TO PUT SOME OF THOSE FUNDS AND ENERGY TOWARDS SOME PASSION PROJECTS I’VE HAD IN MIND FOR A WHILE NOW.”

Hey Keahi, we really enjoyed watching the preview for your upcoming movie when we were in Germany this summer, can you tell us a little bit about how the concept was born and why you stepped back from the GKA and competitive riding?

Stoked you liked it! Basically, it all just came about after spending some time with some surfers on a couple strike mission trips

between events. Don’t get me wrong, I still enjoy the competitions when we have good conditions, but the biggest problem is it’s always a long, expensive mission to get there for potentially sub-par conditions. Since I already have 4 world titles in kitesurfing, one more wouldn’t really mean that much so it’s been nice to be able to put some of those funds and energy towards some passion projects I’ve had in mind for a while now. So far it’s been a dream come true, and I’ve checked some amazing waves off my list

Watching the preview, it seems like you’re not making any plans until a big swell

rears its head somewhere on the planet, and then chasing it down. How difficult is that to do logistically, especially when you are headed to some super remote places?

Generally yes. It’s definitely a little trickier logistically and more stressful, but it’s really the best way to properly score on a trip. Since a lot of these waves don’t actually get good that often sometimes it’s the only option. Luckily I’ve got some good friends and contacts in some of these places, which makes things a little easier in terms of logistics once you’re there. It’s always a bit of scramble trying to line everything up in time, but it is so rewarding when it all comes together.

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“ IT TRULY IS THE BEST FEELING EVER SCORING ONE OF THOSE ONCE A YEAR SESSIONS ”

This year, where was the highlight spot for you?

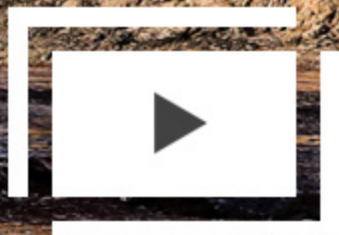
Although I've had a few amazing trips to choose from, I'd have to say Skeleton Bay. This is somewhere that I've had on my bucket list the last few years, and with the events in Europe that time of year, I've just never found the right window to go. To finally score, it was a dream come true!

Big wave surfers have been doing this schedule for a while now, hunting down the good spots when they are on. How liberating is it to surf the best waves at any given moment and not be sat on a beach waiting for a heat to start when it's flat?

It's pretty amazing, but it does come with its ups and downs. It's generally a lot of travelling and jetlag going straight into marathon days, but you forget all about that when it all comes together. It truly is the best feeling ever scoring one of those once a year sessions like that instead then be stuck on a flat beach somewhere.

Do you miss the tour at all and do you think you might ever go back?

I definitely see myself doing select events if I'm in the right place or the conditions line up, places like Cabo Verde are always going to draw me in. I still really like competing if it's firing and I'm pushing it with the guys, but I don't see myself following the whole tour again right now. It's just such a big money and time commitment at the moment if you're not based in Europe. Maybe I'll find that drive again in the future, but I'm really enjoying a different challenge right now.



“IT’S ALWAYS HILARIOUS TO SEE THE LOOKS PEOPLE GIVE AS I’M PRECARIOUSLY WHEELING OUT MY TETRIS STACK ON A TROLLEY.”

You’ve always been a bit of a master of many trades, winning SUP titles and now you’re heavily into foil surfing too, as well as cruising on the e-foil. What’s the excess baggage like, it must be hell getting that toy box around the world?

Haha, its a bit brutal at times but I’ve gotten pretty good at handling it. It generally all depends on what the specific airlines charge, so I’ve gotten pretty good at understanding all their policies. They’re all pretty strict now, so it’s pretty hard to sweet talk your way through or bawl your eyes out unless you’re a girl. I’ll try to limit it to 2 sports at a time, but its always a mission when I’m heading somewhere like Hawaii for the season. I think I had 5 bags to check-in plus my 2 carry-ons this past trip back here. It’s always hilarious to see the looks people give as I’m precariously wheeling out my Tetris stack on a trolley. You’d be amazed at how much you can fit on one of those things!

In the film we saw you riding some pretty light conditions at spots like Cloudbreak, I remember asking you about the kite size you used, and you said a 13m was your biggest. You also have some pretty radical tricks for getting back upwind in less favourable conditions, would you care to share them with us?

Actually, this trip I didn’t have the 13 so was stuck with an 11 in about 12 knots of wind. Sometimes it’s all about going back to basics, and it’s not uncommon to see me body dragging back upwind these days.



PHOTO KEAHI DE ABOITIZ

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“ I ONLY BROKE ONE KITE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, SO I GUESS I’M DOING PRETTY WELL. ”

It sounds crazy, but in side offshore winds it works surprisingly well since you’re basically going upwind when you’re on a wave. Although you’re moving slowly, you can point a little bit higher into the wind, so it usually means getting upwind faster in light conditions. When I see a wave, I work the kite and pump into it, and the apparent wind of the wave does the rest. In bigger waves and side offshore winds, you can really use the energy from a swell to help give you the extra speed to point upwind.

This is why it’s a good idea always to try to stay in the line-up when it gets light cause if you ride too far out to sea you won’t have the swells helping you upwind any more.

How important is your gear when you are on a mission like this, I’d imagine equipment failure in the middle of the Pacific isn’t an easy fix?

It’s pretty crucial, but luckily the Cabrinha kites are solid. Thankfully I’m pretty good about not breaking kites these days and always take a few sizes which you can still make work if you break one. I only broke one kite in the last few years, so I guess I’m doing pretty well. In most situations, unless

unless the kite gets barrellled by an 8 footer, it’s usually alright as long as you’re not holding on to it making tension. The advantage of kiting waves is I can always think about my regular surfboards as a backup to use if I break my kiteboards.

You spend a fair bit of time on the North Shore in Hawaii, you even got nominated for Wave Of The Winter at Backdoor, how did you get so good at riding waves like that coming from Australia, how do you even get a shot at the line-up?

I guess it just comes from that drive to always push myself to get that same feeling of adrenaline by chasing bigger heavier waves. When I first started spending the seasons in Hawaii, I was pretty intimidated, but it grows on you with time, and now I enjoy it.



“THE WAVE IS MOVING SO FAST THAT YOU START TO OUTFRAN YOUR KITE IF YOU’RE NOT CAREFUL WITH YOUR KITE CONTROL.”

I was lucky we grew up surfing good waves at home at Noosa on special swells, so that gave me a pretty good background as well as getting me a little more comfortable surfing in crowds. It is tricky getting a good wave off the pack here, but sometimes you get lucky, or people don’t want the gnarly ones. If you put in your time, show respect and don’t pull back on heavy one, you can definitely gain a little respect over here and get a few some waves. That Wave Of The Winter one is still stuck in my mind with one of the craziest feelings I’ve ever had.

What’s a perfect day like for you on the water?

Basically just sharing perfect barrels with a group of friends. There’s no better feeling. The craft doesn’t matter whether I’m kiting or surfing, but there’s something extraordinary about those pumping days with just your friends.

You scored the mythical Skeleton Bay in Namibia about as good as it gets, it’s a tough trip to line up for a surf, how hard was it to get the wind as well?

Yep, that one has been on my list for years, and it feels incredible to check it off. I actually know a few guys who tried before me and was getting mixed reports about it since it sounded like the wind angle might be a little too onshore. That area does get a fair bit of the wind, but the biggest problem is that the wave is moving so fast that you start to outrun your kite if you’re not careful with your kite control.



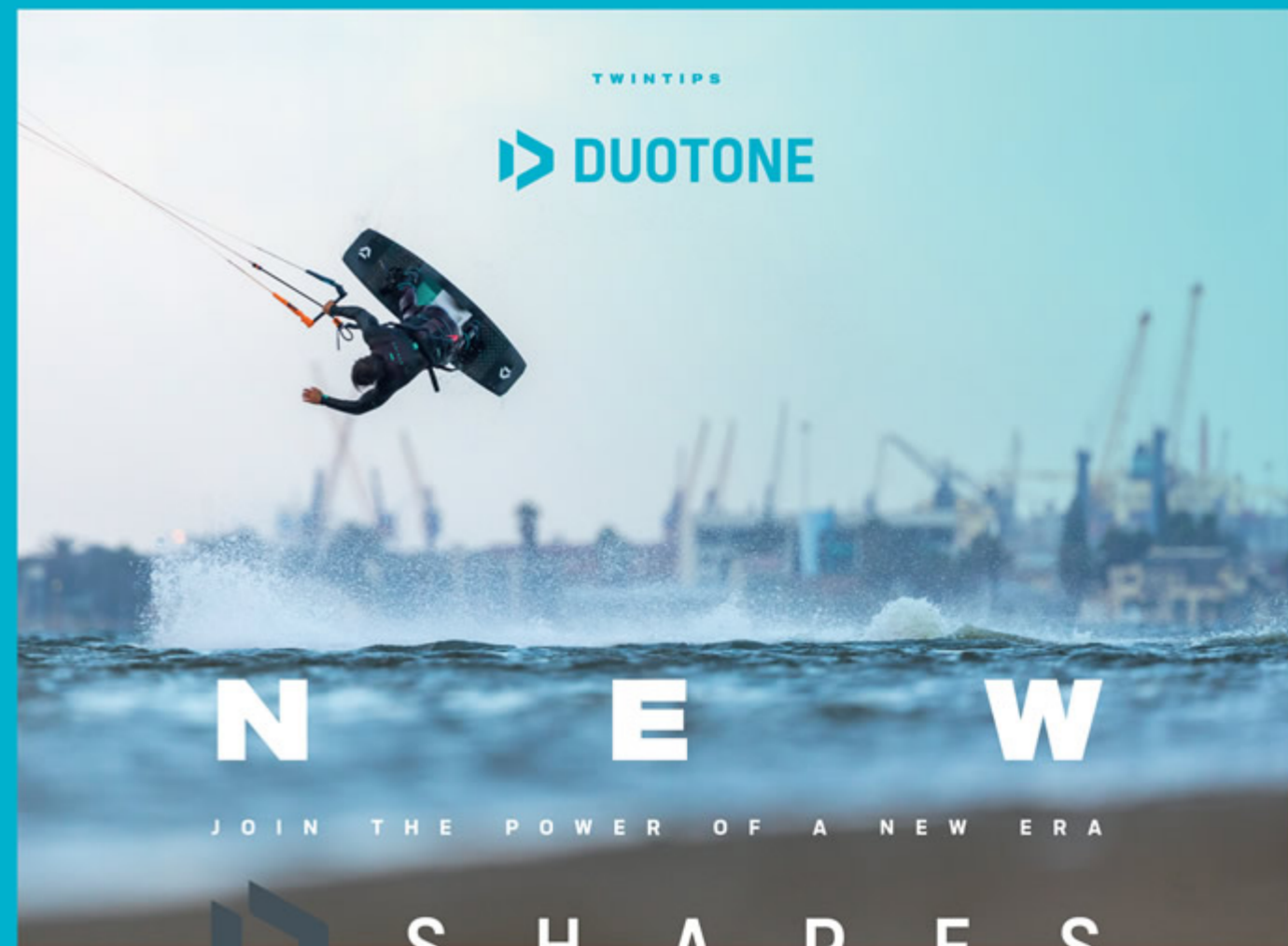
PHOTO STU GIBSON

It was definitely a little tricky on some, but thankfully the Drifter is a drifting machine. It's definitely up there for the best session of my life with two minute long rides and multiple barrels on a wave. That wave truly is incredible!

Did you ever get totally skunked and let down by a forecast during the project?

Almost in Fiji. I remember booking the trip and seeing what looked like the perfect forecast. Multiple swells in a row and wind all week, then the day after I booked it, the wind started vanishing. Because of the area, Cloudbreak is in, it has its own little microclimate, and the weather forecasts fluctuate all the time. Sometimes it's hard to trust the forecast any more than a couple days out. It looked like it was going to turn into a surf trip (which is not terrible), but thankfully the day before the swell, the forecast showed light trades, and we ended up getting lucky with a little wind.

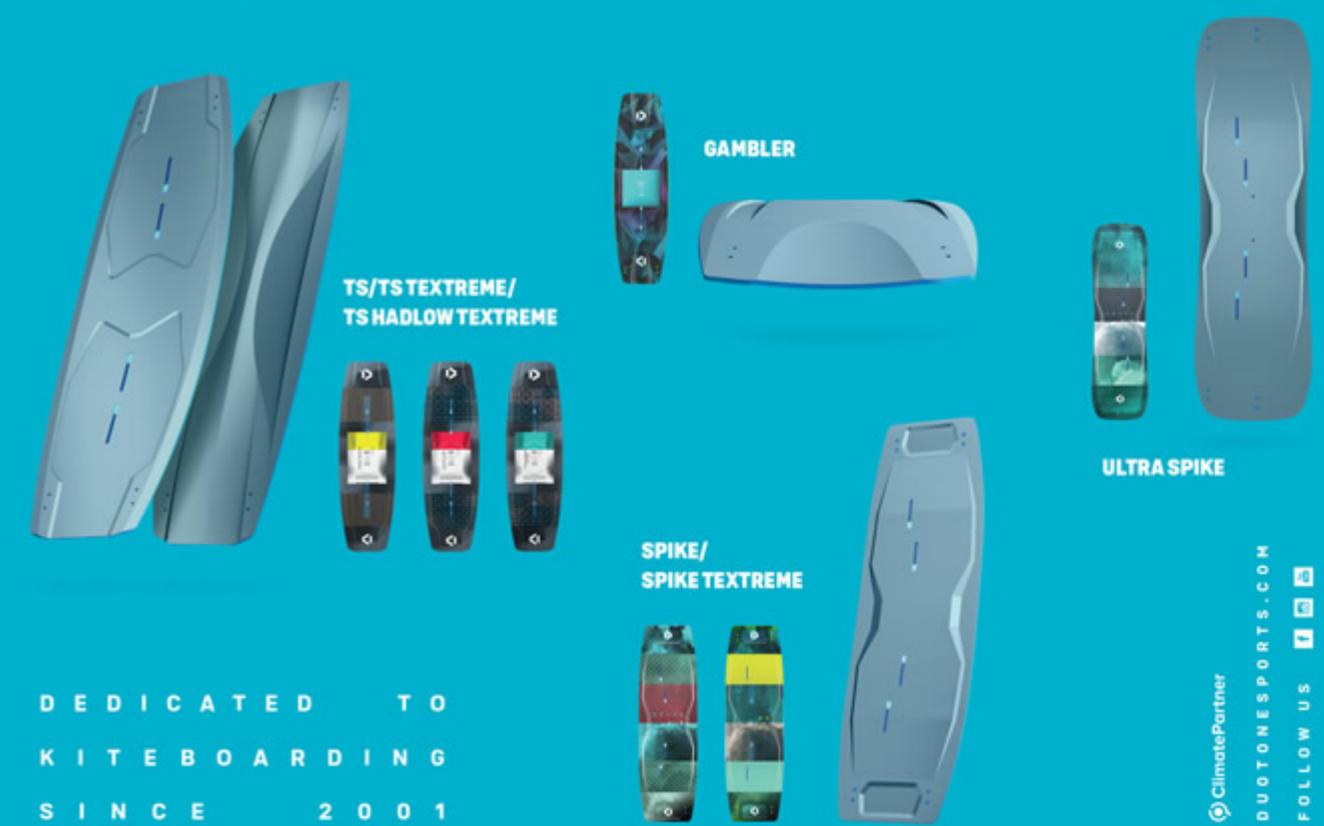
“IT'S DEFINITELY UP THERE FOR THE BEST SESSION OF MY LIFE”



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**“ THANKFULLY THAT ONE PERFECT DAY
WAS ALL WE NEEDED. ”**

PHOTO DAMEA DORSEY

“ IT’S GOING TO BE EPIC TO RELIVE SOME OF THOSE TRIPS, AND I CAN’T WAIT TO SHOW EVERYONE WHAT I’VE BEEN UP TO! ”

It ended up being a light wind session requiring some body dragging but in a way that kinda helped as it kept the waves super clean and beautiful. After that, the rest of the swells got downgraded, and that was kinda it. Thankfully that one perfect day was all we needed.

