

ISSUE 108

KSURF!

DEC 24/JAN 25

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

This issue features Rou Chater's reflections on Pembrokeshire's prime watersports season, a history of King of the Air, and a fresh perspective from James Boulding and the Cabrinha crew on their annual photo shoot. Follow Hugo Wigglesworth as he explores snowkiting in New Zealand and discover Dakhla's eco-friendly kitesurfing haven.

Experience Oman's trade winds with filmmaker Nikola Bagarov and learn layering techniques with Prolimit. Don't miss Victor Emanuel's BAKL Big Break win, get to know Lana Herman, get insights into CORE's new Section 5, and get behind-the-scenes of IKSURFMAG's first winter-inspired cover. We've got technique tips, gear tests, and more! Issue 108 is here.



ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE



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

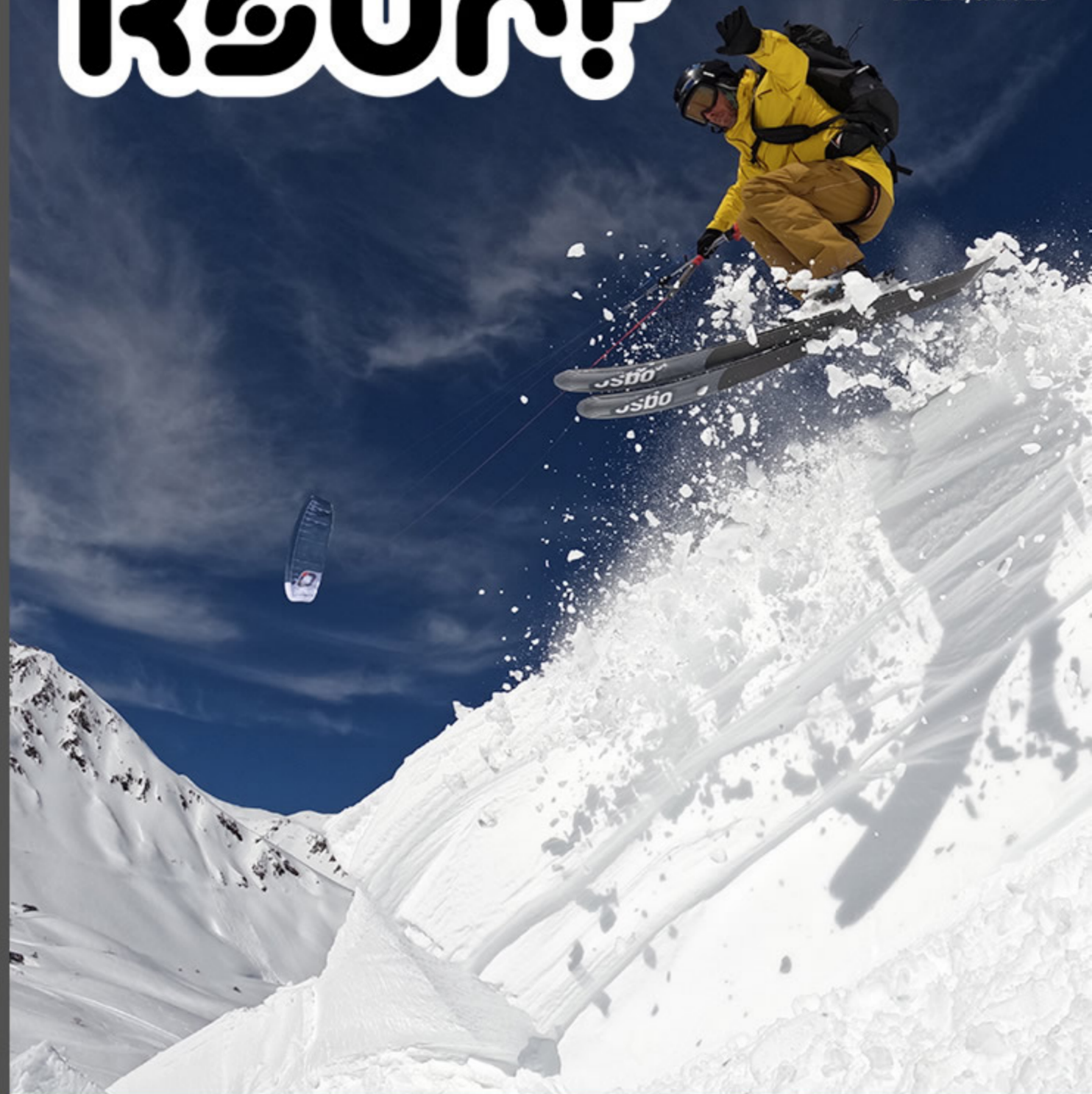


INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

KSURF!

108

DEC 24/JAN 25



- LET IT SNOW -

THE ART OF LAYERING // VORTEX // THINK DIFFERENT
TECH FOCUS // INTERVIEWS // TECHNIQUE & MORE INSIDE!

D/LAB



REBEL D/LAB Beyond Imagination

BIG AIR / HIGH PERFORMANCE FREERIDE

DUOTONESPORTS.COM

FOLLOW US   

DUOTONE



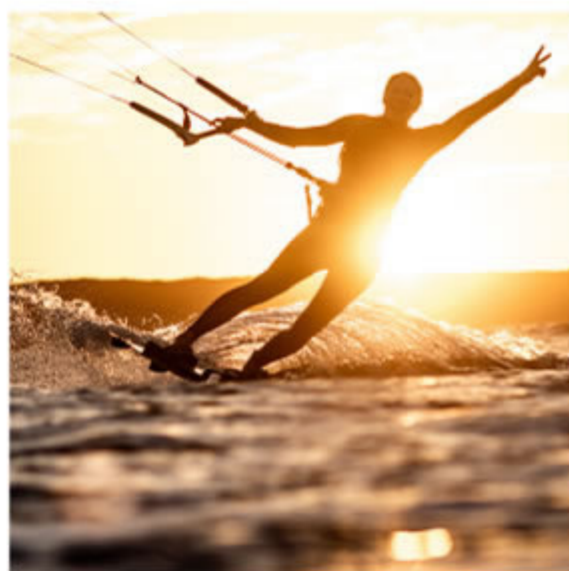
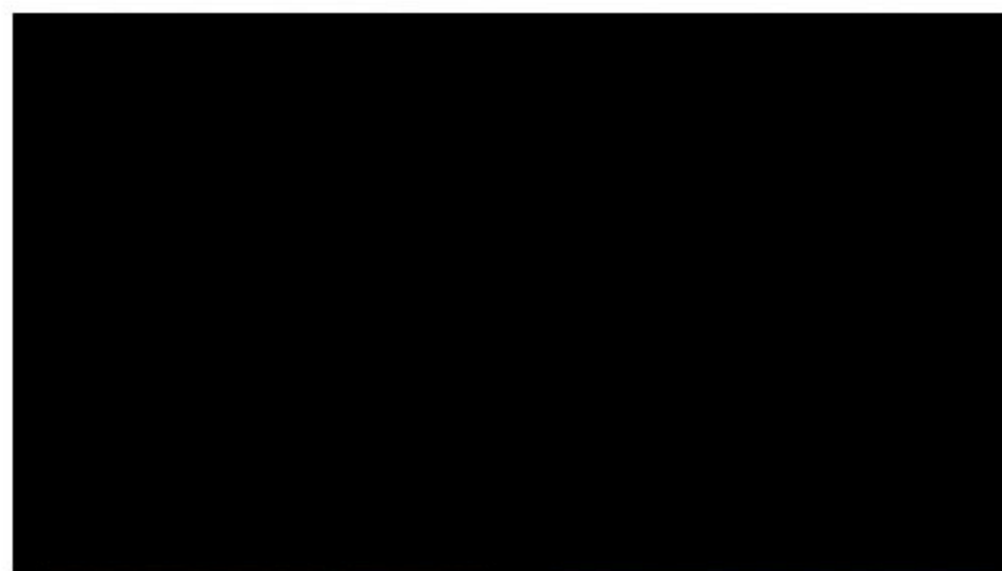
PRODUCT INFO



2025

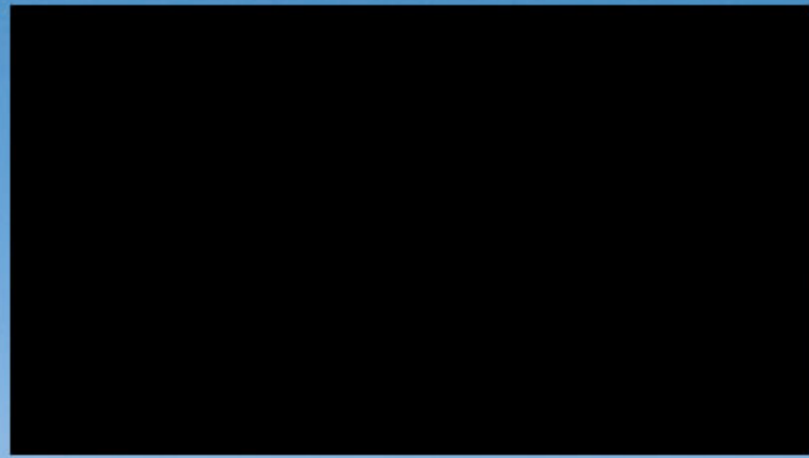


THINK



DIFFERENTI

COMING SOON



17.0
—
15.0
—
13.5
—
12.0
—
11.0
—
10.0
—
9.0
—
8.0
—
7.0
—
6.0
—
5.0

UNVEIL WHAT'S INSIDE YOU

THE NEXUS 4 IS YOUR GATEWAY
TO UNLEASHING EVERY ASPECT OF THE SPORT

Set your goals and script the next chapter of your journey.
Nexus 4.



NEXUS 4

WAVE
FREESTYLE
FREERIDE

DESIGNED IN FEHMARN

Time to unlock the endless possibilities:
<https://rideco.re/nexus4>

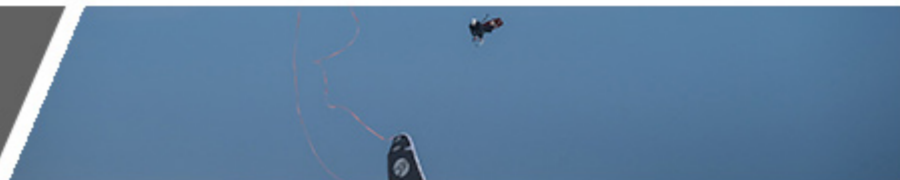
EDITORIAL



THE INTERVIEW:
PETER STIEWE



COMPETITION



VORTEX -
ENTER OUR PARADIGM



HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF
...IN MORE WAYS THAN
ONE - KOTA 2024



THE ART OF LAYERING



THINK DIFFERENT



VICTOR EMANOEL:
DREAMS TO REALITY WITH
BAKL BIG BREAK WIN!



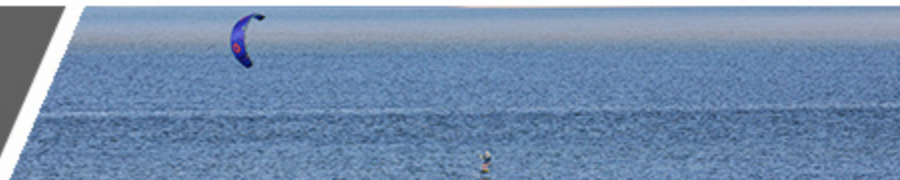
PEAK⁶ UNPACKED



TECH FOCUS -
CORE - SECTION 5
NAISH SYNC BAR



DAKHLA DONE
DIFFERENTLY



TECHNIQUE



CHASE OF THE
TRADE WINDS



LIEUWE X
THE WINDSEEKERS



INSIGHT -
LANA HERMAN



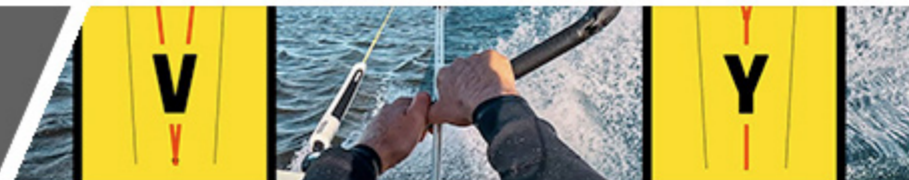
TRIED & TESTED



LET IT SNOW -
FIRST WINTER-INSPIRED
COVER!



MOVIE NIGHT



PUBLISHER >

Rou Chater
rou@iksurfmag.com

TECHNIQUE EDITORS >

Christian Harris & Karine Nativel
christian@iksurfmag.com
karine@iksurfmag.com

WEB & FEATURES EDITOR >

Jen Tyler
jen.tyler@iksurfmag.com

DESIGN >

Karen Gardner Creative
hello@karengardnercreative.co.uk

ADVERTISING SALES >

Rou Chater
rou@iksurfmag.com

IT DIRECTOR >

Alex Chater
alex@nextelement.co.uk

CONTRIBUTORS >

Xander Raith, Victor Emanoel, Peter Stiewe, Linda van Lakwijk, Phil Janke, Hugo Wigglesworth, Warek Arnaud, Lana Herman, Nikola Bagarov, James Boulding, Quinty van Gemert

PUBLISHED ON THE WEB BY >

Next Element Ltd

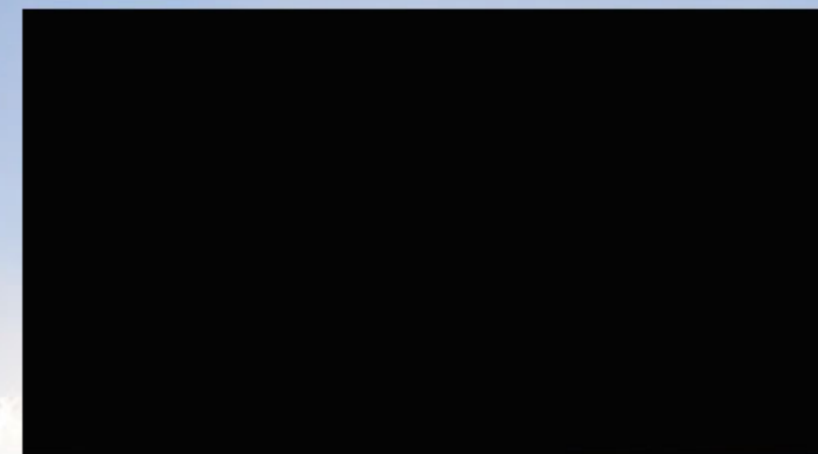
All content is copyright of IKSURFMAG / Next Element Ltd.

No trees were harmed while we made this magazine although the staff may have been subject to beatings in order to get the job done. The views in this magazine are just that, views, & should be taken with a pinch of salt. Kitesurfing is a dangerous sport & none of the activities depicted within this magazine should be participated in without full instruction in person by a qualified instructor.

RIDER STIG HOEFNAGEL
PHOTO ANDY TROY



FACE
PLANT



THE WORLD'S MOST SUSTAINABLE SUNGLASSES
MADE WITH 5 RECYCLED PLASTIC BOTTLES + REPLACEABLE BIODEGRADABLE LENSES + LIFETIME GUARANTEE

[Click here to join the party](#)



WIN

...IKSURFMAG T-SHIRT AND HOODY! SUBSCRIBE TO *WIN*, CLICK *HERE* IT'S FREE

In this issue, our winner will receive a choice of colour and size for a hoody and T-shirt from our store! Made from organic cotton and featuring our iconic logo, be the envy of your mates on the beach!!

Make sure to subscribe to IKSURFMAG for a chance to win!

By subscribing to IKSURFMAG you'll be entered into all future prize draws and be first to read the magazine. We will never spam you and only email about new issues or important IKSURFMAG news.



CLICK
HERE TO
SUPPORT
US

A GOLDEN PERIOD DURING A GOLDEN TIME IN A GOLDEN LAND

Autumn has been and gone since I last sat down to write this. It's my favourite time of the year, but arguably, the end of August right up to Christmas kind of encompasses this "golden time." It's a period when the energy in the wind and the ocean ramps up while the warmth of the summer can still be felt.

I moved to Pembrokeshire almost five years ago now.

Yes, I fully expect a Welsh passport on the anniversary in March. If Mark Drakeford could hand it to me along with a free sheep and a voucher for a dragon tattoo at a passing out ceremony in Cardiff Castle, that would be great.

When I moved here, I didn't know much about the place besides its potential. I'd had reports from a few locals, but they always downplayed it to keep the crowds down. The thing about where I live is that it is literally miles from anywhere. It takes two hours to get

to Cardiff, which is most people's idea of Wales. Bristol is three hours away, and the nearest major international airport is four hours away. All these times do not consider traffic, which can suddenly add hours to any journey.

