

DECEMBER 21/JANUARY 22

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 90 of IKSURFMAG, the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine!

In the final issue of 2021, we take a closer look at the tides of change sweeping big air kiting. Ready to hit the road? Join Alina Kornelli as she drives through Denmark and the Manera team searching for sessions in northern Spain. Across the pond,

Punta Luna sings its siren song, blessing Martin Vari and Marc Ramseier with epic swell. There's still plenty more in store, with interviews from strapless rider Pablo Amores, photographer Miriam Joanna, and North Kiteboarding's Hugh Pinfold! With new techniques, tests, and tech, there is plenty of excitement between the pages of IKSURFMAG Issue 90!

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- THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE AIR -

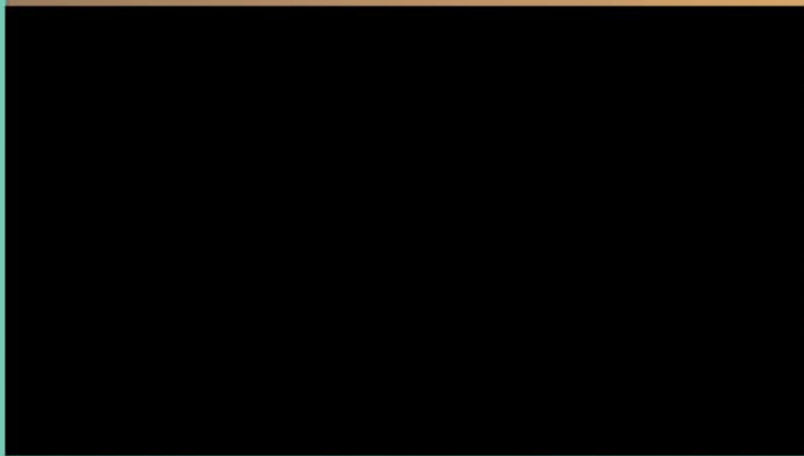
**DENMARK / CORNISA CANTÁBRICA / PUNTA LUNA
INTERVIEWS / TECH / TESTS AND MORE INSIDE!**

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE

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EDITORIAL



THERE'S SOMETHING
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THE INTERVIEW:
PABLO AMORES



ON THE ROAD
WITH ALINA



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RIDER AARON HADLOW
PHOTO ANDY TROY



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ISSUE 90 THIS IS NOT A SOLO SPORT

I'll pop a disclaimer in here right at the start because, technically, kiting is a solo sport. However, that's only the case for the few not-so-social outliers that arrive at the beach armed with flawless self-launching and self-landing skills, go for their session, and leave without interacting with a soul. For everyone else, I say again: Kiting is not a solo sport!

Community is the keystone to kitesurfing, not only for increasing the sport's safety but also for the sheer joy of sharing successes and failures with others. Having a witness to your spectacular stuff-up of a beach start makes it unmeasurably more hilarious. On the other hand, if you didn't have someone to see you nail your first big kite loop, did it really even happen?!

I've just had a brilliant reminder of the importance of community in kitesurfing after attending the Wind Women Weekend in Langebaan, hosted by Airush x Obsession. When I first learned to kite, it was because I'd seen this tight-knit and vibrant community of wind-obsessed people that I wanted to be a part of. I've been stuck atop a discouraging plateau of kiting progression for a while. So, when I heard about this ladies weekend away, I packed my bags with a glimmer of hope that I could find some inspiration.

The crew featured a wildly diverse group of women, from South African legend Su Kay to up-and-comers Ella Raeburn and Jeanne Vanderick. While a few riders were exploring unhooked freestyle and more than one woman had a WOO personal best over 15m, the group also included a lot of beginners. Some wives and mothers hadn't been on the water in several years, and others hadn't yet graduated the body dragging stage.

RIDER ALEXANDRA TORRES PHOTO RAMIRO GALLART
INSET. WIND WOMAN WEEKEND PHOTO MITCHELL MARKGRAFF



Even one lovely lady had never kited before - she only wanted to join for some fun and yoga and witness the women in action! Most importantly, everyone had someone they could pair up with at a similar riding level to share the experience of learning.

It's common knowledge that kiting with people at a higher level than you can help your progression. What's often left out of that statement is that the magic really happens when you kite with someone only marginally better than you. While some kites benefit from the advice to "just send it" and go from learning to do straight airs directly into attempting mega loops, most don't. When a fellow kiter performs or explains a technique that is actually within reach, it's much easier to learn something new in every session rather than trying and failing a trick that's too many steps ahead.

I arrived intending to learn down loops on my jumps, something I've been afraid to pull the trigger on in the nuking winds of Cape Town's Kite Beach. Su Kay was there to save the day, drawing me a road map that broke it down into individually achievable steps. I left being able to do aerial down loops and, crucially, the confidence that I'll be able to do it at 5m or 10m by the end of this season. Imagine thinking, "If she can, I can" - or he, of course - and actually being able to.

Each of us has access to this incredible community of kites, and I encourage you all to take advantage of it. Seek out fellow kites that you can learn from and provide support to, and see where it goes! There's no better feeling than an apres-session beer and celebration of success - no matter how small. Thanks to all of you who are a part of this community. You're the reason that this sport is so special!

Crystal Veness

Editor

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COLLEEN CARROLL AND SENSI GRAVES AT STRUT KITEBOARDING WOMEN'S KITE CAMP
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PHOTOS ERIC DURAN

EDITORIAL

 NORTH



KING OF THE BIG AIR KITES

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After a King of the Air with more upsets than our travel plans this year, it's clear we're in the midst of a big shift in the world of Big Air. We take a look at what the new generation of Big Air kiting looks like, with words from retiring kings, first-time competitors, and more, right here in this exclusive IKSURFMAG feature!

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE AIR

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS



“ THE AIRBORNE IRRITATION THAT WE CAN'T SEEM TO SHAKE WAS DEFINITELY IN THE AIR IN LATE NOVEMBER IN CAPE TOWN. ”

It's nearing the end of another year on our windy blue planet, and yet again, one of the few things saving our sanity is the existence of this incredible sport that we call kiteboarding. Or kitesurfing, though I'll leave the debate on kite-whatever-it-is-ing aside for now.

What a way to end the year! A flurry of Big Air events starting from Cold Hawaii to Lords of Tram and ending with a Red Bull King of the Air that had nearly as many upsets as all of our travel plans for the year. While we're a bit disappointed that great new talents like Lorenzo Casati, Andrea Principi, and Jamie Overbeek didn't get a chance to show us their stuff at KOTA, we're certain they'll be front-runners for invitations to the next event! If one thing is clear, there is definitely something in the air.

Now, I did everything in my power to avoid bringing up the obvious, but I failed. Allow me just this one paragraph. The airborne irritation that we can't seem to shake was definitely in the air in late November in Cape Town. No, I'm not talking about the inconsiderate kiter that does a massive air or kiteloop without so much as a courtesy glance at the landing zone downwind. Though, there were plenty of those around as well. All I'm saying is, as much fun as King of the Air was, the newest event to make headlines is Covid in the Air, and, spoiler alert, there are no winners!

This ongoing pandemic is nothing to laugh about, but it's about all there is left to do for many of us! Psychologically, laughing as a reaction to an incredibly stressful situation is quite common.

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“ I'M SO EXCITED FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF BIG AIR KITEBOARDERS TO STEP UP AND SHOW THE WORLD WHAT THEY HAVE GOT. ”

According to neuroscientist Vilayanur S. Ramachandran, "We have nervous laughter because we want to make ourselves think what horrible thing we encountered isn't really as horrible as it appears, something we want to believe." So, here I am, chuckling awkwardly, as I try to stand upwind of the other kites on the beach in fear of the big bad Omicron!

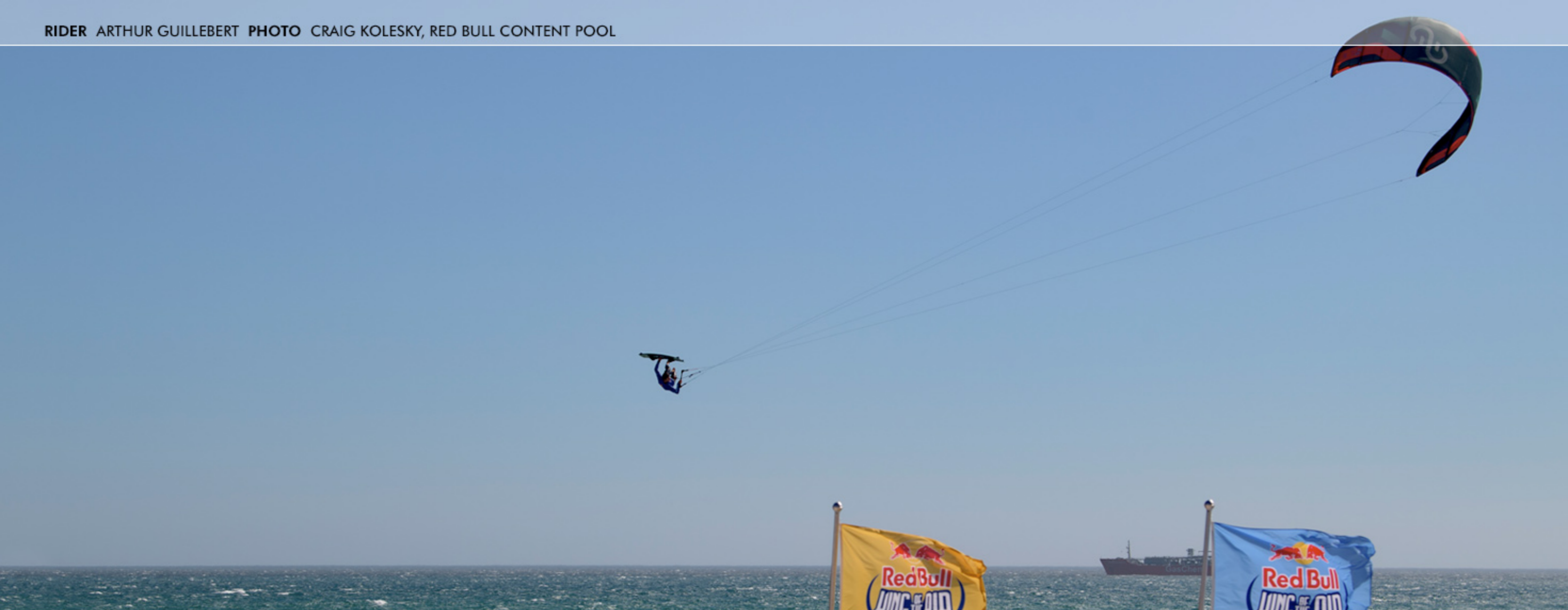
Thankfully, this article is actually about kitesurfing, so let's get back to that! Something big is in the air, and it looks a lot like the winds of change.

There is a big shift happening in Big Air, and the voluntary withdrawal from KOTA by reigning King Jesse Richman was some incredible foreshadowing. Jesse said, "This year, I'm turning down my spot at KOTA and giving it to the next rider in line. I'm so excited for the next generation of big air kiteboarders to step up and show the world what they have got. No one wants to see me up on that podium again; We all want to see something new and exciting. Someone new. We are here to have fun and make the world a better place for those who come next. I welcome the next generation to step up and make us proud, to assist in the natural evolution of our sport."

The next domino to tip itself over was invited rider Steven Akkersdijk, withdrawing from the event to focus on other disciplines, including foil, strapless riding, and sharing his skills through his SA Masterclass videos. In an open video message to his followers, he said, "In the past years, I've lost a little bit of interest to ride competitively with the twin tip.

JANEK AND STEVEN





“ MAKING WAY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION IS AN HONOURABLE ACTION; THESE YOUNG UP-AND-COMERS CERTAINLY DESERVE THEIR CHANCE AT GLORY. ”

Of course, I still love boosting, but not for four hours a day, which I think is necessary if you really want to compete at the top... I really want to give a chance to all the young guys out there, the guys that do spend four hours a day on the water and are super stoked about the sport, and for

them to enter the big stage at Red Bull King of the Air, and not me as an older guy, holding onto the spot just because I can."

Making way for the next generation is an honourable action; These young up-and-comers certainly deserve their chance at glory. That's not to say that the old legends can't still be competitive - they were. However, we've been talking about them for aeons.

In honour of the incredible performances of the first-time competitors in the 2021 King of the Air, we chatted with the next generation

of Big Air riders to find out what it was like competing to be King.

First, some words from Stig Hoefnagel, King of the first-timers, and our Issue 90 cover star! "Because it was my first time competing in KOTA, I was just stoked on being there and not that focused on actually doing well. I went into that first heat with a good mindset and spirit; I knew that if I were having fun, I would be capable of winning. After I won my first heat (against Kevin Langeree and Tom Bridge), I felt like I was in the zone and was able to achieve a lot more than my first goal, which was making it into the semi-finals."

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“ I THINK THE FUTURE OF BIG AIR LOOKS INSANE! IT'S ONLY JUST BEGUN. THIS IS SUCH A NEW SPORT AND EVERY SINGLE WEEK WE SEE SOME INNOVATION - ESPECIALLY COMING FROM THE YOUNGSTERS ”

Stig fought his way through the event and ended up in the finals, achieving an incredible 3rd place in his KOTA debut. We asked him how it felt, and he said, "Standing on the podium is something that I have dreamed of for years but never knew if it would ever be reality. Already being super proud of making it to the finals in my first KOTA almost felt a little awkward because no one - including myself - thought that I was capable of such a thing."

South African Michael MacDonald, who was selected as a reserve rider, entered the event upon Steven Akkersdijk's withdrawal. Unfortunately, his powerful performance in the first heat was interrupted by a heavy crash. He left the event in the back of an ambulance and returned on crutches to watch Day 2 from the sidelines. Still, his excitement for the sport hasn't subsided one bit! "I think the future of big air looks INSANE! It's only just begun. This is such a new sport and every single week we see some innovation - especially coming from the youngsters. Can I swear? IT'S FUCKING RIDICULOUS! Haha!"

Another impressive performance came from Giel Vlugt, who many punters had tipped for a potential podium position. His first-time jitters nearly got the best of him, and he told us about the challenge of going up against the cool and collected riders with years of experience. "I was feeling confident going into Round 1 against Marc Jacobs and Lasse Walker.

“AS A COMPETITOR, YOU ALWAYS FEEL LIKE YOU COULD HAVE DONE MORE. SO I WILL MOST DEFINITELY BE BACK NEXT YEAR!”

I was way too hyped before going into that round, so when the heat started, I just went for every single kicker I could find instead of looking for a good kicker and a good gust. I finished last in that heat and had to calm myself down to make sure I would perform in the next heat."

He was quick to rebound from that setback, taking out Lewis Crathern in Round 2 and scoring an impressive win against Aaron Hadlow in Round 3, stamping his envelope to the semi-finals against Stig. "I felt in the zone. I was finding the right kickers and managed to land almost every trick attempt. Round 3 was my idea of a perfect heat, and I was very happy to show the world what I could do. Overall, I'm very happy with my performance, but as a competitor, you always feel like you could have done more. So I will most definitely be back next year!"

GKA competitor Val Garat had a tough run in the event but had some excellent insight about the discipline of Big Air, "It's crazy to see how the level of Big Air has improved the last two years. We see way more Big Air specialists, and they for sure contribute to push the sport. I think every rider has his own style, and I like to see some good technical tricks but still with a lot of power and nice loops."

While Val is an impressive rider in his own right, he was impressed by the performance of the more experienced riders. "Marc Jacobs showed he was able to do everything, and Kevin, coming 2nd, proved that the older riders still have their place



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“ HIS PRIZE FOR WINNING - ON HIS BIRTHDAY! - WAS THE GLORY, RESPECT, AND EXCITEMENT OF THE ENTIRE KITEBOARDING COMMUNITY ”

and that it takes years and experience to win a KOTA." Since the event has finished, he's more focused and inspired than ever, "I still love Freestyle, but I think I will put way more effort and time into my Big Air, as it was a dream to get into the KOTA, but now my main goal is to get this trophy one day. I know it's possible, and I'll focus on that for the next years!"

Speaking of Marc Jacobs, we can't write an article about King of the Air without talking about his incredible triumph! When we spoke to him before the event, he said, "I feel like I have a lot to show in Big Air... my main focus is to win King of the Air in 2021."

Well, win, he did. The hard work he put into training his switch side to satisfy the conditions and judging criteria of the event paid off! Undoubtedly, his road to Cape Town was the longest of all the riders, leaving New Zealand shortly after his wedding to fulfil his dream of winning the event. His prize for winning - on his birthday! - was the glory, respect, and excitement of the entire kiteboarding community... and a nightmare of a trip home thanks to the emergence of the Omicron.

There's no doubt that we're about to see a big shift in the world of Big Air kiting, and we couldn't be more excited. Bring on 2022! Let's hope the only thing flying through the air is balls-to-the-wall kiteboarders!



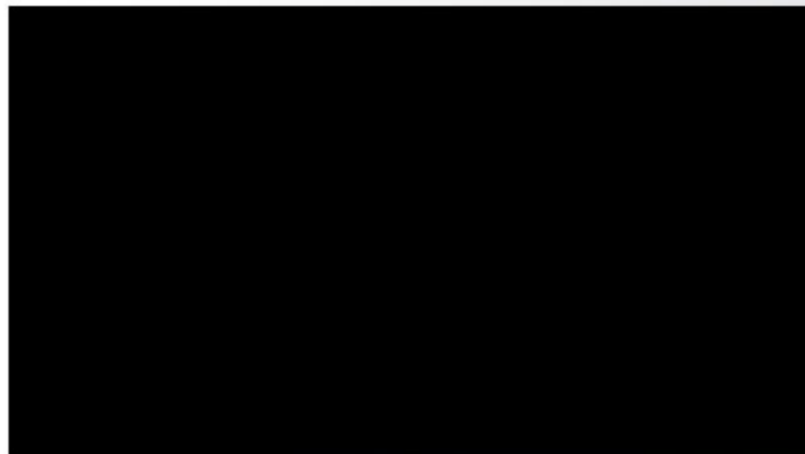
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THE INTERVIEW

PABLO AMORES

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS

Spanish rider Pablo Amores oozes style on his strapless board! In this issue, he gives us the inside story on his kitesurfing origins, how he juggles studies and sessions, and a look at what inspires him as a professional athlete.