Who’s been helping you out along the way, are you working with any go-to photographers or videographers?

It’s a bit of a mixed bag. It’s always fun shooting with good friends like John Bilderback in Hawaii, but a lot of the trips have been linking up with some of the photographers there, or getting lucky and finding out that someone might have captured those epic moments. That one barrel shot from the Cyclone Oma swell in Australia was a good example of that and a pleasant surprise when I saw it a couple days later. I’m going to have Anders Kruger put together the movie (he’s the guy who used to make all the epic Cabrinha films); I’m really looking forward to seeing what he can do with the footage. It’s going to be epic to relive some of those trips, and I can’t wait to show everyone what I’ve been up to!

You’ve been working with GoPro a bit more and also Noir Matter and the Quark, what difference have tools made like this to your media production?

Having the ability to shoot things, yourself is a game-changer. Not having to rely on others to film or the costs involved and then also being able to get those unique angles that a fisheye allows for.





“IT’S THE BEST TRIP SAVER EVER SINCE IT TURNS THE MOST AVERAGE WAVES INTO A HELL OF A LOT OF FUN. IT DEFINITELY CAN SAVE A SKUNKING ON A TRIP.”

It’s refreshing to be able to show people my perspective and it’s always fun to watch the sessions back myself. With the introduction of products like the Quark, it’s been fantastic in making line mount footage watchable. It still trips me out some of the angles I can capture with it, and it’s basically like having your own personal photographer shooting fisheye in a barrel.

What’s the one thing you can’t leave home without?

I’d have to say a surf foil. I left it behind on one trip this year, and it was one of the hardest decisions I’ve had to make haha. It’s the best trip saver ever since it turns the most average waves into a hell of a lot of fun. It definitely can save a skunking on a trip.

What’s the most useful tip you can give to someone thinking of chasing the swell rather than planning a trip?

Do your homework, so you’re ready when the time comes along.

How long before we get to see the full movie? Is it finished yet?

Most likely going to be the beginning of 2020. I’ve still got one more mission on the list that I’m hoping I can check off before the end of the year then we’ll get it going. Looking forward to showing everyone what I’ve been up to!

Cheers Keahi, thanks for taking the time!



PIVOT SIZES 5-12, 14 | FREERIDE/WAVE

When we designed the Pivot we wanted a kite that could take riders to the next level and the results speak for themselves. It's the kite that Kevin Langeree has won the Red Bull King of the Air twice with and continues to break the limits for all riding styles worldwide. Simply put, the Pivot is one of the best high-performance freeride kites in the world. Packed with tech and using Quad-Tex, the strongest canopy material available, the Pivot offers performance on demand for kiterers of all riding styles.



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**1 POINT
INFLATION**

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**SURE
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**SHARK
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HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO KITESURF?

WORDS ROU CHATER

Rou Chater looks at the costs of becoming a kitesurfer, and how they have increased year on year for new gear, yet seemingly decreased for second-hand products. Is kitesurfing too expensive as many people think, or is it in fact too cheap? Read on to find out...





“ FORTUNATELY, THE WIND IS FREE, SO FOR THAT INVESTMENT, YOU CAN KITE AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE FOR THE NEXT 2-3 YEARS WITHOUT HAVING TO SPEND A PENNY. ”

First up let's get one thing out of the way, kitesurfing isn't a cheap sport. Imagine for an instance that you want to be a kitesurfer, hopefully, the first path you take is getting some proper lessons from a qualified instructor. That's going to set you back between £250 - £350 for a three-day course. You can swap the GBP sign for dollars, or Euros, the numbers globally are mostly the same, just in different currencies. Feel free to do that throughout the article.

A three-day course is widely accepted as being the very minimum you need to become self-sufficient, for argument's sake your instructor says you need an extra day on top of that to feel confident enough to get some gear and head to the beach on your own. Before you've bought a single piece of equipment your into the sport for £350 - £450. Technically you are now a kitesurfer, but you have nothing to kitesurf with...

You're going to need at least two kites, a board, a wetsuit and harness. Getting a package deal on new gear from a reputable dealer is going to set you back between £2500 and £3000. I've based that on a

package deal of a 9m kite, bar and board from a premium brand with an extra 12m for light winds added to the basket.

Add another £300 for a basic winter wetsuit and a half-decent harness, after all that is one of the most essential bits of kit in the whole set up. A quick tally at an average of all those prices comes to £400 on lessons, £3000 on gear, at a very rough investment of £3400 you are now a fully-fledged kitesurfer with a tasty new quiver of beginners gear ready to rock as soon as the wind blows.

Fortunately, the wind is free, so for that investment, you can kite as much as you like for the next 2-3 years without having to spend a penny. (We're ignoring the cost of fuel, parking and holidays for the moment)

“ OUR NOVICE RIDER IS GETTING GOOD, SO HE DECIDES TO ADD ANOTHER KITE TO HIS QUIVER OF TWO, GETTING A SMALLER KITE FOR STRONGER WINDS. ”

Kitesurfing gear is pretty durable and these days should last at least 2-3 seasons and still have some resale value too. As we all know though, the correct number of kites and boards you should own is $N+1$, where N is the number of kites and boards you own, and you can always have more.

Imagine our novice rider is getting good, so he decides to add another kite to his quiver of two, getting a smaller kite for stronger winds. A brand new 7m from a premium brand sets him back a further £1200, he's savvy now and asked for a discount. However, summer rolls around, and the wind disappears, but our new rider still wants to kite, he looks at surfboards, hydrofoils, yet decides, sensibly, that a bigger kite is what he needs to work on his twin tip skills.

A new 15m kite from a premium brand costs him £1600, he's got all the gear needed to cover a wind range of 10 mph to 35 mph, and he's a happy little kitesurfer, so much, so he's busy telling all his friends they should get into it too. He's rocking out some backrolls at the local beach, making new friends and feeling lots of love for the sport.

I am sure a few of you reading this will be scoffing, what about buying second hand! Currently, Dave, let's call him that it will just make things easier, is £6200 into a new sport he loves. He's getting fitter, getting better and enjoying the sport we are so passionate about.



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RIDER VALENTIN RODRIGUEZ
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



“ HE'S JUST AS STOKED AS DAVE AFTER ALL THE WIND IS FREE AND HIS GEAR IS JUST A COUPLE OF YEARS OLD AND WORKS REALLY WELL. ”

Dave's friend Mike decides he likes this look on his mate's face and he wants to go to the beach and take up this great sport too. Mike gets some lessons, and decides second hand is the way he is going go when it comes to buying gear. He can't get second-hand lessons, but he can get second-hand equipment. He picks up a second-hand wetsuit for £80, the owner has promised him it's never been pissed in, but he isn't so sure. A harness for £80 is procured from eBay and seems to fit OK. Now he just needs a couple of kites, a bar and a board to get started.

Mike spends ages looking on Kitebay on Facebook and eBay too, he picks up a 9m kite with a bar for £350 it's immaculate and only two years old. He gets a board for £200 and then spots another kite, which is the same brand as the one he has, so will work perfectly with the bar he has. It's only £250, what a steal, he buys it and is all set up to ride.

In total, at this stage, Mike has spent £1360 on lessons and gear. He starts going down the beach with Dave and getting on the water every chance he gets. He's just as stoked as Dave after all the wind is free and his gear is just a couple of years old and works really well.

As Mike gets better, Dave tells him he needs more kites, because, N+1 of course! He is missing out on the light wind sessions Dave enjoys with his 15, and the strong wind ones where Dave pulls out his 7m. Mike hunts the second-hand market and picks up a couple of extra kites. He pays £450 for an older 15m kite,

“ ARGUABLY HE WILL NEED TO CHANGE HIS GEAR SOONER, AS IT'S ALREADY GOT SOME MILES ON IT ”

it's three years old, has a couple of tiny pinhole repairs, but it works great. His 7m he gets a bargain for £300 on a kite that is just a year old and in good condition with no repairs.

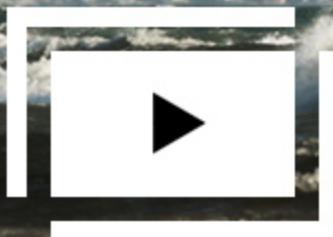
In total Mike has spent £2110 to become a kitesurfer and now has all the gear he needs for a couple of years riding and a similar set up to Dave. Arguably he will need to change his gear sooner, as it's already got some miles on it, but for argument's sake, he looks after it, and it last him 3 years just like Dave's.

After 3 years both Dave and Mike are getting pretty good at the beach, and they decide it's time to sell their gear and get new kites and boards, they are pros now after all! Dave sticks his equipment on eBay and gets roughly £2110 for it, basically what Mike paid. If you are following this, you'll notice I kept the date ranges similar to make it easier on the maths.

Mike sells his gear and gets guess what gets not far off what he paid for it. He's looked after his kites, and they are in good condition. He holds out and gets just £50 less on each item. Crikey, I feel like a school teacher doing a maths problem at this stage, this isn't really where I wanted to go, but bear with me...

Mike gets £1300 selling his four kites and board, his piss-ridden wetsuit gets recycled (thank goodness, that thing was stinking) and he gave his harness to a kid at the beach for free.

To start kitesurfing, Dave spent £6200, including lessons. When he sold his gear three years later,





“ DEPENDING ON WHAT YOU BUY, OVER THREE YEARS YOU CAN EXPECT TO PAY BETWEEN £250 AND £1500 A YEAR TO ENJOY A "PREMIUM" SPORT ”

he got £2110 for it. His three years kitesurfing cost him £4090 or £1363 per year.

Mike, on the other hand, spent £2110 to start kitesurfing, including lessons. When he sold his gear three years later, he got £1300 for it. His three years kitesurfing cost him £810, or £270 per year.

If you haven't worked it out by now, Dave is a banker, and Mike flips burgers for

minimum wage, but it's OK as they are both kitesurfers, and that is cool.

The average cost of a gym membership is around £500 per year. Obviously, there are cheaper and more expensive gyms, but I'm trying to keep things simple. Anyway, kitesurfing is way more fun than the gym. A mountain bike will cost between £700 and £6000+ depending on what bike you buy, you don't need lessons, and it's free to use like kitesurfing (I'm being very liberal with fuel and parking charges).

John doesn't like the sea, so he buys a mountain bike instead. He's not a banker,

but he's not flipping burgers either, he earns an average wage, and he gets an averagely priced mountain bike. It costs him £3000, he spends a further £400 on helmets, shoes, pads and clothes. He's £3400 in and rides his bike for three years and sells it for £1200. It's cost him £2200 to ride his bike for three years or £733 a year.

We could run the sums on any number of fun sports, all with similar outcomes, motocross, paragliding, windsurfing, wingsurfing, SUP. They all fall into the premium sports category, where you have to pay a considerable entry fee to play, or you go the second-hand route. Depending on what you buy, over three years you can expect to pay between £250 and £1500 a year to enjoy a "premium" sport.



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It creates a natural, second-skin fit that makes the MANERA wetsuits stand out.

DISCOVER THE RANGE



RIDER JONAS LENGWILER
PHOTO RONNY BOLLHALDER



“ THESE ARE WHAT I CLASS AS "LOW BARRIER TO ENTRY" SPORTS, BOTH IN TERMS OF COST AND ACCESSIBILITY, YOU CAN SKATE ANYWHERE ”

Non-premium sports, surfing, skateboarding etc. all involve a minimal outlay for entry. Arguably this contributes to their success. A surfboard isn't an overly expensive item, and a skateboard is even less to purchase. There isn't a lot that goes into these products aside from raw materials and the knowledge of the shaper (invaluable by the way). With the advantage of economies of scale, you can drive down the price too.

400,000 surfboards are sold each year, in what is a 4 billion dollar industry. Although there are an estimated 35 million surfers worldwide, which goes to show how few boards they buy! Regardless of what surfers spend the sport is enormous. Skateboarding is a 4.8 billion dollar industry in North America alone, and there are an estimated 11 million skateboarders worldwide.

These are what I class as "low barrier to entry" sports, both in terms of cost and accessibility, you can skate anywhere (as long as it isn't banned). Just running the numbers, it is easy to see why skating and surfing flourish so much, and these are still niche sports. To give you an idea of the numbers involved the global sports market as a whole was worth \$471 billion in 2018. Skateboarding and surfing, arguably the two biggest action sports make up just over 8 billion of that market, a tiny fraction, only 1.7%.

Kiteboarding is what I would class as a high barrier to entry sport. Firstly you have to have access to wind and water, two things we all know don't often go together.

“ THE BIGGEST KITESURFING MARKET IS GERMANY, WITH AROUND 40,000 ACTIVE KITERS, KITING IN THE US IS SMALLER THAN MANY THINK. ”

Then you have to have access to lessons and the disposable income to buy equipment. Not to mention a will to risk life and limb and take up what is essentially a sport that can potentially kill you.

In 2017 the total kite market sold around 150,000 kites. Let's consider that Dave bought 4 of those kites, as that's when he got into the sport. The average quiver size is 2, so you could reason there were just 75,000 customers for new gear worldwide. That's not a massive number by any standards; in fact, it is a terrifyingly small figure.

The number of active kitesurfers is a wildly overestimated one, in my opinion. Figures like 1.5 million are cited on the Internet but have no real source. If you look at the numbers of kitesurfers in each country, it really doesn't add up. It might surprise you to know the biggest kitesurfing market is Germany, with around 40,000 active kitesurfers, kiting in the US is smaller than many think.

Running some generous maths I came up with around 285,000 kitesurfers worldwide, looking at the countries with big markets and adding them up, it's not a huge number at all. Even if we doubled that estimate, it's a tiny number compared to surfing and skateboarding. I could arguably write a whole other article about this, but let's get back to the cost of kiteboarding for a moment.

With a high barrier to entry, the number of participants will always be comparatively low, we aren't talking about £150 on a skateboard and helmet and pads here, we're talking serious time, money and location investments to gain access to kiteboarding.

RIDER KAROLINA WINKOWSKA
PHOTO ALEXANDER LEWIS HUGHES





Andalucía, WHERE ELSE?

Tell me what you really like. Waves? Flatwater? Kitefoiling? Sun? Nightlife? Fun? Andalusia has it all. Let me show you how flipping Cool is kiteboarding in southern Europe, and give you 7 reasons to go kitesurfing in Andalusia...

Live, Feel & Enjoy Andalusia. Join our Tribu Kite.

High Fun & Performance

All Riderstyles

+100 Spots

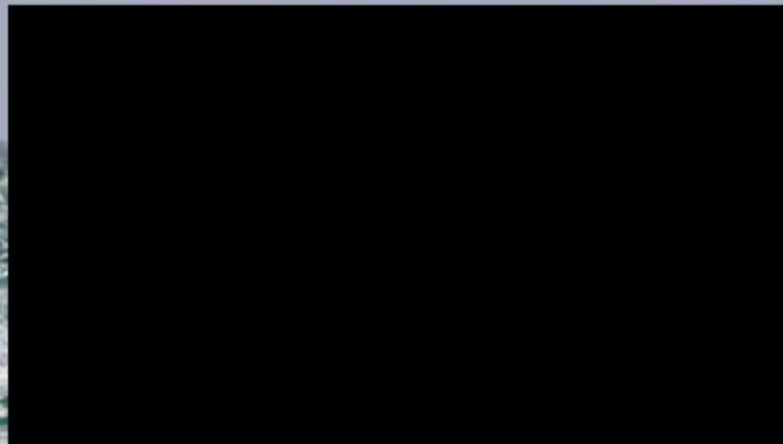
Open All Year / All Wind Conditions

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Freedom, Music & Friendship

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Go kitesurfing in Winter in Andalusia



Spot: Caños de Meca / Rider: Rubén Cano / Photo: José Vilca



RIDER MATCHU LOPES
PHOTO ANDREA MAGARAO



" I REGULARLY SPEAK TO BRAND MANAGERS WHO CAN'T SELL EQUIPMENT FOR WHAT THEY PAID FOR IT AT THE END OF THE SEASON. "

This drastically reduces the potential number of people even able to do the sport, let alone the actual number doing it.

Despite those low numbers in total sales for the brands, Mike can access this fantastic sport for three years at a cost considerably less than a gym membership, and poor Dave gets to kite for almost five times that amount. Neither of them mind, because they love to kitesurf. Yet all we hear on social media is that kitesurfing is too expensive...