In those five years, I've discovered a genuinely golden land with almost endless opportunities, and we're right in the middle of the season when it's best. I've been pinching myself at the number of sessions we've enjoyed the last few months.

As a multi-sport aficionado, I spend every day on the water. Between kiting, winging, surfing, prone surfing, dock starting, and DW paddle boarding, my mountain bike has been thoroughly neglected. I used to spend more time on it than anything else. This year, it's barely been out of the garage.

That's a testament to the conditions, the golden time, the location, and the golden land. There is another factor here, too: the golden period involved in watersports.

I remember the days when windsurfing was the only thing we could do in the water. There wasn't much surf in Kent, after all. Now, we have a plethora of craft and ways to enjoy the ocean. It's just an unbelievable time to be involved in the watersports game.

However, one thing that always comes home to roost is just how bloody good kitesurfing is. I can spend hours surfing and yet only ten minutes riding. I can catch endless waves on a wing but never throw some spray. I can pump my heart into oblivion off the dock on the foil but never get that "feeling".

Launching a kite and heading out into swell to ride some waves at one of my local beaches is still my absolute favourite pastime on the water. And at this time of year, when the wind is howling and the waves are punching, it just doesn't get any better.

It's a golden time in a golden land during a golden period for watersports, but out of them all kiting is hard to beat. Everything else is just a substitute. I really hope you've been making the most of it, too!

Rou Chater
Publishing Editor



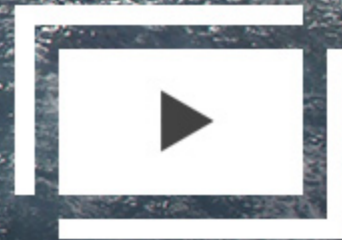
[CLICK
HERE TO
SUPPORT
US](#)

WORDS ROU CHATER


HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF...

IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE - KOTA 2024

Kiteboarding might be a young sport, but its history is packed with unforgettable moments. This year's Red Bull King of the Air wasn't just about going extreme — it was also a chance to reflect on where the sport started and how far it's come. Rou Chater, who's been in the game for 25 years, shares his unique take on KOTA's evolution, from its roots in Maui to the groundbreaking inclusion of a women's division this year. Get ready for a deep dive into the event's history, the highs and lows, and what makes it such a massive part of the kiteboarding culture.



RED BULL KING OF THE AIR 2005 MAUI, HAWAII, UNITED STATES
PHOTO ERIK AEDER, RED BULL CONTENT POOL

A kitesurfer is captured in mid-air, performing a trick over a vast, blue ocean. The kite, which is white with blue and black accents, is positioned above the surfer. In the background, a city is visible, nestled at the base of a large, hazy mountain range under a cloudy sky. The overall scene is dynamic and scenic.

**“ YOU COULD ARGUE YOU’VE SEEN IT ALL,
BUT OUR SPORT KEEPS PROGRESSING
AND DEVELOPING AT A PACE THAT IS
OFTEN HARD TO KEEP UP WITH. ”**

TIMO BOERSEMA PERFORMS DURING DAY 1 OF 2024 RED BULL KING OF THE AIR
PHOTO BY CRAIG KOLESKY / RED BULL CONTENT POOL

They say history always repeats itself, proven repeatedly over the centuries. With such a young sport like kitesurfing, we don’t have to look too far back to see the Big Bang moment. For twenty-five years, we’ve been trailblazing the most addictive sport ever invented, and I’ve been lucky enough to watch it unfold before my own eyes.

Having a storied 25-year history within the sport gives one a certain perspective. You could argue you’ve seen it all, but our sport keeps progressing and developing at a pace that is often hard to keep up with. What was interesting for this year’s KOTA was seeing how many brands and riders talked about history being made, which was interesting to me.

If you look at the history of the KOTA, you’d be forgiven for thinking it was born in 2013 in Cape Town. The modern version of this event did indeed start then, and the history everyone was talking about at this year’s event was finally, after nearly ten years, there would be a “women’s division.”

It’s great that this happened, but I have two major issues with it. First, why has it taken ten years for the organisers to recognise that women kitesurf, too, in a sport and era meant to be all about equality?

Secondly, this was championed as history in the making... No matter how hard you search, you’ll get a thin sentence stating the KOTA started in Hawaii in the early 2000s, and that’s about it.

I was asked why there is no information online about this, and it’s easy to forget that 20 years ago, we didn’t have the Internet like we do today. Back in the early 2000s, the print media was king, websites were not really popular, and social media was just a twinkle in Zuckerberg’s nutsack.



“JOE FELT THERE NEEDED TO BE A COMPETITION TO SHOW OFF WHAT KITESURFING WAS CAPABLE OF AT THE TIME, AND THE KING OF THE AIR WAS BORN.”

There is a history of these events in the printed media of the time and in the memories of those who were there... I was one of those people. I was lucky enough to attend the last ever King Of The Air on Maui, and it ended because while big air had been the pinnacle of the sport up to that point, it was being eclipsed by freestyle as a discipline.

Indeed, for a fair while, from circa 2005 onwards, any trick where you sent the kite

for height was frowned upon. Big air had had its day. So, for the uninitiated and those who thought history was made last weekend, here's a short update before we get into the meat and bones of this year's event.

King Of The Air started in 2000 in Maui. Joe Koehl (pronounced and often misspelt as Joe Cool) dreamt up the concept. Joe was a sail designer in Maui and introduced many of the sport's early names. Joe was a key

face within the sport at its inception in 1998. In addition to designing and making kites, he also organised events and helped produce some of the first kitesurfing movies ever filmed.

In 2000, Joe felt there needed to be a competition to show off what kitesurfing was capable of at the time, and the King Of The Air was born. What is key is that this event ran for five years, grew, and developed into a worldwide phenomenon. It had qualifiers around the world, and people competed to win a ticket to the finals in Hawaii.

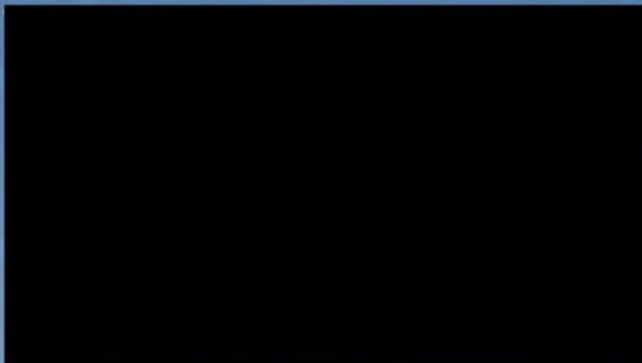
OZONE®

INSPIRED BY NATURE  DRIVEN BY THE ELEMENTS



$T = rF \sin \theta$

TORQUE_{V4}



BIG AIR / FREERIDE / FREESTYLE POWERHOUSE

Designed for riders who crave explosive performance with maximum control.

We've taken everything you loved about the Torque series, including its powerful grip, and refined it for an even smoother, more thrilling ride in any condition.

ozonekites.com

@ozonekites

The event was held at the hallowed Hookipa Beach Park, a spot that had banned kitesurfing as it's a windsurfing Mecca. It allowed kilters to kitesurf at Hookipa and show off their skills to the crowds and international media.

To give you an idea, when I went to the final event in 2005, I was accompanied from the UK by a plethora of journalists as well as a TV film crew. This wasn't for the event itself but to record it for the magazines and TV companies we all worked for. Journalists from broadsheets like the Times Newspaper, national women's magazines, and a film crew Channel 4 give you a flavour of what I mean.

If you are an international reader, Channel 4 was one of the only four terrestrial stations in the UK. The Times is arguably one of the world's biggest, most established and longest-running newspapers. We also had journalists from women's magazines; I think it was called "Chat" or something like that, but it had a circulation in the millions of UK women.

The last word of that sentence is key. For the five years that the King Of The Air had been in existence, there had ALWAYS been a Queen Of The Air, too. For whatever reason, this fact seems to have been lost in the sands of time, and finding any mention of it is near impossible. I was there; it happened...

That particular King Of The Air was incredible. It was windy, the waves were well over 10ft, and the natural amphitheatre of Hookipa provided an incredible backdrop. It also marked the change of guard, as long-time winner of the event and local hero Robby Naish was defeated by a very young Ruben Lenten in the final. Newskool was taking over, I recall writing at the time. A young Aaron Hadlow was also there,



“IT WAS WINDY, THE WAVES WERE WELL OVER 10FT, AND THE NATURAL AMPHITHEATRE OF HOOKIPA PROVIDED AN INCREDIBLE BACKDROP.”

PIPPA VAN IERSEL | 2024 RED BULL KING OF THE AIR
PHOTO PAUL GANSE / RED BULL CONTENT POOL

“ AS BIG AIR FELL OUT OF FAVOUR,
2006 SAW THE FIRST YEAR IN SPORTS
HISTORY WITH NO KOTA EVENT. ”

well on his way to total world domination of the competitive sphere of kiteboarding.

More importantly, a stacked women's fleet was competing for the crown, too. Audrey Meyer was duking it out with some of the local girls as well as kitesurfing's hottest property, Susi Mai. Hailing from Germany, Susi was arguably the most famous face of the sport back then. A rare talent, she had the old school and new school locked down and was always a pleasure to watch on the water.

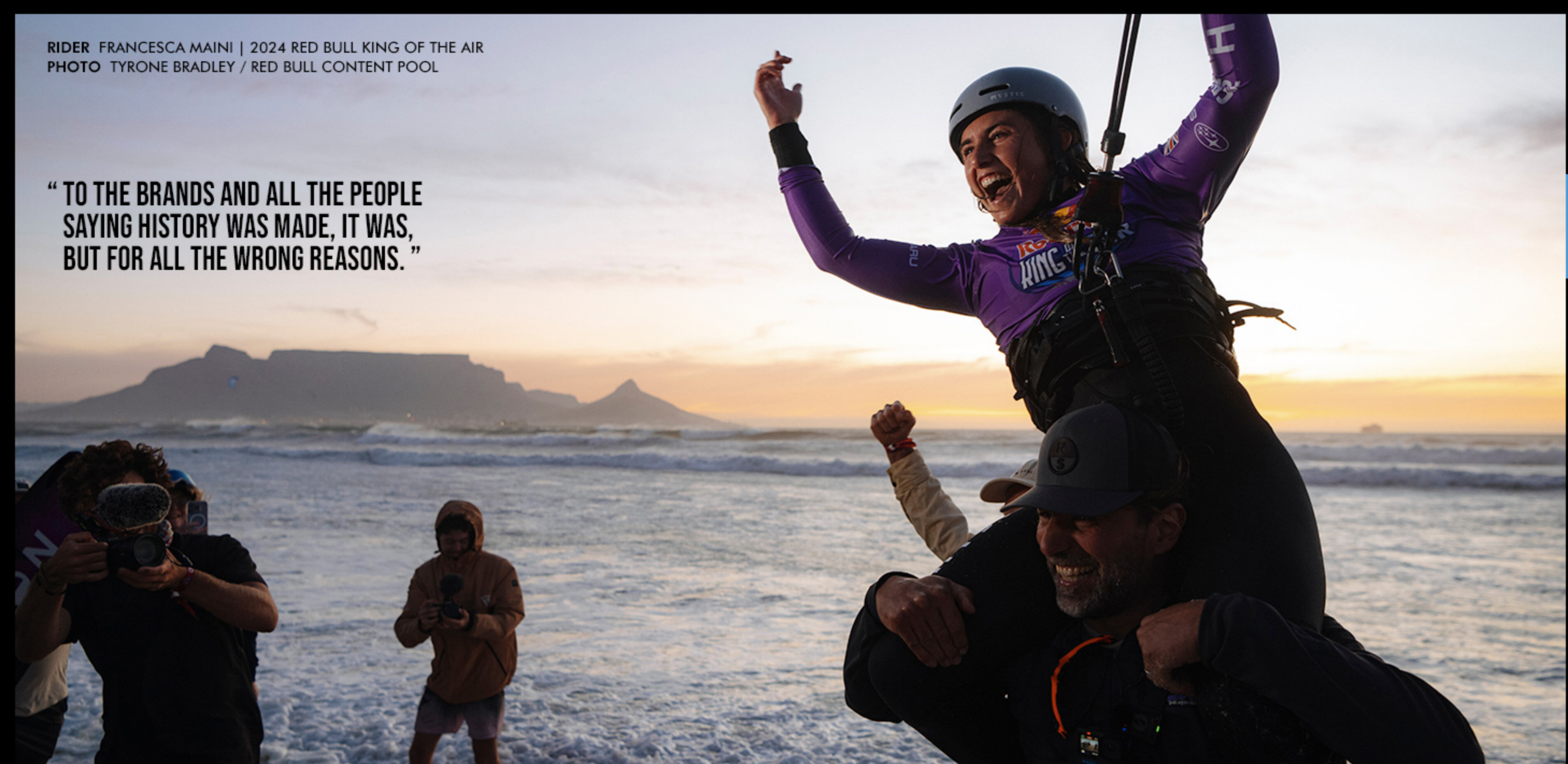
Susi Mai won and was crowned the Queen Of The Air.

This fact has always baffled me. As big air fell out of favour, 2006 saw the first year in sports history with no KOTA event. No king and no queen were crowned, and this was the case for the next eight years...

In 2013, the KOTA was reborn, and big air kitesurfing was experiencing a renaissance, although it was still rather niche and not the behemoth that it is now. Ruben Lenten had been storm chasing since 2006, and something that he had used to do alone had gradually become a "thing" and enough of a thing to get a bunch of pros together and make an event out of it.

Regardless of what happened this year, I think it's a stain on our sport that we never had a Queen Of The Air event in 2013. We did it for 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, so what's the excuse for 2013 and onwards until 2024? I've not heard a good one; there were more female kitesurfers in 2013 than ever, and the women's side of the sport has been growing alarmingly. It's a shame that kiteboarding's largest showcase never recognised that.

“ TO THE BRANDS AND ALL THE PEOPLE SAYING HISTORY WAS MADE, IT WAS, BUT FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS. ”



So it's great that this year there was finally a women's division, but it is noted that there is no mention of a Queen Of The Air title anywhere, heck I got one press release that the women would be competing for a Queen of Hearts title. Jesus, what the f**k is that? Can things get any more condescending?

The guys are Kings Of The Air, and the girls are queens of our hearts for going out there and giving it a go???

It's embarrassing, and thankfully, aside from this one press release, it was never mentioned again. To the brands and all the people saying history was made, it was, but for all

the wrong reasons. Let's not forget the history that went before.

Kudos for finally having a women's division, but it wasn't a historical first. There is a massive black mark for taking a mere eleven years to recognise the women who enjoy our sport and a bigger black mark for not making them the Queens of The Air.



**PRE-STRETCHED 100% DYNEEMA
SK-99 FLYING LINES**

More responsive feedback

THREE-CHAMBER PU TUBE

Balanced load distribution

AUTO SWIVEL

No more tangled frontlines

EASY SINGLE-HAND RELOAD

(Re)start your session in one click

**PATENTED
SPRING-RELEASE
TECHNOLOGY**

Reliable and wear-and-tear
proof



SYNC BAR

Years of on-water experience has backed the craftsmanship of The Sync Bar; combining the most durable materials on the market, and innovative technology with expert knowledge on how the control system performs during your session... from boosting Big Air moves to gliding around on the foil.

Our new patented "Auto Swivel" and "Anti-Lock Bearing System" guarantee effortless line management and prevention of tangles, while the "One Click" Quick Release provides the ultimate efficiency- on and off the water.

Our sport should be based on equality and not misogyny.

Anyway, rant over. Let's recap what went down in Blouberg this year. It was an interesting event in many ways. The Cape Doctor was absent for large parts of the holding period. Indeed, it was the first year in the event's recent history when there was real talk of not being able to finish the competition.

The light winds of the first day certainly challenged all the riders involved, but the event team made all the right calls and did the best they could with the dice they were dealt. Of course, we all want to see a 40knot plus mega blaster kick in at midday, and the records are broken, but we'll settle for anything when the forecast is so bad!

The two-week event holding window is tricky for organisers; a lot of infrastructure needs to be put in place for the period, and all the staff have to be on standby to drop everything off and get to the event when the forecast gives the green light. That's expensive and stressful. The event used to be held in early February before COVID-19, but it was shifted to the end of November and has remained so for the last few years.

Usually, Cape Town will allow you to bet the house on wind, but this season has been worse than usual. So, a big thumbs up to all involved for getting day one out of the way and for holding the nerve to hope the wind filled in on Sunday, the last day of the event window.

As the day started to unfold, the tension was palpable. Would the wind kick in? Would there be enough time to get through all the remaining heats?