Read all about it in this exclusive interview!





" YOU CAN SEE THAT THE BEST WAVE KITERS OUT THERE ARE ALSO EXCELLENT SURFERS. "



Pablo, we've seen your face in our magazine countless times with epic strapless and wave photos. It's great to finally have you as the subject of our Issue #89 Interview! Tell us about your path to kiting. When did your relationship with the ocean begin?

My passion for the ocean started at the age of one. When I was a baby, my parents created a special crib for me on their sailboat. After that, it was inevitable! I windsurfed and surfed growing up but started kitesurfing quite late, in 2014.

I can't believe you only started kiting at 18 years old! Do you think your background in windsurfing and surfing gave you that extra edge in wave kiting?

Yes, for sure! In the end, all watersports are connected because of the ocean. Many things work the same, especially when wave riding. It is crucial to know how to surf before kiting so you can read the waves properly and infuse your regular surfing technique into your kitesurfing. You can see that the best wave kites out there are also excellent surfers.

Unlike many pro kites on the scene today, your kiting journey started at university age. What are you studying, and how do you balance kiting and your education?

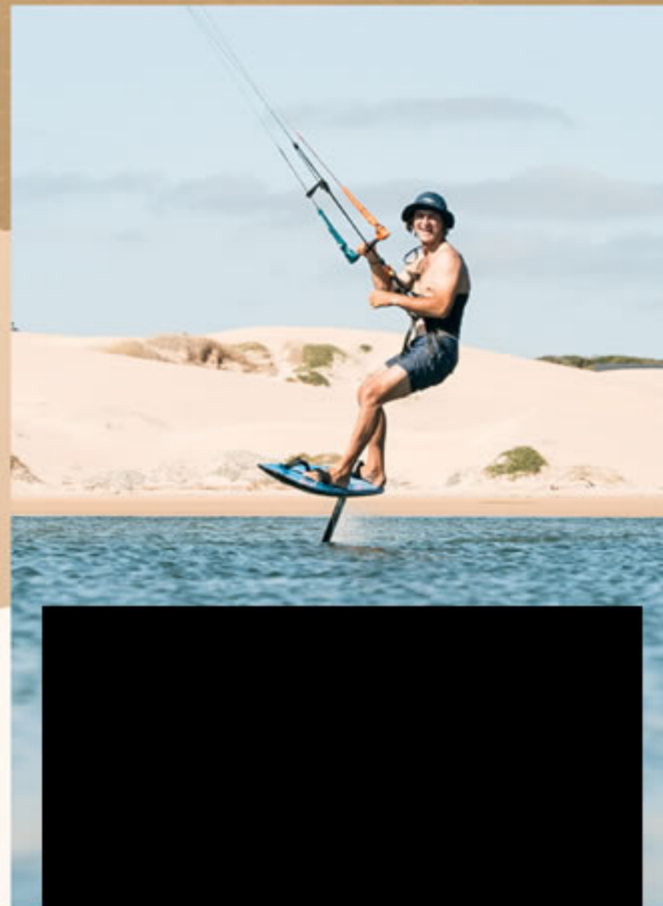
I'm still in university studying Business & Management. In the middle of my time in university, I got a bit lost because I was living in Sevilla. It is such a beautiful city, but it is missing a thing I cannot live without: the ocean. So, I have been taking my studies slowly and will hopefully finish this winter.



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“ THE MOST COMFORTING THING FOR ME IS THE SATISFACTION OF LANDING A NEW TRICK OR GOING ON A TRIP SOMEWHERE TO LOOK FOR WAVES ”

CABO VERDE BARREL
PHOTO CLAUDIO CABRA

While studying, you've been racing back to Tarifa on weekends to get on the water. What made you want to convert your kitesurfing hobby to a professional career?

The most comforting thing for me is the satisfaction of landing a new trick or going on a trip somewhere to look for waves and discover new cultures and people. After my second kite trip to Mauritius, I got completely pulled into this life! I don't have words to describe that trip. Mauritius is just a magical place. Also, watching friends like Liam, Jerome and Matchu live this kind of life, where travel and fun are part of the job, motivated me to pursue kiting as a professional career.

Was your family supportive of this decision? Did you experience any struggles with this chosen lifestyle?

In the beginning, my parents didn't support my decision. I mean, they didn't forbid me to do what I wanted but also didn't like that I took a break from university life for kitesurfing. But as time has passed, their opinions have changed, and they support me in my lifestyle. They always want to bring me to the airport or pick me up when I return home, and they always let me know that they are proud of the son I am!

Your dad held a world record! What was it for, and was your dad one of your inspirations to get

into watersports?

One of the main reasons I got into watersports was my dad, a speed windsurfing racer in the '90s. He has a world speed record; I think it was around 39 knots and happened in 1995 at a world competition in Tarifa. It was the same year I was born, back when Bjorn Dunkerberck and Robby Naish used to compete.

At the age of 9, I had my first windsurfing lessons at Valdevaqueros. Then at 12, my older brother Javi was competing at the KPWT and PKRA in waves, which inspired me to start catching waves with regular surfing.

Did Javi's high level in kitesurfing get you interested in the sport, or were you doing your own thing back then?

When my brother was competing, I hadn't even started to kite yet! When I got older, I heard his stories about his competitions and saw his videos, and I was amazed by the lifestyle. All those stories about travelling and the old adventures he shared with me pushed me to take my first steps into kiteboarding.

Have you managed to convert your dad over to kiting? What do Amores family sessions look like?

He wanted to start, but unfortunately, he got a lumbar hernia, and he had to stop action sports. He still sails a lot and wins a lot of regional and national sailing races with his team. My brother lives in Cantabria, which is on the other side of Spain from where I live in Tarifa, so we cannot kite together as much as we want. We love to go for a kite or surf session together whenever we get the chance, though!

How have the past 18 months and the whole COVID thing affected your lifestyle and kiting career? Are you still able to get on the water often?

Covid hasn't been the best for travelling to other spots, so it has impacted my career. In Tarifa, we have great strapless freestyle conditions, but we don't get enough waves to train continuously. Usually, I go to other countries like Mauritius or Brazil, basically anywhere I can focus on training my wave riding. Right now, I'm trying to get a session a day in, so it's not so bad!



“ IN TARIFA, WE HAVE GREAT STRAPLESS FREESTYLE CONDITIONS, BUT WE DON'T GET ENOUGH WAVES TO TRAIN CONTINUOUSLY. ”





You've been a fixture in the GKA, both in wave riding and strapless freestyle. Tell us your favourite thing about the tour!

My first ever competition was the very first GKA event in Dakhla. Since then, I have met many people from different countries, opening myself to explore more of this beautiful world full of wave spots. It is nice to make new friends in the middle of the competitions, and some of them become close. Unfortunately, I almost didn't compete this year, as travel restrictions made it difficult, so I'm just waiting to start full-on in the GKA 2022 season.

" IT IS NICE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE COMPETITIONS "



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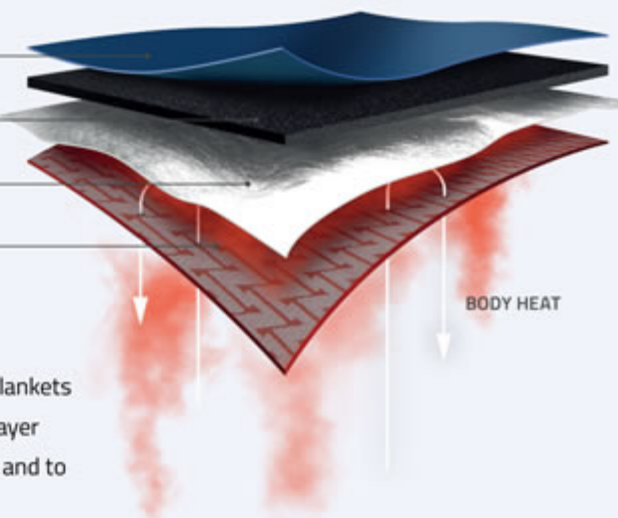
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" I HAVE BEEN INSPIRED TO START RIDING TWIN TIPS TO DISCOVER NEW TECHNIQUES THAT I CAN APPLY TO STRAPLESS. "



**What is your favourite kite spot in Spain?
What about the rest of Europe?**

I love the Canary Islands! In Vargas, Gran Canaria, there is a perfect spot for strapless freestyle, especially in summer when the wind is up to 40 knots. For waves, I prefer Fuerteventura with softer winds and many surf spots. I also enjoy visiting Portugal, where I can catch great waves in winter at Guincho or Ericeira. It's close to Spain and easy to have a camper trip there, a perfect mix!

What does your kiting quiver look like, and why have you chosen that specific gear?

I like the new Slingshot Machine for strapless freestyle; it has a lot of hangtime and is super light, perfect for air tricks. For waves, for sure, it is the SST V6. The new version is lighter with new wingtips and has amazing drift, making it the best for wave riding. About the boards, I use a Scyfly 5'0" for strapless freestyle, Scyfly 5'4" for tiny waves and some strapless. With side or side off conditions and powerful waves, the Tyrant XR 5'8" has the perfect drive. For the rest, I use a Celero XR; this board is amazing because you can use it in marginal conditions or overhead waves.

**What other styles of kiting do you enjoy?
Do you ever ride a twin tip?**

I enjoy watching my friends doing freestyle at the lagoon here in Tarifa; Those tricks are not easy at all! I also love to watch my friends at Balneario, and I have been inspired to start riding twin tips to discover new techniques that I can apply to strapless.





PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS

I see that you've taken up winging as well! When you first saw winging, did you think it would take off the way it has?

Exactly! I like it! I was windsurfing when I was younger, and I like this feeling when the wing pulls you from the arms and in front of you. I love surf foiling as well, so it's a perfect combination of two fantastic sports. It's cool that you can do different stuff with the same sport and gear like wave riding, freestyle and racing. Haha, I have to say that I didn't think it would be a fun sport the first time I saw it. Then after my curiosity started, I learnt how to wing in March, and now I'm hooked!

" I LOVE SURF FOILING AS WELL, SO IT'S A PERFECT COMBINATION OF TWO FANTASTIC SPORTS. "



MINIMALIST

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Meet the ultimate collection of lightweight kiteboarding accessories...

What is your winging setup? Are you more into winging in waves or on flatwater?

The Dart V1 and Wingcraft 60L are my choices. The Dart has a lot of power and hangtime when you are in the air. As you know, I'm more of a wave rider than anything, but with the wing, I have to admit that I prefer to do freestyle and tricks.

What do you have planned for 2022? Any major projects or exciting travel plans?

Currently, I am in Cape Town for the Prolimit shoot and to ride some waves. After summer, I would love to go to Mauritius if the borders are open. I'd also like to visit the Canary Islands and go somewhere else totally new. As a surfer, I love to go on unique kite trips!

We look forward to seeing what 2022 brings for you. Thanks, Pablo!

" AS A SURFER, I LOVE TO GO ON UNIQUE KITE TRIPS! "



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WORDS ALINA KORNELLI
PHOTOS LUKAS STILLER

ON THE ROAD WITH ALINA

Once a year, German kiteboarder Alina Kornelli and photographer Lukas Stiller hit the road in their vans, searching for epic spots to shoot kite content. Last winter took them to snow-covered mountains in Switzerland for snowkite adventures to remember. What did they get up to this summer? Find out in this IKSURFMAG exclusive!

“ WE PACKED UP OUR VANS WITH ENOUGH GEAR TO COMBAT ANY CONDITIONS THE DANISH WATERS COULD THROW AT US! ”

Living in Bavaria in the south of Germany means a lot of lake riding and light wind. My home spot is a beautiful lake called Walchensee, with thick forest on one side and mountains on the other. Walchensee is a deep alpine lake with clear blue water that is ice cold. Summer brings thermal winds, but rarely enough for anything more than foiling. This is why, when the opportunity to explore somewhere new comes up, it's impossible to resist!

My good friend Lukas Stiller is a talented photographer and happened to be up for a visit to our neighbour to the north, Denmark. While neither of us had been to the Danish seaside, we had heard of incredible spots like Cold Hawaii, Hvide Sande, Klitmøller, Hanstholm, Spot X or Nordskov on the eastern island of Fyn. The forecast looked promising, so we packed up our vans with enough gear to combat any conditions the Danish waters could throw at us!

The best way to do a road trip is in a van, and luckily I have a Volkswagen T6.1 California Beach. While it's a normal-sized van with the added luxury of a built-in kitchenette, there's still plenty of space for all of my kiting gear at the back and a pop-up roof where I put my mattress. Lukas has a van of his own, so we set off in our houses on wheels in our two-person convoy to follow the wind!

Since Denmark is only 12% of the landmass of Germany, it is super easy to get around. You'll never be more than 32 miles from the sea, and it only takes a few hours to go from north to south or east to west.





“ WE ARRIVED TO SEE SOME FAMILIAR FACES; IT SEEMS ALL THE WAVE KITERS IN DENMARK HAD HEARD ABOUT THE FORECAST! ”

Since we had only planned a short trip, this suited us perfectly, but we still ran into some hurdles! As a kiteboarder, you know it's never guaranteed that you'll find the right kite spot... and one with wind! The wind forecast was changing quickly, so we searched the Windy app for the windiest zones on the peninsula of Jutland.

Starting at the southern flat water fjords, we got to see foggy Hvide Sande, with super lovely flat water conditions. Excited to be by the seaside, we headed north in search of waves. We drove past numerous kite spots on our way along the west coast, so we decided to stop halfway at a parking spot near Krik, next to another fjord. Alas, all we got as a welcome was 12 knots, muddy water, and clouds overhead! While we weren't so lucky with the wind, it was clear that you could discover the whole fjord with your kite in the right conditions.

Continuing along the coast, through the Thy National Park, we arrived at a well-known wave spot called Hansthalm, located at a pretty beach next to giant windmills and a harbour that reeked of fish! We arrived to see some familiar faces; It seems all the wave kites in Denmark had heard about the forecast! However, compared to the packed lagoons in Brazil that we experienced last year, this was calm and empty.

We parked our vans and tucked in for the night with high hopes that the wind would arrive by morning. We were up for sunrise with the telephoto lens, and I was happy to have my first session in the fresh Danish water!



A midday underwater housing strapless session followed that. It was a productive day on the water until the wind died completely!

Coming off the surprisingly cold water, I couldn't help but check the highest average temperature you can get in Denmark, which is only 20 degrees in July! It wasn't exactly the summer weather we had pictured, but those expectations were soon forgotten when we saw the fantastic Danish scenery. We doubled up with two spring wetsuits, one over the other, and settled into that Danish kite feeling. It was the kind of trip we hadn't done before, and that's what we were secretly searching for.

“IT WAS A PRODUCTIVE DAY ON THE WATER UNTIL THE WIND DIED COMPLETELY!”

S/L/S

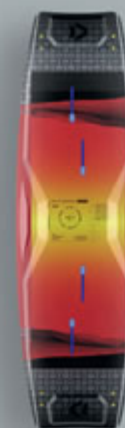
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“ IT FELT GREAT TO BE KITING ON THAT SPECIAL BEACH AND FOILING IN WAVES, AS IT WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO WHAT I’M USED TO AT MY HOME SPOT. ”

Here in Denmark, you're blessed with perfect freestyle or wave spots around almost every corner. Between Agger and Hanstholm, along the Thy National Park on the western side, there is a coast of around 35 miles with 29 registered kiteboarding and surfing spots. Of all the spots we explored, the best session of the trip was in Vorupør, a tiny fishing village with only 800 inhabitants.

Once we arrived at the beach, I pumped up my kite between the huge fishing boats, hurrying to capture the sunset session. Walking around in a fishing boat museum with my kite in the air and foil under my arm was a little nerve-wracking! The conditions were tricky because there was a big sandbank on one side and huge stones from the pier on the other side, which I nearly hit with my foil. Nevertheless, it felt great to be kiting on that special beach and foiling in waves, as it was completely different to what I'm used to at my home spot.

Sixteen hours of daylight, fresh air, driving, kiteboarding, and taking pictures are fun, but it's hard if you don't have the conditions you're hoping for. So, after three days on the road and a lot of communication with local surfers, we tried to take every hour of wind we could get. For the last two days of our trip, the wind forecast led us across the central part of Denmark; After heading from north to south, we were now traversing the country from east to west.



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“THERE WAS STILL SOME WIND BLOWING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS SMALL ISLAND, SO WE HEADED NORTHEAST TO A KITE SPOT CALLED NORDSKOV.”

Before we began the trip, we had heard about a long road that crossed through the water. Not only did it sound incredibly photogenic, but it could potentially be a perfect flatwater kite spot if the winds were

in our favour! So, off we went to the island of Fyn.

Arriving at this spot was unreal and completely surpassed my expectations. It is probably the prettiest road our two vans have ever driven on. But unfortunately, there wasn't a whiff of wind in the forecast. So with one hour left until dark, we launched the drone to see the view from above. It's always hard standing in front of one of the most

epic kite spots with no wind! At least we had the opportunity to discover the spot, and I hope to one day return for a proper session here.

As our Danish adventure drew to a close, all was not lost! There was still some wind blowing on the other side of this small island, so we headed northeast to a kite spot called Nordskov. The conditions in this spot change with the direction of the wind. With the easterly wind, we had gusty conditions due to houses and trees. It wasn't the best, but still rideable!



We had arrived at the last morning of our shooting period and knew this was the last chance we had to get some shots. Once again, we woke at sunrise. Lukas had everything prepared, and my kite was already rigged. I rode in a small but picturesque bay with a harbour, and we were able to get some incredible action shots with a pretty backdrop. We were happy to have finished our work and sad at the same time to leave the Danish scenery behind.