I'd counter with this, it's not the cost of new gear that is the problem; it's the low cost of second-hand equipment. Before I price Mike out of the sport, hear me out. Dave buys his gear and even if he sells it a year later he will struggle to get even 40-50% of what he paid for it. I regularly speak to brand managers who can't sell equipment for what they paid for it at the end of the season.

There is something seriously wrong when the rep for a brand can't sell a kite second hand and cover his or her costs at the initial purchase. It is **EVEN** worse for the average guy like Dave buying new gear and watching it shed it's value faster than Tesla share's when Elon's been smoking.

I can't think of another sport where you lose so much money from the purchase price to the second-hand price. Why is that? Brands selling at 50% retail as a business model doesn't help, it instantly means anyone who paid 100% retail can't get 50% second hand as the price will be the same as a new kite mid-way through the season. That's just ridiculous.



“ THE REASON KITE PRICES ARE SO HIGH IS THE MARKET IS SO SMALL; THERE JUST ISN'T THE VOLUME OF SALES TO ALLOW ECONOMIES OF SCALE TO BE PASSED ON. ”

An eagerness by sponsored and assisted riders to see gear at any price is another low driver. Both of these factors combine to drive the second-hand value lower, which in the end just hurts Dave in the pocket. It's great for newcomers to the sport buying second hand, but is it sustainable?

Surely if second-hand gear held its value, it wouldn't be as "expensive" for Dave to kitesurf for three years. He'll still have the initial outlay, but he will recoup more of his investment when he sells. Mike might pay a little more, but even if it cost him twice as much per year to kite that's still less than most gym memberships.

The reason kite prices are so high is the market is so small; there just isn't the volume of sales to allow economies of scale to be passed on. You have the premium brands, investing in R&D, materials, staff, factories, riders etc. Then there are the mid-range brands, investing less but selling less. Finally, the low-cost brands, running small teams and selling kites at a lower price.

These smaller brands can make the larger brands pricing seem crazy, but I do believe you get what you pay for in terms of build quality and after-sales service. At least you should do. The fact there is this choice is excellent, not all running shoes cost the same after all, and why should they.

[CLICK OR TAP TEXT TO READ MORE](#)

RIDER GIANMARIA COCCOLUTO
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



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Get toasty with the newest leader of the pack, The VOLTT. The comfiest and warmest wetsuit we've ever made. Our goal was to create a suit that looks great, but feels even better. That's why we upgraded the VOLTT using 3 different thicknesses instead of 2. The days of using the cold as an excuse are over. You'll never freeze your balls off with the VOLTT.

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**SAME
QUESTIONS
DIFFERENT
BRAND!**

ELEVEIGHT!

WORDS ROU CHATER PHOTO SAM CARDENAS

In a new feature we put together a bunch of questions which we carefully worked out would work for everyone, brand names changed of course. The focus is to look at what drives a brand and how you as a rider can or perhaps can't relate to them. First up is Robert Bratz from Eleveight!



“ WE WANTED TO DEVELOP A BRAND, WHICH REFLECTED KITEBOARDING IN THE WAY WE SEE AND LIVE IT. ”

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELEVEIGHT

WHAT IS YOUR CORE FOCUS AS A BRAND, AND WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES YOU DIFFERENT?

At Eleveight, we focus on pure perfection in everything we do. That holds true to our product range with 100% focus on product performance, quality, functionality and innovation. We love the sport, and innovative product design makes all the difference.

Additionally, we also focus on constant communication with all our partners and customers. We believe it is essential to listen to the market and implement their needs into our development process and all other customer services.

When we founded Eleveight, we wanted to develop a brand, which reflected kiteboarding in the way we see and live it. Our slogan "Our Passion is Yours" is a reflection of our vision and values.





WHO MAKES UP THE MAIN TEAM BEHIND THE PRODUCTS AND WHAT EXPERIENCE DO THEY HAVE?

Peter Stiewe, one of the founders and product manager, is the mastermind behind all our product developments. Peter has been in the industry for nearly 20 years and has in-depth knowledge of product design and the related production process. He also created a small and efficient development team with different experiences and diverse knowledge.

“ PETER HAS BEEN IN THE INDUSTRY FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS AND HAS IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF PRODUCT DESIGN ”





“ A NEW PRODUCT DESIGN NEEDS MORE TESTING AND MORE SAMPLE ROUNDS THAT ALSO REQUIRES MORE DEVELOPMENT TIME.”

Our directional board designer, Franz Schitzhofer, is an institution in the kiteboarding world and our backbone for all our twin tip developments.

HOW MUCH TESTING AND PRODUCT

DEVELOPMENT GOES INTO MAKING A FINAL PRODUCT?

That depends on the product category. For a new product, we take our time to make sure that all the bits and pieces are right. For example, our new OS one strut kite had a development circle that took over two years. A new product design needs more testing and more sample rounds that also requires more development time. We want to make things

as perfect as possible, that means we release a new product when we feel it will satisfy our performance criteria 100%.

In general, all our products are heavily tested in different conditions and locations around the world. Sample production and related testing is fun, but a time-consuming part for our development team. Each kite size or board model is tested and refined 2 or 3 times. For example, for our kite range, we produce over 70 prototypes yearly.



WHICH PRODUCT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LINE AND WHY?

Overall, we are proud of our whole Eleveight range. Each product reflects a vision and the aim to satisfy a particular target group. In our 2020 range, we increased our product portfolio in each segment. That was, for a small team like us, a massive amount of work but in the end, highly rewarding.

“ EACH PRODUCT REFLECTS A VISION AND THE AIM TO SATISFY A PARTICULAR TARGET GROUP. ”

LIGHT AS NEVER
SUPPORT AS EVER

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LIGHTEST HARDSHELL HARNESS ON THE MARKET
NOW 400 GRAMS LIGHTER

#400GRAMSTOGAIN



“ THE RESULT AND RELATED SUCCESS OF THIS PRODUCT MADE US PROUD AND SHOWED US HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO LISTEN TO OUR PARTNERS.”



We are very proud of our cooperation with the kite schools and the development of our school kite. The PS is specifically designed to meet the demands of schools, and the development process was slightly different. The result and related success of this product made us proud and showed us how important it is to listen to our partners.

WHAT'S THE HARDEST PART OF RUNNING YOUR BRAND?

To handle the fast growth of Eleveight was not always easy and gave us some challenging tasks, but we do what we love, and we do it with passion and dedication. We work as an experienced team together, and that helps a lot to overcome most challenges.

WHAT'S THE MOST REWARDING?

The most rewarding part is all the trust and positive response from partners and customers. It is a great feeling to see that our shared vision and values have met the demand of the market. When we started in 2017, we jumped into the cold water as newcomers. Now two years later, we are one of the top 8 kite brands in the world with strongly perceived branding.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELEVEIGHT



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE FOR ELEVEIGHT, WHAT INNOVATIONS, DIFFERENT AREAS AND NEW PRODUCTS ARE IN THE PIPELINE?

Eleveight will further increase the product portfolio in all categories of our sport. We've got some good ideas, and we're turning them into reality; including kites, foils, foil wings, accessories and other items. We can't share too much information just yet, but development is in full swing!

78 SAME QUESTIONS DIFFERENT BRAND!

“ WE’VE GOT SOME GOOD IDEAS, AND WE’RE TURNING THEM INTO REALITY ”



FREESTYLE SURFBOARD

Sizes:
4'11 x 17 1/2 x 2 = 20 Ltr
5'1 x 17 5/8 x 2 1/16 = 21.5 Ltr
5'4 x 18 1/2 x 2 3/16 = 25.5 Ltr



Rider: Rafael da Costa Souza
Picture: Team Eleveight
Location: quebra mar paracuru, Brasil



Eleveight



The Curl and Escape Pro are hand shaped in Portugal using our innovative CFT construction. It delivers the distinctive surf feel and buoyancy of a true surfboard. We optimized the construction for kite-powered riding.

Peter Stiewe



CURL PERFORMANCE SURFBOARD

Sizes:
5'7 x 17 5/8 x 2 = 23 Ltr
5'10 x 19 x 2 1/4 = 26.5 Ltr

Rider: Kellton Almeida
Picture: Gabriela Rumbold
Location: Ponta Preta, Cape Verde

“ WE BELIEVE IN HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE. ELEVEIGHT IS A SELF-FUNDED BRAND WITH STRONG CORE VALUES IN WATER SPORT ”

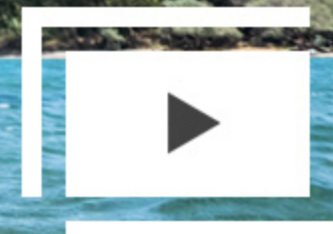
PHOTO SAM CARDENAS

CAN YOU DESCRIBE WHO THE TYPICAL ELEVEIGHT RIDER MIGHT BE? - BY THIS, I MEAN THE GUY WHO BUYS YOUR GEAR, WHO ARE YOU PITCHING YOURSELVES TO, NOT THE PRO RIDERS.

It's hard to label an Eleveight rider within a specific segment, as our range is quite diverse. I think if someone is choosing our brand, then he wants a product, which is performance-driven, and good quality. We try to make sure that these values are reflected in our product design and all our communication strategies.

WHY SHOULD SOMEONE CHOOSE YOU OVER ANOTHER BRAND IN THE SHOP?

In marketing terms, we build the finest performance kites in the market! Above that, we believe in high-quality products and customer service. Eleveight is a self-funded brand with strong core values in water sport. We are kitesurfers, and we want to create products which are state of the art.



“ WE WANT OUR CUSTOMERS TO TRUST US AND GET THE BEST SERVICE AS POSSIBLE. ”

We are a transparent brand, which is approachable on all levels, and we want our customers to trust us and get the best service as possible.

WHAT PHRASE BEST SUMS UP THE BRAND?

Our passion is yours.

THANKS ROBERT FOR TAKING THE TIME TO CHAT TO US.

RIDER: GIJS WASSENAAR
PHOTO: CRAIG KOLESKY

AIRUSH KITEBOARDING

LIGHT YEARS AHEAD

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ULTRA

The Ultra has proven to be unbeatable for lightwind freeride performance, foiling, and wave riding alike. The exclusive Airush Load Frame, segmentation reduction through the canopy, and lightweight single strut geometry all contribute to increased durability and responsiveness.

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 12 14 17m

 **AIRUSH**
KITEBOARDING

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KARINE AND CHRISTIAN



HELARDE

Happily sponsored by North & Mystic, ambassadors for SurfEars

TECHNIQUE

WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE

Before we divulge what's instore this issue, we'd like to welcome Heliarde back to the hallowed pages of IKSURFMAG. He is a joy to watch and a genuine source of inspiration. He makes everything look way too easy and far too much fun, bem-vindo:) We get underway with some extra horsepower, adding a downloop to your twin tiptoe to heel carve, guaranteeing good exit speed. Then it's time for some strapless surfboard shenanigans with the carving upwind 360 — definitely, one to nail and a good precursor for the foil. Finishing off, we'll be putting more than a bit of icing on your cake, as it's time for the one-footed darkslide. Looks proper impressive and dresses up a favourite nicely. Enjoy! C&K and Heliarde.

For upcoming 2020 CKPerformance clinic dates please visit - <http://www.ckperformanceclinics.co.uk>
www.facebook.com/CKperformanceKitesurfClinics
<https://twitter.com/CKPkiteclinics>
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TOE TO HEEL CARVE WITH DOWNLOOP



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

STRAPLESS CARVING UPWIND 360



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

ONE FOOT DARK SLIDE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

TOE TO HEEL CARVE WITH DOWNLOOP >

Kite - North Carve 7m

Board - North Atmos Hybrid 133

Last issue, we took you through the heel to toe carve with a downloop, or as we prefer to call it, an under turn. Well, it's time to meet the rest of the family! May we introduce you to the toe to heel carve with the very same downloop. If by chance you didn't read the previous instalment, rest assured that this is a beautifully achievable move. It is made considerably easier if you're already versed in the art of a standard slide turn transition with said downloop, but even if you aren't, as long as you don't have too much power and plenty of space, who's to stop you?

Before we continue with the crucial moments of this move, it's worth giving a thought to what you'll be trying to do. The plan is to come rocking in on your toes with the kite high, flatten the board off, so that you're not resisting, and then steer the kite quickly down (downloop), under (under turn) and back up the other way by pulling on your front hand and pushing on your back hand whilst you carve around onto your heels. The pleasure of this is the pull that you'll get as you carve around, giving you the possibility to exit your turn with speed and the wind in your hair.

The Approach Pic A

Your preparation is fairly straight forward. A good toeside edge, with weight on both feet, so you have some speed, which will enable you to carve through the first half of the turn. This means hips and chest



facing forwards and both knees pointing forwards. Sweet spot needs to be trimmed close enough that you can comfortably reach the bar with both hands, and as such, you won't stall the kite when the time comes to whip it around. Potentially the main difference here if you're an avid toe sider, is that you'll want your hands slightly spread apart on the bar to get some leverage and have the best chance of turning the kite with some urgency. With a decent toeside and controllable kite, you can then drift the kite up in the window, to either 11:30 or 12:30 depending which way you are going. A final note on your checklist, make sure you know which hand is the pulling (front) hand and which is the pushing (back) hand. If you look at Karine, you can see she's in a lovely toe side stance, she's trimmed, old money depowered, the bar in, she knows her right hand is her front hand, and she's slowly drifting the kite up in the window.



Easing Off Pic B

Once your kite is high, it's a green light to get things underway. First job is to flatten your board off. You'll likely find that the mere action of drifting the kite up will lift you off your edge, and bingo, flatten the board. Don't fight this as the objective is to stand up over the board and lose resistance. With less resistance, you're considerably less likely to get too much power from the kite. However, don't confuse flattening off, with charging off downwind. If you go chasing your kite, you will lose tension, but you'll gain loads of slack, and you'll have little chance of getting your kite to turn. Karine is standing up over the board, still facing forwards, weight flat on her feet and kite high.

Push the Button Pic C

And pull the trigger! Once the board is flat, it's all systems go and most definitely full steam ahead.

You can't dawdle about, the longer you wait, the more you'll slow down and the harder the carve will be. The idea here is to get the kite moving into the under turn and start the board carving. To position yourself for both, drop your weight back over your rear foot. This will put you over the curvy tail of your board and help it turn and get you into a strong position for when the pull comes later on. With you weight back it's all about moving the kite in the quickest downloop possible, pushing your back hand towards the kite so that your fingers touch the centre line and pulling your front hand down — all the while keeping the bar on the sweet spot. In the pic Karine has her weight back, back leg bending while front leg extends, while she's giving the bar all the beans so that it's parallel with the centre line.

Carve and Commit Pic D

With the kite turning, you can now settle into your carve, dropping your derriere into the turn while turning your shoulders downwind. You must keep the kite turning, and essential that you commit, making sure that the bar is doing everything in its powers to keep the kite looping in the tightest arc possible.



OCEAN RODEO

Team Rider: Reese Myerscough Photography by Jay Wallace

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Once again Karine is the picture of perfection. Her weight is back and committed to the inside of the turn so that she can push through the heel of her back foot. Her shoulders are twisted downwind, and she's looking where she wants to go. Her bar is push-pulled to the max and is fulcruming around the sweet spot. In this position, she's ready to take power as the kite comes down and through the window.

It's Not Over Pic E

As you come through downwind, it's easy to get complacent, nervous and confused. The trick here is to change nothing, but rather continue what you started and see it through to the bitter end. As the kite pulls, you still need to concentrate on finishing the turn, so look where you want to go and resist the urge to follow the kite and chase it. Keep your weight on your heels and back to resist the pull. With the increase in power, you may be inclined to let the bar out, but



don't give in, as you need the tension to turn the kite. Watching the kite come down and round can be as hypnotic as Kaa's eyes, encouraging you to twist the bar around in an attempt to follow the kite. Don't let yourself be fooled, the bar stays in the same position, only the kite moves, and as such once you're finished, you'll have a twist in your lines. Here Karine is still giving the bar her all and carving as if she means it. The kite has gone under, but her bar remains in the same position as when she initiated the downloop.