"WE ALL WANT TO SEE A 40KNOT PLUS MEGA BLASTER KICK IN AT MIDDAY, AND THE RECORDS ARE BROKEN"



RIDER ANDREA PRINCIPI PHOTO PAUL GANSE, RED BULL CONTENT POOL

“ THE FINALS WERE EXTENDED TO 13 MINUTES,
ALLOWING THE TOP RIDERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO
DEMONSTRATE THEIR FULL REPERTOIRE OF SKILLS. ”



Would there be a prize giving? To be fair, the organisers played a blinder. They adjusted the format, shortening heats and breaks to make the most of the rather tardy conditions.

The famed Cape Doctor winds finally peaked at 40 knots late in the afternoon, but the huge 2.5—to 3.1-meter southwest swells were there all day to create a huge challenge for the riders and an incredible spectacle for everyone on the beach. Heats were reduced from ten minutes to eight to maintain the intensity, with brief intervals between rounds. The finals were extended to 13 minutes, allowing the top riders the opportunity to demonstrate their full repertoire of skills.

In the Open Division final, riders pushed the limits of the sport, performing in near darkness to solidify the event's reputation as the pinnacle of Big Air kiteboarding. Andrea Principi rose to the occasion, showcasing why he remains at the top of the sport. His standout tricks included a Contra Loop Back Tornado Board Off, which earned 7.18 points, a stylish Doobie Loop Board Off, scoring 6.76 points, and a technical Contra Loop Double Front Roll Rodeo that added another 6.47 points to his tally. This combination of height, precision, and innovation secured his second consecutive title. Reflecting on his victory, the 20-year-old said, "Once may be luck, but this feels incredible. Honestly, I'm not the real winner here—my family and sponsors are the true champions. They make this possible, and I owe them everything."

Principi was joined on the podium by his compatriot Lorenzo Casati, who claimed second place, while South African rider Luca Ceruti impressed the home crowd.

LORENZO CASATI PERFORMS DURING DAY 2 OF RED BULL KING OF THE AIR
PHOTO WAYNE REICHE / RED BULL CONTENT POOL



“IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CEMENT THE WOMEN’S EVENT MOVING FORWARD, AS THE DISPLAY IN THE FINAL WAS NOTHING SHORT OF INCREDIBLE.”

Ceruti’s performance not only earned him third place but also made him the first local rider to finish in the top three, a milestone for the event’s history.

The Women’s Division was incredibly impressive and, in my eyes, showcased just what the event has been missing for the last eleven years. It will undoubtedly cement the women’s event moving forward, as the display in the final was nothing short of

incredible. In the end, Francesca Maini etched her name onto the trophy. Maini delivered a commanding performance, executing a series of high-scoring manoeuvres, demonstrating her technical mastery and precision. Her standout tricks included a Kite Loop Board Off, a big Boogieloop, and a cleanly executed Contra Loop Front Roll, cementing her groundbreaking victory. Afterwards, Maini expressed her gratitude, saying,

“This means so much. I’ve dreamed of this moment. It’s incredible. To my family and everyone who supports me—thank you for making this possible.” Sportive Director Sergio Cantagalli reflected on the event’s success, emphasising its raw and authentic nature. “Waiting for the perfect conditions allowed us to witness an unforgettable finale,” he said. “Andrea and Francesca proved themselves as true champions, and I couldn’t be prouder of how this year’s event unfolded.”

As always, the Mystic Move of the Day is a hotly contested wildcard trophy that encourages the riders to really push the limits. This year, American teenager Zac Adams took the trophy for his innovative KiteLoop Rotational Boardflip in Round 1. Watching it left you with your heart in your mouth, and when he caught it, you felt yourself punching the air with him.

With this year's unforgettable performances setting the bar high, the 2025 edition promises even more excitement, featuring three European qualifiers before the world final returns to Cape Town.

Let's just hope that after so long in the dark ages in terms of equality, the inclusion of the women's division sets a precedent moving forward. As shameful as I find the past, you can't help but get excited about this event, and now, with the girls inspiring women all over the world, it's become a lot more special.

OPEN DIVISION

1. Andrea Principi (Italy)
2. Lorenzo Casati (Italy)
3. Luca Ceruti (South Africa)

WOMEN'S DIVISION

1. Francesca Maini (United Kingdom)
2. Zara Hoogenraad (Netherlands)
3. Pippa Van Iersel (Netherlands)



“ WITH THE GIRLS INSPIRING WOMEN ALL OVER THE WORLD, IT’S BECOME A LOT MORE SPECIAL. ”

PEAK⁶ & CONNECT³

ADVENTURE AWAITS



SIZES: 2.5 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 8 / 11
SNOWKITE, TRAINING
#PEAK #ADVENTUREAWAITS

FLYSURFER

WWW.FLYSURFER.COM

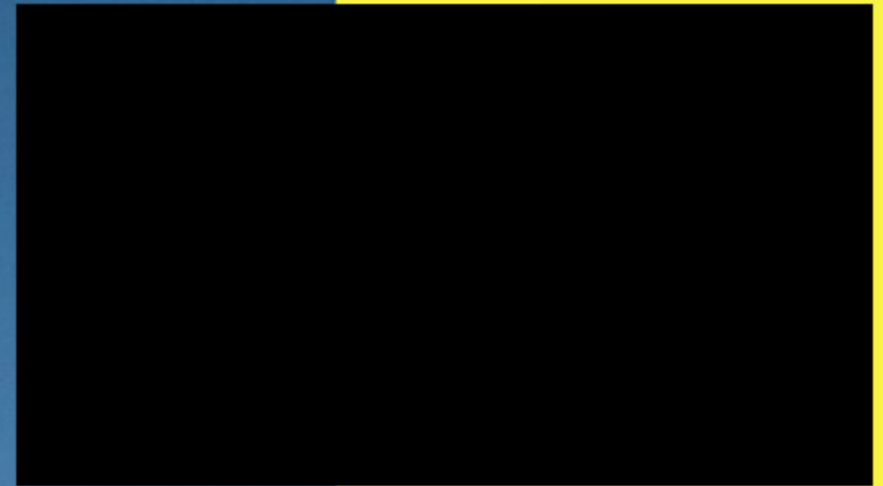


PHOTO: ISTOCK/ALZOBIRSKY / ERIK - WWW.VISUALSUN.COM

James Boulding and the Cabrinha team take a different approach to the annual photoshoot. Kitesurfing is about diversity; it always has been. Regardless of the current love-in with Big Air, the sport encompasses so much more. From foiling to wave riding and everything in between, it's not always about the biggest jump of your life or the most remote location where you can take a photo that's never been seen before. Sometimes, it's about getting back to the sports roots. Sharing memories with great friends and well-trodden spots that still deliver the goods.

THINK DIFFERENT

WORDS & PHOTOS JAMES BOULDING



“ THEN I REALISED THAT I WAS MISSING OUT ON ONE OF THE BEST THINGS OUR SPORT OFFERS... DIVERSITY ”

Cabrinha is a brand that is etched into the very essence of our sport. One of the originals, it cemented its place in kitesurfing’s storied history long ago. What better way to mark the 2025 product launch and photoshoot than to revisit one of the most iconic European kitesurfing locations? Fuerteventura has long been a melting pot for our sport, delivering a plethora of conditions depending on which beach you heat to. It embodies the essence of our sport.

“I can confess that I was guilty of falling into a comfort trap. I would wait for specific conditions for me to go out and session, skipping days as they didn’t look perfect. But then I realised that I was missing out on one of the best things our sport offers...Diversity. Once I was willing to think differently and break out of the mould, that fire and excitement to go out and ride was reignited. I realised those sessions didn’t look great, but they turned out to be some of the most memorable ones ever, and I came off the water with a smile that was hard to wipe away.

Even at work, it is very easy to fall into the same comfort trap. Each product cycle rolls into the next; we follow the same timeline and process for development and marketing. But this year, we took another approach. We realised that things are not the same as they used to be, and much as I did in my kiting, we had to look outside of our comfort zones and Think Differently about how we do things and what matters.





2025 is a pivotal year for Cabrinha and our industry, and I can't wait for everyone to join us on this new journey."

- Dave Hastilow - Cabrinha Brand Manager

For Cabrinha's 2025 shoot, we decided to take things back to the roots of kiteboarding at a place that has kiteboarding history running through its veins. It's seen the sport develop from the early days and has played an integral part of kiteboarding's journey through the ages.

"WE DECIDED TO TAKE THINGS BACK TO THE ROOTS OF KITEBOARDING"

WE'VE CRACKED THE CODE

NATUREPRENE2[®]



WORLD'S FIRST 100% NEOPRENE-FREE WETSUIT

WITH NO COMPROMISE ON STRETCH, WARMTH OR STRENGTH.

SUIT UP FOR CHANGE

Introducing NATUREPRENE2[®] by Prolimit. Where performance, quality and sustainability unite. Dive into a new era of wetsuit innovation.

119 litres

of water is saved per wetsuit during the dyeing process.

This is a

-91%

reduction of water in normal dyeing processes.



PROLIMIT



“ THE SHOOT WAS ALL ABOUT FUN. SHARING SESSIONS AND ROAD-TRIPPING AROUND AN ISLAND ON THE DAILY FORECAST. ”

For many years, it hosted the freestyle world tour on the east of the island, whereas the north shore dirt road is home to some infamous wave spots and is the chosen winter destination for many surfers. These days, wing foiling has also taken off, and the islands' versatility makes it a great choice

for passionate wind sports enthusiasts looking to flee Europe as temperatures drop and winter looms. With so many spots to choose from, you'll need a set of wheels, and some local knowledge certainly saves some time on the daily spot checks.

While some sections of the kiteboarding public have gone in an all-out pursuit of big air, it's not necessarily emblematic of the entirety of the kiteboarding public, for many other factors come into play when choosing a destination. For us, the shoot was

was all about FUN. Sharing sessions and road-tripping around an island on the daily forecast. It was about stripping things back to why we got into the sport, meeting new people and sharing sessions, whatever the conditions presented. For once, the sole goal wasn't to find spots where the wind would blow 50+ or find unriden 'never been seen before' beaches. The shooting combined a dealer meeting with some of Cabrinha's European retailers. Cars were packed with versatile equipment and a versatile team and went in search of 'Something Different'.



“THE APEX DRIFTER HAS FAR EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS, AND I HOPE EVERYONE GETS A CHANCE TO TRY IT; IT’S HARD TO RIDE ANYTHING ELSE AFTER.”

We spoke to key members of the Cabrinha family to learn about some of the standout products.

Jon Modica, Water Bound Investments Chairman, has been involved with the Cabrinha brand since he was a teenage grom. He’s come a long way and heads the investment group that owns Cabrinha. With a keen eye for product development and an unwavering passion to spend as much time outside of work in the water as possible, he finds himself at the cutting edge of some areas of the Cabrinha development program. This year, the Drifter underwent some major upgrades.

“All the kites in our range have benefited from the new Apex construction, but I would argue that the Drifter benefited the most from it. Faster, more responsive, and lighter are all ideal qualities for a wave kite. Pat’s design changes also allowed a larger range for the kite, which I personally feel puts the Apex Drifter in a different class from any wave kite in the market. The Apex Drifter has far exceeded my expectations, and I hope everyone gets a chance to try it; it’s hard to ride anything else after.”

- Jon Modica.

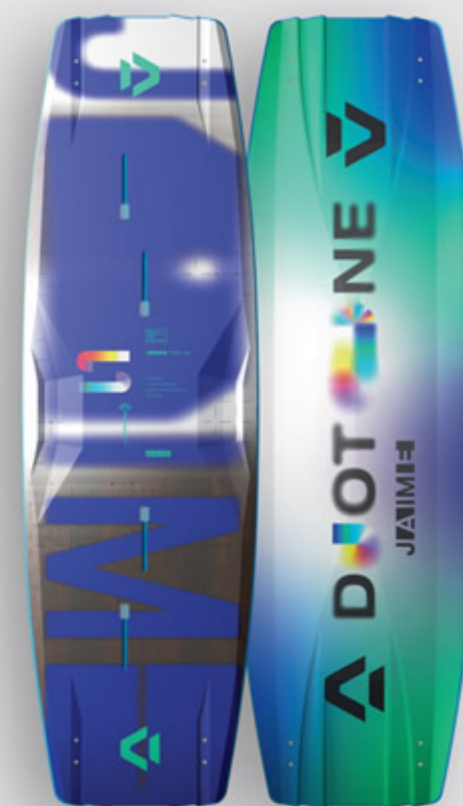
Alby Rondina also boasts an impressive 20-year history within the Cabrinha brand. He witnessed the first Switchblade release in 2005, as it re-invented the kite industry, setting new benchmarks of performance and safety utilising the bow kite design.



It's still going strong years later with a loyal freeride following and has just undergone a new design revamp with the APEX upgrade. Alby spent much of the shoot putting it through its paces on the north shore of Fuerteventura, where the reefy lunar coastline offers some excellent kicker spots, if a little unforgiving.

"The 2025 Switchblade is the cleanest kite I've ever flown; it never seems to wrinkle or deform. It is incredibly stable in the sky, partly due to the 5 strut platform and the ultra HT (high tenacity) leading edge construction, which is a standout feature with every APEX kite.

"THE 2025 SWITCHBLADE IS THE CLEANEST KITE I'VE EVER FLOWN"



JAIME CONCEPT BLUE

Unleash your Potential

FREESTYLE

MORE CONCEPT BLUE TWINTIPS



SELECT
CONCEPT BLUE



SOLEIL
CONCEPT BLUE

PRODUCT INFO



“WHETHER IN STRONG WINDS, LIGHT WINDS, USED ON A FOIL, OR TO RIDE WAVES, I LIKE ONE KITE THAT DOES IT ALL.”

I love using it for freestyle in the waves or just going out to boost in strong winds. Pat's new design changes have made its handling far more sporty than the previous version, and if you want even more fun and fast turning, adjust the A-setting on the wingtip, and the traction control will be turned off!

- Alberto Rondina

Hannah embodies a 'have fun no matter the conditions' attitude every time she hits the water and is a fantastic presence at any beach due to her infectious energy. She's been part of the Cabrinha brand for up to 3 years and manages to inspire other water users globally on a daily basis.

"I gravitated to the Moto X as it suits my riding style; it just does everything exceptionally well and is so intuitive to use. For me, kiteboarding is about freedom and using a kite to do lots of different types of riding. Whether in strong winds, light winds, used on a foil, or to ride waves, I like one kite that does it all. The Moto's versatility and ease of use makes it the perfect kite in my quiver..."

- Hannah Whiteley.

"As you can see from the images, Fuerteventura delivered the goods and then some. It's a location that should be on every kiter's hit list. From flat water to huge waves, the island delivers all of it in spades. With constant trade winds offering you miles of smiles, it's a location that will always be on your kiteboardings radar.





“IT’S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE’VE SEEN A FULLY FLEDGED SHOOT THERE, AND AS YOU CAN SEE, IT PRODUCES SOME ABSOLUTELY STUNNING CONDITIONS THAT ARE HARD TO BEAT.”

It’s great to see it showcased once again. It’s been a while since we’ve seen a fully fledged shoot there, and as you can see, it produces some absolutely stunning conditions that are hard to beat.

Add in the latest gear from Cabrinha with a big upgrade on the construction this year, leading to some big developments in the lineup, the team performing at their highest level, and more lenses than a camera shop, and you have a recipe for magic that’s a feast for the eyeballs.

We’re frothing to get our hands on the latest gear and get testing but in the meantime, I will just drool over these images and the video and get booking some tickets to Fuerte in the meantime!”

- Rou Chater.

XS

FREERIDE
EXTREME
SERIES

PRO



THE ULTIMATE
BIG AIR
WEAPON

 **ALUUJA**
COMPOSITES

ELEVEIGHT 



Rider: Arthur Guillebert / Picture: Ricardo Pinto

ELEVEIGHT.WORLD

What do you get when you mix New Zealand's stunning landscapes, a snowkite, and a passionate crew? Pure magic! Hugo Wigglesworth and the FLYSURFER team turned their PEAK6 shoot into an unforgettable adventure. From sunrise rides on fresh powder to tackling unpredictable mountain winds, this journey was all about exploration, challenge, and the joy of snowkiting. You've watched the video, but here's the story!

PEAK6 UNPACKED

ADVENTURE AWAITS

WORDS HUGO WIGGLESWORTH PHOTOS JOSHUA MCCORMACK



“SNOW FARM IS A SKI TOURING DESTINATION AND ONE OF THE BEST SNOWKITING SPOTS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE”

ADVENTURE AWAITS

Since joining the FLYSURFER team three years ago, we've often talked about doing a product shoot in New Zealand. This year, we finally made it happen! With FLYSURFER's marketing team, we decided the PEAK6 shoot would take place in NZ—perfect timing to release the product ahead of Europe's snowkiting season.