“ WE WERE ABLE TO GET SOME INCREDIBLE ACTION SHOTS WITH A PRETTY BACKDROP. ”

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“ THE SPONTANEOUS ROAD TRIP WITH OUR TWO VANS WAS AN UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE. ”

Looking back on this "summer week" in August, it wasn't the windy week we had hoped for, but we made the most of everything else that this country had to offer. Everything we had seen in photos is just how it was in reality. There were Danish "Dannebrog" flags everywhere, tiny cosy homes, a rough coastline, unique landscapes, and a massive variety of kite spots for every kind of discipline.

The spontaneous road trip with our two vans was an unforgettable adventure. In the end, we made our trip feel like summer, but a Danish summer!

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ALU/CARBON HYBRID FOIL



Cruz 690

Injected carbon front wing
Alu mast & fuselage
2.9 kg



Cruz 1000

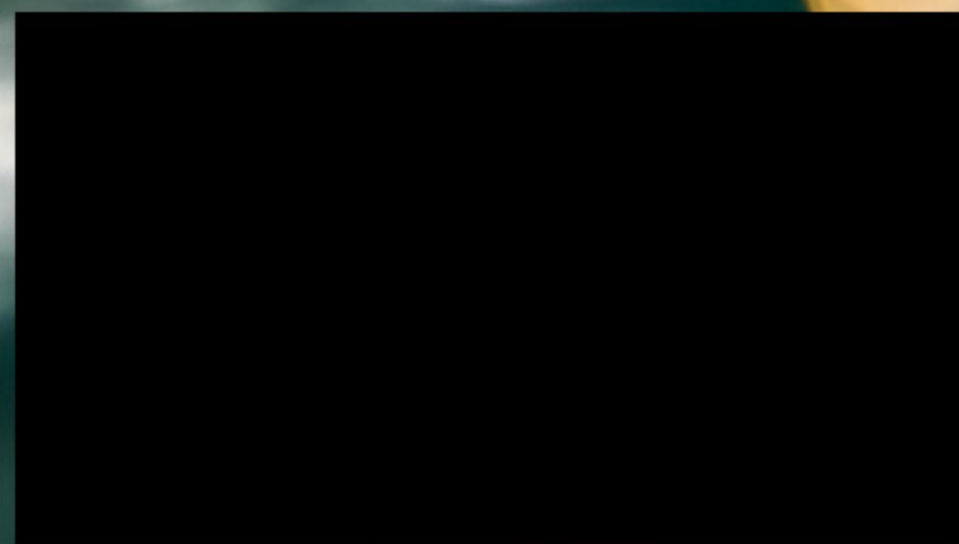
Full carbon front wing
Alu mast & fuselage
2.9 kg



Cruz 1200

Full carbon front wing
Alu mast & fuselage
3.2 kg

Weight shown is for a complete foil set with 50 cm mast.



WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS
PHOTOS ROBERT HAJDUK

TECH FOCUS

SHINN JACKSON CHROMATIC

Q&A with Mark Shinn

The latest version of the Shinn Jackson pops off the water with the Chromatic colour treatment, but it's the tech behind the board that makes it extra special! Find out more about the Jackson foil board in this Q&A with Mark Shinn!





" THE DREAM IS A STIFF BOARD THAT IS LIGHT AND DURABLE AND FEELS NIMBLE ON THE WATER "

Thanks for joining us, Mark! Can you tell us a bit about this board and what type of foiler it best suits?

The Jackson range has always been as inclusive as possible. It's a concept available in 3 different sizes, taking you from beginner to expert in one range.

In some respects, kite foilers of all abilities need the same features - deck stiffness, foil position adjustability, touch-down survivability, etc. Of course, the ratio of the importance of these features changes as the intended rider ability changes. For example, for a beginner, the ease of taking off and the survivability of touching down are critical aspects of the design; They want to spend their time learning to foil, not swimming.

On the other hand, expert-level foilers will prioritise

having a smaller, more throw-about board as they wish to perform more advanced moves. Of course, they also want to ride through touch-downs, but that happens a lot less often for them and ease of take-off is less of a priority.

Both beginners and experts alike can appreciate a board stiff enough to transmit direct and instant feedback from the foil and the ability to fine-tune the set-up to match their needs.

Stiff, light, and agile are the words that you use to describe this board. How does each of these characteristics impact the kite foiling experience?

There is no place in a foil board for flex. Flex delays your control inputs to the foil and dilutes the foil

feedback coming back through to the rider. Flex in the board is like trying to ride a bike with the tyres. Eliminating flex from the board should be critical for all foil board designers, but durability is a factor too. In general, robustness and stiffness are not happy partners - and that's before we even discuss the aspect of cost!

I would prioritise stiffness over all aspects. However, bringing the weight down is important too. No one wants a 10 kg foil and board set up, which directly impacts the 3rd point, agility. Stiff and light boards are, generally speaking, a lot more agile than heavy flexible boards! The dream is a stiff board that is light and durable and feels nimble on the water - and I think with the Jackson, we found a very nice balance in this regard.

The Jackson Chromatic is the one and only foil board in the Shinn lineup! Did you put yourself under a lot of pressure to achieve a perfectly balanced design?

I always put myself under a lot of pressure no matter what product I am working on. I have a personal rule that I won't produce a product I would not ride personally, and as kite foiling is a personal passion, I want to have the best equipment possible.

The discussion over low volume vs higher volume kitefoil boards rages on, but I truly believe most foilers find it easier to progress on a low volume board, particularly as we see the shift continuing away from small race foils to larger free ride foils that initiate foiling so early that the size of the board becomes less and less relevant.

Wood core boards are your speciality at Shinn, so it's only natural that you created a wood core foil board! Tell us a bit more about the materials used.

I believe in using the best materials for the job, and in low volume boards like twin tip boards, wood cores are unbeatable. Wood is relatively heavy compared to foams like EPS or PVC. However, the core of a twin tip board is thin, so the weight is not really felt, and the flex and durability are fantastic with wood cores.

We make products with foam cores too, which generally have a lot more volume. However, we feel that low volume foil boards are simply easier to use. Having decided on this direction, it made sense to use wood core and ABS sidewall technology. There is a big sticking point, though; Twin tip boards are designed to flex, and now we want to use the same technology to make a board that doesn't flex!



" TWIN TIP BOARDS ARE DESIGNED TO FLEX, AND NOW WE WANT TO USE THE SAME TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE A BOARD THAT DOESN'T FLEX! "



"THE BOARD CAN RIDE COMFORTABLY IN THE WATER BEFORE FOILING, ALLOWING THE RIDER TO BE FULLY COMFORTABLE BEFORE INITIATING FOILING."

RIDER JASIEK "JJ" KOSZOWSKI

The natural tendency is to add more materials to increase the stiffness, but this led us to prototypes that were increasing alarmingly in weight and still not achieving the stiffness we wanted. The V Tech mould was conceived to reduce both longitudinal and torsional flex from the deck via 3D shaping (in a similar way that folding a sheet of paper increases its stiffness). When combining this with the extensive use of unidirectional carbon, we end with a board that is both stiff and light.

This board comes in 3 sizes - which sizes suit certain styles and sizes of riders?

In general, I don't think rider sizes are very relevant to foil board sizes. The rider ability and foil being used are far more important. I ride the same size board as all of my team riders, and we range from 60 to 100 kg!!

The 112 is a size for confident foilers that can easily initiate foiling. Such a short board does not plane very fast, so the rider needs the ability to pump the board up onto the foil whilst accelerating to a comfortable speed. If you want a board for radical turns, tricks and jumping, the 112 is a dream.

The 128 is a great size for riders that foil predominantly in light winds. The length allows the board to accelerate well before taking off, meaning slightly less technique is needed to start than the 112. It's also a good size for fast progression as the length of the nose makes it forgiving when touching down, and yet it's still small enough to jump and do all the carving tricks.

The 140 is a dream for learning on or extremely heavy riders. The board can ride comfortably in the water before foiling, allowing the rider to be fully comfortable before initiating foiling. This size makes the learning process so easy it is almost cheating!

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS

TECH FOCUS

GIN KITEBOARDING

Q&A with Paco Isoardi and
Tim Bollinger

There are some new faces on the Gin Kiteboarding development team, and we're sure to see their influence on upcoming products for 2022. Read on to find out more about Gin's newest team members, Paco Isoardi and Tim Bollinger!



**" WE ARE WORLD CHAMPIONS, INNOVATORS,
AND LEADERS IN THE FIELD – THAT REPRESENTS
OUR BRAND PERFECTLY. "**



First, a bit of information from the team at Gin Kiteboarding on who they are and why they are growing the team!

At Gin Kiteboarding, we embody the Tribe life. We are a group of people that choose to be close to the land and follow mother nature's rules and lifestyle. We are world champions, innovators, and leaders in the field – that represents our brand perfectly.

We thus, as a company, are growing to transmit our passion and innovation to our employees so that the most innovative equipment available on the market can be obtained.

Can you tell us a bit more about your job title and what the role entails?

Paco: My job title is Technical Director. My main responsibility is to coordinate between designers, factories, sales, and communication departments. I also have to manage all of the different products we have and will have in our range. Sometimes I work on product design myself, as well.

Tim: As a test rider for Gin Kiteboarding, my job is to test all new Ram Air kites, starting with the Boom V2 and ending with the Shaman.

What is your background, and how did this come together to lead you to your role at Gin?

Paco: I've always been passionate about sports like downhill mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding, kitesurfing, surfing, speed riding, climbing, etc. I managed my studies to be able to work in those environments. After that, I studied Mechanical Engineering and Materials Engineering.



TIM BOLLINGER
PHOTOS AMANDINE DESJEUX



"EVEN IN THE AIR, YOU STILL HAVE TO DO SOME PRETTY SCARY JOBS."

PACO ISOARDI

Tim: The Designer of Gin Kiteboarding is my father, so I started testing kites with him. Since I come from the paragliding world, and my father runs a paragliding school, I work for Gin Gliders as a paragliding test pilot too.

Tim, how does your paragliding background relate to your role as a tester at Gin Kiteboarding?


Tim: The world of paragliding requires us to test the gliders until we believe the glider is finished. But even in the air, you still have to do some pretty scary jobs. For me, testing kites is really fun, but it links to paragliding to trim and fill the Kites.

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Paco, which product have you worked on in the past that you were the proudest of?

Paco: Working with a product designer, I designed the 3D shell for a wetsuit brand and enjoyed the technical and aesthetic collaboration.

I've heard that there are a few new exciting releases from Gin, including the Marabou 2, a new inflatable kite called the Quiver, and wings! Is there anything you're allowed to share about these upcoming products?

Paco: Having tested the Quiver and wing, I am very excited about what is to come. The next step is to develop a complete line of high-quality products. Besides offering a good-looking line, we also strive to be different from our competitors.

Thanks, Paco and Tim, and congratulations on your new roles at Gin Kiteboarding!



“ THE NEXT STEP IS TO DEVELOP A COMPLETE LINE OF HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTS. ”

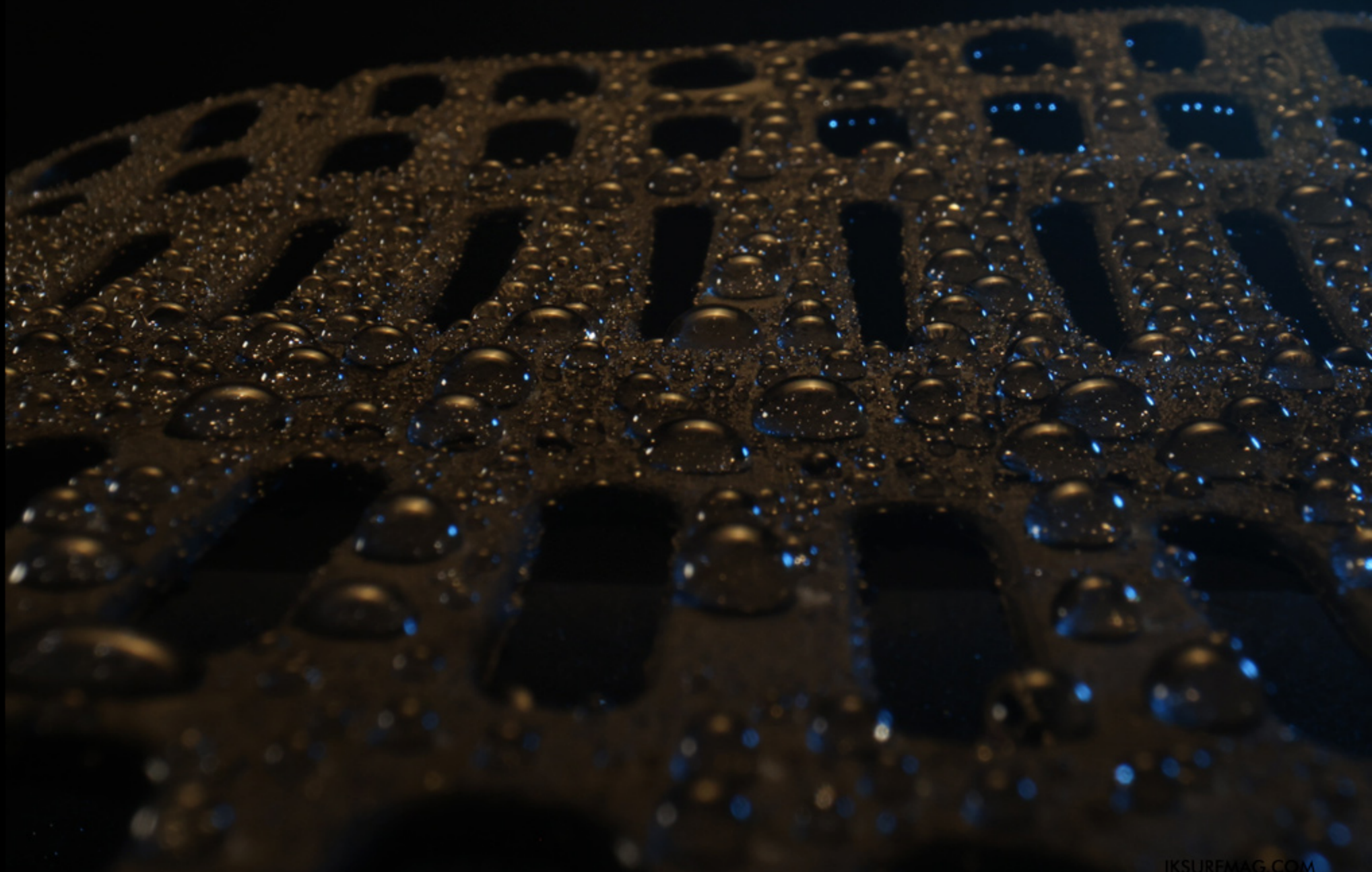
WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS
PHOTOS MATT GEORGES
RIDER PAUL SERIN

TECH FOCUS

MANERA HALO

Q&A with Julien Salles

With so many clever minds working behind the scenes of the kiteboarding industry, the innovation never seems to stop! The latest exciting product to hit the market is the Manera HALO, a harness that is as eye-catching as it is technology-driven. Julien Salles tells us more about it!





" IT HOLDS THE KITE'S POWER AND MAINTAINS THE HARNESS SHAPE, SO IT DOESN'T SQUEEZE YOUR BODY. "

The new Manera HALO looks like a harness from the future! What inspired the design?

Well, several things, actually! When working on the ECLIPSE a few years ago, we developed the ADAPTIVE SHELL technology, which is pretty much a shell that features stiffness where you need support, and flex where you need comfort.

We thought that maybe we could separate these two functions into two separate parts; Kind of like a hammock, where the user lies on a comfy soft part held by a stiff structure that maintains its shape. Also, most ergonomic office chairs use a similar technology today, as well as some snowboard bindings.

We pushed the design to be as efficient as possible,

and the result definitely does not look like a standard harness!

What were the design goals for the HALO?

First, we must talk briefly about the different types of harnesses. A softshell harness is very comfortable because it is soft and adaptable, but once the kite pulls, it will deform and squeeze your sides and ribs. It provides great adaptability but poor support. On the other hand, a hardshell harness will withstand the kite's power and maintain its original shape but won't adapt to your body while it moves. It provides great support but poor adaptability.

The HALO is essentially a softshell and a hardshell assembled together. The inside skin is soft and flexible;

It will provide comfort and adaptability to your movements and morphology. The stiff outside shell doesn't even touch the user's body; It holds the kite's power and maintains the harness shape, so it doesn't squeeze your body. Therefore, it provides great support with maximum adaptability.

With such a unique shape, it's hard to imagine how this harness was built! What is the construction process?

When designing the HALO, we didn't just want to bring the ADAPTIVE SHELL innovation but also re-think the product from zero. We always work to improve our product durability and our brand's service; Therefore, the HALO features no stitching and no glueing at all.



" WE MADE THIS HARNESS TO FIT EVERYONE, FROM A YOUNG FREESTYLER TO A FOILER OR WAVERIDER "

All parts are assembled with velcros or SST axis, meaning you can easily change any part. We stock all the different spare parts in our warehouse, and we're able to ship any of them quickly to a customer if he needs a replacement.

Over the years, we've had to completely change some customers harnesses because one of their straps was a bit damaged, which has a high environmental cost.

The Adaptive shell parts have been really hard to design and build in the right materials because we needed the right mix of stiffness, flexibility, and durability. It's been a lot of trial and error to achieve the perfect mix.

What style of kiter should consider this harness, and where does it fit into the Manera line up?

We have had dozens of HALOs on the water for over a year now, and very few people prefer an ECLIPSE or EXO over a HALO. We made this harness to fit everyone, from a young freestyler to a foiler or waverider; I can't really say it will fit better to one riding style or discipline.

I guess the HALO will cannibalize a lot of our standard harness sales, but I'm ok with that. Harness innovation has been moving fast in the last few years, and I like to see things evolving!