The Grand Finale Pic F

There are two possible and equally happy endings. On your first attempts, keeping the kite turning until it's heading back up towards the midday sun is a fine choice. Better to turn it a tad too far than not far enough. Comparably, you can happily stop steering the kite once it's on an angled upward trajectory, which will enable you to exit with full power. You might also find



that as the kite accelerates and pulls more as you edge against it, that you need to sheet the bar out to stay in control, which will be a lot simpler if you did trim the sweet spot beforehand. You can see in the pic Karine is carving out of the turn, back onto her edge. She's levelled the bar off so that the kite moves forwards, pulling her in the direction that she wants to go. She's sheeted out and is edging hard. Note that her lines are twisted, but as yet she's made no attempt to follow the kite with her bar or untwist her lines. There's time enough once you're fully back in control.

TOP TIPS

As we said last time, if you intend to marry two skills, it never hurts to practice both separately. Before adding the downloop try a few heel-to-toe carves with the normal kite movement, and then build your confidence by trying a few downloops with a slide turn, or in the water without the board. Then stick them together.



For your first few attempts concentrate on getting the kite high and making sure that you flatten the board off to get rid of an edge. It's easy to be so concentrated on the kite that you forget to carve and thus get way more power than you may be considered appropriate.

Do make sure that you have plenty of space when you try this. You need room to fail as well as succeed, so don't try this too close to anyone or anything

You can learn this with very little power in the kite, which is preferable to both you and the kite

And finally, to repeat, don't rush to untwist your lines.

COMMON PROBLEMS

Getting hauled. If you find that you're getting pulled violently as the kite starts to pull, the chances are that you haven't flattened the board. If you're off your edge, you won't have much resistance, and therefore the kite won't be too nasty. If you edge against it and

push/pull, you will be in for a surprise.

Crashing the kite. This is usually a result of your steering technique; you aim to make one line longer and the other shorter. With the kite high, the movement is more intuitive; however, as the kite turns, it is easy to twist your arms, try and follow the kite with the bar and lose yourself. Try to lock yourself in the initial push/pull position until you feel the power in the kite subside as it heads back up.

Rolling the kite. If you're carving and getting the kite turning but then dump it on the water and it rolls, it's a sign that you're not finishing your turn. Don't watch the kite as this means that you'll be looking downwind and will inevitably travel that way. As soon as you move towards the kite, you'll lose tension, and the kite will have no option but to fall. To add insult to injury, as you are moving towards it, once it touches down, you'll have even more slack, and the kite will roll and

invert. Make sure you concentrate on finishing your turn by getting back onto your heel-side edge.

KEYSTONES

1. Edge in
2. Kite high and flatten the board
3. Drop weight back over the rear foot and lower bottom to carve on heels
4. The full push-pull, look where you want to go
5. Finish turn onto heel-side edge and let kite breath

KITE
ACTION

SLOW MO

STRAPLESS CARVING UPWIND 360 >

Kite - North Carve 7m

Board - North Comp 5'0

This is nearly the last in the series of all things related to tacking on the surfboard front! We have one more left in the bag after this fun addition to your armoury. The strapless carving upwind 360 in its simplest form is a heel to toe duck tack with a downloop tagged onto the end to take you all the way around and back to the beginning. As such if you're a master tacker, you should have all the necessary skills and patience to nab this one. As with all the other tack moves, learning this on a surfboard will no doubt help you when it comes to foiling too.

Your Prep Pic A

You'll need momentum so that you can carve up, and as such, you should be coming in on a good edge, on an upwind course, so that you have some speed but also control. Your heels should be on heel-side of the board so that you can sit on them to engage the rail when you carve, but not too far as you still need to be able to balance once you get to toeside. Your back foot doesn't want to be too far back; otherwise, you may struggle to move your weight forward when the time comes. Centre your hands so that you won't move the kite aggressively. From here you can drift the kite slowly up towards 12 o'clock. You can see that Karine is edging in and therefore can control her speed and the kite while feeling the pressure against the board so that she'll be able to get a good solid carve.



The Carve Pic B

With the kite now moving up to 12 o'clock, you can push the bar out so that the kite doesn't pull you up and off your rail. You want to carve the board as far as possible, through the eye of the wind, so drop your weight and engage your rail, driving with both feet and knees. It needs to be a carve if the tail slides you're done, so keep plenty of weight over your back foot and drive the board around. In the pic Karine has dumped power from the kite, her hips are back, and she's carving the board up into the wind, pushing her legs against the pressure of the board.

And Some More Pic C

Not wanting to thrash a point, but you need to get the



board as far as possible through the wind with your carve. This does mean that as the board carves further, you will need to push both your knees forwards towards the nose of the board, engaging as much rail as possible. It also means that as the board passes through the wind, it will turn back towards you, so you'll have nothing to support yourself against. Therefore, it's time to use the kite, pull the bar in and try to steer the kite across 12. Here Karine has the kite drifting across 12, while she pulls in on the bar for support. She's still carving, as shown by the wake and spray from her board, fins engaged. Worth noting that Karine is looking at her front foot, as this is where she'll aim to get her weight very soon.



The Acrobatic Bit Again Pic D

This part always looks like someone is defying gravity, somehow hanging on with their pinkies while the rest of the world spins without them.

However, the combination of a good solid carve and the continual drifting of the kite, are actually what makes this possible – honestly. With the board through the wind, you can stop driving against it, and soften your

knees, and allow your hips to swing under the bar and over the board. Now with the kite moving slowly across to the other side of the window, it will pull you that way, which just so happens to be forwards and onto your front foot, result! Karine has relaxed her legs, swings her knees and hips forwards and pushes her weight towards her front foot. All the while supporting herself on the bar.

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Take a Breath Pic E

Well nearly. First, it's time to move your weight forwards towards the nose of the board, as this will help get your body back where it belongs. The movement here is twisting your shoulders round towards the new direction. Imagine that you want to roll around so that you can lean onto the bar. While twisting your shoulders, you can push your hips forward off the back foot. Karine has the bar in, she's twisting her shoulders aggressively around to try and face in the new direction, leading with her hands and bar, and she's pushing her hips forwards off her back foot and over her front foot. Note that her feet have not moved! Now you are genuinely balanced,

with your weight supported by the volume of the board. You can pause momentarily here and breathe:)

Part 2, Pic F

From here on it's a stationary toe to heel chicken gybe-esque downloop! In layman's terms, you need to get your weight back so that you can pivot the board and control the power while you give the most almighty of push-pulls on the bar to downloop the kite at the edge of the window with as little power as possible. Looking at Karine, she's continued to drift the kite over towards the edge of the window. With her weight still over the board, she drops her hips to sink the tail slightly and lift the nose. Her bar action is the full Monty, pulling her front hand down and

pushing completely with her back hand so that her bar is parallel with the centre line. The bar should be on the sweet spot or just a tad further out if it's windy.

Carve Out Pic G

As the kite downloops and comes back through the window, there will be a surge of power. With your weight over the back of the board, you'll be in a position to take it. Be sure to also shift your weight across to your heels so that the board will carve as it accelerates. Once the kite moves up, you can stop steering and aim both the kite and the board across the wind in the direction of travel. Karine has her weight both back, and on her heels, so she is comfortable and balanced as the kite pulls.



She carves the board around the rest of the 360, keeping the bar on the sweet spot and has levelled the bar out to stop the kite looping and straighten it up onto her new course.

TOP TIPS

Flatwater will make this much simpler, as it will be easier to carve the board through the eye of the wind.

As mentioned in the intro, it's best to approach this as a move of two halves, the carve-up onto toeside and then the downloop and carve out. If you busy yourself trying to do it all at once, you won't be balanced. The only part that is continuous is the slow drifting of the kite.

If there is very little wind, you'll pivot around on the tail for the second half, but as the wind increases you will be carving in and carving out.

Now have a look at the sequence and the videos to see how this goes in full technicolour...

COMMON PROBLEMS

If you're struggling to carve the board far enough into the wind, your tacking technique might use a little slide and pull action, which won't cut the mustard here. Feel the pressure when you're edging and then use this force to turn the board. It still needs to be urgent though; a long, languid arc won't work either.

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LEVEL INTERMEDIATE



If you can't get support from the kite when it's time to stand up and take a breath, this is usually a case of the kite being somewhere that it shouldn't. If you haven't drifted it to 12, you'll find carving through the wind without getting pulled off the back of the board fairly tricky, so make sure you move it more. However, if you get pulled off the board when standing you've moved the kite too far past 12, so ease off a tad next time around.

If you're getting pulled too aggressively when you loop the kite you may well be pulling too early. However,

it is also possible that you have too much power, so first trim, and if that doesn't help make sure you get the kite downlooping at the edge of the window. Otherwise, it's a smaller kite!

KEYSTONES

1. Come in on an edge, kite up and bar out
2. Carve through the wind
3. Roll hips up and over your board and twist shoulders while drifting kite.

4. Stand, then drop your weight back, heavy push-pull.
5. Carve out on heels



ONE FOOT DARK SLIDE >

Kite - North Orbit 9m

Board - North Atmos Carbon 138

It's an absolute pleasure to welcome Heliarde back onto the technique pages of IKSURFMAG. We've had so much fun filming and working with him this past month, so here he is showing us how it's done, this time with the somewhat precarious looking one-footed Dark Slide, finished off with a back roll and late kitemove, Muito show!

This one is definitely for you if you're a Dark Slide freak, adding yet more punch to the classiest of moves. One hundred per cent proof, guaranteed to make your heart race for a moment and intoxicating to all those watching. Dare we suggest that before indulging in this, you should already have the grabbed dark slide down! As such, we won't be going through a "how to dark slide", how to proceed with getting your foot out and surviving both the back roll and the landing.

Shall we proceed with the core ingredients for this cheeky cocktail...

Dark Slide Grab Pic A

This is the fundamental of the move, and as such you really should have this firmly in the bag. With a decent and long-held grab, you will be accustomed to the inevitable back roll and a hopefully late kite loop to finish things off. To make this as smooth as possible, you'll want plenty of speed which will give you support. Approach on a good edge and try and



get into your slide early, before the kite reaches 12 o'clock. If you keep yourself small as you fall, you maintain the maximum amount of tension in the lines and as such give yourself more time to do what you have to do. You can see that Heliarde has come in fast, he's falling behind his board, keeping small and keeping his head and shoulders up. He's let the bar out to make sure that he doesn't get yanked forwards by the kite as he doesn't want to become too extended. As soon as he falls into the slide, he's already grabbing the front of the board.

Foot Out Pic B

As soon as you're into the slide, it's all or nothing. You need to get your front foot out asap. To make this a reality, don't extend your back leg, as the straighter it is, the closer the nose of the board will be to you and the harder it will be to free your front foot as the



board pins it to the water. Hold the board away from you with a straight arm and pull your foot out of the strap by bending your leg and moving your foot towards your bum! Here Heliarde has his arm straight, head and shoulders are still up, and his back leg is bent. He's also feathering the kite on the sweet spot. Try not to hang off the bar; otherwise, the kite will move back too quickly, and you won't have time.

Prove It Pic C

Seeing as you are attempting to make a showy move even showier, you do need to make a point of your foot being out so that all and sundry can witness your elasticity, skill and coordination. While still sliding and not moving the kite too quickly, you need to pull your knee and foot under your arm and then extend it out in front of you. As you roll down with your rear shoulder towards the water,

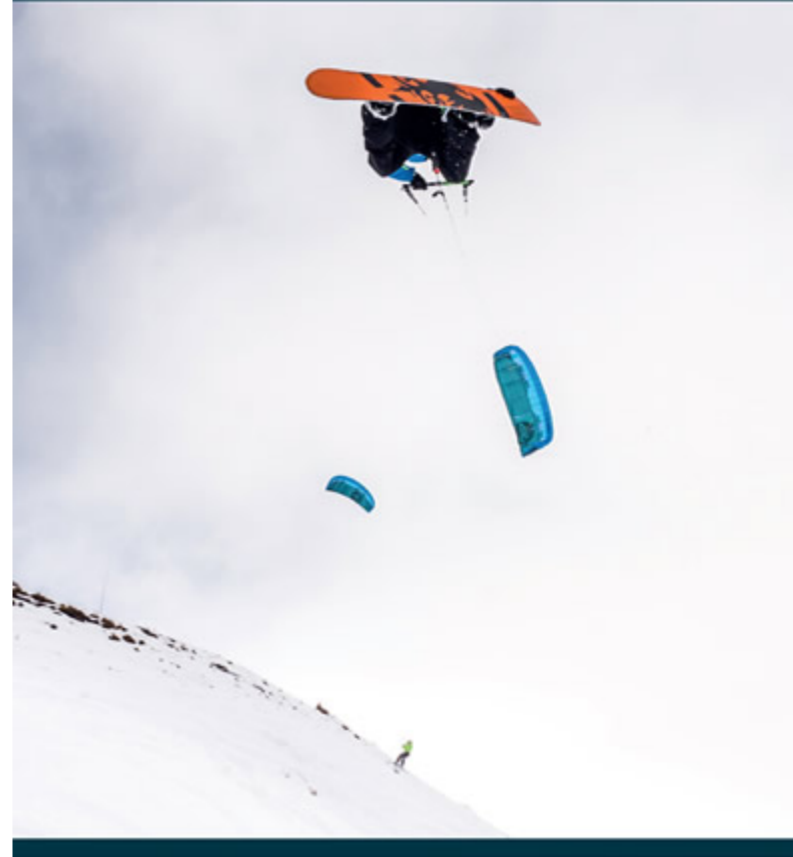


it's the perfect opportunity to stick your leg up in the air for the ultimate tweak as Heliarde so brilliantly and bravely demonstrates here. By doing this, you will have inadvertently initiated your back roll — time to enjoy the ride.

Lift Off Pic D

As soon as you start to rotate, it's a good plan to get some distance between yourself and the water so that you have space and time to

complete your rotation. With the kite drifting back but still high in the window you can pull in on the bar to help you up and off the water. In the pic Heliarde's kite is high, and he's pulled the bar aggressively in towards him to get the required lift. At the same time, he lifts his head and shoulders so that the board will swing underneath him. Whether you keep your foot high is a personal style choice at this stage of the game!





Loop Time Pic E

Now that you're up, it's time to help yourself around the rotation with a cheeky kite loop. However, first off you need to get yourself small and compact, bringing everything together so that you can keep your balance as the kite pulls, and therefore follow it around for a smooth landing. You can see that Heliarde has brought both knees up to keep the board close and he's finally decided to stop tweaking his leg:) As he steers the kite into the late loop, he looks where he wants to go and anticipates the pull while bringing his front foot back over the board. If you can, this is the moment to get your foot back in the strap, but it's not essential, nor is it easy. Geronimo.



Keep It Together Pic F

If your kite is looping late and at the edge of the window there will hopefully not be too much pull, and what power there is, should only last a split second. To increase your chances of sticking this, you need to keep yourself small, knees up and board close and hold the grab until you touch down. Heliarde holds the board up against his front foot, which he jams up against the front pad so that he doesn't slip on landing. This may seem foolish but releasing the board with only one foot strapped in is not really an option. This way, even if you don't stomp the landing, everything stays where it should be. Note how Heliarde is concentrating on where he'll land as he wants to hold on until then.



As If by Magic Pic G

As the kite goes up, it will hopefully place you down fairly gently, in which case you can release your grab and land smoothly on the board. With your front foot jammed against the front pad, you have something to resist the forwards pull, and you won't slip.

TOP TIPS

We say this for pretty much every combination move. Before going for the one-foot hammer out a dozen or so grabbed dark slides with the rotation and loop. This way, you'll dial in the conditions and the timing of your loop to keep the power to a minimum. This is the key to this move, as the last thing you want is to be fired out of a cannon as you come around one footed.



Then once you have the above dialled, try getting the foot out while sliding, but bail the rotation and kite loop. There's no shame in learning step by step, and it'll give you time to practice getting the foot out and into a show-off position with no consequence.

To make it simpler to slide your foot out, you can loosen your front foot in the strap as you approach, wiggle it back a bit.

Now enjoy the sequence and videos to see how it's done in full flow.