In mid-August, we started planning and brought on board Joshua McCormack and Jonty Norton, two amazing videographers and photographers based in NZ who also have kiting experience. While none of us had shot snowkiting before, we watched other snowkiting videos and got some inspiration from them. Our vision was to highlight the PEAK's ability to explore the backcountry, weaving a story of an overnight hut stay in NZ's stunning winter wilderness.

The Queenstown-Lakes District, specifically the Robrosa range accessed via Snow Farm, was a no-brainer for the shoot. Snow Farm is a ski touring destination and one of the best snowkiting spots in the Southern Hemisphere, offering endless rolling hills and terrain suitable for multiple wind directions. I'd had my first snowkiting experience there over two years ago, blending my snow skiing and kitesurfing background. I was super excited to return for this project.





IKSURFER

PEAK 5

IKSURFER

PEAK 4



We kicked off early at Snow Farm, meeting local snowkiter Chris Streat, who helped transport our gear and supplies to the Kirtle Burn Hut using a quad bike fitted with tracks. The freezing mountain temperatures were a shock, but I couldn't wait to start! I was the primary rider for the shoot, although Jonty and Chris joined in for two-rider shots.

On the first day, conditions were ideal: sunny skies and 15-35 knots of wind. I rode the 4m and 5m PEAKs, capturing some incredible footage.

“THE FREEZING MOUNTAIN TEMPERATURES WERE A SHOCK, BUT I COULDN'T WAIT TO START!”

WOO

JOIN RIDERS WORLDWIDE SCORING SESSIONS ON WOO!

BAPTISTE
▲ 18.6m

LEADERBOARD
Misty Cliffs, ZA

1		BAPTISTE	29.3m
2		CYRIL	27.2m
3		AARON	26.7m
4		JAN	26.6m
5		STIG	26.2m
6		STIJN	25.1m
7		ANDREA	24.5m
8		VAL	24.4m

WOO IS THE STANDARD FOR BIG AIR MEASUREMENT.

- World's Leading Kitesurfing Collective
- Calibrated Onboard Sensor
- 2,000,000+ Sessions
- 24 Hour Battery
- IP69K Waterproof
- IK10 Shockproof
- BLE 5.2 Connection

WOO 4.0 AVAILABLE NOW



“ THE FRESH SNOW ON THE SECOND DAY ALLOWED US TO CAPTURE UNTOUCHED TERRAIN, SHOWCASING EXACTLY WHAT THE PEAK IS MADE FOR! ”

After a freezing night in the hut, we woke to fresh snow and a valley shrouded in clouds. As the sun rose, the clouds lifted, creating perfect sunrise lighting. Riding the 8m PEAK in these conditions was a personal

highlight—it felt like the fresh snow and dramatic scenery were rewarding our efforts. The rest of the day brought bluebird skies, stronger winds, and more time on the 5m and 4m PEAKs.

The PEAK6 is purpose-built for snowkiting. Its wide wind range and user-friendly design make it ideal for exploring the mountains. The fresh snow on the second day allowed us to capture untouched terrain, showcasing exactly what the PEAK is made for!

Mountain wind is notoriously unpredictable, and we faced gusty conditions ranging from calm valleys to 40 knots at the summits. Despite this, the PEAK6 handled everything with stability and ease. Its ability to launch on uneven terrain and adapt to gusts was a game-changer. Touring skis were also essential, allowing us to navigate areas the quad bike couldn't reach or escape low-wind situations.

We had our fair share of surprises, too, like waking up to find unmelted snow still on the hut floor—proof of how cold it was! On the second morning,



“THOSE WERE SOME OF THE LONGEST DAYS OF MY LIFE— I SNOWKITED FOR 12-14 HOURS STRAIGHT!”

my Insta360 camera fell off my helmet, and I didn't notice for 10 minutes. Thankfully, I found it after some searching. We lost the drone shortly after, and I had to kite over to retrieve it using the controller's location tracker. Those 30 minutes weren't exactly fun!

We spent two epic days in the snow, with an overnight hut stay followed by an interview day. Those were some of the longest days of my life— I snowkited for 12-14 hours straight!

This shoot wasn't just about showcasing the PEAK6's incredible capabilities and embracing the adventure, challenges, and beauty of NZ's backcountry. It was an unforgettable experience, and I'm excited for everyone to see the results!

DAKHLA DONE DIFFERENTLY



Rou Chater travels to Dakhla's latest purpose-built kitesurfing centre on the eastern side of the vast lagoon, opposite the famous White Dune. This new eco-conscious development aims to take advantage of the natural landscape surrounding it while adding a little bit of luxury alongside a perfect helping of incredible kitesurfing conditions.



“ WITH DAILY FLIGHTS CONNECTING DAKHLA TO THE WORLD, IT’S ONE OF THE HOTTEST KITE SPOTS ON THE PLANET. ”

My first visit to Dakhla was back in 2005, which betrays my age and shows how far this kitesurfing mecca has come in recent years. Almost twenty years ago, we arrived at this relatively new spot on the edge of a large lagoon; we were greeted by some very rough infrastructure, a bunch of tents, and a water supply severely contaminated with

sulphur. You can just imagine the smell while you had a shower.

After a week of no wind, to add salt to the wound, saying I wasn’t impressed would be an understatement; since then, Dakhla has changed a lot! I have been lucky enough to visit numerous times over the years. The camps have evolved from tents to more substantial installations, but as with any popular spot, it has also become busy. I’ve stayed at some of the more sophisticated hotels in the past, revisited the original camp, and witnessed how much the experience has changed.

One thing that doesn’t change here is the incredible kite conditions that have made it so popular; with daily flights connecting Dakhla to the world, it’s one of the hottest kite spots on the planet. There are even direct flights from Paris; another direct route from Spain will soon open. From the UK and the rest of Europe, you can transit through Casablanca, which has changed into a modern airport that’s up there with the best of them.

The consistent desert winds blow from 15 to 30 knots throughout the year, with a long season from March until November, warm water in the lagoon and plenty of desert sunshine round off the appeal.



If you like flat water, free ride and foiling, this is the place to come. More than that, it's home to some of the best right-hand point breaks the world has to offer, so it's also a mecca for wave riders. It genuinely has it all.

With all this on offer, Dakhla would be my go-to destination for decent wind and waves a stone's throw from Europe. Needless to say, I was excited to head back and check out the latest hotel to be built here, the White Dune Canyon.



100% RECYCLED
OUTSIDE LINING



SEEK AND AMAZE AMP SUITS ARE NOW MADE
WITH 100% RECYCLED OUTSIDE LININGS
PAIRED WITH LONG-LASTING DURABILITY

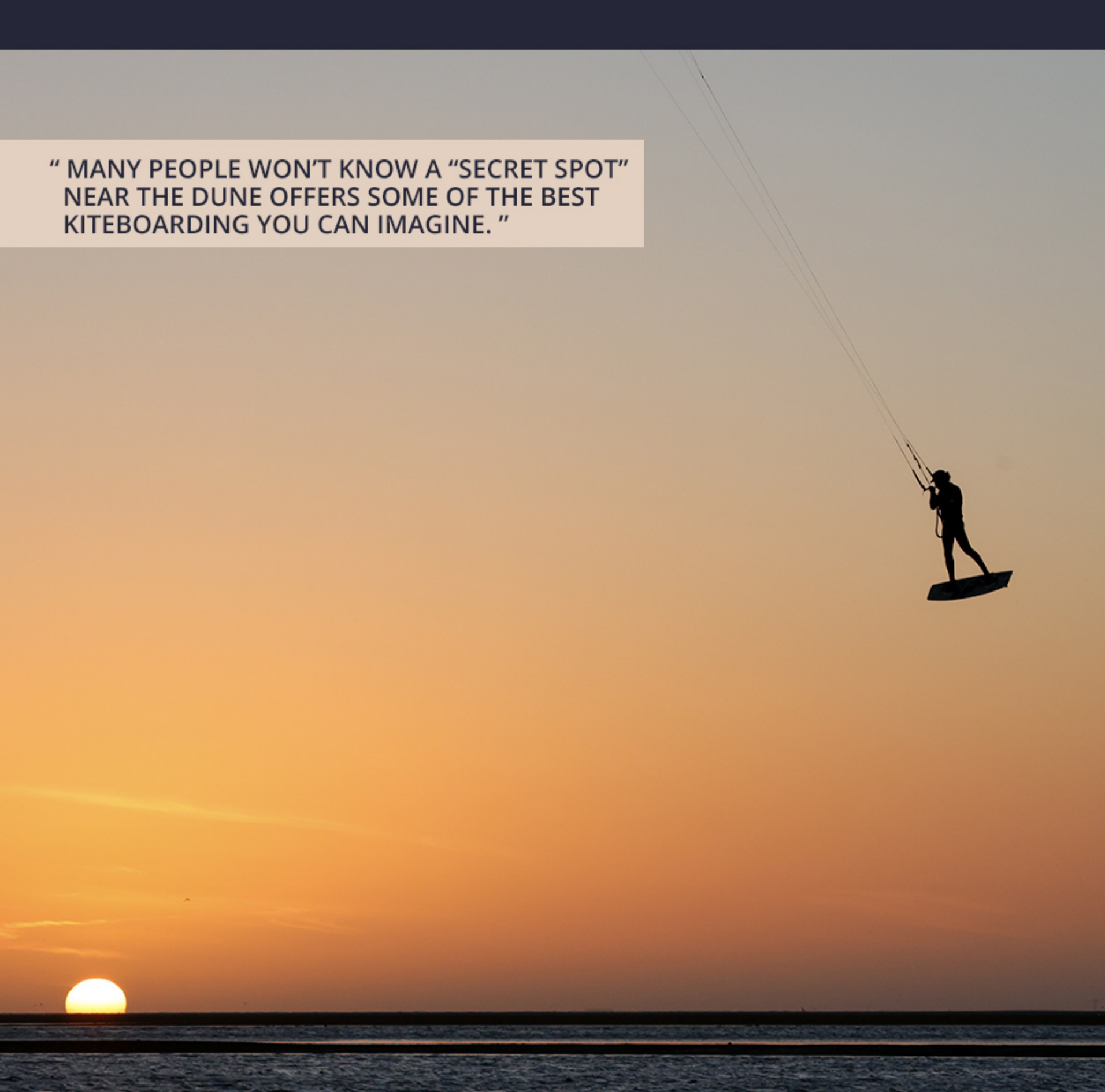


SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

- OYSTERSHELL POWDER
- AQUA ALPHA
- LIMESTONE NEOPRENE
- ECO-CARBON BLACK
- DOPE DYING YARN

SURFING ELEMENTS





“ MANY PEOPLE WON'T KNOW A “SECRET SPOT” NEAR THE DUNE OFFERS SOME OF THE BEST KITEBOARDING YOU CAN IMAGINE. ”

If you have been to Dakhla, you will undoubtedly have done a downwinder to the White Dune; it's an iconic landmark and somewhat of a right of passage for kilters. I've been there a few times before, and it's impressive to see. A 60-foot-high huge sandune that sticks out in the landscape with the kind of majesty you wouldn't expect from the desert.

Many people won't know a “secret spot” near the dune offers some of the best kiteboarding you can imagine. It's quiet, with no one around, and there are no centres or hotels this far down in the lagoon; it's pretty remote, and you get a sense of being entrenched in the desert. That's a rare commodity in Dakhla these days, making the White Dune Canyon resort rather magical.

The kiting at this spot is exceptional, the wind is consistent, and we were lucky to score a pretty epic week, even super late in the season in November. It's a flat water haven, with sandbars and spots to find butter flat H2O at all states of tide. Talking of the T word, Dakhla is very tidal; it's worth bearing this in mind with any visit here; the optimum tide is arguably a high tide later in the afternoon when the wind is usually strongest, although it often blows day and night during the peak season.

That said, the tidal range does offer different conditions and options to ride, so even though we had a low tide in the afternoon for our visit, it didn't stop us from getting on the water. The whole spot changes as the tide moves, from a vast open lagoon at high to smaller butter flat lagoons at low. As you head down the beach, the lagoon opens up even on the low tide, and the water is deep enough to foil; it's just a case of finding the right spot to suit your riding style at any tide.

It's arguably the best kiting I've had in Dakhla, as it's so quiet, maybe 20 on the water at any one time; there is always plenty of space to throw down your tricks or to learn to kite without being buzzed by other kites. The wind blows cross-shore from the right; it's an easy launch, and you can head straight out to White Dune at mid-to-high tide. This playground is only used by the resort's guests and the odd adventurous kiter on a downwinder.

The amazing kiting is backed up by an incredible kite centre. The ION Club has all the latest equipment for Duotone and is one of the largest I've been to; there are walls and walls of kites and plenty of boards to keep you entertained. Friendly staff are eager to get your gear ready and help you launch, and there is also lots of wing gear should you fancy a ride on the dark side.

The team offers wing and kite lessons, so if you want to come here to learn or bring your partner to get bitten by the water sports bug, they have you covered. It's one of the better spots I've been to for learning; the smooth, consistent wind and flat water are a cheat code for anyone wanting to progress. The team is also happy to run clinics and teach more advanced tricks. Nothing was too much trouble, and they were all incredibly helpful.

If there isn't any wind, they have plenty of activities on offer. Foiling lessons with the rescue boat is the first option for those new to foiling. There are e-bikes, paddle boards, and surfboards, and the team quickly sets up excursions to keep you entertained if the wind doesn't blow. We had a windless day when we arrived, but I jumped on the surf excursion to Aârîch; if you know me, you will know I love surfing, and this was one of the most amazing spots I've surfed. It's about an hour away in a 4x4, but it's worth the adventure!



“ THE SMOOTH, CONSISTENT WIND AND FLAT WATER ARE A CHEAT CODE FOR ANYONE WANTING TO PROGRESS. ”



In addition, they have a resident yoga instructor and offer free stretching sessions in the morning to get you ready for the day; you can also book more advanced classes if you desire. If you want to really relax, they can take you to a local hammam to unwind.

Away from the activities, you'll discover a relaxing vibe with an incredible bar and the most stunning sunset view you could wish for. The food deserves a special mention as I've always felt lacking on previous trips; that's not the case here. It's the best food I've eaten in Dakhla and, arguably, Morocco.

" YOU'LL
DISCOVER A
RELAXING
VIBE WITH AN
INCREDIBLE
BAR "

HARLEM THRIVE

Introducing the lightest 3-strut,
all-round performance kite on
the market.



MADE FOR EVERY RIDER

Designed by
Ralf Grösel & Aaron Hadlow

Crafted at
Brainchild Production

harlemkitesurfing.com





“ THEY USED THE NATURAL TERRAIN RATHER THAN GOUGING IT OUT, SO IT HAS MORE OF A NATURAL FEEL ”

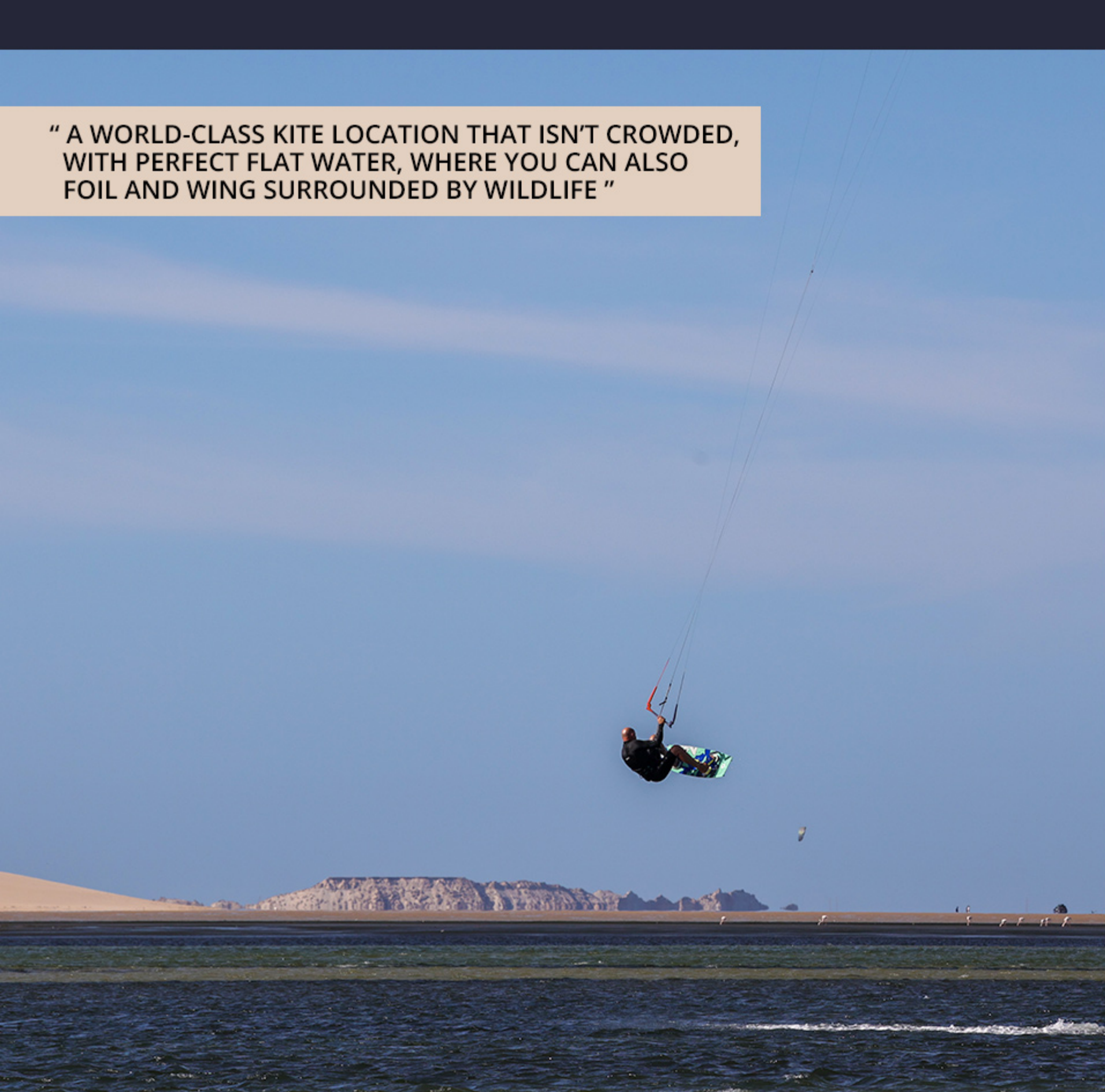
Each evening, a good-sized buffet with many salads, pasta, meat, vegetables, and lots more is offered. There wasn't a single meal I felt was lacking; from breakfast to lunch and dinner, it was always delicious and of such a high standard that I found myself going back for more and passing my compliments on to the chef regularly. If you are a bit of a foodie off the water, you won't be disappointed.

