

## GRAIN DE SAIL, THE FIRST MODERN CARGO SAILBOAT, IS CROSSING THE ATLANTIC FROM FRANCE TO NYC



Grain de Sail's Cargo Sailboat is on its way to New York City, expected to arrive this month with a cargo of 15,000 organic French wines.

Powered by more than 350 square meters of sail area, with seven sails - mainsail, foremast, staysail, working jib, solent, genoa and asymmetric spinnaker - the 72-foot aluminum schooner can manage an average speed of 8 knots upwind. She has a 50 ton capacity --the hull is designed to welcome 26 US pallets holding 15,000 wine bottles. Once loaded through deck hatches, the cargo is secured and preserved in a cargo hold stabilized in temperature and hygrometry to make it the world's first floating wine cellar under sail.

Consistent with its environmentally friendly mission, the vessel is self-sufficient in energy thanks to wind turbines, photovoltaic panels, and hydro generators. The vessel also has a very modest 115 hp auxiliary engine for in-port maneuvers. Fitted with two single cabins and a double cabin and a furnished galley, the Cargo Sailboat is merchant navy approved and registered with the International French Register (RIF). It's a real cargo ship in the sense of equipment and safety but it's only moving thanks to the wind which makes it perfectly unique.

The crew is composed of Loïc Briand, illimited Master, Faustine Langevin, chief mate, coming from the merchant navy, Goulven Josse, deck officer from the professional yachting and François le Naourès, sailor and mediaman. They are trained in crisis management and when it comes to communication the vessel is equipped with everything you would find on a classic cargo freighter. The standards for safety are also very strict with three sump pumps, three fire pumps and all the equipment in case of damage onboard. They have enough onboard to operate properly and can dress almost as firefighters.



L to R - François, Goulven, Loïc & Faustine

### THE BACK STORY

This story began in 2010 when Olivier Barreau, founder of Grain de Sail, set himself a challenge: to transport merchandise efficiently by sail. To achieve this, he first chose to create a business that would directly benefit from the investment. So he set up a coffee-roasting company in 2013, then opened a chocolate factory in 2015 and finally started building the sailboat in 2019. Both of these ventures were successful and consistent with the underlying mission: Coffee and cocoa are raw organic crops that come from overseas and have high added value once processed. The company now has annual revenues of 5 Million Euros, sufficient in the eyes of Olivier and his twin brother Jacques, managing director of Grain de Sail, to inaugurate the first modern Cargo Sailboat in the world.

The ETA in New York is set on the 14th of December and the Cargo Sailboat will dock 10 days in Brooklyn Navy Yard, hosted by Wind Support @ Brooklyn Navy Yard, a company supporting and promoting the use of wind propulsion to reduce fuel consumption in both commercial shipping and maritime public transportation. Visits will be organized in strict compliance with CDC guidelines. After the Cargo Sailboat tour, a presentation of the Adventure of the project followed if possible by a tasting of some of the wines that have sailed across the Atlantic will be organized in the premises of Wind Support @ Brooklyn Navy Yard, Building 77, 141 Flushing Avenue, Suite 1109, Brooklyn, New York 11205. You can book your slot with a group of 5 people max on Eventbrite. Please contact us for the link.

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