COMMON PROBLEMS

Not getting your foot out. If you pop into the slide or

keep the bar in, you'll get extended, and it'll be much harder to get the foot out. Stay small and fall with the bar out, then sheet in.

If you can't get lift as you rotate. The chances are that the kite drifted too far while you were sliding. Try starting earlier and centre your backhand on the bar with your fingers straddling the centre line.

If the kite is looping too powerfully and slowly, make sure you don't loop too early and when you do loop, use your wrist to steer the bar, rather than just pulling the bar in and choking the kite.

KEYSTONES

1. Approach with speed, fall small with the bar out
2. Grab and pull foot back and out
3. Foot forward and shoulder down
4. Rotate and pull the bar in for lift, head up, board down
5. Loop with wrist and hold grab





To be ahead of the game Lieuwe teamed up with Teijin to develop a new breed of kiteboards made with Teijin Aramid's para-aramid fiber Twaron® and UHMWPE film Endumax® our test rider Roderick Pijls is seeing the first benefits for both competition performance and safety. "The most important qualities in a kiteboard are its stiffness and durability, to allow for safer hard landings and reduced vibration," says Roderick. "Twaron® and Endumax® offer both of these qualities."

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TRIED & TESTED

Loads of new 2020 products on test from the test team this issue, with a mix of kites, surfboards, twin tips and hydrofoils getting put through their paces!

KITES

Cabrinha Contra
Duotone Mono
Duotone Rebel
Ozone Edge V10

TWIN TIPS

Flysurfer Rush V2
INOBO Woodio
North Kiteboarding Atmos Carbon
Ozone Code V2

SURFBOARDS

Duotone Pro Fish
Duotone Pro Session
North Kiteboarding Comp

HYDROFOIL BOARDS

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HYDROFOILS

Cabrinha Hi:Rise Carve
Naish Surf Foil Jet 1250 Abracadabra

WORDS AND PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM
PHOTO THIS PAGE ROU CHATER/GOPRO

IKSURFMAG.COM

BRAND CABRINHA

MODEL CONTRA

SIZE 15M

YEAR 2020



“WHEN POWERED
THE 15M IS A
HANG-TIME
MACHINE”



AT A GLANCE

The Cabrinha Contra has been a stalwart of the range for a long time now, it's a behemoth of a light wind weapon and has saved many a session over the years. Available in four sizes (13, 15, 17 and 19m), there should be a kite for just about everyone in the range. The kite is aimed at getting you on the water in sub 10 knots, and the 15m should be able to do that for most riders.

If you are packing a bit more bulk than the 17m and 19m versions are there for you. It's a three-strut design that features a hybrid shape with swept back wing tips and lots of power in the front of the kite. New for 2020 is the Nano Ripstop canopy material from Cabrinha that packs far more threads into the canopy in a smaller grid than any other material on the market. Think twice the strength and durability for the same weight.

The kite, as you would expect has been built to be light, there are no extra reinforcements unless totally necessary. However, it is built to Cabrinha's exacting standards and the overall look and feel is one of quality.

TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND DUOTONE

MODEL MONO

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2019



“IT SEEMED TO PREFER A MORE MELLOW FOIL SESSION TO ANYTHING ELSE”



TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

The Mono is a one-strut light wind kite aimed at the freeriders and foilers who want a kite that will get them out in the slightest of breezes and be a lightweight traveling partner too. Completely redesigned for 2019 the kite features a much deeper chord depth than previous versions and the diameter of the leading edge has been increased to generate even more power.

The bridle is made of a lighter weight material and any extraneous components have been stripped back to the bare essentials. The boxy look of the kite is quite striking, with squared off tips, and Duotone are pitching this predominantly at the foil market. The Juice is taking the mantle as their light wind freeride kite with a wider wind range.

The Mono is for the rider looking to save weight and have light wind performance on tap in the lightest of breezes. Despite the lightweight construction, the high quality Duotone build quality is evident everywhere you look. Neat features like the increased diameter tubes on the one-pump system and Airport Valve II make set up and packing down a breeze.

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BRAND DUOTONE

MODEL REBEL

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2020



"THE LAUNCH OFF THE WATER IS REALLY EXPLOSIVE AND THE INCREDIBLE HANG TIME REMAINS"



AT A GLANCE

The Rebel was the kite that changed the dynamics of kiteboarding all those years ago, and it's come a long way since then. The spearhead of the Duotone freeride range, for some kites only a Rebel will do. It's a 5 strut design that can be flown on 4 or 5 lines, although it's worth noting Duotone's shift towards a 4 line setup in recent years as modern 4 line safety has improved.

The kite is tipped towards the high-end freeride market and big air junkies looking for hang time. Duotone team rider Lewis Crathern uses it at events such as the King Of The Air, and it has cemented itself in history in terms of its boosting ability. For 2020 the leading edge has been trimmed down, allowing the kite to twist more and improving turning speed. The centre of the profile has been flattened off to increase the power and there is a new trailing edge design for reduced canopy wear too.

Boasting a wide wind range it's a kite that will appeal to a lot of riders. For 2020 the kite is also carbon neutral as part of Duotone's partnership with the leading solutions provider ClimatePartner.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



BRAND OZONE

MODEL EDGE V10

SIZE 10M

YEAR 2020



“ A KITE WHICH HAS DEFINED AN ENTIRE GENRE OF KITESURFING ”



AT A GLANCE

Synonymous with speed and height, Ozone have hit the stratosphere with the 10th version of the ever popular Edge. A high aspect ratio LEI kite, it has been the mainstay of the race scene until the recent switch to the more efficient foil style kite. What this has done instead is opened up the kite to the classic kitesurfing draw: big air.

The Edge V10 is made with Ozone's usual high standard of craftsmanship in their own factory in Vietnam. A canopy made exclusively with Teijin Technoforce D2, and the leading edge and struts with Teijin Dacron for a superior strength vs. weight ratio. Though the pulley-less bridles may look super skinny, they are made this way for minimal drag, and created using ultra strong Kevlar for no loss of strength or longevity.

The Edge V10 is a 5-strut kite and has a high aspect ratio, which gives it the longer and thinner shape than a more all round kite. New for this 10th version, the canopy profile has been modified to increase the smoothness of flight, and the wingtips have been updated to aid both the flight and turn.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

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" EVEN IN LESS THAN IDEAL CHOPPY CONDITIONS WE WERE ABLE TO PERFORM TRICKS WITH NO WORRY "



BRAND FLYSURFER **MODEL** RUSH V2
SIZE 137 X 41.5CM **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

Much anticipated, the Rush completes Flysurfer's new look with the updated freestyle model. A board designed for kites wishing to progress in the latest powered freestyle and freeride moves, it is compatible with both boots and straps, and is packed full of the latest features in board design.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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" LOW SPIN WEIGHT AND SOME AGGRESSIVE EDGING RESULTED IN SOME CLASSIC OLD SCHOOL MOVES "



BRAND INOBO **MODEL** WOODIO
SIZE 135 X 40 CM **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

The Woodio is the freestyle orientated model from the INOBO line up. Featuring the same Exoskeleton as on all their range, it is the deck of the board that gives the distinct characteristics, appearance and riding style.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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" THE ABILITY TO REALLY LOAD THE EDGE AND HOLD THE POWER IS IMPRESSIVE "



BRAND NORTH KITEBOARDING **YEAR** 2020
MODEL ATMOS CARBON **SIZE** 138X41CM

AT A GLANCE

Nick Jacobsen's weapon of choice is always going to generate a lot of interest: he's rolling on a tricked out version of the Atmos big air and freeride board from North Kiteboarding. The full carbon layup includes multiple flavours of the wonder material in different layups to create a light and stiff board that looks murdered out in the full black colourway.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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" LOW SPIN WEIGHT AND SOME AGGRESSIVE EDGING RESULTED IN SOME CLASSIC OLD SCHOOL MOVES "



BRAND OZONE **MODEL** CODE V2
SIZE 138 X 41CM **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

Ozone jumped into board production a short 2 years ago with the creation of the Code V1. Alarmingly well received, it set the bar high for the rest of Ozone's 5 board line up which did not disappoint. Roll round to now and we see the boards start to get even more refined and the second versions (V2) begin to appear.

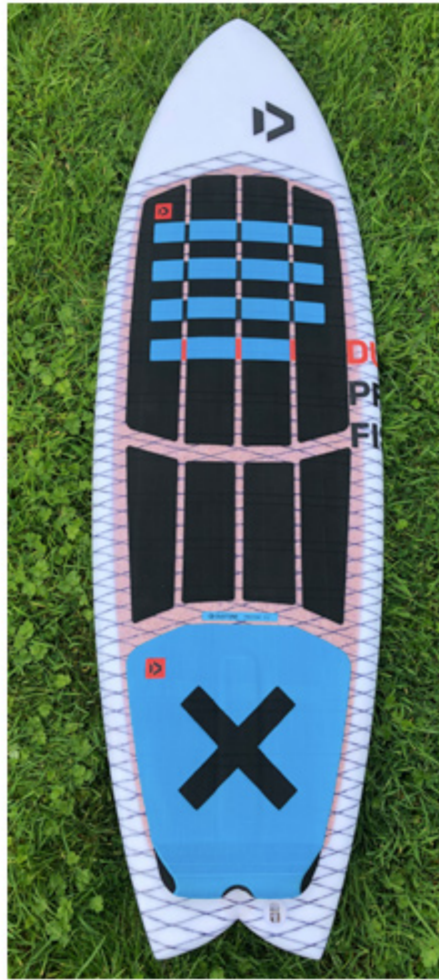
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"ON A MARGINAL DAY I DON'T THINK THERE IS A BOARD I WOULD RATHER RIDE"



BRAND DUOTONE
SIZE 5'2"

MODEL PRO FISH
YEAR 2020

AT A GLANCE

The Pro Fish is a totally new design from Duotone shaper Sky Solbach. Aimed at the rider looking to rip in smaller waves it replaces the Nugget with a far more traditional looking shape. It's wide in the nose, with a flat rocker and a squashed fish tail. With a deep central channel and generous tail rocker it adds a bit of modern flair to a shape that was popularised in the 70's.

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TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



"THE GRIP IN THE TURNS IS PHENOMENAL ON THIS BOARD"



BRAND DUOTONE
SIZE 5'8"

MODEL PRO SESSION
YEAR 2020

AT A GLANCE

The Pro Session from Duotone is their big wave carving weapon, exceedingly capable in medium to large waves the focus is on hold and drive in the turns. New for 2020 the board now features a 5 fin box setup allowing you to choose between three fins or a quad set up. Footstrap holes mean you can take this out in the really huge waves too. Think Jaws and you get the picture. In essence there should be nothing this board can't handle.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

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" YOU'LL BE
POPPING AIRS
ALL OVER THE
PLACE "



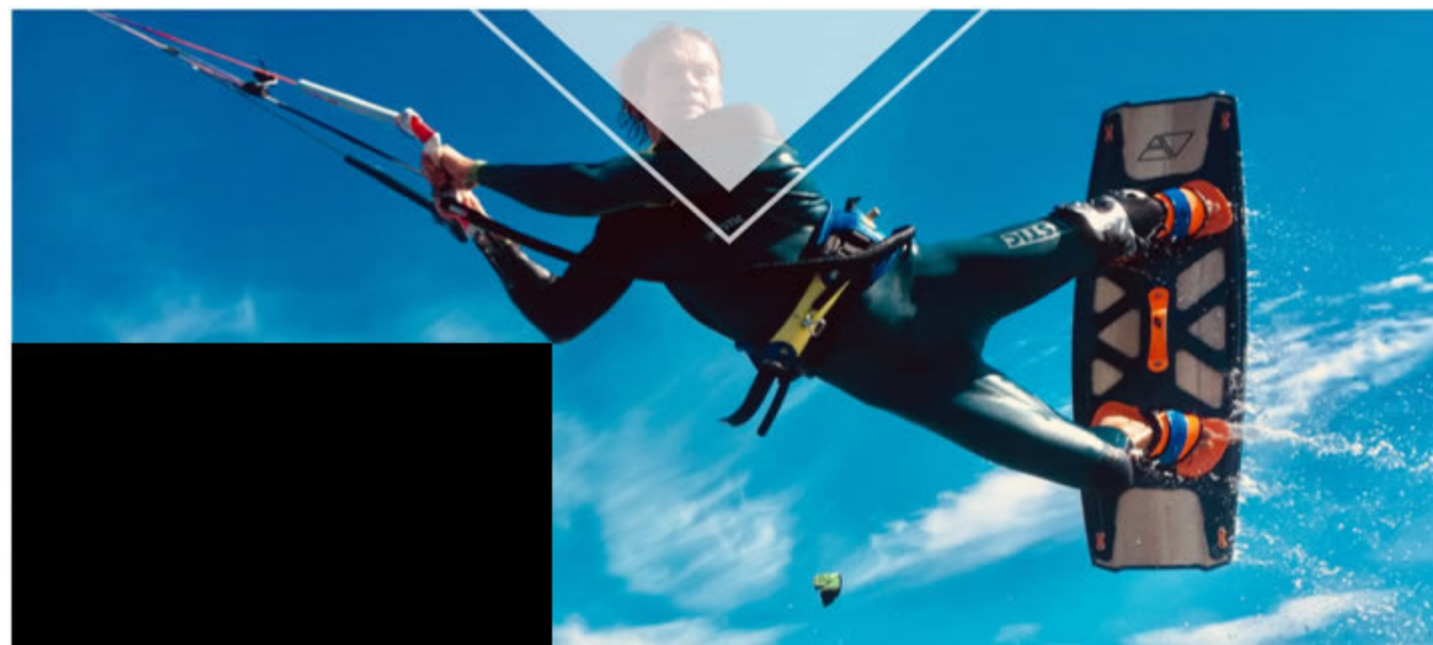
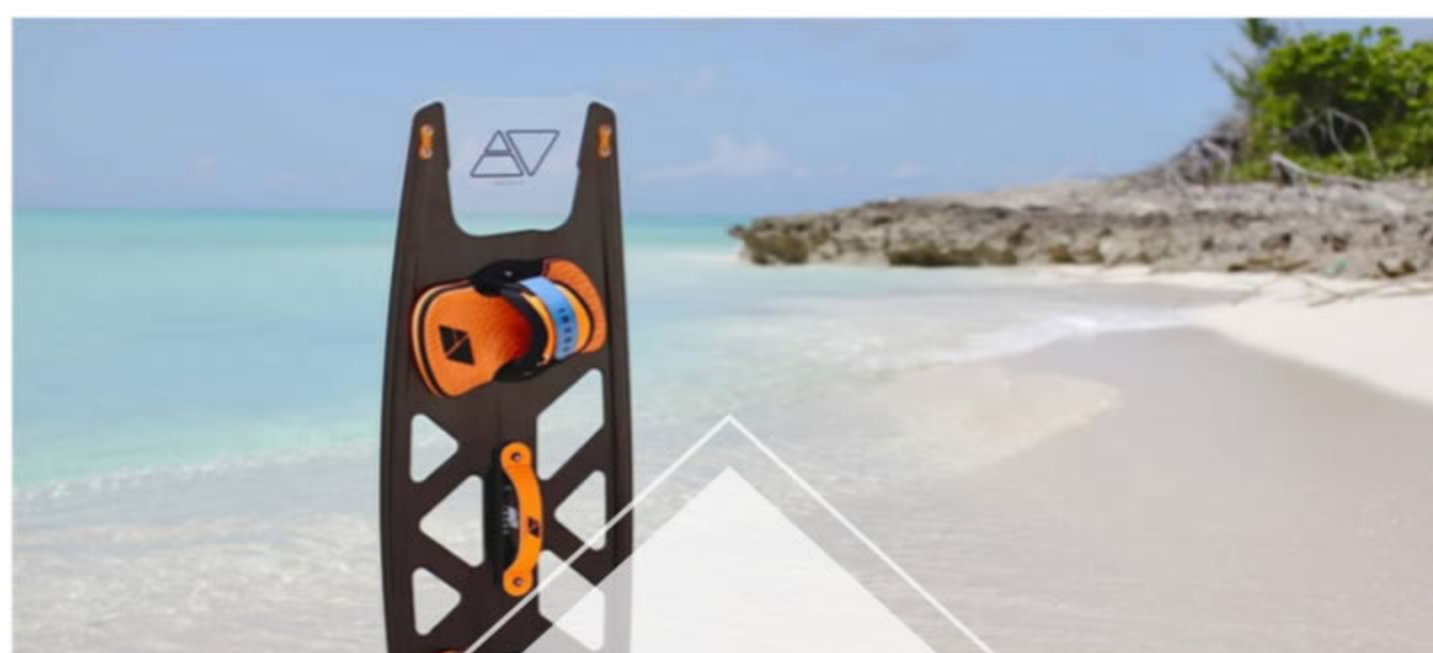
BRAND NORTH KITEBOARDING **MODEL** COMP
SIZE 5'2" **YEAR** 2020

AT A GLANCE

Strapless freestyle is a force to be reckoned with these days, the GKA World Tour put it firmly on the map a few years back and it's here to stay. While you can ride any surfboard without straps and make it work, increasingly more brands are specifically creating sticks for the needs of the pro riders. The Comp from North Kiteboarding is exactly that.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE





" THE BOARD FELT RESPONSIVE AND WORKED WELL WITH THE HYDROFOILS WE TRIED IT ON "



BRAND CABRINHA
SIZE 135 X 46CM

MODEL DOUBLE AGENT
YEAR 2020

AT A GLANCE

The Double Agent is a crossover board from Cabrinha, aimed at the rider wanting a hydrofoil board capable of that little bit extra. Anyone who has been kiting for over 15 years will remember the buzz of riding a skim board back in the day and the Double Agent presents plenty of opportunities for fun.