The staff is all incredibly friendly and helpful, too. They have had a level of training and attention to detail that needs to be commended. It's not always the case on trips like this, but they didn't miss a beat; from the waiters to the kitchen, bar, reception, and management, they were always polite and eager to help.

Finally, let's talk about the rooms; wooden lodges have been built into the canyon's terrain; where possible, they used the natural terrain rather than gouging it out, so it has more of a natural feel and like it was always meant to be here. The rooms are

stunning and kept very clean and tidy, with plenty of hot water to soothe those sore muscles at the end of the day. There is lots of storage for your clothes and luggage and drying racks for all your wet gear. A ceiling fan helps keep you cool, and each lodge has its own solar power set up to heat the water, which is pretty cool.

Talking of solar power, it's probably worth mentioning the eco credentials of this place. The resort only opened officially in April and took a couple of years to build. Being a modern concept, they were keen to utilise some of the technologies that are now available to create a little eco-haven in the desert. The whole site is powered by solar energy with two huge batteries to back it up.

A person is kitesurfing over a lagoon. The person is suspended in the air, holding onto the lines of a kite. The water is dark blue with some white foam from the kite's wake. In the background, there are low mountains and a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

“ A WORLD-CLASS KITE LOCATION THAT ISN'T CROWDED,
WITH PERFECT FLAT WATER, WHERE YOU CAN ALSO
FOIL AND WING SURROUNDED BY WILDLIFE ”

Each lodge has its own solar-powered water heater. Saltwater is pumped up from the lagoon to a desalination plant, the purest water you can drink and cook with; the rest of it is used for showers and bathrooms.

All the waste water goes into a 4-stage treatment plant on site. It is cleaned, treated, recycled and used to irrigate the garden. The idea is to have a closed-loop system of amenities that runs the hotel while leaving a small footprint on nature. What is impressive is how developed the gardens are and how much wildlife there is already.

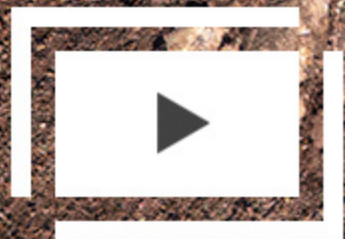
I never thought I'd see dragonflies, butterflies, and so many small birds in the desert... What is impressive as you look back on the resort while you are kiting is that it melts away into the landscape, the wood blends with the canyon, and the gardens further camouflage its existence. This lagoon area is also packed with seagrass, which provides the perfect environment for small crustaceans to live, attracting a huge amount of birdlife. It's genuinely baffling to sit back and think about where you are and just how abundant and diverse the wildlife is around you.

This was easily one of my favourite trips in recent years, and I'm keen to get back. It's the best experience I have had in Dakhla so far, and I'd recommend it to anyone. A world-class kite location that isn't crowded, with perfect flat water, where you can also foil and wing surrounded by wildlife. Nestled into the landscape's topography is a hotel that feels luxurious and well equipped, backed up by an incredible team who go out of their way to make your stay feel special.

It's Dakhla, done differently and done better...

CHASE OF THE TRADE WINDS

With its stunning coastlines, steady winds, and rich cultural history, Oman really is the perfect mix of adventure and tradition. In this feature, filmmaker and photographer Nikola Bagarov dives into his project with Majan Ospreys to show us what makes Oman so special. If you're dreaming about your next big trip, this might just be the sign you've been waiting for!





“OMAN HAS ALL THE INGREDIENTS THAT KITESURFERS LOOK FOR—CONSISTENT WINDS, VAST OPEN WATERS, AND BREATHTAKING SCENERY”

Oman has become a hidden gem in the world of kitesurfing, where adventure meets rich cultural history and stunning, untouched landscapes. Our recent project with Majan Ospreys was created to showcase Oman as both a premier kitesurfing destination and a cultural journey, spotlighting the unique experiences and heritage that make it a must-visit location.

Although kitesurfing has only gained popularity in Oman over the past decade, the country's diverse coastline offers ideal conditions for both beginners and seasoned athletes. Kitesurfing in Oman was brought by an Australian athlete, Miguel Willis, who was brought up in Oman. He was sponsored by: "Best" back then and was the first person to start kitesurfing in Oman.

From the sweeping beaches of Masirah Island to the pristine, secluded bays around Salalah, Oman has all the ingredients that kitesurfers look for—consistent winds, vast open waters, and breathtaking scenery. Oman's appeal lies in its fusion of sport and solitude, where kites can enjoy unspoiled natural beauty away from crowded tourist spots. Local entrepreneurs and international enthusiasts have also contributed to the development of kitesurfing in Oman, establishing schools and rentals and organising trips that invite visitors to experience the magic of this sport in Oman's one-of-a-kind setting. Majan Ospreys, in particular, has been pivotal in promoting kitesurfing as a gateway to exploring the country's culture and landscape.



The name Majan is associated with the culture of shipbuilding and copper smelting, which is described in surviving Sumerian language records. The ancient Sumerians had commercial and maritime links with Oman, which they referred to as the Land of Majan. Oman was famous for building ships for sale in those days.

“THE ANCIENT SUMERIANS HAD COMMERCIAL AND MARITIME LINKS WITH OMAN”

YOUR LIFETIME IS IRREPLACEABLE
YOUR LIFETIME IS IRREPLACEABLE
YOUR LIFETIME IS IRREPLACEABLE
YOUR LIFETIME IS IRREPLACEABLE



Dare greatly. Live wild.
Your lifetime is irreplaceable.
Call the crew and ride!



**WE
CRAFT
STORIES**

RIDE WITH THE BEST HIGH-PERFORMANCE
BOARDS. CHECK LIEUWEBOARDS.COM

Lieuwe
CUSTOM BOARDS



“CAPTURING THE EXCITEMENT OF THE ATHLETES ON THE WATER AND THE AWE-INSPIRING BACKDROP OF OMAN’S MOUNTAINS, DESERTS, AND COASTLINES.”

As a filmmaker specialising in extreme sports and cultural storytelling, Nikola Bagarov was responsible for directing and filming: “Chase of the Trade Winds”. His work focuses on blending the adrenaline of sports with a cinematic portrayal of the environment and culture that surrounds

them, and this project was no exception. Working alongside athletes such as Mostafa Abbas, Janek Grzegorzewski from Red Bull, Giel Vlugt from Core Kites and Luca Ceruti from Flysurfer, our team set out to bring Oman’s natural beauty and cultural depth to life.

Over two minutes of footage, we’ve created a video that melds exhilarating kitesurfing scenes with cultural immersion, offering viewers a look at the traditions and landscapes that shape Omani life.

The short teaser reel, meanwhile, gives a quick glimpse of the full story, capturing the excitement of the athletes on the water and the awe-inspiring backdrop of Oman’s mountains, deserts, and coastlines.

Kitesurfing in Oman offers more than just a sporting experience. The journey takes visitors through the heart of Omani culture, from its bustling souks and ancient forts to the warmth and hospitality of its people. Oman is known for preserving its traditions, and even while kitesurfing along its coasts, visitors can connect with this rich cultural tapestry.



“OMAN IS READY TO TAKE ITS PLACE AS A TOP KITESURFING DESTINATION ON THE GLOBAL MAP.”

In collaboration with Majan Ospreys - who organises kitesurfing trips for those drawn to Oman's scenic coastlines, our project emphasises that Oman isn't just a kitesurfing location—it's a cultural experience that leaves a lasting impact on anyone who visits.

Oman should be the top choice for those looking for an adventure that combines thrilling sports with profound cultural encounters.

This project is an invitation to kitesurfers and travellers alike to discover Oman's allure. With its favourable conditions, welcoming communities, and unspoiled coastlines, Oman is ready to take its place as a top kitesurfing destination on the global map. Majan Ospreys can organise everything for your future trip to Oman.





WEATHERPROOF PACKS BUILT FOR RIDERS

DARK TECH SERIES

MYSTIC

boundless waters

mysticboarding.com

INSIGHT

LANA HERMAN

We sit down with Lana Herman! From her beginnings in landlocked Ljubljana, Slovenia, to discovering the world of kiteboarding, Lana's journey has been anything but ordinary. We talk about how kiteboarding changed her life, her love for Big Air, and the role of her sponsors in shaping her career. Check it out!



" I PACKED MY BAGS AND HIT THE ROAD FOR KITING—AND I HAVEN'T LOOKED BACK SINCE! "



Hi Lana! Thanks for joining us today. Please tell us a little bit about yourself. What was it like growing up in landlocked Ljubljana, Slovenia, and who initially got you into kiteboarding?

Hi, thanks for having me! I'm Lana, originally from Ljubljana, Slovenia. Before kiting, life was pretty straightforward—I trained in karate from age six until I was 22 and studied mathematics at the University of Ljubljana. My mom's new boyfriend introduced me to kiteboarding a year before graduating, and I was instantly hooked. But I still had to finish that final year of school. Once I earned my diploma, I packed my bags and hit the road for kiting—and I haven't looked back since!

How did kiteboarding change your life at that point, and when did you realise this is more than just a hobby?

Kiteboarding completely turned my life upside down. I started travelling, meeting people from all over the world, and discovering new cultures and lifestyles. The best part is how connected I feel to nature, all while doing something I love nearly every day. It's taught me so much about life and still does. When Harlem signed me, I realised it was no longer just a hobby—it became real.

What was your reaction when Harlem offered you a spot on their team, and how have they supported you so far?

It's funny because they initially rejected me! But later, when I received other offers, Harlem came back with an opportunity, and I couldn't say no. Their kites' performance stood out, but what truly sold me was the family vibe and the company philosophy. It felt like the right fit. They've been great so far, and I'm really happy I chose them.

GKA BIG AIR

RIDERS FRANCESCA MAINI, LANA HERMAN, ZARA HOOGENRAAD
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA



TIPS



Are there any unique features in Harlem's equipment that have made a difference in your riding?

I've been using the 8m Harlem Thrive kite here in Brazil, and it's been a game-changer. Its ease of looping and reliable lift give me confidence in every session. Knowing where the kite will sit in the wind window has helped me add new tricks to my arsenal. The more I use it, the more connected I feel to it.

What about Prolimit, when did you first join Prolimit, and what's your absolute favourite piece of Prolimit gear?

I joined Prolimit in August this year. My favourite piece of gear has to be the 4/3mm Fire Steamer Freezip wetsuit—it's warm, flexible, and perfect for my needs.

Let's talk Big Air! When did you first get into it?

Pretty early on! I've always been drawn to jumping high, so Big Air felt like the natural next step for me.

Can you describe the feeling you get when you're flying through the air in a Big Air jump?

It's this wild blend of adrenaline, freedom, and a bit of fear. It requires total focus to pull off, but the payoff is totally worth it.

Which Big Air riders do you look up to, and how have they influenced your style?

I've got to give a shout-out to the Casati brothers for their insane kite control. And I really admire Jamie Overbeek's smoothness and how high he goes. I've always looked up to them and the other big air riders.

How has training in places like Brazil and Cape Town impacted your skills?

Brazil is an awesome spot for learning new tricks. The wind is pretty consistent, and since you don't go crazy high, focusing on progression is easier. Cape Town, though, really sharpens your kite control.

It teaches you how to handle kickers and strong winds—two crucial elements for Big Air. Both places have played a huge role in my growth as a kiteboarder.

What's your favourite Big Air trick to perform, and why?

Right now, I'd say the kite loop board off. It scores well, and I feel pretty consistent with it, which is a nice confidence boost.

How do you handle pressure during competitions? Any tricks for staying calm?

Sometimes I don't, haha! It's definitely something I work on. What helps me, though, is meditation and asking myself things like, "Lana, why are you doing this if it's not for fun?" I also try to remind myself of life philosophy, which states that life is random and everything we go through is like foam on the waves—it comes and goes. So, I try to take it all in stride and keep it easy.

What's a personal goal you've set for yourself outside of kiteboarding?

To live without convictions—to remain adaptable in every aspect of life.

How do you stay motivated when the conditions are tough or you're facing setbacks?

I find motivation by watching videos of other riders pulling off crazy tricks in challenging conditions. When all else fails, I blast some good old Balkan music—it always lifts my spirits!

What's next for Lana Herman?!

Want to find out? Follow me on Instagram, and stay tuned!

" I FIND MOTIVATION BY WATCHING VIDEOS OF OTHER RIDERS PULLING OFF CRAZY TRICKS IN CHALLENGING CONDITIONS. "



TONIC

WING / FOIL / SUP / SURF

19

SPRING 2024

INTERESTED IN WINGS AND FOILS?

CHECK OUT TONIC MAGAZINE FOR FREE!

THE NUMBER ONE MAGAZINE FOR WING, FOIL, SUP AND SURF!

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT!](#)



- WILD TIREE -

ORIGINS OF AFS | HOOKED ON HOOD RIVER | WHERE NORTH MEETS SOUTH
TECH FOCUS | INTERVIEWS | TESTS & MORE INSIDE!

THE WORLDS NUMBER ONE WING, FOIL, SUP AND SURF MAG

WORDS & PHOTOS WAREK ARNAUD

In this feature, Warek Arnaud takes us behind the scenes of Ozone's Explore V3 shoot and shares the story of capturing IKSURFMAG's first snowkite cover!

LET IT SNOW

IKSURFMAG'S FIRST WINTER-INSPIRED COVER!



In 2003, we were lucky to cross paths with Matt Taggart and Rob Whittall, eager to develop ozone kites specifically for snowkiting. They joined our group of freeriders at the Col du Lautaret in the Hautes Alpes to make it happen.

The Lautaret, nestled between Serre Chevalier and La Grave in the Southern Alps of France, is legendary. It's truly the Hawaii of snowkiting, and we've shared so many unforgettable moments there. Snowkiting in the mountains with friends is a privilege; we love every second of it!

We also launched the World Snowkitemasters, which brings together the best snowkiters for an epic freestyle competition. This year, we'd love for you to join us from January 9th to 12th. The meeting spot? The Lautaret Lodge and the Chazelay Bar in the valley—for the rides and, of course, the parties!

Our collaboration with Team Ozone has been ongoing ever since, helping to capture stunning imagery and test the latest products. This time, we teamed up with the Ride Up crew, including Johann Civel, Hugues Beaume, Didier Botta, Simone Borgi, and his son Tommy Borgi—for the Explore V3 shoot. The Explore V3 is a single-skin kite designed for hiking and snowkiting. It's simple, lightweight, and super safe. Naturally, we couldn't resist putting it to the ultimate test in extreme conditions—on glaciers, in storms, and beyond. I have to admit, it's an amazing toy. It's a finely crafted, versatile kit that will be a staple in our quiver this snowkiting season.