GIN
KITEBOARDING

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WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS

HUGH PINFOLD
PHOTO SCOTT SINTON

TECH FOCUS

NORTH KITEBOARDING

**Q&A with Hugh Pinfold, Director of
Design and Engineering**

In this interview, North Kiteboarding's Hugh Pinfold fills us in on what's new at North, how he got his start in product design, and what it takes to work at a leading brand!



" OUR KEY DESIGN GOALS ARE ALWAYS TO OFFER BEAUTIFULLY FUNCTIONAL, INTUITIVE PRODUCTS THAT JUST WORK WHEN YOU NEED THEM. "



Thanks for chatting with us about what it's like to work on the design team at North! First, what is your job description, and what does that entail?

My job description is Director of Design and Engineering. This involves being part of all stages of product development, from concept, detailed product design, and graphic design to industrialisation.

What does being the head of a department mean for you? Are you overseeing all product design at North?

It means whenever there is wind, I have to be out

testing - haha, I wish. But honestly, I am part of a tight product development team that oversee all North products. This doesn't mean I lead all products, but with so many years of industry experience between us all, it often means any potential issues can be weeded out early in a product's inception.

Let's talk about the North 2022 collection. What are the key design and brand goals for North going into 2022?

Our key design goals are always to offer beautifully functional, intuitive products that just work when you need them. We strive to use the best material possible

for any given product to excel in its intended function. We work hard to really strip our products back to the bare necessities, giving you pure lightweight performance. At North, we believe that less can really be more.

What 2022 product are you most excited to share?

Our Navigator control system has had some great incremental improvements to make it even easier and safer to use. The Flex bindings also have improved fit and aesthetics. The Comp surfboard's new Dynalite construction makes for a very lightweight yet strong and responsive weapon.

One standout product for me is the new Sonar HA1250 wing; I just love the speed, and pumpability and all-round intuitive feel of this wing in all different foiling disciplines. I've been adding a -1.5 degree shim to the stabiliser and am stoked to be using the same full carbon setup for prone foiling, kite foiling and wing foiling. I've been having a stack of fun on the Nova wind wing as well, so it's hard to choose only one product - I'm fizzing on them all!

Quick releases seem to be your area of expertise! Can you tell us a bit about how the quick release has been the launchpad to your design career in the kiteboarding industry?

I trained as a Mechanical Design Engineer, so I was naturally attracted to what improvements could be made to the quick release (QR) to make kitesurfing even safer. I've worked on various QR devices for Ozone, Cabrinha and North over the past 15 years. After you've improved a QR, you also start looking sideways at the rest of the control system, which leads to harness hooks, shell harnesses, bindings, kite inflation systems, etc. I actively enjoy all disciplines of kite sports, so I inevitably enjoy the challenge of designing improved systems using new technologies and often out of the box thinking.

For those young kites out there that are aspiring to work in design in the kite industry, what advice can you share from your own experience?

Just get amongst the industry in any capacity possible. Offer your time and positive energy for free for a start at a local kite shop, do some instructing or try interning if you're lucky enough to have a manufacturer nearby.

PHOTO SCOTT SINTON

" I ACTIVELY ENJOY ALL DISCIPLINES OF KITE SPORTS, SO I INEVITABLY ENJOY THE CHALLENGE OF DESIGNING IMPROVED SYSTEMS "



PHOTO CRAIG KOLESKY

" I AM STILL STOKED WITH BOTH THE SAFETY AND SIMPLICITY OF THE TOOLLESS INTERLOOP SYSTEM. "



I moved down to the South Island in New Zealand and worked a few weeks for free for an early kitesurfing brand called Underground Kiteboarding. This was my springboard to meeting other amazing people in the industry in all different positions.

There is learning in whatever you do if you stay open-minded and inquisitive. Life's short; work hard, play hard.

The North Navigator Control System is an outstanding product. What inspired the original design?

We were lucky to come to market a little later, which enabled us to critique all other control systems already on the market. This process allowed us to really focus on what functionality was most important for the Navigator to include.

The super-simple intuitive single click-in loading of the Quick Release was something I've dreamed of bringing to market for years, so this was a must to work hard on to develop.

I was conscious that more and more kite harness hook options were coming onto the market at the time, which led to us wanting to offer an easy toolless option to trade out your harness loop depending on what discipline you wanted to do any given day. I am still stoked with both the safety and simplicity of the Toolless Interloop system.

Safety is critical when it comes to kiting control systems. What have you and the North team done to ensure you are producing a failsafe product?

We have rigorous testing systems throughout the design process of a product and quality control processes during manufacturing of individual parts and assembly of all North products.



" WE THOROUGHLY CHECK EACH PIECE AGAINST QUALITY CONTROL DRAWINGS. "

PHOTO CRAIG KOLESKY

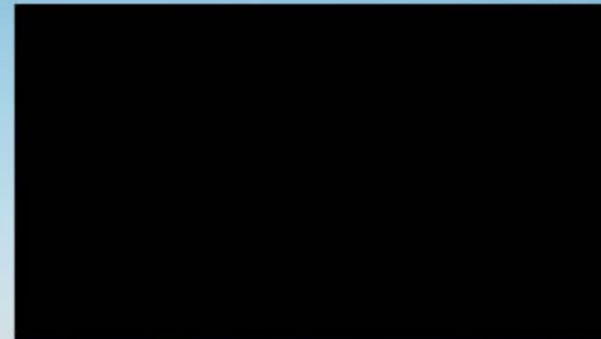
So firstly, before a product is signed off for production, we have a test team that records a minimum number of hours in varying conditions noting any areas of concern. During the prototyping process, we undergo UV testing, heat and frozen testing. This is often followed by tensile load testing and saline testing for corrosion (mainly on metal parts), amongst many other tests.

Once parts are ready off production tooling, we thoroughly check each piece against quality control drawings. We then implement further lab and on-water testing.

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During production assembly, we take random parts and break-test them from different batches to ensure they are up to our specified standards. We also have inline quality control checkers in all factories and an independent Quality Control inspector checking final goods before they are packaged and ready for market.

Looking at the greater kite industry, do you think improvements towards safety have been made across the board?

Most definitely; Kitesurfing is much safer than it was in the early days. Most kites depower by about 80% these days just by letting the bar go. You then have the option to let your quick-release go, which will 100% depower the kite. The mechanism must adhere to strict ISO standards in which the release must activate in under 0.5 seconds, in action away from the body with very little hand force in all conditions. Huge design improvements in boards, bindings and even slower planing hydrofoils all contribute to making the sport we all love so much safer.

What do you think we, as kites, or more generally, as an industry, can do better to improve safety?

I think there needs to be a lot more focus on kites checking for any wear or damage to their equipment and designers working on easy to replace parts that may wear over time. All companies should work to produce easy manuals or instructional videos to compliment this.

We would all love our equipment to last for as long as possible, but with the high loads that products are subjected to in some of the harshest saltwater and sandy conditions, long term wear is inevitable.

" HUGE DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS IN BOARDS, BINDINGS AND EVEN SLOWER PLANING HYDROFOILS ALL CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THE SPORT WE ALL LOVE SO MUCH SAFER. "



RIDERS HUGH PINFOLD AND MARC JACOBS
PHOTO SCOTT SINTON

" IT ALWAYS AMAZES ME THE CLARITY YOU GET AFTER A GOOD ADRENALINE-PUMPING SESSION. "

How does a connection with nature and the elements play a part in your work with North? And your life outside of work?

Being immersed in nature regularly is a must for me. It's my meditation. Pushing the limits of extreme sports performed in nature requires complete focus, taking you away from the often-minor problems in life. It always amazes me the clarity you get after a good adrenaline-pumping session. Some of my best solutions and designs seem to come whilst on the water or soon after. So, in this sense, my passion for the sport and work fuse together when in the elements.



FORTALEZA



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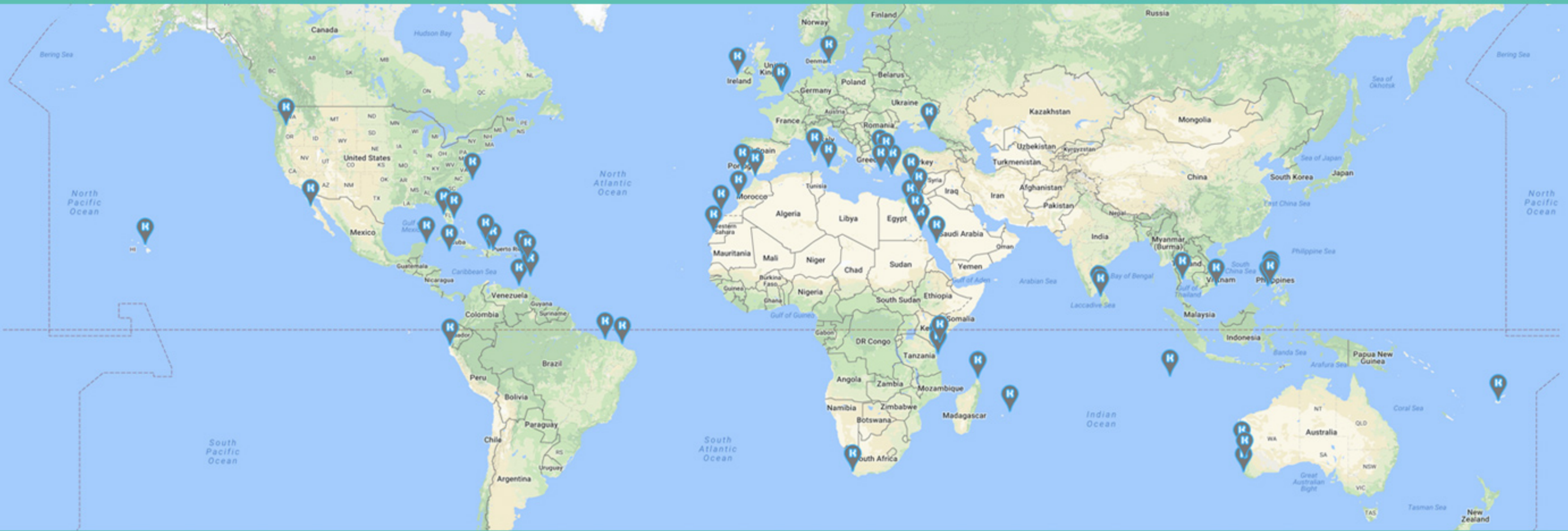
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An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. The left side shows dark, jagged rocks meeting the sea. A narrow strip of light-colored sand beach runs along the shore. On the right side of the beach, several bright blue tents are pitched in a line. Further up the beach, a small campfire is burning, and a group of people is gathered around it. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

CORNISA CANTÁBRICA

A MANERA ADVENTURE

Manera is known for creating some of the most iconic kite content ever seen. Each year, they carefully select a few of their top team riders to explore a unique location and document it on film and photo. Join the Manera crew as they journey through Northern Spain in this incredible adventure!

WORDS PAUL SERIN, MALLORY DE LA VILLEMARQUÉ,
HENDRICK LOPES, AND ROBERTO D'AMICO
PHOTOS MATT GEORGES



“ THE COASTLINE IS NOTHING SHORT OF INCREDIBLE, MAKING IT THE PERFECT SETTING FOR THE ANNUAL MANERA TRIP. ”

The north coast of Spain is a special place, with lush, green forests and sharp, rocky cliffs battered by the wind and waves of the Atlantic ocean. Sometimes referred to as Green Spain - or España Verde, the locals regularly call it Cornisa Cantábrica. The region stretches from the southwest border of France all the way to the west coast, where Spain and Portugal meet. The coastline is nothing short of incredible, making it the perfect setting for the annual Manera trip.

It comes as a surprise every year. Around April or May, there is a chance that an email might arrive in your inbox with the subject line reading 'MANERA TRIP'. To be one of the lucky few to receive this letter feels like a kid waking up on Christmas Day; You know instantly that you will be discovering a new and exciting location with a dream team of athletes!

Some of the previous Manera adventures have taken the French-based but internationally represented team all around the world. We've been to remote, faraway locations like Kamchatka, Iceland, and British Columbia, with many more one-of-a-kind destinations yet to explore. Nowadays, however, the world - or the parts of the world available to us - is much smaller. With the pandemic, everything is planned at the last minute, and we are constantly aware that we are one swab away from a cancelled trip.

This time, we knew a road trip would be the safest best, starting at the F-One and Manera home bases in Montpellier. Paul Serin and Mallory de la Villemarqué arrived from Tarifa, Hendrick Lopes and



“ THE WIND HAD SOMETHING SPECIAL IN IT; EVERY JUMP FELT LIKE FLOATING, AND WE STAYED ON THE WATER UNTIL SUNSET, ”

Maxime Chabloz from Switzerland, and pro surfer Roberto d'Amico from Rome. In France, the group was complete with Marcela Witt, our trusty photographer Matt Georges, and videographer Olivier Sautet of Petole Films.

Once our team had assembled in Montpellier, we wasted no time in packing our gear into three vans and setting off for

ten days on the open road. We crossed the border into Spain and followed the northern coastline through Cantabria, Asturias, and Galicia, going as far as Cesantes, just before the border to Portugal. The long term forecast looked weak, so we had a bit of pressure to score some wind in the early part of the trip. We were at the whim of the wind, following wherever it would take us!

Luck played a massive role on this mission. Even though we checked the forecast every day, sometimes the magic would happen for no reason; You can't predict it! Hendrick had some local contacts that he reached out to

that helped us be in the right place at the right time. Nothing beats local knowledge when it comes to the workings of Mother Nature. We spent days along the curving roads, exploring every nook and cranny, looking for those golden moments when the shape of the bay and the wind would line up just right.

The first session of the trip was in Farrol. After almost two days of driving from Montpellier, we were more than ready to hit the water. We arrived at a beautiful bay with 20 knots of side shore wind and kickers. It was the perfect conditions for boosting, on a twin tip and on the surfboard. The wind had something special in it; Every jump felt like floating, and we stayed on the water until sunset, enjoying every golden moment.



Between sessions, we had the chance to explore small villages all along the north coast. Galicia has a strong history with beautiful landscapes and delicious local foods. In the villages, every restaurant their own speciality, its version of Tortilla de Patatas. Tortilla is like an omelette or a quiche with potatoes and other things like onions, ham, cheese, or whatever they can find. Every village has their own flavour, but this region definitely has the best ones on earth!

“ EVERY VILLAGE HAS THEIR OWN FLAVOUR, BUT THIS REGION DEFINITELY HAS THE BEST ONES ON EARTH! ”



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“ WE ALL GOT OUT ON THE WATER TOGETHER AND WERE ABLE TO INTERPRET THE OCEAN IN OUR OWN WAY; FOILING, KITING, OR SURFING. ”

RIDER MAXIME CHABLOZ

We learned a lot from the friendly locals but were especially impressed by the food and drink! They showed us their style of BBQ and even some local rituals. At one moment, it was a bit strange standing in a circle with Galicians wearing strange outfits, similar to monks robes. I think we were all a bit hesitant when they poured alcohol in cups, set it on fire, and handed it to us to drink. It was weird and scary at the same time, but the drink tasted pretty good!

We clocked 3567 km and enjoyed every moment! Well, except when we almost lost Paul and Mallory. They were driving at the back of the pack and stopped to refuel in an area with no cell phone service. They were gone for long enough that we were really starting to worry. When they finally turned up, they told us that they were alone in the middle of nowhere and the van wouldn't start, for no reason at all! Finally, they remembered the rental guy had warned that the van sometimes goes into safety mode, which you can reset by locking all the doors and trying to start it again. Good thing they had remembered; We couldn't have finished the trip without them!

One of the best sessions on the trip was at sunset on a beach where we had set up camp, looking forward to spending the day and the night next to the rugged ocean. We all got out on the water together and were able to interpret the ocean in our own way; Foiling, kiting, or surfing. The spot was next to a massive cliff with wind blowing side offshore and four-foot sets. It was super gusty, which made it a challenge, but one we faced together!

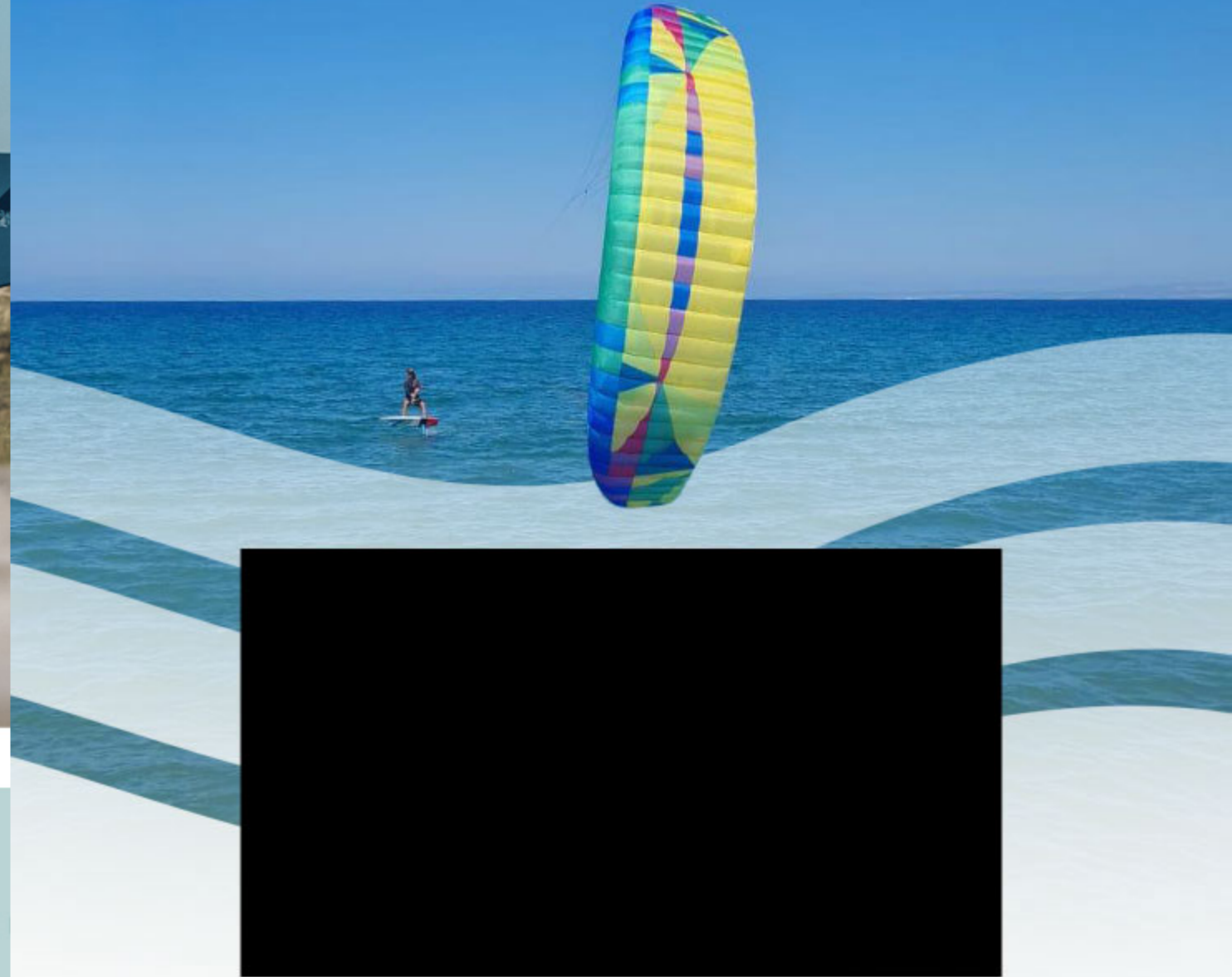




You could see the water change upwind, a clear sign that a massive gust was on its way, and you could prepare for it by contracting your core and preparing for the impact. While we could have broken our backs from the insane wind, it was also pretty funny. Wherever you would look, were boards and kites were flying through the air, rarely together! While you're busy laughing at the sight, the wind would go from 5 to 30 knots, and you'd be the one flying through the air while everyone else laughed!