The board features a fairly flat rocker with plenty of nose kick and a tapered swallow tail with full deck grip.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

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BRAND CABRINHA

MODEL HI:RISE CARVE

YEAR 2020



" THIS THING
COULD GET
JABBA THE
HUTT FLYING
ON A NO WIND
DAY! "

TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

Cabrinha have a whole new range of foils and wing setups for 2020, it's an impressive line up that features not only kite specific wings, but crossover and surf wings too. Featuring an aluminium mast and baseplate, the fuselage is also aluminium and the wings feature a new construction too.

The front wing has a Paulownia wood core with volcanic triple layer basalt fibre construction. The focus here is on durability. The rear wing uses a forged composite construction and again is very durable. The idea is they should survive any dings and knocks with rocks if you are surfing with the wings.

All the hardware is titanium coated and comes supplied with grease to avoid any corrosion and the whole setup goes together really well, it's a very polished product. The Hi:Rise Carve is a modern design looking to maximise lift and make foiling easy. The profile is incredibly thick and the deep chord should get foiling at really low speeds.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



" A VERSATILE WING THAT CAN HANDLE ANYTHING YOU DECIDE TO THROW AT IT "

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

Naish have been working hard on their foil range for 2020, and the new line up is extensive, from fast kite foils to huge surf foils there is something for everyone, and for every type of propulsion. The Foil Jet 1250 is a crossover wing designed to be used for anything you can think of, wake, surf, kite, wing and even windsurfing.

Construction is to an exceedingly high standard and features an aluminium mast and a mix of stainless and titanium hardware. The wings are a composite of carbon and glass with a foam core monocoque front wing. The whole package goes together beautifully, and the Abracadabra set up is also worthy of note. Anyone who foils knows how long it can take to get set up when your foil is completely dismantled.

The Abracadabra set up allows you to keep the mast plate attached to the board and then simply slide the mast into the plate and tighten the wing nut by hand, no tools needed. This saves valuable time on the beach and is an area where we will be seeing a lot of development in the future. The goal is speed on the beach so you can spend more time on the water.

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DO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WANT TO LEARN TO KITE?

10 QUESTIONS

WORDS JEN TYLER PHOTOS LACI KOBULSKY

POSITO MARTINEZ

Posito Martinez knows a thing or two when it comes to combining Big Air with high-powered-jaw-dropping Freestyle! In this feature, Jen Tyler got to know Posito a little better by asking him 10 questions. Find out how it all began for this Dominican talent, the struggles he overcame, and what his goals for 2020 are, right here!



Posito, it's great to meet you! Could you please tell us a little bit about growing up in Cabarete, your family and how you initially got introduced to kiteboarding?

Jen, it's my pleasure to meet and share my story with you guys! I honestly consider Cabarete one of the best places in the world to grow up in. It's warm, sunny and windy all year round, with plenty to do other than wind-oriented watersports!

Being the youngest sibling, growing up, all my brothers were kiteboarding instructors, and so, it only made sense that I followed in their footsteps. My mother was and still is a hard-working woman, and she sacrificed a lot to get me where I am today. She believed in me from the very start, and she always supported my decision to become a professional kiteboarder. My father drives a moto concho (local transportation) around the kiteboarding centres here in Cabarete, he's easy to spot as he's always wearing my CrazyFly and Prolimit branded clothes!

Since I was young, I used to go to the beach to help tourists set up their gear, and in return, they would give me some kiteboarding tips, or allow me to borrow their equipment for a session. Eventually, I started working at one of the kiteboarding schools, and they allowed me to train in my free time.

" I USED TO GO TO THE BEACH TO HELP TOURISTS SET UP THEIR GEAR, AND IN RETURN, THEY WOULD GIVE ME SOME KITEBOARDING TIPS "





What is it about the kiteboarding scene in Cabarete that makes it so unique?

The people in Cabarete tend to be very welcoming, fun, crazy and up for having a good time! It's a cosy town with a diverse, expatriate community, so even though you might be miles from your country, chances are you'll feel right at home here!

" WELCOMING, FUN, CRAZY AND UP FOR HAVING A GOOD TIME! "

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" I REMEMBER TELLING MY MOTHER WHEN I WAS ABOUT EIGHT YEARS OLD THAT I WAS GOING TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL KITEBOARDER ONE DAY "

You're an extremely talented rider when it comes to Big Air and Freestyle, could you share with us how that all started? When did you realise you wanted to become a professional kiteboarder?

Growing up, we lived right across from where my brothers worked as instructors. I wasn't allowed to go to the beach with them initially as I was too young, and they thought it might be too dangerous! I remember telling my mother when I was about eight years old that I was going to become a professional

kiteboarder one day, travel the world and compete, and take care of her financially, and here I am today.

Have you ever been in a situation while you were kiteboarding that made you feel like you were out of your comfort zone? What happened?

The day Joselito and I got lost in the sea.

There was a competition in Puerto Plata, which is roughly a 45-minute car ride from Cabarete. Joselito and I decided that we go for a downwinder straight to

where the event was on our kites. About halfway there, we got caught up in a storm and lost sight of each other. I managed to stay close enough to the coastline before the wind died. I ended up paddling for hours before the coast guards came to the rescue, and they interrogated me, thinking I was illegally entering the country. Joselito spent the night out at sea, and he was only found the following morning. Talk about being out of my comfort zone; that was one of the worst experiences of my life.



You've been riding for CrazyFly for just over a year now; can you tell us a little about the brand and what your favourite set up is?

I'm thrilled to be riding for CrazyFly! They have their own factory, they pay attention to quality and detail, and that's why they are the only company on the market that offers a three-year warranty!

" THEY PAY ATTENTION TO QUALITY AND DETAIL "

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" TO PREPARE FOR COMPETITIONS, I MAINLY KITEBOARD AND STRETCH A LOT BEFORE AND AFTER MY SESSIONS, BUT I ALSO SURF OFTEN AND PLAY BASEBALL. "



For Big Air competitions, I use the Hyper kite with the new Raptor Extreme board, that I designed with the CrazyFly team. For Freestyle, I use the Sculp kite with the bulldozer board.

Have you ever had any serious injuries while kiteboarding? What exercises do you do to prepare yourself for competitions, physically?

I've had quite a few injuries this year! During the 2019 King of the Air, I bruised my ribs (luckily, they weren't broken), but it caused me extreme discomfort during the first leg of the Freestyle tour. As soon as I recovered from that injury, I started training again and injured the ligaments on my right thumb while I was training in Mauritius. I managed to overcome the pain and perform well there as well as the following stop in Morocco, but when I got back home, my doctor recommended I rest for two weeks; that why I couldn't make it to Brazil.

To prepare for competitions, I mainly kiteboard and stretch a lot before and after my sessions, but I also surf often and play baseball.

Who is your main kiteboarding inspiration?

I grew up admiring local pro riders like Luciano Gonzalez Jose and Luis Ciriaco, and I watched a lot of Yuri Zoon and Aaron Hadlow's videos!

What is the main challenge you face as a professional kiteboarder?

I think the main challenge we face here in Cabarete and many Latin American countries as kiteboarders are the lack of sponsorships. I have met many world-class riders that unfortunately never got the opportunity to make a name for themselves. It saddens me because, for some of us, it is the only way to get out of poverty.

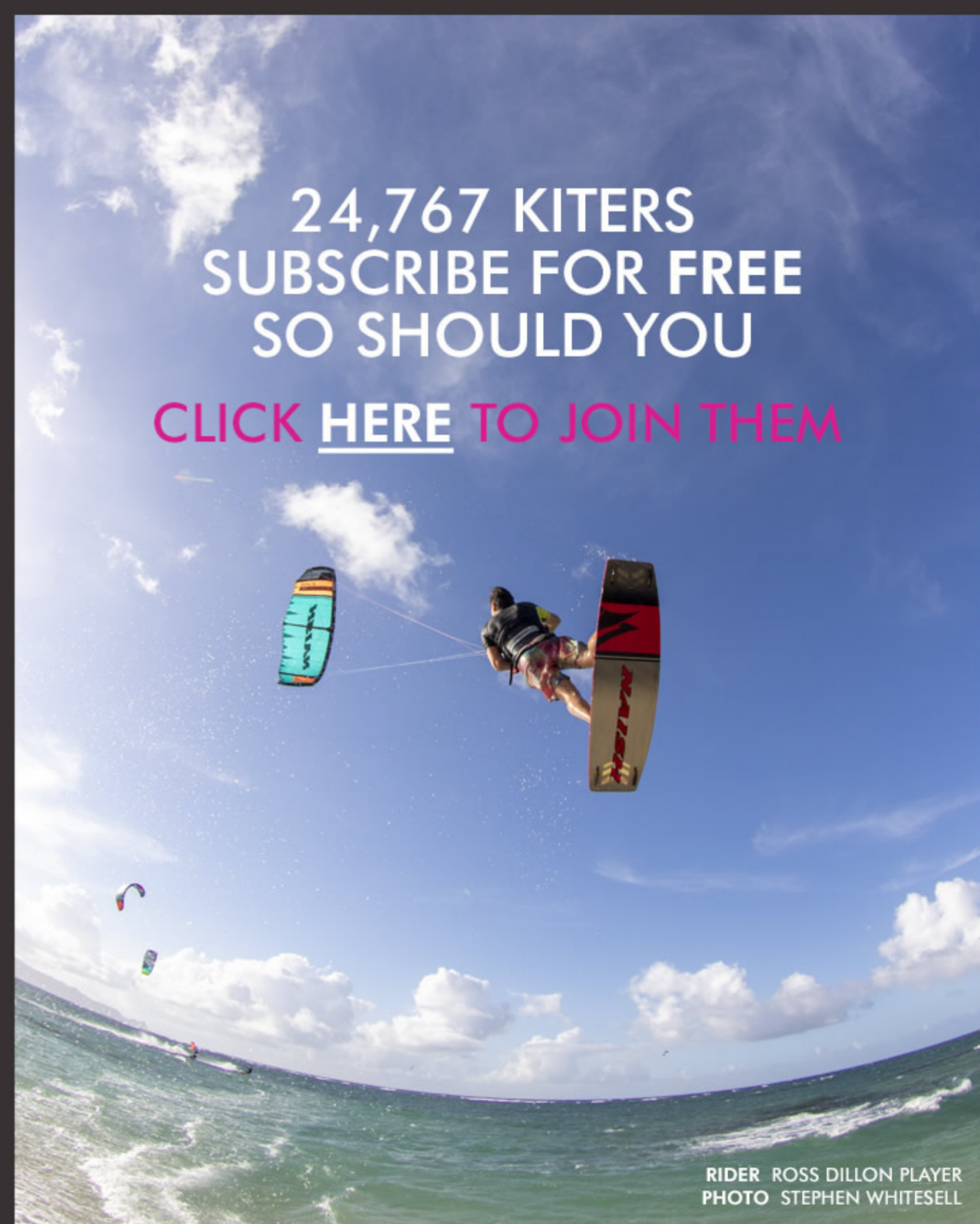


How have your friends, family and sponsors supported and influenced your kiteboarding career?

I am who I am today because of my family. I remember my mother sold her bike so that I could make it to my first international competition in France. That year, I won the Big Air category, and I was able to repurchase the bike for her!

My main sponsor CrazyFly has given me full support, and now I can compete worldwide.

" MY MOTHER SOLD HER BIKE SO THAT I COULD MAKE IT TO MY FIRST INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION IN FRANCE. "



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RIDER ROSS DILLON PLAYER
PHOTO STEPHEN WHITESSELL

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" MY VISION FOR THIS PROJECT IS TO HAVE PEOPLE VISIT THE SCHOOL ALL YEAR ROUND BY OFFERING THEM SOMETHING NEW AND INNOVATIVE. "



PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



They have supported me for every event I have entered since I joined them, which is incredible, as I can focus on riding without worrying about financially how I could get there!

What are your personal and professional goals for 2020? Do you have any exciting projects you can share with us?

For starters, I am opening a new kiteboarding school in Cabarete, and we aim to open our doors by the beginning of 2020. My vision for this project is to have people visit the school all year round by offering them something new and innovative. That way, the school's employees and instructors can have a steady income all year-round instead of it being seasonal. I know that one of the main reasons a lot of people don't get into kiteboarding is because it can be costly; I suffered that myself, and this is something we are working on doing differently here.

Professionally, I want to head back to South Africa for the 2020 Red Bull King of the Air and make it to the Megaloop Challenge after that. I am also aiming to keep my Freestyle game ON for a chance to claim the 2020 world title!

Last but not least, I am currently working on a video for 2020 - plenty of Freestyle and Big Air, and some new stuff too, so stay tuned!

Thanks, Posito! We look forward to seeing you soon and best of luck for 2020!

Thank you, Jen! It is always a pleasure to talk to you!

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RIDER SENSİ GRAVES
PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON

VALENTIN RODRIGUEZ, TRAINING ALL DAY AND NIGHT IN BRAZIL. HARD WORK PAYS OFF
CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING THE GKA FREESTYLE WORLD TOUR 2019!
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



Lightroom

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

LIGHTROOM

FRENCH TALENT, CAMILLE DELANNOY PLAYING A ONE-ON-ONE GAME OF TWISTER ON HIS BOARD IN MAURITIUS
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

WHO SAID YOU HAD TO GO HOME WHEN THE SUN SETS?
THE PARTY IS JUST GETTING STARTED FOR MAXIME CHABLOZ IN BRAZIL
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

TAIBA LAGOON IS THE PLACE TO BE DURING THIS TIME OF THE YEAR,
RODERICK PIJLS EVEN HAD TO TOUCH IT TO MAKE SURE HE WASN'T DREAMING!
PHOTO MARIAN HUND



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

MAXIME CHABLOZ KNOWS HOW TO LEAVE QUITE THE IMPRESSION AT A POOL PARTY IN BRAZIL!
PHOTO GIANMARIA COCCOLUTO



Lightroom

BRUNA KAJIYA'S STAKE LEVEL IS AT AN ALL-TIME-HIGH IN MAURITIUS,
AND THAT WAS BEFORE SHE SURFED ONE EYE!
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

BIG AIR RUNS THROUGH JOSHUA EMANUEL'S VEINS... BUT WILL HE BE KING?
ALL THE RIDERS ARE FLOCKING TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE SEASON!
PHOTO SACHA GALLET



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM



Lightroom

SAM MEDYSKY ENJOYING A SLICE OF PARADISE IN THE BAHAMAS!
PHOTO MARSHAL CHUPA

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LIGHTROOM

IF YOU'RE EVER LOOKING FOR PAULINO PEREIRA, CHANCES ARE
HE'S SHREDDING AT BELA VISTA KITE BEACH, PORTUGAL
PHOTO | SHOOT U SURF

Lightroom



LIGHTROOM

IF YOU WANT AN UNFORGETTABLE SNOWKITING EXPERIENCE, YOU NEED TO VISIT THE LOMBARD PEAKS
IN CERVIERES, FRANCE – EVEN ASK JOHANN CIVEL AND THE RIDEUP CREW!
PHOTO RIDEUP WAREK

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

SENSI GRAVES WASN'T SURE ON WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN SHE BOOKED HER FLIGHTS TO DAKHLA –
JUDGING BY THE PHOTO, SOMETHING TELLS US SHE'LL BE BACK THERE PRETTY SOON!