“WE COULDN'T RESIST PUTTING IT TO THE ULTIMATE TEST IN EXTREME CONDITIONS—ON GLACIERS, IN STORMS, AND BEYOND.”



“ I WANTED TO SHOWCASE THAT THIS KITE ISN'T JUST FOR FREERIDE—IT'S ALSO PERFECT FOR FREESTYLE AND MORE DARING MOVES. ”

We're stoked that IKSURFMAG is spotlighting snowkiting and giving it a well-deserved cover! Snowkiting is more than just a sport for us—it's a way of life in the mountains. It's about harmony with the elements, fueled by passion and a drive to push limits while staying safe. That's why

having gear that supports all our eccentricities is so essential!

We love experiencing the mountains in 3D—carving downhill on skis or snowboards after a kite session. The possible limits are still being defined, but Jo and Hug have already tackled 50-degree slopes.

For this cover shot featuring Johann Civel, the snowkite guide of Team Ride Up, we had plenty of stunning images from a glacier session at La Grave/La Meije. But I wanted to showcase that this kite isn't just for freeride—it's also perfect for freestyle and more daring moves. So, we headed to our beloved home spot at the Col du Lautaret,

**“ THE SHOT WAS EXACTLY AS I ENVISIONED—
CLASSY, DYNAMIC, AND READY TO MAKE WAVES. ”**



setting up under a beautiful cornice. The goal? Capture an epic photo without getting buried by the cornice or, worse, losing my head! Achieving this takes trust and coordination. I can't see the rider coming, so I analyse the kite's trajectory and rely on the rider to follow my instructions. Bim! Boum! Jojo nailed it. The shot was exactly as I envisioned—classy, dynamic, and ready to make waves.

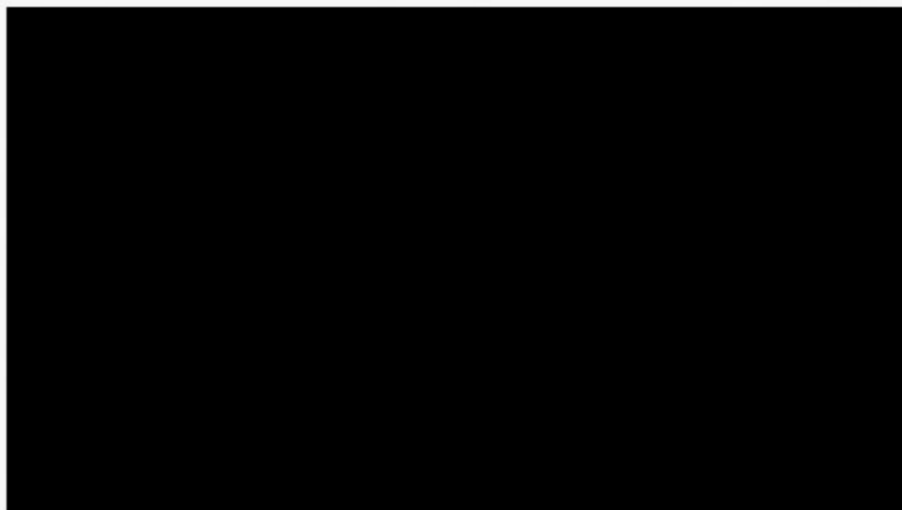
We repeated the jump three times to capture the energy in motion, which was perfect for sharing in the accompanying video. Winter is shaping up to be epic. We've just received the Ozone Hyperlink V4, and it's already sparking ideas for next-level snowkite freeride and freestyle sessions.

Here's to an incredible season!

Peace & love

Wawa





RIDENGINE

HYPERLOCK SPREADER BAR

Introducing the revolutionary Hyperlock spreader bar system—an advanced breakthrough in harness technology and design. Meticulously reengineered from the ground up, it promises to transform how kiteboarders experience and interact with their harnesses.

It is Finally Here

[RIDENGINE.COM](https://www.ridengine.com)





THE INTERVIEW

WORDS ROU CHATER

PETER STIEWE

Peter Stiewe is a true pioneer in kite design, with a career spanning decades. In this exclusive interview with Rou Chater, we dive into his journey, the evolution of kite technology, and what it takes to stay ahead in a constantly progressing industry. We've got it all right here.

Hi Peter, it's great to have you here! You've been designing kites for quite a while and across various brands before co-founding Eleveight. What have been some of the biggest developments and breakthroughs over the years?

Thanks for having me too! I've had the luxury of seeing our sport grow from the beginning with all the different shapes, materials, and construction developments. I have had the opportunity to be part of many product innovations. The early days, in particular, saw almost every design as a breakthrough based on how fast the sport progressed. More specifically, I think developing Cuben fibre leading edges in 2010 was a very exciting project.

Like the developments with Aluula today, I had the same vision: I wanted a lighter, more reactive kite with an amazing hang time. The cuben fibre kites had a much smaller leading edge diameter and got amazing feedback. Until now, some people still hang on to these kites as their weapon of choice.

On a more personal level, developing our first Eleveight lineup in 2017 was a real breakthrough. It was the first product range where I could 100% lead the development process and create performance kites that reflected my vision in design and construction. A lot of experience went into that product lineup, and the whole team worked together in a way that reflected our passion for the sport and the community.

Today, I am also very proud of our first Aluula kites and wings, which evolved from my experience with stiffer materials. Finding a suitable material mix took some time for me to work with Aluula.

" IT WAS THE FIRST PRODUCT RANGE WHERE I COULD 100% LEAD THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND CREATE PERFORMANCE KITES THAT REFLECTED MY VISION IN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION. "





“ THE NEW XS-PRO REFLECTS THIS LATEST DEMAND AND COMBINES A BOOSTING MACHINE WITH AGILE HANDLING AND A FAST TURNING SPEED. ”

But after all the updated versions of the material, I'm pretty happy with Aluula and the outcome of our PRO range.

Recently, there's been a huge push toward big air. How does a kite like the XS-Pro differ from something like the RS, which is designed for multi-use freeride? What characteristics are you looking to enhance for Big Air?

The team at Eleveight saw the potential of big air quite early on, and we all found it very appealing to the sport, mainly due to its 'wow effect,' which we all loved so much from the start.

The first XS kite was released in 2020 with a clear design vision as a boosting machine with an explosive lift. The name XS stands for Extreme Series and delivered exactly what we wanted!

Since the beginning, we have used a delta hybrid design to stick to a 5-strut frame for the XS. The kite, therefore, has a higher aspect ratio than the RS and provides constant power in all conditions. The frame offers advantages in big air by being more explosive in lift performance and giving an extra long hang time. The XS frame also has a stiffer frame construction with less deformation and a faster recovery. That becomes essential when using the kite in high wind conditions and for radical loops.

Over time, we applied many changes to the XS. The sport progressed rapidly, and much more radical loops or double loops are the state of the art nowadays. The new XS-Pro reflects this latest demand and combines a boosting machine with agile handling and a fast turning speed. The new material mix between Aluula and XT Light struts helps us build a real racing car for big air.





“ MY ASPIRATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO DEVELOP PRODUCTS THAT 100% FIT THE TARGET MARKET. ”

The Eleveight range includes eight different kites, which is quite extensive! How challenging is that to manage, and do we need that many kites in a lineup?

Don't get me started on this topic! You have hit the nail on the head with your question, which comes up in all our product meetings. We always face the same issue - do we need all these kites?

From the standpoint of a kite designer, I can clearly say that a kite that 'does it all' doesn't exist. The different disciplines are particular, and they require unique products. From a commercial perspective,

it could be better. Still, Eleveight is a company that stands for high-performance designs, and my aspiration has always been to develop products that 100% fit the target market.

If you look closely at our eight kite models, they are very well segmented into different disciplines. The PS, for example, is made for schools and beginners, and we aim for a very durable and learning-specific kite. Our RS range comprises three models: the RS, RS+, and RS PRO. This freeride range is very versatile. We developed the RS's three-strut design with different materials to give our customers different performance

options in freeride. The Prime RS has a balanced flight characteristic with a classic plug-and-play feel. The opposite is the RS PRO with Aluula, our high-performance racing car version. The kite DNA is the same, but the kite is more dynamic and aimed at the advanced and ambitious rider. Similarly, we wanted to offer the customer a choice between the prime XS or the Pro version for Big Air.

One of my main passions in the water is wave riding, and to maximise our surf sessions, we developed the WS. This kite is made for stability, drift and fast turning. If you ride strapless, you need a kite that you can control 100% in any situation and has power, but only when needed.

We also have a group of freestylers in the family, namely Arthur Guillebert and our Young Guns team. Freestyle has become less popular lately, but for us, it is still one of the most complicated disciplines in our sport, and hence, it requires special performance products. We have a steady and loyal customer base, and they deserve a product made for their passion!!!

Last but not least is the OS. The foil kite segment was somewhat compromised by the wing foil market. But the OS is such a light freeride kite with so many advantages that we keep it in the lineup for the remaining followers.

I might have drifted away from your question, but I believe in specialised products. Our sport has been growing over the last 2 decades, as have the different disciplines. And yes, developing so many kite models requires an immense workload from all departments. For the R+D side, my work nearly doubled over the years, but development and testing are pure joy for me. That is why I love my job, and through Eleveight, we created a company where passion for sports and performance products comes first.

What's the design cycle like at Eleveight? How long do you typically spend working on a new model?

I work with two cycles, both of which have different time frames. The evolutionary product development part takes one product version to the next, and the cycle is around 12-14 months. In other words, we will start developing the next version once we approve a product. Some of our team riders get the new products quite early, which helps me communicate and share some ideas for changes in the upcoming version. The second stage is the market feedback, which involves working closely with our distributors and area managers to gather valid feedback for next year's product.

The second cycle is for new product developments, which take 24 - 30 months. Here, we take testing and development quite seriously, and any introduction of new material, for example, needs time. Also, the testing is much more complex, and the prototypes rarely match my vision of the product. We aim to release products only when we are 100% confident about the performance outcome. If we need more time, we will take it. My long-term experience showed me that the worst thing would be to release half-developed products into the market.

We've been taking big steps forward with materials lately. This is where the development has been strongest, while kite shapes have been tweaked and perhaps reached a peak. What's the biggest challenge with these new materials?

Our industry has become much better at developing raw materials in the last five years. We have yet to have a breakthrough like the bow kite's development, but we refined kites and bars. Aluula may be a bigger stepping stone, but the real improvement is that different material specifications equal different performance outcomes.

" MY LONG-TERM EXPERIENCE SHOWED ME THAT THE WORST THING WOULD BE TO RELEASE HALF-DEVELOPED PRODUCTS INTO THE MARKET. "



“ BOTH FACTORS WILL CHANGE AND MAKE KITES EVEN BETTER, WHICH IS WHY I LOVE THE JOB AND THE CHALLENGE. ”

The challenge with these materials is the testing and the supply chain. Testing is essential because the mix of materials makes the difference. Nowadays, the talk regarding new materials is too much about weight reduction. And yes, a lighter product is better, but stiffness, recovery, and related twists are more important.

Nowadays, I can develop kites using shape parameters and different materials to fit the target market. For a good freeride kite, I do not need to use high-performance materials like Aluula. I need a

material mix that balances performance and intuitive handling well.

Aluula has been the big buzz lately, but will new materials in the future offer an even better flying experience?

As we say, ‘development never stops’, which will hold regarding the designs and materials. Both factors will change and make kites even better, which is why I love the job and the challenge. I would no longer be a kite designer if I could not improve designs and make better kites!

The learning from developing super high-performance products like kites with Aluula should benefit other kite models with a lower price point. Not everybody needs an Aluula kite, but some parameters are very helpful for general performance. In recent years, we have also experimented with different materials, and we can use specs from the high-performance segment in the normal product categories. It will benefit the flying experience and offer reasonably priced products.



“ WE ALSO WANT TO LEAD DEVELOPMENTS. IT HELPS IF YOU HAVE YOUR VISION AND GOALS IN PRODUCT DESIGN. ”

How does the arrival of new materials affect the development cycle? It must be tricky when you're in the middle of a design and a new material emerges. How do you deal with that?

We take our time for new products and start with our vision first. At Eleveight, we don't just want to be followers; we also want to lead developments. It helps if you have your vision and goals in product design. We also test new materials for an extended period. Aluula was the best example: I had the first samples of Aluula at the end of 2019, but I needed more convincing at that stage. The quality could have been there, and we would have had more issues in the production process. Over time, Aluula changed, and with the updated version of the material and related reinforcements, the test results became better. I was sure to build kites with excellent performance and solid quality.

In terms of design processes and technology, how has kite design evolved over the years?

We had a lot of incremental changes over the last few years. A big design change, like the bow kite invention, hasn't happened, but we improved the materials, the related material mix, and the construction. Kites nowadays have much better quality. They have much more longevity based on the better raw materials, but also in relation to the production process. I can only talk about Eleveight products, but using high-quality ripstop with a special coating has resulted in more shape stability over a longer period. Also, our supplier did a great job improving the cutting, glueing and sewing techniques, which decrease the deformation under load and offer better recovery.



The panel cuts have changed over the years. Each of my kites has a different panel cut to ensure the load is distributed most efficiently. The related double ripstop layers (aka 2-step transition) and the reinforcement help with a clean form and stable canopy. I could go on and on, but the point is that we had a lot of incremental changes. People sometimes say that kites are fairly similar from year to year, but they should fly a kite from 5 years ago compared with a new model, and they will instantly feel all the big and little improvements.

Do you still rely on testers to provide prototype feedback, and do you foresee a future where technology like fluid dynamics takes over this role?

Maybe my age plays a specific role here, as I'm old school and like to hear feedback from our team. To see them riding, communicating with them, and getting their feedback is a part of the development process, which I really enjoy. The future may differ, but the human component and passion play a big role in my life, and I will keep it this way. I like to spend time in the water; that is where development and testing belong!

What's the hardest kite in the design range, and which is the easiest?

It's like asking which of your kids you favour the most! I like them all equally, as well as the development time for each product. For each product, our Eleveight Pro range was more of a challenge and a bit harder at the beginning. I could rely on my experience but not so much on previous models and feedback. The development time frame is longer, and I need many more prototypes over a more extended period. The road to the final product is a bit bumpier,

" I CANNOT KEEP UP WITH THE YOUNGSTERS ANYMORE, BUT I CAN STILL MOVE SOME WATER WHEN IT COMES TO WAVE RIDING. "



but when the team comes back, and you get the right feedback and see their smiles, all the effort pays off, and it is a gratifying feeling.

Finally, what do you ride, and which design has been your favourite to date?

I ride all of our kites for testing with all different kinds of crafts. In the freestyle and big air segment, I cannot keep up with the youngsters anymore, but I can still move some water when it comes to wave riding.

Wave riding has always been my passion, and the Eleveight WS and our Surfboard Pro range are the

gear I ride the most. I live on the west coast of Portugal, and we have fantastic wave spots, so I can also practise quite a bit!

However, my favourite design is our freeride kite, the RS. At this stage, I have finalised the development of the 9th version, and over the years, so much experience and improvement went into the kite's DNA. The RS is the best freeride kite I've developed so far, and I'm very proud of the feedback and popularity of this model.

Cheers, Peter; thanks for taking the time!

RIDER SIMONE BORGHI PHOTO WAREK ARNAUD

SUBSCRIBE TO THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE

Subscribe and get the IKSURFMAG benefits! Be the first to read the magazine every issue, get automatically entered into all our Prize Draws and have the chance to WIN some awesome kitesurf gear.

We won't use your information for anything but letting you know about IKSURFMAG. That's it. So sign up and get the best online kite mag in the world first and for free every 2 months!

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

START SUBSCRIBE

WORDS XANDER RAITH

From the creators of *The Bubble* comes *Vortex*, a bold new kiteboarding film that blends breathtaking riding, stunning visuals, and a deep dive into the paradox of connection in our modern world.

Premieres January 9, 2025 – Cape Town, South Africa



V O R T E X

ENTER OUR PARADIGM



" A VORTEX IS BOUNDLESS BY NATURE. IT'S QUIET AT ITS CORE, BUT ITS EXTREMITY RAGES, SUCKING ONE IN UNTIL THEY REACH THE FOCAL POINT "

In a world of perpetual chaos, conflict, progression, regression, violence, happiness, love, beauty, and the contemporary sensations that accompany living, there are emblematic paradigms that expand with appeal and contract with detachment. Some find themselves stuck in a paradigm they wish to escape from, some stumble into a paradigm fortuitously, and some choose a paradigm because of its allure, sucking them in like a magnet until they reach the epicentre and all that surrounds them spirals together and flows in distinct harmony. Life is full of choices, and the creators of The Bubble are proud to share a choice of their own and a glimpse into their work to come.