“ WHILE WE COULD HAVE BROKEN OUR BACKS FROM THE INSANE WIND, IT WAS ALSO PRETTY FUNNY. ”

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**“ WE HAD SO MUCH FUN EVERY DAY ON THE WATER;
NOBODY TOOK IT TOO SERIOUSLY, EVEN IF YOU
DIDN'T LAND CRAZY TRICKS. ”**

RIDER HENDRICK LOPES





“ WE ARE A GROUP OF ATHLETES USING THE BEST GEAR WE COULD POSSIBLY ASK FOR, SHARING SESSIONS WITH PEOPLE WITH THE SAME PASSION FOR WATER SPORT. ”

We had so much fun every day on the water; Nobody took it too seriously, even if you didn't land crazy tricks. There was even a session where only Mallory and Marcela

were on the water together, alone in the bay, and they still, somehow, managed to tangle with each other! Another hilarious moment that we'll never let them live down!

As much as this was a work trip, and we're here to shoot new products, we all know what we need to do. Every session, we set out with a different wetsuit or harness, and we ticked off our list of all the shots we needed. When it comes down to it, we are a

group of athletes using the best gear we could possibly ask for, sharing sessions with people with the same passion for water sport. Everything else comes easy! More than anything, it's just a bunch of friends driving around Galicia looking to score a session. We all know each other so well now; Even with Marcela and Robby joining for the first time, they fit in right away. Robby has so much happiness and joie de vivre; It was incredible. Every night after dinner, we'd laugh until it hurt at the jokes and stories he told us.



He was the quintessential crazy Italian guy, but he sure knows how to live life to his fullest!

On the last Manera road trip, we went in RVs and camper vans. This time, we only had tents. So each night, we would set up camp somewhere, in a field, along the roadside, or on an isolated beach. Every night, we'd gather around the campfire with a few beers, some BBQ, and tell stories.

“ HE SURE KNOWS
HOW TO LIVE LIFE
TO HIS FULLEST! ”



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Naturally, a Manera trip is rich in tradition, and one that has developed over the years is playing "Never Have I Ever". Even after all these years, we still somehow manage to surprise each other with the answers! And before you ask, I'm definitely not sharing!!

These getaways are a unique opportunity to enjoy the simple things in life, something we often forget to do these days. Being out in the wild and beautiful wilderness in Cornisa Cantábrica is an adventure we won't soon forget!

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08

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TEN REASONS

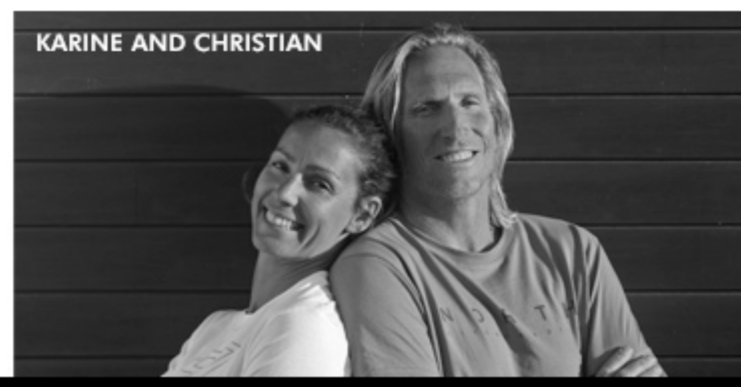
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We've got a couple of moves for you this issue. To start with, we're going to have a look at how you can **FIX YOUR TOESIDE**. It's an absolute fundamental of kiting which opens doors to a plethora of new tricks as well as giving you the skills to maximise your twin tip control, jump on a surfboard, play in the waves, and fly on a foil. And let's not forget those cheeky holiday snaps just gagging to be taken. If you're struggling to unearth your toeside brilliance, today could well be the day.

Then, for those of you who already fancy yourselves as toeside aficionados, how about the hooked in Toeside Pop to Wrapped? Bamboozle your fans with one of the most stylish returns to heelside in the book and stake your claim for an extended and fresh list of tricks once you get this landing add-on stuffed firmly in the bag.

Enjoy the challenge and enjoy the holidays. :) C&K.

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1 / FIX YOUR TOESIDE



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2 / TOESIDE POP TO WRAPPED



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

FIX YOUR TOESIDE ▶

KITE – North Reach 11m

BOARD – North Astra 135

Toeside is wonderful. It's an enjoyable skill and an absolutely fundamental part of kitesurfing. It opens the door to a myriad of tricks and other playful worlds such as carving, wave riding, surfboards, and even foils. Being able to use, enjoy and ultimately harness the benefits of both sides of your trusty steed can only make your time on the water better. That said, however easy your local toeside legend makes it look, there are a few challenges on the way that often lead to a literal sinking feeling or disappearing on an uncontrollable downwind death run when it's super windy.

As such, it's not uncommon to grab Hercules' broom and brush your toeside under the carpet for another day. If you have been giving toeside a wide birth of late, today is the day to rediscover your toeside mojo and rekindle your love affair with this feel good and look good move.

Before we delve into technique, we'll have a look at what's preventing you from toe side brilliance, and then we'll give you some tools to find your perfect toeside.

Along with all the photos and sequences, we also have a video to go with this article, so once you've read through this, please click play, throw the metaphorical broom away and welcome your toeside with open arms.



HOW YOU'LL GET THERE

To keep all our and your focus on the toeside, we'll be concentrating on switching to toeside. In simple terms, this means changing the board and your stance to toeside whilst riding along in one direction. This is not to be confused with carving to toeside, which requires some previous toeside know-how, quite a bit of kite flying, and involves changing direction.

YOUR OBJECTIVE

Toeside!? The essence of toeside in kiting is edging against your kite using your toeside edge. By its very name, it is easy to concentrate so much on your toes that you ignore everything else that's required. When you're riding heelside, it's not just about your heels,

but rather everything working in unison from the kite all the way down through the harness, you and into the board. It's no different here. In actual fact, what you're aiming to do is mimic what you do heelside.

Pic 1. Here you can see Karine before going into toeside on the left, and once she got onto her toeside edge on the right. The kite is in the same place, the bar is doing the same thing, Karine's body is committed at the same angle in the harness, and the result is that she has a solid edge, and her board is doing the same thing too. This is what you're after, hardly the opposite of heelside, but really rather similar, just riding on the other edge of your board. Keep this in mind, and it'll stand you in good stead as we move forward.



BEST FOOT FORWARD?

One question remains, which foot forward for your preferred toeside? Experience states that everyone has a preferred front foot. For those with a strong, noticeable difference (ourselves included), you'll know from skidding on ice which shoulder you'd dip into contact in other sports such as skating, surfing, wakeboarding or snowboarding. It can be as simple as which foot you prefer forward heelside. If you prefer going left/port tack, then your left foot could be your preferred front foot. As such, you're stronger toeside will be left foot forwards, which means coming to the right, just as Karine is in this article. Here, Karine is right foot forward, but she switches to a left foot forward toeside. However, and but, this is not a given, so you'll need to experiment. There are many people who skate and surf with different stances, and some of you may be lucky enough to favour both.

THE USUAL SUSPECTS

Know your enemy. If you've been trying but struggling to keep the power and find your toeside edge, let's line the usual suspects up. Knowing what to avoid can really help you focus on what you need to be doing, and help you realise when you're not. There are basically two main culprits that will have a ginormous effect on your toe side, and it's resulting quality. Let's have a quick look.

PULLING ON THE BAR PIC 2

Dare we say it, nothing new here. Pulling on the bar is potentially one of the major obstacles in all of kiting. Whether you're looking for support, balance, power, whatever, as soon as you pull on the bar too much, you stall the kite and strangle it. This has so many adverse consequences that it's like googling a headache. First and foremost, when you stall your kite, you kill the power, so it stops pulling. You're effectively pulling the plug and slamming the brakes on, which is far from

ideal when you'd like to keep moving. Should you not kill all the power, the kite will at the very least fall deeper into the window, more downwind of you. As such, it'll pull you downwind and make it hard to edge upwind, even with perfect technique. If this isn't enough to put you off, it will also pull you up off your edge and bring your shoulders forwards, meaning that you have little chance of transferring power from the kite into your board. In short, you need to keep tension in your lines, but you don't want to be yanking on the bar. This applies throughout the toeside. From getting around to getting on your edge, any brutality on the bar will be punished. Here Karine is using the bar to pull herself around to toeside. The result is that she'll slow down and be pulled downwind, all the while sinking slowly.

BENDING OVER PIC 3

Once again, this can work against you in all stages of toeside. It's always important to transfer power;



That's how you keep moving. However, when you first go to toeside, one tends to bend over as your body thinks it's resisting, edging on your toes. Unfortunately, you're not. As you bend over, your derriere drops closer to the kite and moves your weight onto your heels, steering the board downwind and towards the kite. Depending on wind conditions, you'll either accelerate like mad and go flying downwind, or if it's light, you'll lose tension, then power and grind to a standstill.

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE PIC 4

If this isn't bad enough, there is a terrible catch 22 that evolves and manifests regardless of which hurdle is tripping you up. If you pull, you'll likely bend; If you bend, you'll likely pull. Then as you move downwind,

you'll lean back, which in turn creates drag, and you stop. The good news is, we're going to forget the doom and gloom and concentrate on how to achieve a magnificent toe side edge.

WHAT IS TOESIDE?

So, what are you aiming for? If you know where you're going, it's a darned sight easier to get there. With that in mind, if you already know the position that you'd like to get into, it'll help unfathomable amounts. Let's have a look at PIC 5.

As previously mentioned, toeside is no different from heelside; You aiming to transfer the power from the kite to the edge. Just this time, it's to the toeside edge through the balls of your feet. Whichever way you're



edging, it boils down to the same basic principle, keeping your board between you and the kite, edging! This keeps tension on the lines and powers you forward and upwind. This is your Modus Operandi – keeping an edge throughout by keeping the board between you and the kite throughout.

TOOLS

Brilliant, you know what you want, but how do you get it? To do this, we'll go through the stages from heel to toe and see how best you can keep the board between you and the kite. In essence, if you want to keep the board between you and the kite, then you need to keep your torso stiff and upwind of both your hips and your board.

APPROACH PIC 6

If you start with the board between you and the kite on an upwind edge, you've got a better chance of ending up in the same order, so your approach is equally important as all the fancy bits to come.

Looking at Karine, she's on a comfortable edge. This is made possible as her kite is no higher than 1 o'clock, so she can easily edge against it. Her bar is trimmed close enough that she can reach it with both hands, and her backhand is right up against the centreline, centred on the bar as if she were body dragging. She's looking where she's going and has her hips fairly centred between her feet, keeping plenty of board in the water. Her shoulders are upwind of her hips, and as such, the power transfers simply through her harness and into the board via her heels. And yes, the board is very much between her and the kite.

BIG HAND & THE TERMINATOR PIC 7

There's possibly a small demographic reading this that remembers Brother Lee from the late great Kenny E. Whether you do or not, you do need a big raised front hand for your toe side, just like Karine has in the photo. Holding your front hand up and in front of you is your guide. This is the position that your upper body starts in and finishes in. It really helps you stay stiff and prevents you from bending over. This, in turn, will help you pivot the board all the way from toeside to heelside whilst preventing you from turning your body too far upwind. You can see that on her approach, Karine releases her front hand and holds it up on a bent elbow in front of her. To compliment your big hand and maintain your position, it's also time to play Arnie.





We've all seen the movie, and it's not unfair to say that his rather strong Terminator didn't spend much time on the yoga mat. Here, you're going to do the same. Your torso should be stiff as Arnie's delivery so that your upper body doesn't change position at any stage throughout the move.

RELAX YOUR GRIP PIC 8

We've already mentioned that one of the prime suspects is pulling in on the bar. To prevent this, try easing it out a touch before switching to toeside. Not only will this prevent the kite from pulling you up over the board, but it will also turn your board a tiny bit further upwind as the kite flies more towards the edge of the window. Yet again, the more upwind your board points to start with, the more upwind it should end up once you've switched to your toes.



You have less far to turn. However, you're not dumping power or sheeting out, just relaxing your grip so you're not holding on or supporting yourself. Karine eases the pressure off her bar, which has the knock-on effect of turning her board slightly further upwind. Note how her body position doesn't change.

WEIGHT SHIFT PIC 9

To be able to switch the board and your feet to toeside, you need to get all your weight onto your front foot. You're going to do this in the stiffest of fashions whilst keeping your body and arm stiff and your hand up. If you look at Karine in Pic D, she moves her hips forward toward the front of the board whilst staying on her edge. By doing this, her weight is directed through the edge towards her front foot. This means that even though her front leg bends,



she is pushing down through it.

THE SWITCH PIC 10

With all your weight on your front foot, you can compress your knee, shifting your weight even further forwards. This will literally start to push the nose of the board down into the water. With your weight so far forward and supported on your front leg, you can lift your back leg through, lifting the tail of your board off the water with your back foot and whilst twisting your hips to bring the tail and back foot forward. See how Karine is almost sinking the nose of her board as she lifts the tail. Note how her body, arm and hand haven't moved. They are all still where they started, committed upwind and facing forwards. Most important of all, resist the urge to pull yourself around on the bar.

ALL THE WAY PIC 11

This is where you're going. Your board around a full 180, your body hasn't moved, the kite is still pulling from the same place, and you have forward momentum and pull from the kite. Using your guiding hand and Terminator stiffness will allow you to get here, as long as you don't pull on the bar. In the photo, Karine is not yet on her toeside edge, but because she has turned her board all the way and still has her weight committed upwind, true to her Modus Operandi, she still has tension in her lines and will keep moving.

Have a look at SEQUENCE 1 to see the switch to toeside step by step.

STAND UP PIC 12

The final piece of the puzzle won't be too hard to place if all the other pieces are already in place. If everything has gone to plan, you're still holding your big hand up and tensing your Terminator Torso. Your ultimate job is to get some weight forwards onto your new front foot so that you can engage your toeside edge. To do this, you're going to stand up on your back leg, pushing your hips forwards as you do so. Sounds simple enough! Look at Karine and compare this pic with the previous one. The difference is that her back leg is pushing her forwards as it straightens. This works because her body and hips are facing forwards, not upwind. This means that you're shifting your weight in the direction that you're facing.





SEQUENCE 1



THE SEAGULL PIC 13

A timely reminder of your toeside stance. We often compare it to surfers racing down the line or snowboarders in hard boots screaming down a slalom course, and in the same vein, it's not a million miles away from a slalom water-skier on a mono ski. The common denominator in all of these positions is that the chest and hips face forwards, shoulders up, arms like wings on either side of your board. Mark Richards was known and is still instantly recognisable as the seagull for his long extended "wings" whilst surfing. It won't do you any harm to imitate.

CHERRY ON THE CAKE PIC 14

With your body sorted, your weight committed upwind, and hips forwards, you can now apply a bit of extra edge. This will come from your ankles.

13



The more you flex your ankles, the lower and more forward you can drive your knees. With your knees driving, the board will bank more onto its edge, and you'll be able to push against it, adding force to your edge and tension on the lines. The more you push, the further upwind you can drive the board. This is really where the doors start to fly open to all those cheeky toeside tricks. The down shot of Karine really shows the final position. Karine's hand is centred on the bar, she's looking forwards, her chest and hips are open, facing the nose of the board, her free hand guides her forwards, whilst her knees and feet twist forwards, as she flexes her ankles and drives against the toeside edge of the board with the balls of her feet. Brilliant!

Have a butchers at SEQUENCE 2 to get your weight forward, ankles flexed and on that toeside edge.

14

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Make it easy on yourself. It may well be stating the obvious, but it makes sense to wait for the right conditions. If you're fighting on heelside, you're more than likely to fight trying to get on your toes. You don't want to be hanging on for dear life, and neither do you want to be struggling for power. If and when you're lucky enough to get the perfect conditions, it'll be flattish water and park and ride wind. Also, make sure you've got space for it not to work, as this will give you time to find your perfect toeside even if it starts a tad downwind.