PHOTO MAOI ARIAS

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

GOOD LUCK TRYING TO GET THERESE TAABEL
OFF THE WATER WHEN THE WIND IS ON
IN THE CAUIPÉ LAGOON, BRAZIL!
PHOTO SAMUEL CÁRDENAS

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

VALENTINE RODRIGUEZ'S LATE-NIGHT SHOW AT TAIBA LAGOON!
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

REECE MYERSCOUGH WORKING ON HIS STRAPLESS GAME IN BRAZIL
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

GUILLAUME CHASTAGNOL NEVER MISSES SUNDAY MASS,
EVEN WHEN HE'S SNOWKITING IN THE AT THE
LAUTARET PASS, HAUTES ALPES!
PHOTO SNOWMASTER WAREK

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LIGHTROOM

MARK SHINN CRUISING ABOVE AND BELOW IN EGYPT
PHOTO ROBERT HAJDUK



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LIGHTROOM

CARLA HERRERA JUST WON THE GKA STRAPLESS FREESTYLE WORLD TITLE
FOR THE WOMEN, CONGRATULATIONS!
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

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RITA ARNAUS

[FEMALE FOCUS]



WORDS JEN TYLER

Born into a family of Spanish Windsurfing Champions, it was inevitable that Rita Arnaus would have a deep-rooted attachment to the ocean. Rita's father was one of the kiteboarding pioneers in Spain and first got Rita on a kite when she was only two years old! When Rita was eighteen years old, she realised that becoming a professional kiteboarder was all she wanted to do.





Rita, it's great to talk to you! You've been all over the place this year, and you must have taken an insane amount of flights! Can you tell us a little bit about where you've been?

Hey guys! Thank you for featuring me as your Female Focus this issue!

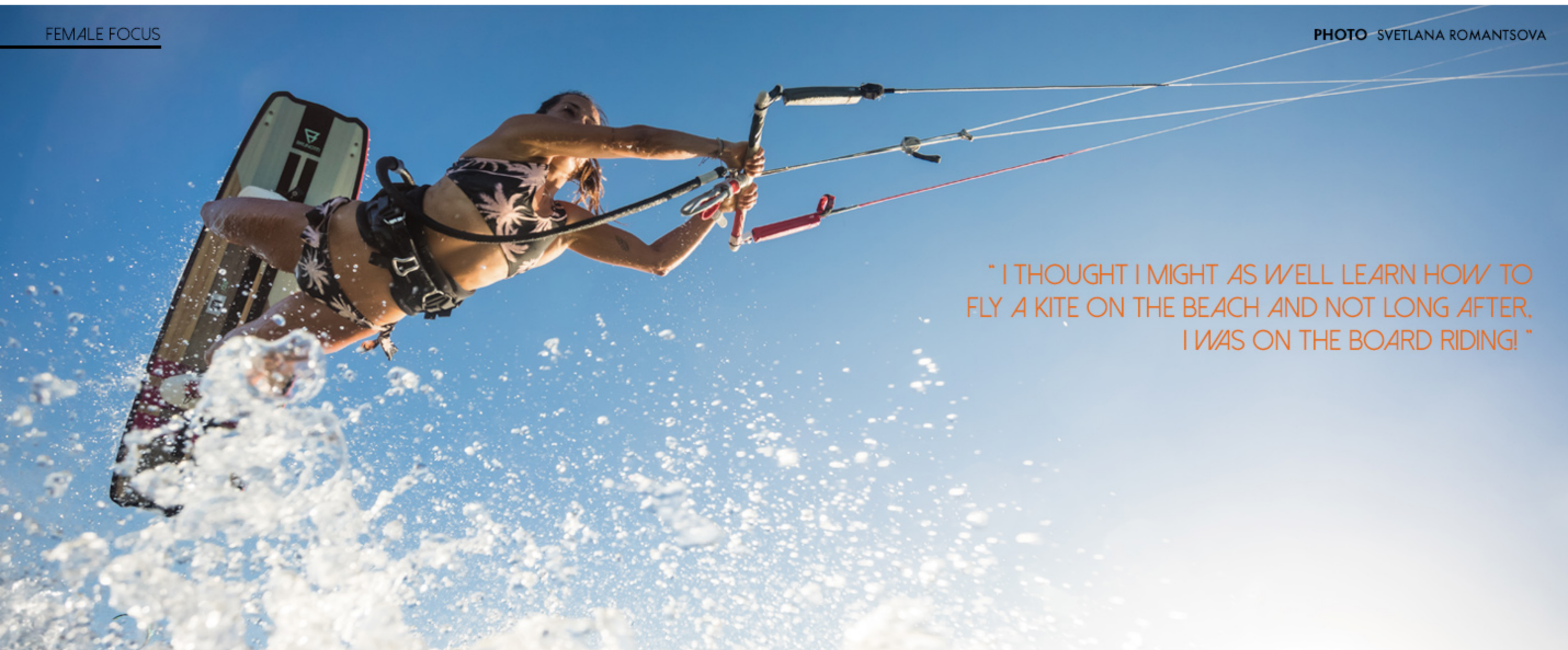
Yes, it's been intense! Within the first couple of months only of this year, I'd already been to six different countries including the Grenadines, Miami, Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela and Antigua! Pretty much all the spots I visited had incredible kiteboarding conditions, crystal clear waters and sunshine! On top of that, I had the GKA Freestyle tour to follow; it's been good, I can't complain!

It must be nice when you can finally get some downtime at home! Can you tell us a little bit about where you grew up, your family and how you got into kiteboarding?

Absolutely! I love being back home, having a routine and spending some quality time with my family and friends.

I grew up between Barcelona and a kite spot in Costa Brava, Sant Pere Pescador (my parents have been going there since the day they met!) It has always been the perfect balance between city life and the outdoors.

Growing up, I spent every weekend at Sant Pere Pescador, watching my parents kitesurfing and windsurfing. When I was ten years old, my mother and I would windsurf together there when my father first got into kiteboarding. Before learning how to windsurf, I used to love dancing, and I took several classes, including classical, jazz and oriental.



" I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL LEARN HOW TO FLY A KITE ON THE BEACH AND NOT LONG AFTER, I WAS ON THE BOARD RIDING! "

My parents never forced me into watersports though; they let me decide that on my own!

When I was fifteen years old, everything changed. I got sick for about five months, the virus stripped me of all my strength and muscle, and I had a long way to go to be able to get back into good physical shape.

By the time I was finally back on my feet and feeling a little better, quite a few of my friends had started kiteboarding, and naturally, it caught my attention.

Windsurfing required stronger winds, and I wasn't physically prepared for that yet, at all. Kiteboarding seemed like an easier alternative, so I thought I might as well learn how to fly a kite on the beach and not long after, I was on the board riding!

Within a month, I was already landing my first backrolls. I realised that I could combine dancing in the wind, being in the ocean and flying a kite; and that was it, I was hooked! I started eagerly awaiting those windy days until I could get back on the water!

How did you manage to keep up with school, homework, friends, family, kiteboarding, competing and training? Any advice you'd like to share with the younger generation of kiteboarders?

I had just turned sixteen when I got into kiteboarding, the same year I was about to start my higher education (The European Baccalaureate).

During the two years that followed, I started unhooked tricks and entered my first competition. I came in 3rd in the European Juniors in France.

At that point, I was pretty good at managing my time with training, studying and competing, but that didn't last long! Kiteboarding quickly became my priority; I couldn't even concentrate in class as soon as I noticed there was wind!

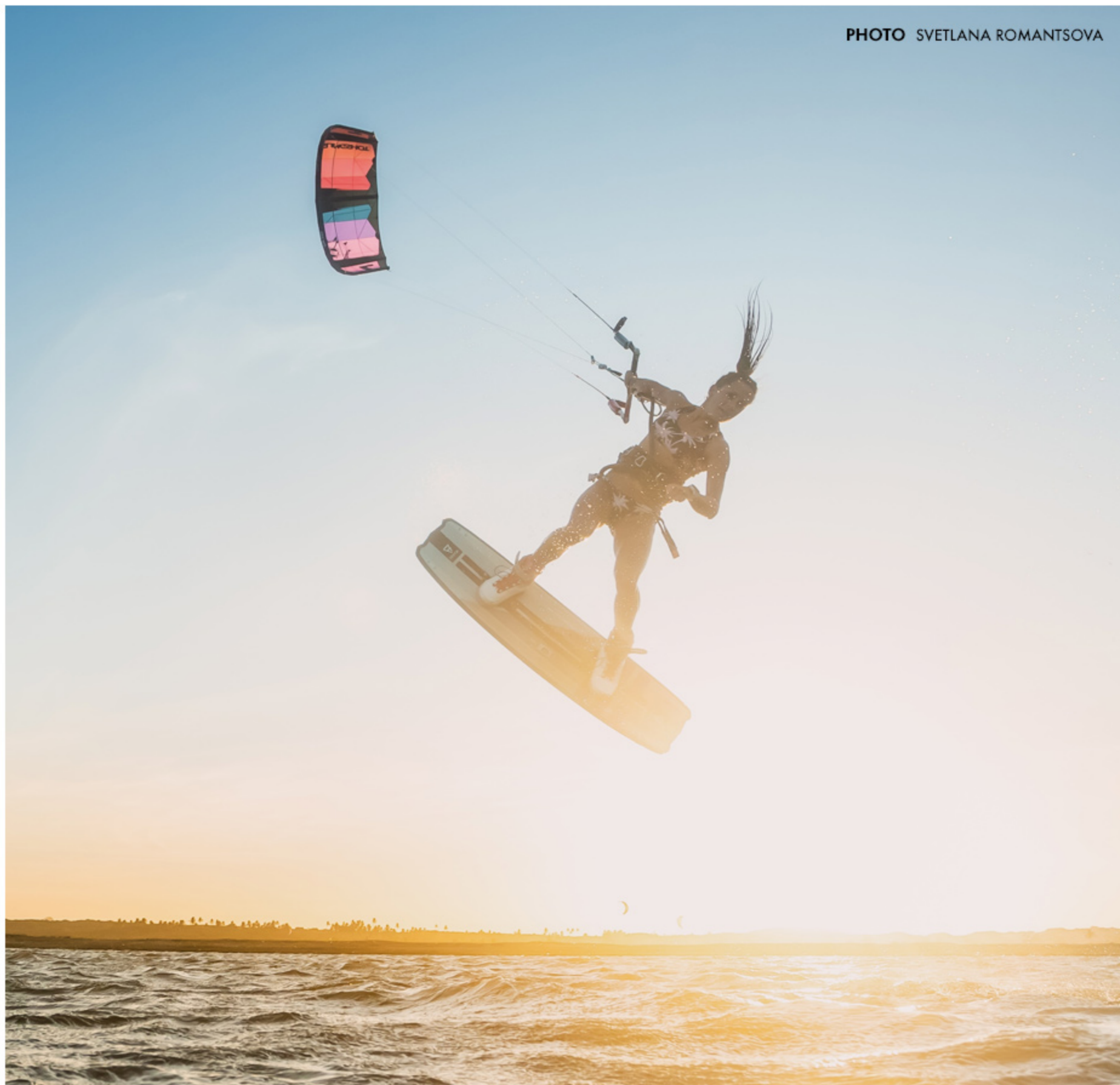
The decision was clear what I had to do next; I started saving money to be able to study online and travel the world! Even though this was the best decision I ever took, it was emotionally tough to leave, but my mind was set. I had one year to prove to my parents that I was able to get good grades, good competition results and support from my sponsors. If not, I had to go back home - that was the deal.

My advice for the younger generation would be: be smart, fight for what you dream of and even though times get hard, there will be a way to make it work! Where there's a will, there's a way!

You've been competing for many years now, do you still feel the same thrill, anticipation and excitement you felt when you first started? Where was your most memorable competition?

I do feel the same excitement as before, but now it is even better and more fun! In the beginning, I was lost; it took me a few years to get the experience and to figure out what I had to do. I never had a coach, so everything I've learned is self-taught and from training with friends!

My first most memorable competition was the Kite World Cup stop in Tarifa in 2015. I had never done a kite loop before, and I was hesitant to sign up for the Big Air part of the competition.





However, I ended up entering and decided to throw in my first ever kite loop, and I landed it! I even made it to the finals and came in 3rd! I was so stoked, and I realised that the only limitations we have are the ones we set in our mind!

Another standout moment for me was in 2017, where I got on the podium in 2nd place in the Freestyle World Tour stop in Akyaka, Turkey. All my hard work finally felt like it was paying off! I finally felt like I was achieving what I had been working so hard on.

You've always had an active lifestyle, trained hard and exercised but recently you have taken your fitness to a whole new level! Can you share with us what instigated that?

It was a combination of things, but mainly when there was no wind, I still needed my dose of daily exercise. I have always worked out at home and occasionally ran, but that was about it.

I got myself a few books about nutrition and fitness a bit more and found it very interesting. I started with yoga and went on a yoga retreat and then started collaborating with the Metropolitan Fitness Club and got myself a coach. I have a healthy balance between sports on and off the water, and it is the perfect combination for kiteboarding. It keeps me active, and it has helped me build muscle mass, improve my strength and equally, helps avoid injuries.

What does your weekly workout schedule and meal plans include?

It depends where I am, but generally, when I am at home, I have a more balanced routine which plays a vital role, of course. I got to the gym six mornings a week,





" I FOUND MYSELF SURROUNDED BY SO MANY INCREDIBLE PEOPLE. AS ALWAYS, WE HAD SO MUCH FUN AND ENJOYED EVERY KITE SESSION. "

lifting weights, working on different muscle groups and then, 1 or 2 kite sessions in the afternoon if it's windy!

When I'm not kiteboarding in the afternoons, I mainly focus on HIIT (High-Intensity Interval Training) 2 times a week and lifting weights 2-3 times a week.

Regarding my diet, I got a 'lean plan' from a certified nutritionist. I was mainly trying to lose as much fat as possible while keeping the muscle mass. Over the past few months, I have made some major changes in my diet; mainly eating lots of proteins, vegetables, fruits and nuts.

How were Brazil and the final stop of the GKA Freestyle World Tour? What are your goals for next year?

Brazil has been amazing! I found myself surrounded by so many incredible people, as always, we had so much fun and enjoyed every kite session.

The final stop of the GKA in Cumbuco went by so fast! We were all training together and having a good time that even the competition felt like another training session!

However, I was still very determined and knew which

tricks I wanted to land in the competition. Everything went as planned the way I had visualised it, I had two solid heats, landing all my tricks and I made it to the finals! I was so stoked; it couldn't have gone better!

I made it to the podium coming in 3rd place and overall ranking 4th place overall in the 2019 GKA Freestyle World Tour.

My goals for next year are to improve this last overall result, and most importantly, to keep evolving and performing at my best.

Tell us about your gear? What is your quiver of choice, and how has Slingshot helped you during your kiteboarding career?

I feel like my gear was made for me! The kites and boards that I'm using have helped me a lot to improve my riding. Brunotti boards are developed by riders for the riders, delivering the perfect requirements for every specific type of riding. I'm riding the Riptide 136cm which gives me the perfect pop to perform my tricks. Slingshot's RPM kites give me this little extra power I needed to go bigger and better. I feel super comfortable in any conditions, from choppy to flat, to hydrofoiling to freeride sessions!

Where is your favourite place in the world to kiteboard and why?

It's so hard to choose; the world has so many gorgeous spots, every time I discover a new one, it becomes another place I want to visit again!

I believe that no matter where you are if there are wind and friends, you will have a good time! However, Cumbuco and Taiba do hold a special part of my heart! Every year, all the riders go there to train in warm weather, surrounded by friends, good vibes and palm trees - it is what it's all about!