The word vortex, a noun, is defined as "a mass of whirling fluid or air, especially a whirlpool or whirlwind." A vortex is boundless by nature. It's quiet at its core, but its extremity rages, sucking one in until they reach the focal point; the eye of the storm and the heart of the whirlpool. Welcome to the editor's second filmmaking masterpiece, Vortex, proudly presented by Tom Bridge, Xander Raith, and Noe Font.



" THE THREE HAVE TRAVELLED THE GLOBE IN AN EFFORT TO BRING THEIR VISION TO LIFE AND SHOWCASE THE WORLD AS THEY SEE IT "

For the past year, the three have travelled the globe in an effort to bring their vision to life and showcase the world as they see it through a full-length kiteboarding film, Vortex.

Since the release of The Bubble nearly a decade ago, there has yet to be a kite film that rivals or even follows in the footsteps of the film's prestigious wake.

To capitalise on the lack thereof, Tom, Xander, and Noe set out to create a film that showcases some of the best riding and the truth of the modern era in which we all live and connect.

This epoch, commonly referred to as the "present," has both its faults and brilliance, and while living in this chaotic world, it is society's role to accept what cannot be changed and influence what can be altered. Although this might seem a bit abstract, the essence of the film's name, Vortex, is to exploit the juxtaposition between social media and its innate isolation. Digital devices were designed to help the world connect, but more often than not,

these blue-screen portals expose the irony of socially connecting through utter seclusion. Together, Tom, Xander, and Noe weave this topic into a full-length film that captures the essence of their individuality, creativity, and the direction in which they are proud to lead.

Tom, Xander, and Noe - "It is our divine privilege to share Vortex. Every detail of the film is intentional, and the locations, riding style, cinematic style, music, the crew itself, and the collective process are an opus that is meant to stand out from the rest. Welcome to our vision. Enter our paradigm."

World premiere January 9th 2025 - Cape Town, South Africa

"THE LOCATIONS, RIDING STYLE, CINEMATIC STYLE, MUSIC, THE CREW ITSELF, AND THE COLLECTIVE PROCESS ARE AN OPUS THAT IS MEANT TO STAND OUT FROM THE REST."



PHOTO SAMUEL CÁRDENAS

IKSURFMAG.COM



FORTALEZA



MANCORA



CABARETE



LANCELIN



DAKHLA

GOING ON A KITE HOLIDAY?

Don't go anywhere without checking our travel guides first! We have over 100 in-depth guides to some of the best places in the world! Get all the information you need, check the weather, book accommodation, organise flights and pack your bags for the trip of a lifetime!



CAPE HATTERAS



MAURITIUS



UNION ISLAND



CAPE TOWN



MAUI

THE ART OF LAYERING

If you're in the Northern Hemisphere, don't pack away your gear just yet—Prolimit has you covered! From lightweight layers for autumn sessions to game-changing wetsuits with thermal rebound technology, Prolimit shows you how to conquer the cold and ride through the seasons. Intrigued? Dive in!

PHOTO MARIUS BROSSET



“ THE COLDER WINDS, AND THE COOLER WATER TEMPERATURES ARE NO REASON TO PACK AWAY YOUR GEAR ”

How to stay warm as temperatures drop

When autumn takes hold and winter is about to arrive, kiteboarders, wing foilers, and other water sports enthusiasts face a new challenge: staying warm on the water. The chill in the air, the colder winds, and the cooler water temperatures are no reason to pack away your gear. You can extend your

season and stay comfortable all year round with the proper layering and accessories. At Prolimit, we've spent decades perfecting gear for these exact moments, helping water lovers embrace the colder months without sacrificing fun or performance.

The First Cold Breeze – Transitioning from Summer to Autumn

Autumn is a magical time on the water... the crowds thin out, the wind picks up, and the crisp air has a fresh energy. But it's also the time of the year when that first shiver hits, reminding you that your summer wetsuit may

soon not be enough anymore. Layering is your best friend during these in-between months.

In autumn, a 4/3mm is usually ideal. It provides the right balance of warmth and flexibility; the water is generally still warm from summer. Heading deeper into autumn, an inner system, such as a neoprene top, can be added under the wetsuit for extra insulation. However, since the water is still warm but the air can get cold quickly, adding a neoprene beanie to your quiver is usually enough at this time.

If the wind gets cold and autumn kicks in early, add a set of thin neoprene gloves and some neoprene socks to your quiver as soon as the water temperatures drop.

“ OUR WINTER SUITS ARE DESIGNED WITH THERMAL REBOUND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH REFLECTS BODY HEAT TO YOU WITHOUT COMPROMISING FLEXIBILITY. ”



PHOTO MARIUS BROSSET

These accessories can make all the difference on windier days, keeping your extremities warm with no limitations in movement. Thin gloves and socks also ensure that your connection to your board remains responsive.

Winter winds. Facing the Cold Head-On

Winter arrives with harsher winds and frigid water temperatures. This is when a thicker wetsuit, such as a 5/3mm or even a 6/4mm, becomes essential. But it's not just about the wetsuit—how you layer and protect yourself from head to toe.

Your core is your body's heat engine, and keeping it warm is crucial. Look for wetsuits with thermal linings and windproof panels that help block cold gusts. This is where Prolimit's expertise comes in. Our winter suits are designed with thermal rebound technology, which reflects body heat to you without compromising flexibility. This type of innovation means you don't have to choose between warmth and performance. Thermal Rebound is featured in our Vapor, Mercury and Oxygen wetsuits.

Our new winter wetsuit collection is 100% neoprene-free due to the use of NaturePrene2. FSC and CE also approve the wetsuits.

The Importance of Accessories – Head, Hands, and Feet

As the water gets colder, it's not just about the wetsuit; your extremities are at even greater risk of losing heat. We often forget that heat loss through the head, hands, and feet can sap your energy faster than you think.

“ THESE LIGHTWEIGHT AND FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS ALLOW FOR A FULL RANGE OF MOTION WHILE PROVIDING ESSENTIAL INSULATION AGAINST THE COLD. ”

Head: A neoprene beanie or hood is a must once temperatures drop. The head is one of the quickest areas to lose heat, so even a thin layer can make a big difference. For those deeper winter sessions, a full neoprene hood is ideal.

Hands: Cold hands can quickly cut a session short. Neoprene gloves are designed to keep you warm while ensuring you still have grip and control. Thicker gloves (3mm or more) are perfect for freezing days, while 2mm gloves are great for the transitional months.

Feet: Keeping your feet warm and protected from icy water is essential, especially when standing on a cold board. Neoprene boots (ranging from 3mm to 5mm) provide warmth without sacrificing board feel. Look for split-toe designs that give you better control while maintaining warmth.

Don't Forget to Layer Smart

Layering isn't just about adding thickness; it's about using the suitable materials in the right places. Layers, like a fleece-lined inner system, can add warmth without needing a bulkier wetsuit. These lightweight and flexible solutions allow for a full range of motion while providing essential insulation against the cold.

One of the most underrated accessories is the neoprene hood. It's lightweight, fits snugly, and provides that extra barrier against cold winds. Pairing a hood with a thicker wetsuit in incredibly harsh conditions offers superior warmth without compromising mobility.

Embracing Winter – The Mindset Shift

Kiting in the winter is about surviving and thriving in the cold. Those sessions have a unique beauty when the beaches are empty, the wind is howling,



PHOTO THOMAS ROOS

“ WE’VE LEARNED THAT EMBRACING THESE COLDER MONTHS ISN’T ABOUT ENDURING THE COLD BUT ABOUT ADAPTING TO IT. ”



and the sun is low on the horizon. The world feels quieter, the water crisper and each session feels like an adventure. With the right gear, the cold becomes less of a barrier and more of a unique part of the experience.

When you layer properly and invest in the right accessories, winter on the water can be rewarding. At Prolimit, we’ve learned that embracing these colder months isn’t about enduring the cold but about adapting to it.

Extend Your Season, Expand Your Horizons

Don’t let the cold keep you from enjoying what you love as the temperatures drop. By layering smart, protecting your core and extremities, and choosing the right gear, you can stay warm and comfortable while riding through the seasons.

Winter riding is not for everyone, but for those who love the thrill of a cold breeze and an empty beach, it’s one of the most rewarding times to be on the water. And with Prolimit’s innovative cold-weather gear, you can keep pushing your limits, no matter the temperature.

CLICK **HERE** TO SUPPORT US

Would you like to help IKSURFMAG to continue to bring you the best in kite journalism from around the world? Perhaps you enjoy Christian and Karine's technique, or our independent tests, or maybe you love the travel guides? Support us, win awesome prizes, get free stickers and much more.



**FREE
STICKERS!**

BECOME A SUPPORTER

VICTOR EMANOEL

DREAMS TO REALITY WITH BAKL BIG BREAK WIN!

In the BAKL Big Break, 8 rising kitesurfers battled it out in Guriu, Brazil, for the chance of a lifetime—a shot at a €30,000 prize and mentorship from Richard Hamilton. We caught up with the winner, Victor Emanuel, to hear about his epic win and what's next for him. Don't miss this exclusive interview!



“BEHIND EVERY SPECTACULAR JUMP LIES AN UNTOLD STORY OF HARD WORK, PASSION, AND RESILIENCE.”



THE BAKL BIG BREAK: GIVING KITESURFERS THEIR SHOT AT THE TOP

Big air kitesurfing is one of the most exhilarating sports on the planet, with riders soaring to incredible heights, pulling off insane tricks, and battling the elements. But behind every spectacular jump lies an untold story of hard work, passion, and resilience. And for many talented riders, the only thing standing between them and the global stage is one big break. That's where the BAKL Big Break comes in.

The BAKL Big Break is a groundbreaking competition designed to give eight up-and-coming riders the opportunity to showcase their talent and change their lives. These riders come from all corners of the world, many from incredibly tough backgrounds—some have faced poverty, while others have overcome personal hardships to get where they are today. Despite their challenges, their skill and drive are undeniable. All they need is a chance.

With €30,000—the biggest prize purse in big air-kiting history—up for grabs, the stakes were higher than ever. The winners also secure a coveted spot in BAKL Battles, where they'll face off against the top riders in the world. This competition isn't just about winning—it's about making dreams come true and giving these riders the platform to launch their careers on the global stage.

What makes the BAKL Big Break unique is its new competition format, designed to be more thrilling and entertaining than traditional contests. We wanted to create something that not only pushes the riders to their limits but also captivates a broader audience, helping to grow the sport we love.

At its heart, the BAKL Big Break is about more than just competition—it's about providing opportunities, telling inspiring stories, and pushing the boundaries of what's possible in big air kiting. For these riders, it's a chance to take flight, rise above their challenges, and seize the moment that could change everything.

Victor Emanuel, it's great to have you here. Massive congratulations on your win at the BAKL Big Break! How did it feel to hear your name called as the winner?!

Thank you so much for the compliments! I'm so happy about this victory! I put in so much physical and mental hard work to earn this title, and it feels incredible that it all paid off. Winning at the spot where I first learned to kite, my home spot, and having my friends there to cheer me on made it even more special!

Tell us a bit about yourself; who introduced you to kiteboarding, and how old were you when you started?

Kitesurfing is my passion—I started at just 9 years old, learning with some older friends who were already into the sport. I can't even remember what life was like before kiting!

How have your parents supported your kiteboarding journey?

I didn't grow up with parents who kitesurf—my father has always seen it as a dangerous sport, and my parents are divorced. I was raised by my mother, who supported me as much as she could.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



"I PUT IN SO MUCH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HARD WORK TO EARN THIS TITLE, AND IT FEELS INCREDIBLE THAT IT ALL PAID OFF."

QUESTIONS JEN TYLER
WORDS PHIL JANKE

TECH FOCUS

CORE SECTION 5

We caught up with Phil Janke to dive into the story behind CORE's latest wave kite, the Section 5. From testing prototypes in Indonesia's breathtaking reef breaks to fine-tuning the design for ultimate drift and versatility, this kite is built to elevate your wave-riding experience. Let's find out what went into creating this wave-riding masterpiece!



RIDER WILLOW-RIVER TONKIN PHOTO MICHELLE ROBERTS





“ IT WAS THE PERFECT CHANCE TO TEST AND SHOOT SECTION 5 PROTOTYPES IN SUMBAWA. ”

Congratulations on another exciting CORE release! We just watched the Section 5 video, and it was incredible. Can you tell us about the trip?!

The trip idea came from Gabriel and Willow, who'd travelled to Chile with the Nexus last winter and got inspired by former teammate Rob Kidnie to check out Indonesia. It had been on Willow's bucket list for ages, so it was the perfect chance to test and shoot Section 5 prototypes in Sumbawa.

How did Willow River-Tonkin and Gabriel Benetton's testing in Indonesia's reef breaks help shape the final design of Section 5?

The team had been working on the Section 5 for quite some time, exploring new paths alongside proven methods. Willow and Gabriel's mission in Indonesia was to evaluate different bridle positions for each kite size and determine the perfect setup based on precise requirements established earlier in the design process.

Can you tell us what optimisations have been made to enhance the kite's drift and how these improvements impact wave riding performance?

The Section 4 already had exceptional drift due to its surf profile, Future-C shape, and lightweight. The team achieved weight savings in the construction and optimised the kite's tips to enhance its drift capabilities further.

How does Section 5's design cater to the full spectrum of wave conditions?

In contrast to an all-round model like the Nexus or XR, the wave specialist Section has a very precise set of requirements, with the goal of being the ideal wave kite in all conditions. It allows for snappy turns in small waves through its ultra-direct steering without

ripping you off the board, excels with great drift in medium waves, and down-the-line rides in big waves without losing control despite your slacking lines.

In what way does the Section 5's compatibility with CORE's surfboards enhance the kite's performance for both strapless freestyle and foiling?

For strapless big air, you would prefer the Nexus or XR. But for smaller jumps, you will benefit from the Section's great bar feedback, and it's great for practising kiteloops with its non-accelerating fast turning. At foiling, you also benefit from the Section's unmatched drifting qualities that allow you to foil waves without stalling.

What are the key differences between the Section 5 and previous models?

The biggest change has been made in the geometry and construction of the leading edge. The Section 5 received the latest version of our exclusive low-stretch-dacron ExoTex 2 with an elaborate tempering and coating process. It achieves an extremely high tensile strength while remaining lightweight. Due to intelligent volume distribution in the leading edge, the Section 5 has more stability in the wingtips and an overall faster turning and flight behaviour.

How does the Section 5 compare to the Nexus 4, which is very good in the waves? What advantages does the Section 5 have over the Nexus 4?

The Section is lighter than the Nexus and has an even better drift. When it comes to strapless jumping and twintip riding, the all-rounder Nexus will make you happier.



" THE SECTION 5 HAS MORE STABILITY IN THE WINGTIPS AND AN OVERALL FASTER TURNING AND FLIGHT BEHAVIOUR. "



" THE SECTION 5 COMES WITH THE CORE INTELLIGENT TRIM SYSTEM THAT LETS YOU ADAPT IT TO THE WIND DIRECTION ONSHORE, SIDESHORE, AND OFFSHORE. "

What tuning options are there on the kite to help it suit different conditions and riding styles?

To squeeze out the optimum of your wave riding, the Section 5 comes with the CORE intelligent trim system that lets you adapt it to the wind direction onshore, sideshore, and offshore. The onshore setting sits the kite deeper in the wind window, giving it more grunt and better drift. The offshore setting sits the kite more forward in the wind window, giving it higher depower and faster forward speed.

Are there any plans for a Section 5 Pro version with Aluula?

Currently, there are no plans for an Aluula version of the Section. We want a soft and easy-turning wave kite; the stiffness of Aluula is simply not the best choice for this; it is less forgiving and more punchy. We think that a thoughtful, designed, lightweight kite made of our premium Exotex 2 and Coretex 2 offers the optimal material mix for a wave-dedicated kite.

When can the readers get their hands on them?

The Section is now available – ask your local CORE dealer for a test ride!

QUESTIONS ROU CHATER
WORDS NOAH HOFFMAN

PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS

TECH FOCUS

NAISH SYNC BAR

Rou Chater and Noah Hoffman discuss Naish's Sync Bar, which features innovations for safety, performance, and durability, including a patented Anti-Lock Bearing System and a fully metal "One Click" release mechanism for unmatched longevity. Ready to enhance your kite experience? Dive in!



Hi Noah, it's great to have you here, and we can't wait to hear more about the Sync Bar. The kite bar is the most complicated piece of equipment that we use. How long has the team been working on developing the Sync Bar, and was it always a project to have an entirely new bar rather than adding some of the features to the Torque bar as they were developed?