That's it, get out there, stay on an edge, lead with your big hand and harness your inner Terminator.

Good luck, C&K.



SEQUENCE 2

HOOKED TOESIDE POP TO WRAPPED ▶

KITE – North Pulse 10m

BOARD – North Astra 135

Here's a little something that you can wrap in colourful paper, tie up with shiny string and cover with festive bows. What more could you ask for under the tree than a finely polished Toeside Pop to Wrapped? This hooked in version is a brilliant starting point for getting to grips with wrapped.

If you're unsure exactly what wrapped is, let's walk through it. Imagine popping to toeside. Now from toeside, pop another 180 in the same direction so that you land on your heels. You've completed a full 360 in two halves and are now riding wrapped. The name derives from landing after this rotation unhooked, whether a 180 from toeside or a 360 from heelside, as the bar and the arm holding it end up wrapped behind you, with your hand twisted up in a form of a half-nelson! Fear not though, the beauty with the hooked version is that you can avoid any wrestling matches by keeping the kite high, and your harness will take any power.

So why wrapped? The very same question gets bandied around for blind. Wrapped is a way to land, so you can add it onto a lengthy list of tricks to spice up your session. It's fun, feels brilliant and looks pretty special too. It provides the very same mustard on an equally complete list of unhooked moves. AND if you're dreaming of moving towards air passes, it's an essential skill for the likes of a Back Mobe, 313, and Slim Chance, but to name a few. This particular



pop from toeside is also a unique way to get back to heelside when you land toeside, a true pop out!

For this hooked in version to become a reality, all you need is a decent toeside, an ability to pop and a tablespoon or two of go for it. If you have tried or can ride blind, it'll help your mind, as it won't be the first time that you voluntarily turn your back on proceedings. Let's have a look at the individual parts which you'll need to focus on to stomp the whole.

APPROACH PIC A

First off, this is all about speed. You need plenty. The reason being that you'll not be popping from a toeside edge but a flat board pointing downwind.

As you're no doubt all too aware, once you follow your kite, you lose tension and slow down. And nothing is more challenging than popping a non-planing craft. This means that there are two possible approaches. One which you'll be able to add at a later date is the baring downwind post toeside landing. It's the perfect place for this. However, to start with, we recommend approaching with a fair bit of speed on a heelside edge and then switching very quickly to toeside so that you can use your momentum for the pop.

Looking at Karine, her kite is around the magical and mythical 1 o'clock, so she can get a good edge and build speed. Her hands are centred on the bar,



and her sweet spot is trimmed into at least the middle of her centre line so that she has room to sheet out if needed. From here, she quickly moves her weight forwards and switches to toeside by lifting her back leg through—all the while keeping her torso stiff and weight upwind.

CARVE PIC B

As soon as your board is switching, you've started the clock. Time is not on your side, so you very much need to get a wiggle on. First job is to get the board bearing away, heading downwind towards your kite. This will make your landing simpler, as with the board off the wind, you'll land more off the wind and keep your momentum to claim the wrapped. Normally as

you switch to toeside, your weight will end up over your back foot. This is a good thing. With your weight on the tail of the board, you can lean on your heel and carve the board downwind. As you do this, level the bar to get your kite a tad higher, which will help later in the move.

You can see how Karine is carving on her back heel to point her board off the wind, and she has her bar levelled to inch the kite up.

COMPRESS PIC C

You need to pop, but as you're popping off a flat board and not an edge, the bend you have in your back leg won't be enough. This means you need to compress, coil those springs. Bend both knees while



keeping your weight back over the tail of the board. To make this effective, you need to keep your shoulders in line with your hips so that your back shoulder can lean back, parallel to the board as the nose rises. This will only be possible if you've trimmed the bar in close enough. If you don't, you'll know because you'll have to take your front hand off the bar. You don't want to do that yet!

In the photo, you can see how Karine is compressing and leaning back over the tail of the board. Everything, from shoulders, hips and board, is parallel, both lengthways, along the board and also angled back with the board. Note how Karine's kite is very high, a result of her levelling the bar and travelling downwind towards it.



This is when you get the max from the previous stage. With your weight low and back, you have something to pop against, the tail of the board, which is between you and the resistance of the water. If your board is flat, you'll just jump out of the straps. You want to give it everything, aiming for maximum height. The reason, because you will have already slowed down, and you'll get a lot less than your effort deserves. Your aim is up. As tempting as it is, resist the understandable urge to start turning your body to wrapped. It's very much

two stages, up and then around. By concentrating on the up, you'll get your board off the water, AND you'll keep your body above the board. If you try and twist too early, you'll get off-axis.

Karine clearly demonstrates the effort and the up. Everything is moving skywards as she extends her legs. She's up and over her bar. Her head and shoulders aligned vertically over the board, between her feet. If you're over the board now, you have a very good chance of landing over the board once you rotate.

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ROTATE PIC E

Now you're up, it's time to get round. As you'll be turning away from the bar, with your back to the kite, you'll have to let go of the bar with your front hand. The crux here is to get the board far enough round. This means bringing your legs up and making yourself small. In this position, you can turn your head and shoulders. Getting the board round is very Street Fighter. Pull your back foot round under your derriere, as if you are standing on your front foot, spinning before kicking out in full Jean Claude fashion. This way, you can stay balanced over the board as you turn. The board will lead the way.

Karine is turning her back on the kite whilst rotating around her front foot, forcing her back foot and the board around towards downwind.



TOUCH DOWN PIC F

If you're used to landing blind, the same principle applies here. Get the new tail of the board down first. This way, as it hits and grips, it will pivot the rest of the board further around, and you'll end up far enough downwind not to catch an edge even if you didn't get far enough in the air! As long as you're up over the board and your back foot is tucked under your bum, this will happen. It's worth pointing out here that if you tried to rotate immediately as you took off, and therefore turned off-axis, you'll land heavily on your toeside edge and stop.

You can see Karine's new back foot hits the water first, whilst her other foot and the board remains high. This way, the board will turn fully downwind. You can clearly see how the board led the way.



As her board lands, Karine's head and shoulders have yet to make it around. This isn't from lack of effort. From take-off to touch down happens in a split second.

STOMP IT PIC G

This is the result of being over the board and keeping that back foot up. The board strikes, turns downwind, and you end up standing over the board and moving in what feels like reverse. However, you are looking the wrong way, and your weight is on your toes. This means that there is the possibility that the board can turn back again, and you'll put tension on the lines. With the kite pulling, it will be impossible to get the bar back where it belongs.

Karine is on her board and moving – backwards. :)

WRAPPED AND OLE PIC H

You need to get your weight onto your heels and the bar back where it belongs, in front of you. This is the main difference with the hooked version of wrapped. If you have the kite low, you'll experience wrapped, but, being hooked in, you can't pass the bar out of it, it has to go over your head, Ole style. Hence you need it high. Your solution to this dilemma involves turning your head and pushing the bar up. When you turn your head, your weight will drop onto your heels, the board will bite, you'll see where you're going, and a smile will start to spread across your face with the wonderful realisation that you've oh-so-nearly made it. By pushing the bar up towards your kite and with your face turned, you can now bring your arm and bar across so that it's downwind of you. This up and across is, in fact, a legit Ole!

Here Karine pushes her bar up and turns her head. Her weight transfers onto her heels, she can see where she's going, and with her kite high, she's able to bring the bar across and around. Bingo!

TOP TIPS

It never hurts to walk and jump through a new trick a few times on terra firma to get a good idea of what's going on.

You really don't have a lot of time in this trick. Practising switching to toeside, carving off and immediately popping will be time well spent. Without this stage firmly in the bag, you'll struggle to get to wrapped.



Not always easy to find, but flat water will make this more achievable. The choppier it is, the quicker the board slows, and the more rapid you have to be.

COMMON PROBLEMS

No pop. Losing too much speed, work on your switch-carve-compress and stamp. Needs to be happening nearly as quickly as you can say it.

Coming out the foot straps. Sure sign you're trying to rotate before you've stamped off. Make sure your weight is back so that you have something to pop against and concentrate on two movements. Explode up, then turn.

Landing hard on your toeside edge, sinus rinse. Due to an off-axis rotation. Keep your head and chin up.



This will help keep you over the board. Keep your back foot up so that you don't land on all the board at once. And make sure it's up and then around.

Can't Ole the bar over your head. Most likely that the kite is too low, so you really are wrapped. Make sure the kite is high. With the board moving towards it and not tension in the lines, it will be easier.

KEYSTONES

1. Speed to toeside
2. Carve downwind, kite high
3. Compress whilst leaning back
4. Up, then around, back foot high
5. Turn head, bar up, and Ole





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RIDER MARC RAMSEIER

WORDS BEA WÜTHRICH ADAPTED BY: CRYSTAL VENESS
PHOTOS MIGUEL CORTEZ

What started as a whisper in the wave riding community has grown into one of the most desirable wave spots in the world. What happens when you add one of the biggest swell forecasts in years?! Marc Ramseier and Martin Vari score in Punta Luna, Northern Peru. Bea Wüthrich tells us all about it in this article!

PUNTA LUNA PERFECTION



Imagine a wave spot so good that you'd be willing to go to any lengths to get there. A trip to Punta Luna Surf Lodge is undoubtedly a dream come true, and it took nearly two years of planning and COVID-related cancellations to make this dream trip a reality... Not to mention the decades of serendipity for it even to be possible.

It all started in 1998 when Swiss-born Marc Ramseier learned to kitesurf. He set up his home base in Fuerteventura and taught himself how to kite, one of the first people on the island to explore this curious new sport. After only two years, he became a professional kiter and dedicated his life to the kite, starting in freestyle before falling in love with the waves. This love for waves took him to Indonesia in search of the perfect wave.

Martin Vari's story started in 1999 when he moved from Argentina to Oahu to study. He quickly picked up the sport of kitesurfing in his off time in Kailua and went on to win his first kiteboarding event two years later. He became a two-time PKRA Freestyle World Champion, but he, too, found a passion for the waves. When Martin set off to Indonesia to join a group of pro riders searching for the jewel of the Indian Ocean, he and Marc crossed paths. This Indonesian gem captured Marc, who continued travelling back to Indo and eventually built a house in the long-kept secret mecca for kiting in waves.

Martin was more focused on South America, where he met legendary Peruvian surfer Fernando "Wawa" Paraud. He was a true waterman, and a kitesurf pioneer, known for his charm, good vibe and charger spirit. Wawa always had an intense spirit of adventure and exploration. This is how, on one of his trips along Northern Peru's coast, he discovered a treasure,

" IT TOOK NEARLY TWO YEARS OF PLANNING AND COVID-RELATED CANCELLATIONS TO MAKE THIS DREAM TRIP A REALITY... "





**“ WE COULD WATCH THE WAVES FROM ABOVE
AND COULD ALREADY GUESS WHAT TO
EXPECT IN THE FOLLOWING TEN DAYS ”**

which he named Punta Luna. It was a hidden game, which he only shared with his friends Kai, Gallo, and Martin. They kept it quiet for 15 years, surfing perfect waves with no one else around.

Astounded with the nature of the place, Wawa decided to build a house. Martin was always along for the adventure, lending a hand during the road and house building process.

Wawa believed Punta Luna should be a protected area, and he worked hard to have the entire Illescas Peninsula designated as a National Protected Area. During his mission to preserve this area, Wawa had an accident and died in 2012. Today, longtime friend Martin and his wife Ana Mater maintain the Punta Luna Surf Lodge. Through Martin and Ana, Wawa's legend is still alive.

That brings us back to today when after 15 years, Marc and Martin would meet again for the first-ever Punta Luna Kitesurf Wave Clinic. The adventure began immediately

after landing at Piura Airport. The crew loaded into a 4x4, a necessity to traverse the rugged landscape that leads to Punta Luna. The bay where Punta Luna is located is breathtaking, and the first glance at the lodge amazed us. What they have created here is magic.

We were welcomed by Martin and Ana and treated to an excellent Peruvian lunch by Juana and Maria. We also met expert fishermen and eager kite caddies, Jhonny and Wilmer. While having our first lunch on the open terrace, we could watch the waves from above and could already guess what to expect in the following ten days – pure bliss.

“ WE WITNESSED ONE OF THE BIGGEST SWELLS IN YEARS, WITH A PERIOD OF MORE THAN 20 SECONDS. ”



We woke up the following day to a view over the bay with waves lined up perfectly just out front. Pelicans were air surfing the waves, and flamingos strutted across the beach. The diversity of animals and nature here are incredible. Mornings are a great time to walk the beach and discover all the birds and marine life. However, nature is as cruel as it is beautiful. To our astonishment, many animals end their lives on the beach in this remote place. A whale stranded not far from the lodge had died on that same day. Sad and beautiful at the same time. That's life; nothing is infinite.

When the sun came out around noon, the wind began to blow. The first few days allowed us to get accustomed to the spot, with fun little waves on our doorstep. They got bigger day after day, and Marc helped us improve our skills and figure out the spot before the biggest swell of the season hit.

The waves of Punta Luna can be quite different depending on their size. When it's small, they break in sections, are relatively friendly, not too fast, and allow for many turns. When it's a bit bigger, the waves connect, and you'll be able to ride one wave through the entire bay, with barrels and clean walls to hit.

A few days later, we witnessed one of the biggest swells in years, with a period of more than 20 seconds. The picture of perfect waves peeling along from left to right will stick in our minds forever. Unusually, the waves were faster than previous swells of a similar size, and conquering these triple overhead monsters was a challenge. Martin and Marc shared the set waves, and watching them in the pocket and pulling into barrels was indescribable.

Local knowledge comes into play on days like this: Martin led the charge, but Marc caught up, clocking some time in these tricky conditions. The more they pushed it, the heavier the wipeouts got, and the isolated location meant they couldn't go past that limit. Thanks to their experience, they made it look easy, although it was anything but that.

That big day was for sure the highlight, but with a few days left, the wind and the waves did not disappoint. Once the swell dropped in size, the waves became more manageable, and the rest of the group had a chance to go for it again. It was epic conditions every day of the trip!

Time flies when you are having fun. On the bittersweet last night in Punta Luna, we had a barbecue under the moonlight, recapping stories of our once in a lifetime adventure. Perfect wind and waves, delicious meals every day, in the company of like-minded people in the middle of the Illescas National Park in Northern Peru. We are grateful for having been part of this amazing adventure, and we all agree it was a dream come true!

“ THE WAVES BECAME MORE MANAGEABLE, AND THE REST OF THE GROUP HAD A CHANCE TO GO FOR IT AGAIN. IT WAS EPIC CONDITIONS EVERY DAY OF THE TRIP! ”



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DO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WANT TO LEARN TO KITE?

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WORDS & PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM
PHOTO THIS PAGE RIDER RAMIRO GALLART PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

Nothing beats getting your hands on a fresh bit of kit to amplify your session, and we've been lucky enough to try some new gear from a few of our favourite brands. In the last issue of 2021, we chased wind all over the UK and South Africa to put the gear to the test! Find out what the IKSURFMAG Test Team thought about the kite of Kings, the new North Orbit, along with some of the latest gear from Eleveight, Airush, Manera, and Ion!

KITES

North Orbit 2022
Eleveight XS V2
Eleveight RS V5

BOARDS

Airush Switch
Airush Switch Team

HARNESSES

Manera Halo
Ion Apex Curv 13



BRAND NORTH

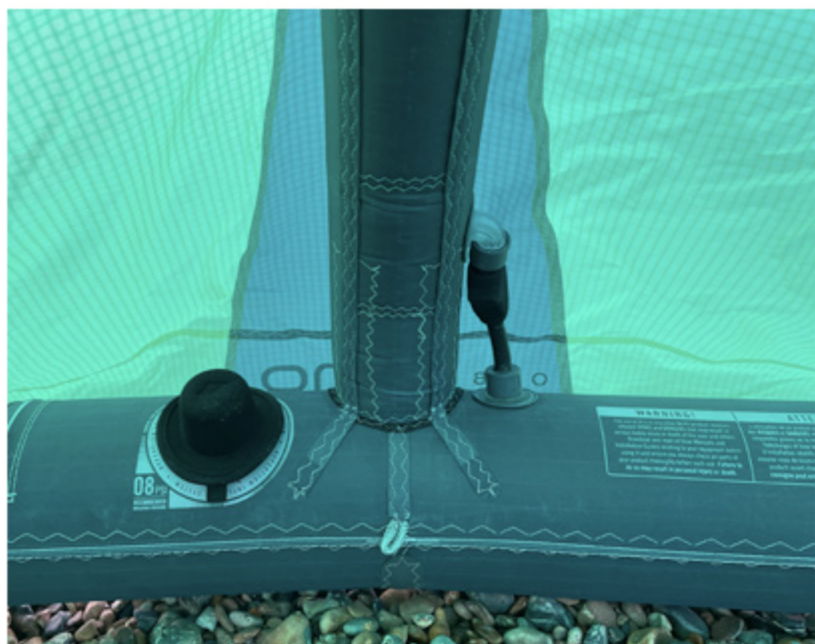
MODEL ORBIT

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2022



"THE KITE OF KINGS PROVIDES LOFTY JUMPS WITH POWERFUL LOOPS, BUT IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO FLY THAT ANY RIDER WILL HAVE A FUN TIME ON THE WATER."



AT A GLANCE

Since the Orbit hit the kiteboarding scene, it's done nothing short of thrive within The Big Air scene. In 2019/20, North's Jesse Richman took the first edition Orbit to a podium finish at the King of The Air, with Marc Jacobs recording the highest jump over the course of the competition. Fast forward two, the all-new 2022 North Orbit carried Marc Jacobs to his first KOTA title with huge air and aggressive loops. It's exactly what the Orbit has been designed to do - deliver top performance in those crazy winds.

The North Orbit is a 5-strut design with a high aspect swept wingtip and efficient 2-stage arc design. It provides incredible top-end control, and with its 5-strut design, the kite is able to withstand strong winds yet still keep its shape. If anything, the qualities of this kite are shown more when it's in an overpowered state.