Who is your primary motivator to train with while you are on tour, and what do you learn from them?

Therese Taabbel! We both met on tour during the World Cup back in 2014 in Germany, and we instantly knew we were going to get along!

"ALL THE RIDERS GO THERE TO TRAIN IN WARM WEATHER, SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS, GOOD VIBES AND PALM TREES - IT IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!"





*" WE ARE BOTH VERY DETERMINED,
AND I COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR
A BETTER PARTNER! "*

Since then, we've always pushed and encouraged each other. We are both very determined, and I couldn't have asked for a better partner!

In your opinion, who has the best riding style from the guys on tour?

I like Liam Whaley's style; he is one of the most talented riders on tour, and I have been following his kiteboarding career from the very beginning. He has always been consistent in his riding and seems always to bounce back from injuries, stronger than before; ranking in the top 3 kiteboarders in the world!

Valentin Rodriguez is also impressive; claiming that world title at only seventeen!

Rita, thanks for taking the time to chat with us! Before you go, can you share with us the best piece of advice you have ever received?

Live a life you will remember and make every day count. No regrets in life, just lessons learned.

Thanks for having me, Jen!

Indonesia has always been on my bucket list, so when I noticed that an F-ONE School in Banda Aceh had started up a new kiteboarding camp, it immediately appealed to me. Sulawesi, also known as Celebes, is one of the five main Indonesian islands, the eleventh largest island in the world and above all, its turquoise lagoons and coconut trees remain undiscovered by the masses!

JENEPONTO KITESURF PARADISE

- THE NEW KITE MECCA IN INDONESIA





“ THEY BUILT THE PLACE UP FROM NOTHING AND TURNED IT INTO A MAGICAL RESORT THAT BLENDS INTO ITS ASTONISHING BACKDROP ”

I checked the wind statistics for the spot, and to my surprise, it forecasted a 95% chance of 20+ knots of wind - I was game! The kite camp was due to start July 1st, but when I tried to book, it was already full! I emailed the organizers, Alice and Régis, and they managed to pull some strings and book us in for the end of the August.

Alice and Régis are both French but fell in love with Indonesia years ago! Alice manages the accommodation and restaurant at the resort on this slice of paradise, while Régis is in charge of all things kiteboarding related.

To get to Jeneponto, it's best to land at Makassar airport. There are no direct flights from Europe yet, but there are multiple flights from Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bali or Jakarta. Once you arrive, you'll have to book a taxi to Jeneponto (more specifically Mallosoro; a small fishing village where the spot is located). The taxi journey should take you approximately two hours. Arriving at a new kiteboarding destination must be one of the best feelings in the world; would you agree?

Alice and Régis have done an incredible job with the place. They built the place up from nothing and turned it into a magical resort that blends into its astonishing backdrop. Twelve bungalows made of wood species native to South Sulawesi; the same wood used to construct the traditional two-masted sailboats. The roofs are made of conventional tiles that have a classic Indonesian shape called Joglo (shaped like a pyramid) For me, the most dazzling thing was the outdoor bamboo bathrooms; nothing beats going to the toilet at night while staring at the stars!



“ A HUGE LAGOON FORMS JUST TO THE LEFT; IDEAL FOR LEARNING BECAUSE YOU ARE PROTECTED FROM SMALL WAVES. ON THE RIGHT, THERE IS A MUCH SMALLER, FLATTER LAGOON THAT FORMS, WHICH IS GREAT FOR FREESTYLE! ”

The kiteboarding spot is literally a stone-throw away from your room, and you can set up your kite on the grass by the pool and go walk right into the water.

The spot changes depending on the tide. The best time is at high tide, a huge lagoon forms just to the left; ideal for learning because you are protected from small waves.

On the right, there is a much smaller, flatter lagoon that forms, which is great for freestyle! Make sure you keep an eye out for the villagers' boat though, you don't want to drop your kite on them! If you are into strapless riding, you will find some small waves. The waves are usually too small to surf, but it's still enough to have fun on strong wind days. If you are an experienced rider, just under a kilometre downwind, you'll find old aquaculture lagoons that form three new flatwater pools. Wait for high tide and then jump a small rock fence to enjoy these playgrounds!

If you are not kiteboarding, you'll love exploring the bay and visiting the small fishing island in front of the resort. There's something for everyone!

Unfortunately, you might be a little disappointed if you've brought your foil board! There is quite a lot of seaweed and large rectangles squared by ropes attached to plastic bottles. Algae cultivation is the primary resource of the village. They collect them on foot at low tide in bamboo baskets or at high tide they pile them up in their boats. They then dry them in the sun on large plastic tarpaulins in front of their homes. They then sell them by the kilo. They are exported everywhere in the world; you'll even find them in your cosmetics.



The spot benefits from an acceleration of the trade winds, thanks to the surrounding mountains but also to a peak effect, and it is no coincidence that one of Indonesia's largest wind farms can be seen in the distance on the mountains. The wind blows like this non-stop from April to October. We were there for just over 2 weeks, and the wind blew over 20 knots, every day! We would get up between 8:00 am - 9:00 am, and the wind would generally start as soon as the sun rises, reaching 30 knots by late morning. I've never experienced such a promising wind forecast, except for maybe in Madagascar.



EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR MTB!

“ WE WERE THERE FOR JUST OVER 2 WEEKS, AND THE WIND BLEW OVER 20 KNOTS, EVERY DAY! ”

**HAVE YOU SEEN OUR MOUNTAIN BIKE MAGAZINE?
CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT!**

We had initially planned to move around a little bit and go sightseeing, but it's hard to find the incentive to do that when you have kiteboarding conditions like these, literally at your doorstep! We also didn't anticipate that the roads were not well adapted to the traffic. One day, it took us two and a half hours by taxi to get from Makassar to the kite spot. Makassar is extremely congested, but even when you leave the city traffic jams, it remains challenging because the roads are winding, poorly maintained and very narrow. Trucks, cars, scooters, pedestrians, goats, and cars share a road, where two vehicles can barely pass through; all it takes is an accident or a broken-down vehicle to block traffic for hours.

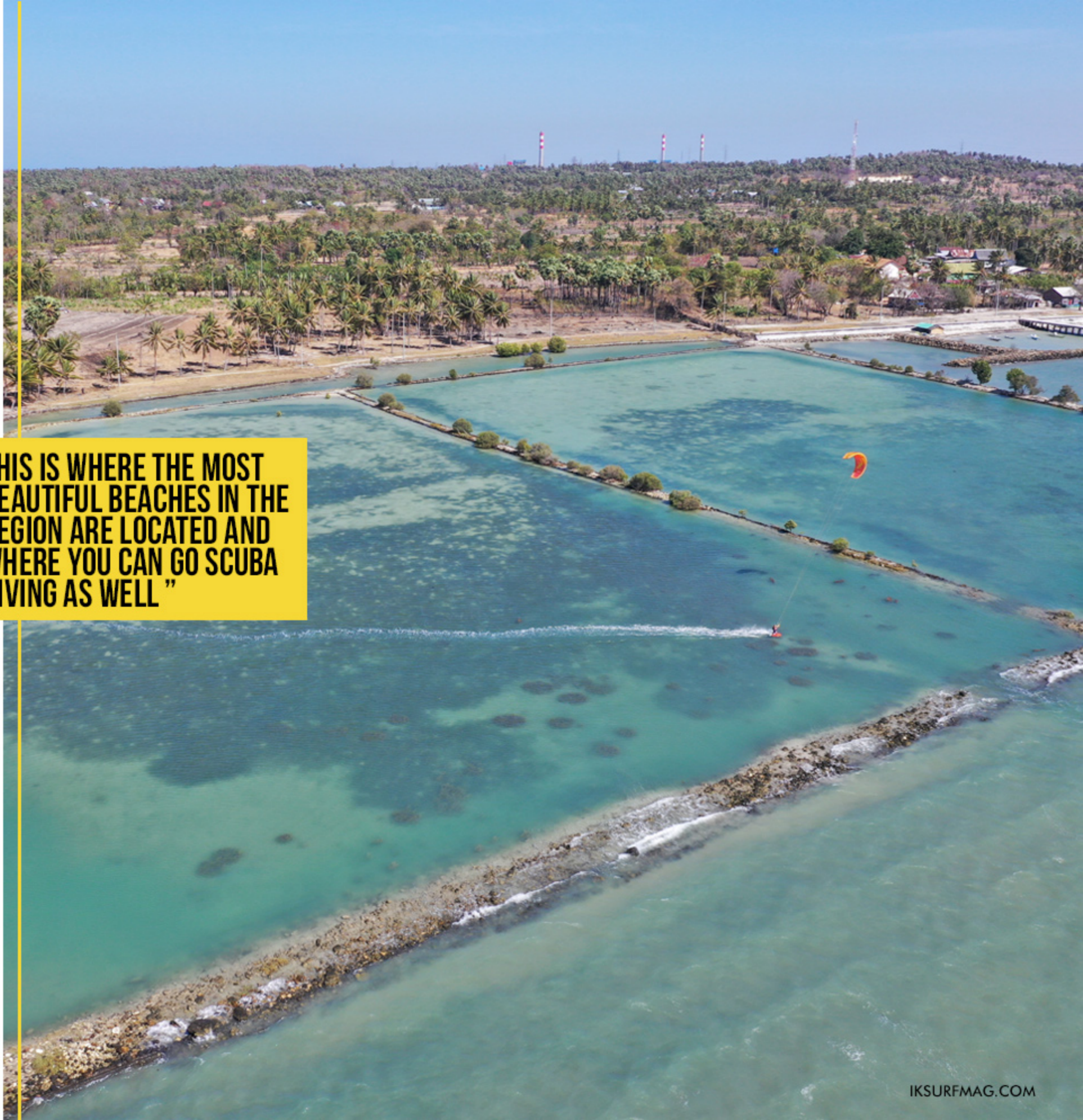
I wouldn't say that Indonesians drive badly, but they have their own driving style that is difficult to understand! They honk to prevent crashes, which turns into a constant hum! It must be only a matter of habit and adapted hearing, but I wouldn't recommend you rent a car!

Don't over plan your travel itinerary! The easiest place to visit is Bira, which is about three kilometres away. This is where the most beautiful beaches in the region are located and where you can go Scuba diving as well. Keep in mind though that Bira is very popular amongst the locals on weekends, so make sure you book in advance.

If you want to do something a little different, away from the sea, there are some incredible waterfalls to visit in the countryside. Régis and Alice are always happy to give you advice, and they will even organize the trip for you.

As a photographer, I rarely take portraits of people when I travel, as some cultures don't appreciate it.

“ THIS IS WHERE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BEACHES IN THE REGION ARE LOCATED AND WHERE YOU CAN GO SCUBA DIVING AS WELL ”





“ THE SPOT KEPT ITS PROMISE AS THE WINDIEST PLACE IN INDONESIA! IT'S NOT EASY TO LEAVE THIS LITTLE PARADISE AND THE WHOLE BATIKITE RESORT TEAM ”

One morning, I took a walk with the sole intention to get some photos alleyways and the architecture of the houses, but I was stopped by the locals asking me to take photos of them! They thanked me and gave me presents. They didn't even want to see the photos; they were just happy to have their photo taken! Despite the language barrier, it was a great exchange of laughter and smiles.

Over two weeks of non-stop kiteboarding, it was time to head home! The spot kept its promise as the windiest place in Indonesia! It's not easy to leave this little paradise and the whole Batikite Resort team. Between the incredible wind statistics, the kindness and hospitality of the people and the beauty of the spot, I think I was lucky to experience it before everyone else!

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to Get There

The spot is located in the village of Mallasoro, 80 km from Makassar and its international airport: Sultan Hasanuddin Airport (UPG).

To get to Makassar from Europe, book your flight through Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta or Bali. Several airlines offer these flights, but I recommend Singapore Airlines with a transit in Singapore. The flight price should range between 700 and 800 euros.

When to Go

The wind blows from April to November. The strongest months are June/July/August/September with 98% wind and an average speed of more than 20 knots.

Where to Book

Batikite Resort, the only hotel in the region!

<https://indonesiakitesurfing.com>



“ BAHASA IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE. IT IS MOSTLY DERIVED FROM MALAY BUT ALSO INCORPORATES MANY DIALECTAL OR IMPORTED WORDS. ”

Currency

The local currency is the Indonesian Rupee (IDR) called RUPIAH. 1€ ~ 15 542 Rp (at 01/09/2019)

There's an ATM at Makassar airport (MasterCard and visa). Withdrawals are limited; I was able to withdraw 127 euros max or 2,000,000 rupees; you're a millionaire!

Time Difference

Jeneponto is in the UTC/GMT+8 time zone,

and there is no time change, so with France, there is a +6h time difference in summer and +7h in winter.

Electricity

Electricity is at 220 volts and 60 hertz; the sockets are identical to those in France. All bungalows are equipped with C, E, F sockets.

Language

Bahasa is the official language. It is mostly derived from Malay but also incorporates many dialectal or imported words. There are about 250 languages and dialects spoken in Indonesia. But all of them, except for most

elders, speak Bahasa and have some basic English.

Scooters and Car Rental

Batikite Resort offers scooters for rent at 75000 rupees per day or about 5 euros. The resort does not rent a car, but they can put you in touch with a rental company. You'll pay about 700,000 rupees or 45 euros.

Gasoline prices are roughly 10000 rupees/litre or about 60 cents of euros per litre. In Makassar, you can get an app on your phone called 'GRAB' for taxis.

Phone and Internet

There is a network everywhere, and the resort offers free Wi-Fi in the common areas at 4G speed.



“ BE CAREFUL AFTER 30 DAYS YOU MUST LEAVE THE COUNTRY, THE VISA IS NOT RENEWABLE EVEN IF YOU PAY. ”

Formalities and Visas

You must have a passport with a validity of more than 6 months. No need for a visa for a stay of less than 30 days for French nationals. But be careful after 30 days you must leave the country, the visa is not renewable even if you pay.

For a stay of more than 30 days, you can apply for an arrival visa (VOA) from the immigration authorities. (60 euros for 60 days).

In all cases, you must be in possession of a return ticket or other proof of leaving the country.

Health

No vaccinations are required, but diphtheria-tetanus-polio vaccination (DTP) is recommended, rubella-mumps-measles (MMR) vaccination for kids, and anti-tuberculosis vaccination is also advisable.

During the dry season (April to November) the wind blows mosquitoes away in the daytime, but there may be some at night. The bungalows are equipped with mosquito nets and air conditioning. The risk of malaria in Indonesia varies considerably from one island to another, so make sure you know how to leave, especially since the map varies according to climatic events. I'd recommend you take precautions anyway; mosquitoes can also transmit other diseases (dengue fever, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis or Zika virus). I didn't take any treatment for malaria because I stayed only in Mallasoro where the risk was low. There are doctors in Jeneponto, and the nearest hospital is in Makassar. The other most common risks are tourism and sunburn!

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 NICK JACOBSEN - FUN WITH A KITE

Unsurprisingly, Nick Jacobsen's 'Fun with A Kite' is claiming #1 on our Movie Night list! Kiteboarding is all about the freedom to Nick, exploration with a kite above his head, to do whatever his heart desires! When Nick's drops a new video, it always worth a watch!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2 MANERA - KORORO

The MANERA crew always leaves us awe-struck when they drop their yearly product video! Four years, that's literally how long it took them to organize their Kamchatka adventure. You're going to want to get this one on the big screen; this is one for the books!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3 EWAN JASPAN - KOTA WILDCARD 2020

This is definitely one of the best KOTA videos! We've been seeing some mental 2020 Red Bull King of the Air entry video's over that past couple of months, but Ewan Jaspán left quite an impression on our viewers! If you haven't watched this one yet, you better check it out!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4 KITESURFING HURRICANE JERRY IN ENCUESTRO BEACH DR 2019

If you haven't had a wave session in a while, you're about to live through Oron Kessel vicariously! Oron scored some incredible conditions during hurricane Jerry in Encuentro Beach in the Dominican Republic – this will get you stoked for a session!



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VICTOR HAYS ENJOYING THE SUNSET IN BRAZIL
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

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