All editions of the Orbit have been good; However, the 2020 and first Orbit would sometimes front stall. This issue was solved with the 2021 model, and for 2022 with minor refinements, North has produced a beast that is proven to deliver and has several podium finishes to prove it!

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BRAND ELEVEIGHT

MODEL XS V2

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2022



"THE ELEVEIGHT XS V2 PUTS THE EXTREME IN EXTREME FREERIDE. AN ALL-AROUND, USER-FRIENDLY 5-STRUT KITE THAT WILL HELP YOU FULFIL YOUR BIG AIR DREAMS!"



AT A GLANCE

The XS is a recent addition to the comprehensive line of leading-edge inflatable kites from Eleveight. Peter Stiewe, Eleveight CEO and Designer, brings nearly 20 years of kite and board design experience to this brand, so you can be confident that they are delivering quality gear.

On test today is the 9m XS V2, the second iteration of Eleveight's XS, and one of only two 5-strut kites in the lineup. Unlike the recently released FS V5, which is a freestyle oriented 5-strut, the XS is oriented towards the more all-around kiter who wants to go big. Eleveight calls this their Extreme Freeride kite, and we couldn't wait to get it out on the water to see what extreme means!

As a 5-strut kite, you can assume that it will be a grunty, powerful kite that can take you to the moon and back. Typically, a 5-strut that will bring your big air game to another level will lack a little bit in steering speed. We'll put that to the test a little later!

Looking at the XS V2 out of the bag, it is a delta hybrid shape and looks like a proper big air and freeride performer.

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BRAND ELEVEIGHT

MODEL RS V5

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2022



" AFTER A FEW SESSIONS ON THE RS V5, WE CAN SEE WHY THIS KITE IS ELEVEIGHT'S BEST-SELLER! "



AT A GLANCE

The crew over at Eleveight have six inflatable kites in their lineup, from progression friendly to light wind and foil compatible, all the way to performance freestyle and wave. The 3-strut RS, in its 5th version, has cemented its spot as Eleveight's best-selling kite, and we can see why!

The Eleveight RS V5 is described as crossover freeride, which indicates that it is a freeride friendly piece of gear that can do a bit of everything. As a 3-strut kite, it should easily be able to manage all of your freeride needs with decent performance in waves and on the foil, which means this might just be the do-it-all kite that you've been looking for.

We pumped it up and had a good, old-fashioned walk around to see what the RS V5 looks like on the beach. The 3-strut delta hybrid shape with its medium/high aspect ratio is accentuated by Eleveight's signature graphics. The kite has a single pulley bridle and tuning options on the wingtips to adjust bar pressure and turning speed. All in all, the kite looks great and like a straight-up good time!

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“ A PERFECT BOARD FOR RIDERS STARTING OUT THAT WILL BE THEIR PARTNER IN CRIME ALL THE WAY TO AN ADVANCED LEVEL OF RIDING. ”



BRAND AIRUSH
SIZE 138 X 41CM

MODEL SWITCH
YEAR 2022

AT A GLANCE

The 2022 Airush Switch is an absolute stunner with its Palownia exposed wood core and simple, modern graphics. We know graphics have no impact on the performance of a board, but when a board looks this good, we're pretty sure we look better riding it! To be fair, there aren't too many hideous boards on the market, but we are pretty into the design style over at Airush.

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“ THE SWITCH TEAM IS A FREERIDE WEAPON WITH STRONG FREESTYLE PERFORMANCE, STIFF WITH SOLID POP. ”



BRAND AIRUSH
SIZE 138 X 41CM

MODEL SWITCH TEAM
YEAR 2022

AT A GLANCE

The 2022 Airush Switch and Switch Team arrived at our doorstep on the same day, which was an exciting delivery as we love a good back-to-back test! If you haven't read our review of the Switch, that's a great place to start. The Switch is a phenomenal freeride board, but the Switch Team, even though it's the same shape, is stripped down and rebuilt with freestyle performance in mind.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



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BRAND MANERA

MODEL HALO

YEAR 2022



"A HARNESS DESIGNED TO TAKE THE BENEFITS OF A HARDSHELL AND MARRY THEM WITH THE BENEFITS OF A SOFTSHELL."



AT A GLANCE

Manera has been one of the few companies to not fully embrace the popular hardshell design that has become so universal in the harness world. Now we can finally see what they have been working on as an alternative, and it's very impressive.

Behind the scenes, they have been developing the Halo. A harness designed to take the benefits of a hardshell and marry them with the benefits of a softshell. It's taken a long time to develop, technically it still isn't available in the shops, but it will be soon. It's fantastic to see companies taking a different approach and not just following the crowds.

The theory is sound; the spreader bar combines with the solid piece on the back of the harness. This creates a ring, or Halo, around the rider through which all the force is applied. However, as the ring at the back doesn't contact the rider, the forces stay on the ring even under load and not on your body.

The key to the design is the spreader bar and the ring at the back, making a perfect circle around your body. This means the fit is crucial, so be sure to try this harness on in a store before you buy.

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"COMFORT IS THE KEYWORD TO DESCRIBE THIS HARNESS, WHICH IS INCREDIBLY SUPPORTIVE WITH THE PERFECT MIX OF STIFFNESS AND FLEXIBILITY."



AT A GLANCE

One of the least expensive ways to improve your time out on the water is by getting a well-designed harness that fits like a glove. Harnesses are quintessential to the kiting experience and your long-term back health! We appreciate that Ion, as one of the biggest accessories brands in kitesurfing, has such an expansive selection of harnesses, from soft shell to hard shell to everything in between!

We got our hands on an Ion Apex Curv 13, which lies on the stiffer side of the middle ground with a flex index of 13 out of a possible 20, with 20 being the hardest. With its simple yet stylish looks, the Apex Curv 13 is jam-packed with features that kept surprising us.

You might think that a harness is just a harness; It's what you attach your kite to so you can get out on the water and send it 'til the cows come home! While that may be true, we've tested a lot of harnesses and the spicy little details that the Apex Curv 13 has made it stand out.

This harness uses Ion's Curv material, a thermal composite that is light yet durable.

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On The Fly

CRAZYFLY // 2022 SHOOT WITH LACI KOBULSKY

The goal of this shoot was pretty simple - take the best possible action shots of the new CrazyFly gear! We started in Cabarete, Dominican Republic, but did most of the shooting at quieter beaches on the North Coast. We were doing both stills and videos, and we tried to match each spot with the right gear.



WORDS & PHOTOS LACI KOBULSKY



In Las Terrenas, we shot foiling with the new Pure board and Infinity kite. In windy Buen Hombre, we focused on the Sculp and Raptor Extreme. It helped a lot to have local rider Posito Martinez on the team. For me, having somebody who knows the local spots is a necessity. I've been on shoots where we were unfamiliar with the spots, and it's always tricky and inefficient. We also had CrazyFly all-star Liloo Fourre on the team, adding energy, charm and smiles. Alex Soto also joined us for some foiling in Las Terrenas for a few days.



On The Fly

CRAZYFLY // 2022 SHOOT WITH LACI KOBULSKY

The best trip for us was a day boat trip to Cayo Arena from Kite Buen Hombre. You get to kite in amazing flat water next to mangroves and then do an incredible downwinder back to the main spot. They have a "7 islands trip" for more advanced riders, which is a full day kiting adventure.

One of my favourite shots of this trip is of Posito high fiving Giovanna, my girlfriend who was on the trip as an assistant. Not only did she love the trip, but she also proved very useful both behind and in front of the camera. This shot was very spontaneous! Giovanna was helping me with the flash in the water, and as soon as we were done, Posito, just for fun, gave her a high five in the air - a trick I am sure he practiced a lot to impress chiquitas, haha! And boom, the shot was made! :)





RAIARII FADIER: The plan was to shoot a video featuring Arthur Guillebert and myself to present Eleveight's new kite, the FS V5. It is the perfect freestyle machine; It delivers good slack, and the kite is really responsive. I really like it, and I don't just use it for freestyle; I also use it for big air and kitemoops!

We were lucky to get perfect conditions in Gruissan, in the south of France. This spot is really unusual because you have to drive 20 minutes down a chaotic road before arriving at the beach. Then, you drive on the beach until you get to the spot. Most of the time, the car gets stuck in the sand, and that's exactly what happened to me! Luckily, we found some friends to help push the car.

In this spot, the wind is usually too strong for freestyle, but sometimes, the wind gets lighter. On this day, the wind blew from 7am to 11am, so we managed to time it perfectly. The water was flat, the sun was rising, it wasn't too cold; Everything was perfect for the shoot. Arthur and I just enjoyed our time on the water, sending some tricks together and making the most of a perfect morning.



On The Fly

ELEVEIGHT // HELLO SUNSHINE

Check out the release of the new Eleveight FS V5 in Hello Sunshine. Join Raiarii Fadier and Arthur Guillebert for some early morning gold, and go behind the scenes of the shoot with Raiarii!

On The Fly

LIEUWE // BRAZIL WITH RODERICK PIJLS

For several years the entire kitesurf industry has been following the windy season in each continent, with one of the most popular locations being Brazil. I've been visiting this country for more than a decade. This time, instead of only staying in Cumbuco and Taiba, I decided to explore further and experience Brazil's entire northern coastline. Together with a couple of friends and photographer Arnaud Plas, we loaded up a 4x4 and hit the road!



We scored in the waves from side off-shore sessions in Pecem to mind-blowing waves in Baleia. However, we still wanted to ride some freestyle! On the search for something special, we did a downwinder near Moitas and found an undiscovered lagoon, impossible to reach by car. What we found was butter-flat water, consistent wind, and a completely private lagoon - insane!



On The Fly

BRAZIL WITH RODERICK PIJLS

We finished up our trip in Barra Grande, where we saw a completely new scenery and vibe that we hadn't seen in Brazil before. It was like Jericoacoara, but ten years in the past. What a way to end the adventure! I cannot wait to head back next year to spend even more time exploring Brazil's northern beaches.

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RIDER RODERICK PIJLS
PHOTO LENNART VAN HOLTEN

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On The Fly

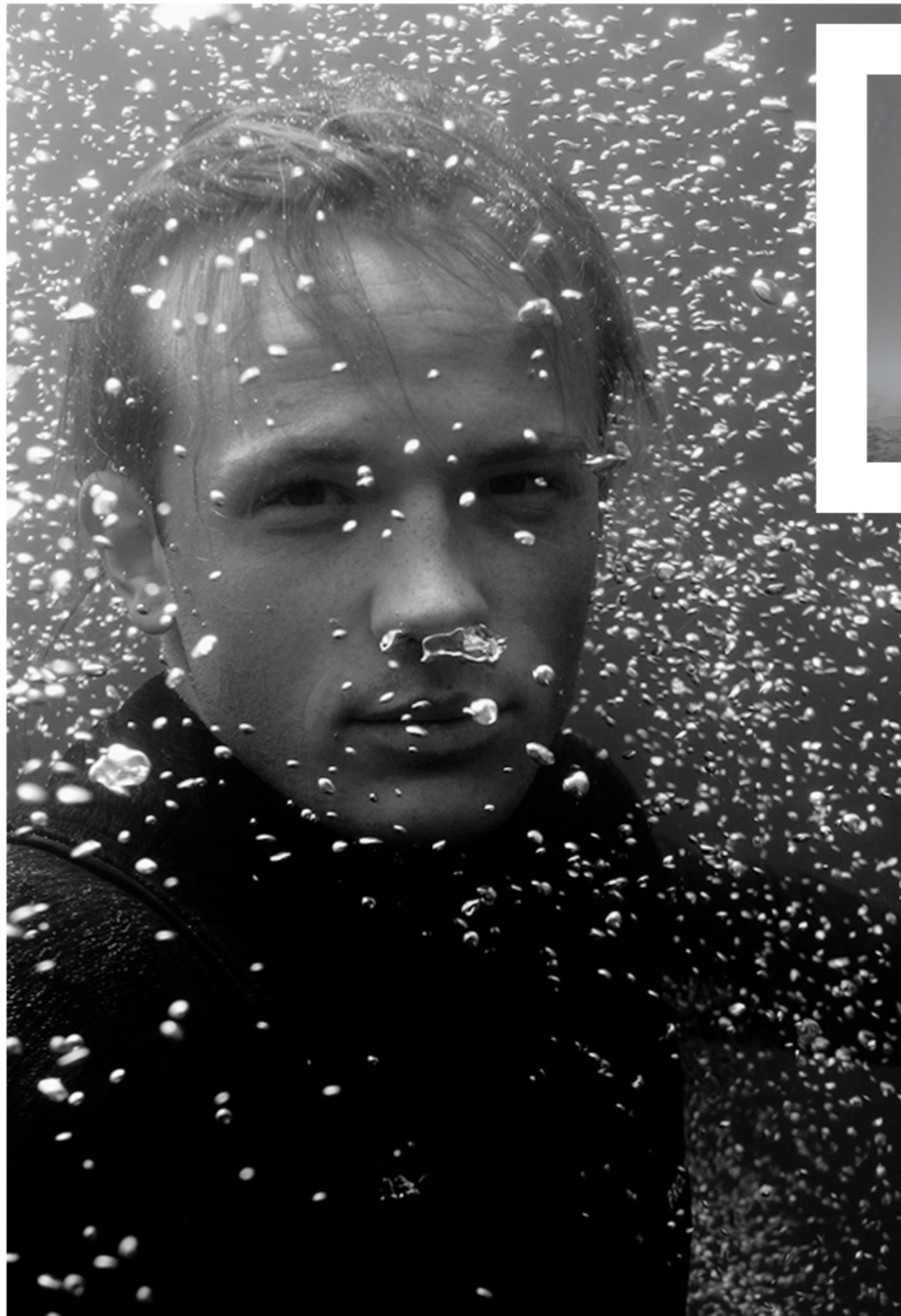
AIRWAVE // MAXIME-LUAN DESJARDINS

When it comes to Hydrofoil Freestyle, you can be almost certain that you'll see Charles Brodel and Fred Hope at the top of the podium. This time around, a new face knocked out one of the greats during the recent GKA Hydrofoil Freestyle World Cup in Brazil.

The talented 19-year-old Maxime-Luan Desjardins had an incredible performance, sailing through the air on his colourful Airwave KOALA! Maxime knocked out Fred Hope to earn his place in the semi-finals of the event before going on to take 2nd place, sharing the podium with fellow French rider Charles Brodel.

Congratulations, Maxime and the Airwave team!





On The Fly

NAISH // THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

The latest feature kite film to arrive from the mega windy Netherlands comes from filmmaker Edwin Haighton, who documented a season of sessions with Stig Hoefnagel. We got the story behind the scenes from Edwin and Stig!

STIG HOEFNAGEL: Edwin and I have been making videos together for almost five years now. Because Edwin is a kiter himself, and I have some experience filming, we form probably the best duo for projects like this one! We always have a little chat with each other before the session to check if we are on the same page, and as soon as we both know what we want, then we can start shooting without having to talk to each other anymore because 90% of the time, we're thinking the exact same way!

Our first session was filmed in March and the last one in October. I enjoyed every moment of making this movie. I wanted to make something that was honest, not just showing the best sessions of the year and telling how amazing it is when it's not! I wanted to share what is actually happening and show that it's not always flowers and roses.



To be able to shoot a nice film, you need someone who can handle the conditions. Stig is a real waterman, a jack of all trades, and he can rip it in any discipline, especially in nuking winds. Kiting in Holland is making the best of the diverse conditions you get. We tried to find that perfect storm that all big air kites long for - 45-50 knots and massive kickers. We chased down a lot of forecasts to get those truly epic storm conditions, but they didn't work out as planned.

That's just how it goes in Holland, so we decided that should be the story of this film: Some sessions are good, some are bad, and some are just plain ugly. But no matter the conditions, we always enjoy going out!

On The Fly

NAISH // THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

EDWIN HAIGHTON: Filming in stormy conditions is something I really enjoy. It's great to feel the power of mother nature all around you. Visually speaking, these are my favourite conditions; Sand flying, waves smashing on the harbour walls, there are epic images everywhere you look.



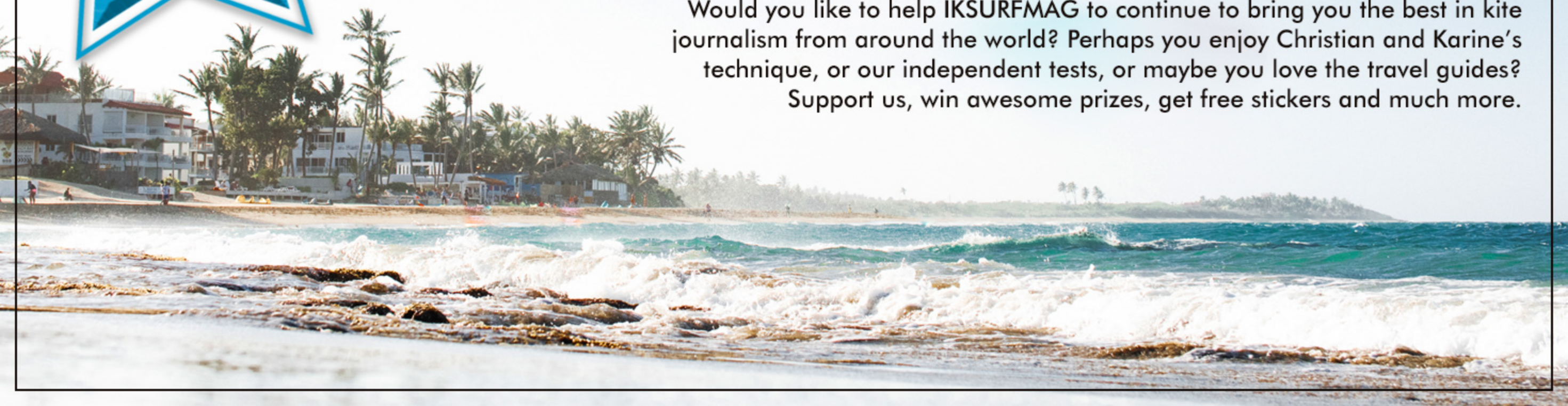
RIDER CARLITO MARTINEZ
PHOTO KITESHOOTER

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INSIGHT

MIRIAM JOANNA

WORDS JEN TYLER

Adventure-seeking Miriam Joanna may have grown up near the snow-capped mountains of Austria, but it wasn't long before she chased her dream across the ocean! Jen Tyler tracked her down for this INSIGHT feature. Get to know this incredibly talented and creative photographer, filmmaker, graphic designer, and artist exclusively on IKSURFMAG!

" I KNEW THIS PLACE WOULD TEACH ME SO MUCH MORE THAN RIDING THE WAVES IN THE OCEAN. "

Born and raised in Austria, how did you end up chasing waves and wind around the world?

Growing up by the woods, I was always out and about as a child, and fortunately, I got to travel to the ocean every summer and ski the mountains in the winter. Shortly after graduating from high school, I made a life-changing trip to Indonesia that convinced me I needed to keep exploring other cultures. After that, I decided to get a 6-month visa for Hawaii to properly learn how to surf and immerse myself in the surfing lifestyle.

What was it like living in Hawaii? Where do you live now?

After my first week of being on the island of Hawaii, I knew this place would teach me so much more than riding the waves in the ocean. It taught me how to read the "wave of life" and ride it!

The Big Island of Hawaii has so much diversity to offer, having 10 out of the 14 world's climate zones. In the wintertime, you can snowboard and surf in board shorts in one day; it's like driving from Austria's Alps to Indonesia's shoreline within 2 hours.

Living there really puts you to the test. The locals say that the greatest goddess of the islands, which is Pele, the lava god, makes it very clear if you're welcomed or not. No place on this planet feels more like home to me than the Big Island does. I've been to Oahu and Maui, and they're in some ways even more beautiful with their lush greens, perfect wind and waves, but the Big Island will always be my home at heart. I've lived there on-off for over two years now.



" I WOULD ALWAYS BE MORE INTERESTED IN WATCHING THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES ACTIVITIES THAN THE ACTUAL FILM. "



Where do I live now? Haha, well, let's just say I live on this planet.

Tell us how you got into photography, film, graphic design, and art? Have you always had a passion for them?

Ever since I held a pen, I have painted and created. One of my best friends, a writer, said, "you cannot not create". I nourished my mind by looking at great photography books and magazines as a child. I would always be more interested in watching the behind-the-scenes activities than the actual film. So, in many forms, art has been continuously present in my life.

I wanted to become a film director at some point in my childhood. Being able to express yourself without words has always been my preferred choice of "languages".

When did you discover that you could turn these creative passions into a career? What was your first paid project?

My first paid project was a photoshoot for an active swimwear brand. I decided to go for it since you don't know if you like it unless you try, right? What soon followed was another gig forwarded to me by one of the most well-known surf photographers. I felt like life was opening a new door for me.

How did kiteboarding photography enter the picture?

While I was in Hawaii, my camera had already become a creative tool in my life, but the waves brought my creative spirit to the forefront. So I bought a used water housing and found myself more often capturing the waves than surfing them! A couple of years later, a friend asked if I could film a women's kiteboarding retreat. I had always wanted to learn to kiteboard since Austria's most famous kiteboarding spot is a 40 min drive from my hometown. I instantly loved the sport, and it allowed me to merge two of my favourite elements in one shot.

RIDER LUKE MCGILLEWIE
PHOTO MIRIAM JOANNA



What's it like working with kite brands rather than independently? Do they usually give you the concept of what they have in mind, or do you typically come up with that?

It depends on the client; some have a clear idea of what they want. Another sees the answer to their question in my work. It's a beautiful thing trying to find the balance of expectations and meeting the needs of everyone involved.

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THING TRYING TO
FIND THE BALANCE
OF EXPECTATIONS "

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Speaking of working with kite brands, tell us a bit more about your own kiting! What's your favourite style of riding and place to ride?

Ever since I fell in love with the sport, it was evident that I would get into riding strapless at some point. I love warm water, so anywhere warm where I can ride my small kites.

We've seen some incredible photos you've taken from the water! What's it like shooting from water with massive waves? Any close calls? Camera damage? Dangerous marine life encounters?!

Well, I'm never drinking coffee before a surf swim again; haha, there's nothing worse than getting held down by waves when your heart is high on caffeine. The ocean has put me in my place a couple of times but capturing a sport from within one of its elements is what it is about. Fortunately, my camera has survived so far and hasn't caused me any major headaches besides a tiny cut on my chin. Still, the most dangerous part of being in the ocean is the camera in the housing itself. I have a great love for sharks, and if in doubt, don't go out.

It's clear from your portfolio that you have a passion for showcasing female athletes. Tell us a bit more about what that means to you!

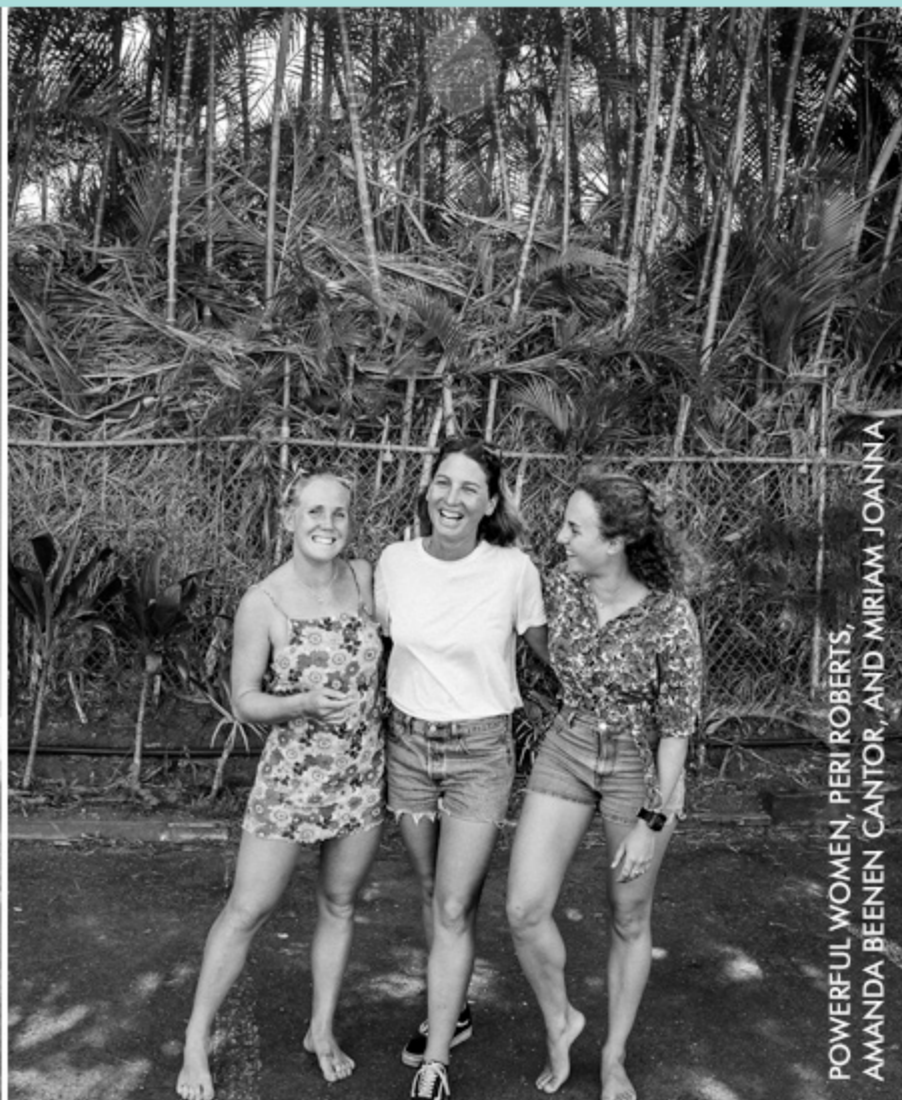
I want to use my talents to create and support what I believe in / what I want to see. Most industries live off photos, film, and graphic design to promote their products. Therefore, as artists, we have a huge say in how things are presented to the public.



“ THE OCEAN HAS PUT ME IN MY PLACE A COUPLE OF TIMES BUT CAPTURING A SPORT FROM WITHIN ONE OF ITS ELEMENTS IS WHAT IT IS ABOUT. ”

PHOTO CHRIS D'AMICO

RIDER PERI ROBERTS
PHOTO MIRIAM JOANNA



POWERFUL WOMEN, PERI ROBERTS,
AMANDA BEENEN CANTOR, AND MIRIAM JOANNA

RIDER JOACO ALONSO PHOTO MIRIAM JOANNA

"IT WAS JUST SO POWERFUL
AND BEYOND INSPIRING!!"



It is so beautiful to see more and more women collaborating, and it's so inspiring to see more and more women stand up for themselves in very male-dominated industries.

On my recent trip to Hawaii, I connected with Amanda Beenen Cantor, a Dutch surf photographer who lives on Maui and we ended up shooting together out at one of Maui's surf spots! Two female photographers capturing one female professional kitesurfer. Neither one of us had been in such a situation before, it was just so powerful and beyond inspiring!!

What is your favourite photo of all time, and

what's the story behind it?

My favourite photo of all time? I love one of the first freestyle shots I took in Brazil of a friend of mine. While jumping over a wired fence, a dog jumped out of the water below him. It was just amazing how everything aligned at that moment.

What has been the most exciting project you've worked on outside of the kite industry in the past couple of years?

I enjoyed working for the WMNSurf Magazine and connecting with various female athletes, filmmakers, and photographers around the globe.

I interviewed Bethany Hamilton for their last issue and met up with many adaptive surfing girls, which was incredibly inspiring.

You've done some insane board paintings! How do you capture someone's story and turn it into art?! What sort of questions do you ask to recreate their passion into an image?

Thank you! As much as I like to perceive the person I'm working with influences my work, I love to take notes of certain character traits and create an art piece based on that. It's fun to create custom art and embrace the customer's individuality.

What paint do you use, and how do you protect it from getting damaged?

Depending on if I'm painting on a naked blank that will be glassed afterwards or on an already finished board, I'll use different techniques, primarily acrylic paint and paint markers, and then I finish it off with a clear coat. It's always fun to add the story of the board to an old board - I kind of use it as a canvas. But, what excites me the most is painting boards that are still actively in use. Seeing your art in action at Peahi - Jaws, for example, is just incredible!

Tell us about the Sörf Film fest! What movie did you showcase there?

The Sörf Film Fest is a film festival touring through Austria, Germany, and Italy. This year we've had our second open-air cinema tour, which was established last year due to the Covid restrictions, and since it was so successful, 2021 was another open-air tour that took off! So, as a result, my short film, Sensation with Catharina Edin, was selected for the 2022 tour, which I'm excited about!

You recently got back from a trip to Hawaii. How was it? Did you take your camera gear and kites with you?

I can't even describe how it felt to be back in Hawaii. My camera gear is always my companion since I usually go from one project to another. It was quite a mission to get there since the borders weren't open yet, so I had to include a 3-week stopover in Mexico on the way. Then, I couldn't get an approved Covid test in time on the mainland,

" WE'VE HAD OUR SECOND OPEN-AIR CINEMA TOUR, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR DUE TO THE COVID RESTRICTIONS "



" MY MOTTO IS MY APPROACH IN LIFE AND A CONTINUOUS REMINDER OF JUST GIVING IT A TRY AND FORMING MY OPINION UPON THE EXPERIENCE. "

so I had to do a 10-day quarantine as well. Nevertheless, I had an excellent session when I hopped over to Maui to link up with Peri Roberts. We shot some incredible footage that showcases her power.

We love your motto from your website: "Don't overthink. Just do it!" What's the story behind it?

Honestly, I miss having the simple mindset I had as a child, never getting caught up in weighing the pros and cons and just going for it. My motto is my approach in life and a continuous reminder of just giving it a try and forming my opinion upon the experience. If you want to change, do or achieve something, just make it happen because really, all you have is now!

LIGHTROOM

THERESE TAABEL STOKED TO BE BACK ON THE WATER IN BRAZIL
AFTER A LONG RECOVERY FOLLOWING A SERIOUS KNEE INJURY
PHOTO TOM SEAGER



Lightroom

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

LIGHTROOM

RAMIRO GALLART GETTING UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH THE SANDBAR IN HOOD RIVER, OREGON
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



Lightroom



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

GABRIELÉ PIORAITÉ WITH THE MOST ELEGANT ONE FOOTER WE'VE EVER SEEN IN CAPE TOWN!
PHOTO JULIETA PEREYRA

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

LUKE MCGILLEWIE CARVES UP THE WAVES IN SCARBOROUGH, SOUTH AFRICA
PHOTO CRYSTAL VENESS



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

EVAN KLIJN TESTS THE LIMITS OF SHORT LINES ON THIS LOOP SESSION IN THE ZANDMOTOR
PHOTO PATRICK VAN DER VEN



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

THE AIRWAVE TEAM ADDING A LITTLE COLOUR TO THE COASTLINE WITH A SESSION ON THE KOALA
PHOTO AIRWAVE KITES

Lightroom



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

ANNELOUS LAMMERTS ENJOYING SICILY'S WARM WATER BEFORE
RETURNING TO THE NETHERLANDS' SLIGHTLY COLDER WATERS!
PHOTO LACI KOBULSKY

Lightroom



Lightroom

The IKSURFMAG website is crammed with the latest news and best videos from the kitesurfing industry. With so much to see, where do you even start?!

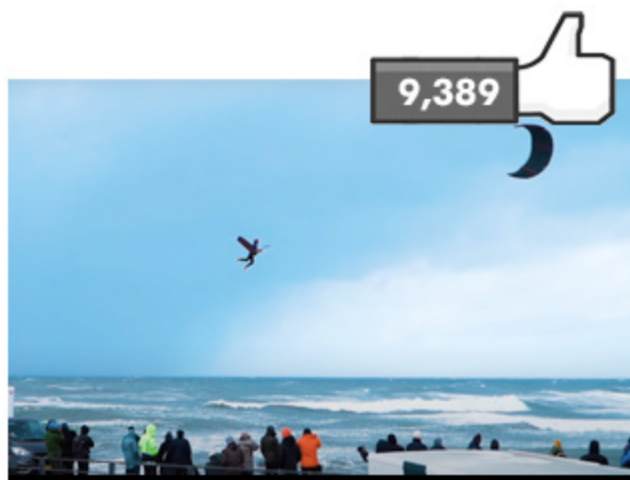
These are the 4 most popular videos that have been viewed on the site as voted for by you with your thumbs up likes over the last 2 months! Check out the full list [HERE](#), and if you see a video you like on the site, give it the thumbs up. It might just help to push it onto this page!

Put the popcorn on, it's Movie Night!

MOVIE NIGHT

#1 WORLD OF WHALEY² EPISODE 3 (COLD HAWAII GAMES)

A well-deserved win for Liam Whaley, both in the competition and #1 on our Movie Night list this issue. With winds gusting 60 knots, the 2021 Cold Hawaii Games was one for the books!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2 REO STEVENS KITESURFING TEAHUPOO POV

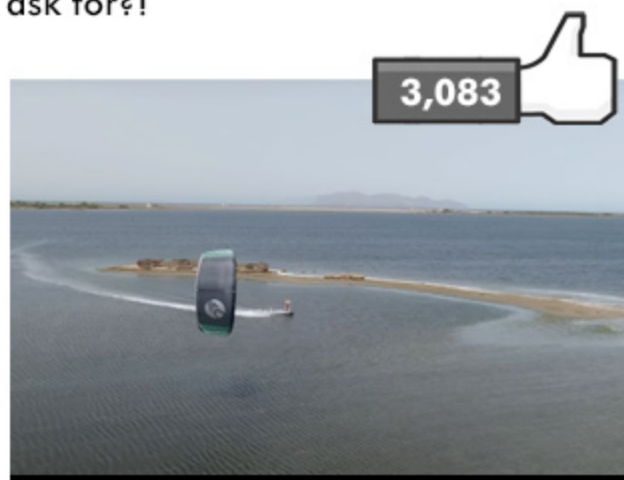
When Reo's on the Reo, you know it's going to be good! Live vicariously through Reo Stevens for the next 30 seconds as he takes us for one hell of a ride 'the Reo way' in Teahupoo, Tahiti.



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3 SICILY - WITH LOUS

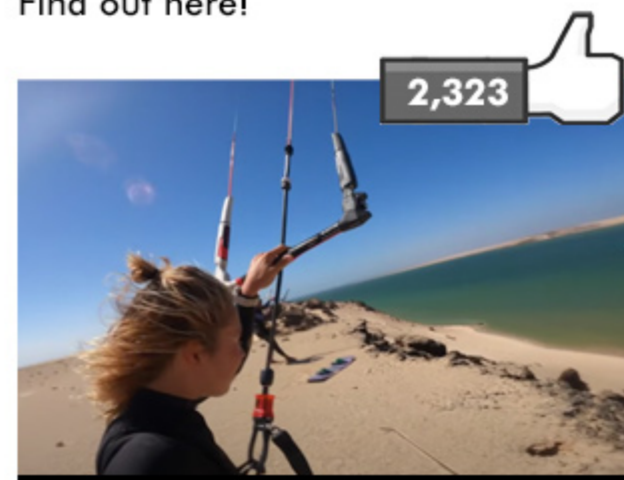
Annelous Lammerts left the cloudy, gloomy Netherlands behind to visit ProKite Alby Rondina and the Cabrinha Italy crew for a beautiful Sicilian getaway. Kiteboarding, wingfoiling, a massive lagoon and delicious food. What more could you ask for?!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4 DID I JUMP THIS CLIFF WITH MY KITE?! - 53 #PIPSVLOG

You can always count on PIPSVLOG for entertainment! Watch Pippa van Iersel and Val Garat venture off on a mission to see if they could jump off a dune in Dakhla. Did they succeed? Find out here!



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RIDER RAMIRO GALLART
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

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