The new Sync bar is an entirely new development. We started with a clean sheet around three years ago, allowing us to individually target every detail we wanted to improve, no matter how big or small. By starting from scratch and developing all new moulds, we came up with industry-leading innovations. We built every piece of the system with the same focus to make a safer and stronger system, keeping everything that you need and nothing you don't.

It is also the most vital piece of safety equipment. Itse, as it is highly complicated, has hundreds of parts and components that have to work in harmony. How long and vigorous was the testing process, and what certifications does the bar have?

You are 100% right; the bar is your kiteboarding kit's most important safety element. Throughout the entire development of the Sync Control system, one of the main criteria was to be compliant with the ISO 21853 Standard. For those who don't know the ISO standard, it sets a standard for the force required to activate your release in various loads and conditions. In addition to countless hours of lab testing, we also had many rounds of samples tested all around the globe, which allowed us to find and resolve issues that would not have been discovered any other way. You would be surprised what people can do to a bar,

" WE BUILT EVERY PIECE OF THE SYSTEM WITH THE SAME FOCUS TO MAKE A SAFER AND STRONGER SYSTEM "



“ WE OPTED FOR AN ALUMINIUM BAR CORE FOR THIS SYSTEM DUE TO THE OVERALL POSITIVE OUTCOMES. ”

especially in schools! Regardless of building to the specifications, all the testing that went into this bar makes us confident in our system.

The bar is constructed using aluminium; what advantages does this offer over carbon?

We opted for aluminium over carbon because of its material properties. Although good carbon tubes can be just as strong and lighter than aluminium, they suffer from being brittle. When carbon has a fracture in its weave, it can fail very abruptly, which is something you wouldn't catch on the bar tubes when they are covered with EVA. Meanwhile, aluminium will show some deformation before you find yourself kiting with a 2-piece bar! So, while there was a marginal weight gain, we opted for an aluminium bar core for this system due to the overall positive outcomes.

You have a patent on the “Auto Swivel” system. How does it work, and how does it differ from other systems?

This is one of the features we are most excited about regarding the Sync System. For auto-swivel systems to work, the power lines must be constrained to a specific orientation, keeping the front lines from twisting. On most auto swivels in the market, this makes it very difficult to fully steer and depower at the same time due to the block system that keeps everything straight. That's where our Anti-Lock Bearing comes in; it decouples the steering inputs and the depower throw. Making it so that it will always allow you to depower and control your kite at the same time. The centre piece that the bar runs through allows the bar to turn while keeping the centre vertically articulated. This feature, combined with our 3-chambered PU sleeve,

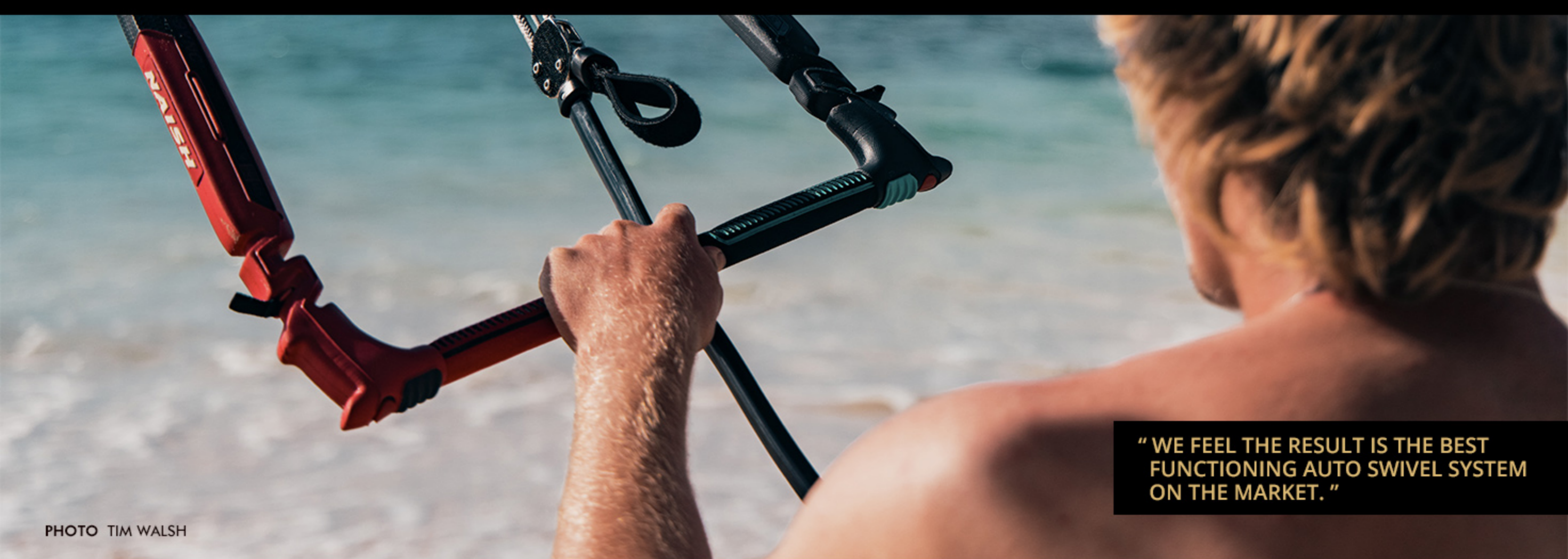


PHOTO TIM WALSH

"WE FEEL THE RESULT IS THE BEST FUNCTIONING AUTO SWIVEL SYSTEM ON THE MARKET."

makes space for 2 powerlines to run through and symmetrically distributes the load to the bearing at the bottom of the QR, allowing the Auto swivel to work effortlessly.

The Anti-Lock Bearing System is a new innovation. What is its purpose, and how did you come up with the idea and bring it to market?

As I mentioned before, the Anti-Lock Bearing System is our patented auto-swivel system that decouples the kite's depower and steering inputs. We originally came up with this idea because of our team riders, who liked the convenience of the auto swivels but not at the expense of performance. They wanted to avoid the issue that plagues auto swivels where the depower

gets stuck during kite loops, and you have to release the steering to depower the kite. During the testing, we went through a bunch of different iterations to figure out the best approach, and we feel the result is the best functioning auto swivel system on the market.

The "One Click" release system uses only metal components rather than bungee, which must add to the complexity of the design and make it more expensive. What was the thought process behind this, and how does it benefit the rider?

Before I answer this one, I always like to have people do a thought experiment. If you are in a car or on a plane, do you trust your safety belt to hold you safely in place? Everyone will say, "Yes, of course!" Now, if

your 20+ year old car had safety belts that release operated with a hair elastic, would you have the same confidence?

That is why our Sync safety release does not operate with hair elastics like all the other kite safety mechanisms. Although those systems function as new, we wanted to focus on the longevity of our system. Because bungees break down with use over time, especially in salt and UV environments, metal springs were an option that helped us achieve everything we wanted to. The Sync QR has two metal springs: a coil spring responsible for the return of the collar and a constant force leaf tension spring, which aids in the reload function. As you expected,

this design was very tedious; we tried many different styles of springs and different iterations of springs before we landed on the final design to ensure the operation would never fail. Both springs are designed to operate only in the material's elastic range, meaning they won't deform over time, always returning to the designed shape. An added bonus is that for the same designed force, the springs are much smaller in comparison to the bungees, making the resulting system more compact, lighter, and stronger.

The time cost in the design of the springs and system was high, but now that the design is finalised, the cost of the metal springs is only marginally higher. This is because a machine can create identical copies and a fast speed that doesn't need post-processing. Meanwhile, bungees must be cut to the correct length, placed in a jig, and crimped. So, for a very small increase in price, you get a piece that is safer and lasts a lot longer.

It's available in two sizes, 50 and 55. Is it designed to work only with the Naish product line, or can it be used on other kites, too?

The line set was designed with interchangeable pigtails so that it can be used with any brand of kite. Another interesting item is that the 50cm width is also a compact bar, meaning that the depower throw is 8.5cm shorter than the 55 length. This was to offer an option for anyone with shorter arms who previously struggled with reaching the trim cleat.



" THE SPRINGS ARE MUCH SMALLER IN COMPARISON TO THE BUNGEEES, MAKING THE RESULTING SYSTEM MORE COMPACT, LIGHTER, AND STRONGER. "



" THE BAR BECAME MORE ERGONOMIC TO USE SO THAT YOU CAN FOCUS ON YOUR SESSION AND LESS ON MANAGING YOUR LINES, ETC. "

Why should a rider upgrade to the new Sync Bar?

Between all the innovations on this project, such as anti-lock centre bearing, auto swivel, New Braidtech SK99 hybrid line set, one click in quick release, the list goes on. With all these upgrades, the bar became more ergonomic to use so that you can focus on your session and less on managing your lines, etc. Also, the Sync control system is much lighter, making your connection to your kite much more direct, and it also saves some weight in your bag for your next kite adventure.

Thanks for taking the time to educate us on this great-looking and innovative release from Naish!

Thanks for the opportunity! Looking forward to seeing these systems on the water!





A TOTALLY NEW MOBILE EXPERIENCE!



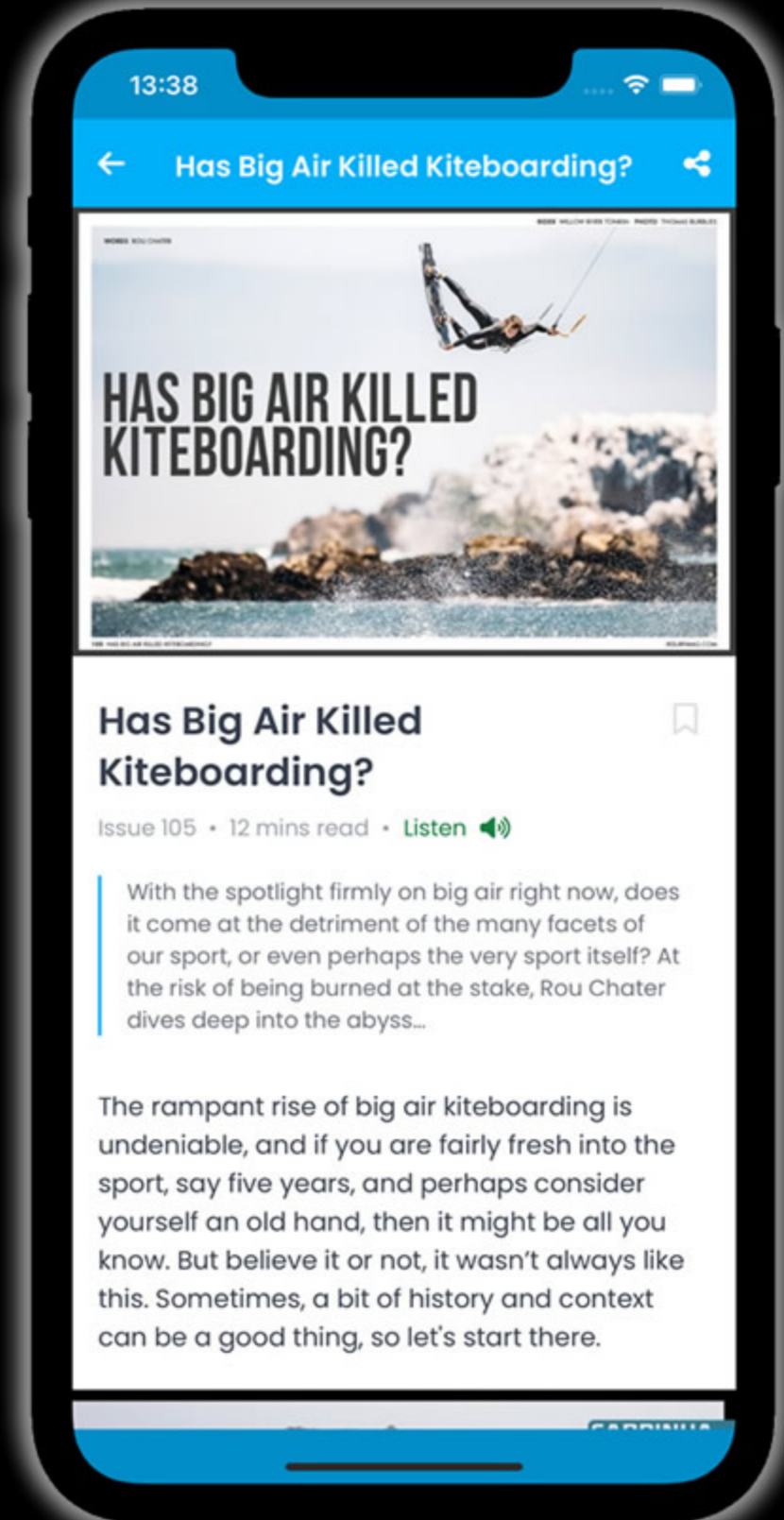
Available on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google play

WE'VE COMPLETELY CHANGED THE WAY YOU ENGAGE WITH OUR CONTENT, IT'S INTUITIVE, AMAZING AND 100% FREE!

CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT



Happily sponsored by Cabrinha and ambassadors for Surfears

TECHNIQUE

WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE

Crikey! Just time to sneak a couple more moves in before the calendar clocks into next year. Holidays are just around the corner, so if you're not overindulging in mince pies, battling through the high street or immersing yourself in less salubrious activities, then maybe, just maybe, there could be the opportunity for a covert strike mission to the coast or a well earned trip overseas. Whichever it is, we're wrapping 2024 up with a couple of crackers for you! Why not put some tinsel on your pop to toeside and make it sparkle with a tweaked grab. Nothing beats dressing up a move you've already got down, and this is no exception. The final move of 2024, Yikes. It's a follow up to the very popular twin tip duck tack. Our present to you, a little stocking filler, get yourself all the way round, tied up in bows with the twin tip upwind 360.

We hope you all have a wonderful time, see you next year:)
Festive hugs C&K

New 2024 clinic calendar up on:
<http://www.ckperformanceclinics.co.uk>



1 / HOW TO POP TO TOESIDE WITH A TWEAKED GRAB



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

2 / HOW TO TWIN TIP UPWIND 360



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

HOW TO POP TO TOESIDE WITH A TWEAKED GRAB ▶

Kite: Moto X 8m

Board: XO 133

If you're already a happy popper and relish the opportunity to give your fins a breath of fresh air whilst spinning your board around and stomping it to toeside, then this move is for you. Popping to toeside is already fully fun and functional, but when you add on a cheeky grab and a styled-out tweak, it transforms the normal into something more dynamic, stylish and fresh.

The plan is to grab the nose of the board, either on the tip or around the fin on your heelside edge. This will still allow you to bring your board around to toeside but with some icing on top. And then, for extras, a big plump cherry on top, you'll bone out your rear leg as you bring the board through. A tasty treat, if ever there was one.

Now grab and tweak apart; the main difference between this and your daily pop to toeside will be height. Typically, allowing your fins a quick gulp of air is all you need to get around. However, you'll need a bit more pop to give yourself the space and time to add the embellishments. This also means that you won't be landing toeside on an edge; you'll be landing far more of the wind on a flat board before carving back onto your edge. And finally, everything in moderation. You need to pop a bit more, or you can go bananas. The choice is yours, but to start with, may we suggest giving it just a bit more than you already do.

Right, that's enough for our waffle. Let's see how you get the extra pop and how to coordinate the grab and tweak!



POP APPROACH PIC A.

There's more to a bigger pop than just flexing your quads. Your approach is responsible for much of it. To get more from your stamp, you will need to bear away before carving up. As alluded to above, start with just a little bit; you're not aiming for the moon. By approaching on an edge and then turning the board off the wind, you have three potential advantages.

Firstly, you'll accelerate. Whether this benefits you will depend on the conditions. If you're hanging on for grim death, adding a few knots isn't going to help much. However, if you're comfortably powered and it's perfect learning conditions, speeding up will liven up your board, making it happier to pop.

Secondly, as you bear away, your kite drops slightly deeper (more downwind of you) in the window. This means you'll have some downwind pull to pop against,



which will help you land with momentum.

Finally, by bearing away, you can carve hard without turning fully into wind and grinding to a halt.

This is all good and well, but your position needs to be spot on to reap the rewards of bearing away. Get your hips back so that you have more weight on your rear foot. This puts you over the carvey rockered tail of your board. Position your kite just above 11 or 1 o'clock. Centre your hands on the bar. Now look at Karine; her weight is back, her hands are centred, the kite is nicely around 11, and her bar is trimmed within reach. She's come in on an edge and then softened her legs to bear away!

CARVE PIC B.

Having borne away, you now need to carve back up onto your edge. Your aim is to do so without pulling



on the bar. If you do, the kite will pull you and won't allow you to get a good pop. Drop your bum, bury your heels and get back onto your edge as quickly as you can with your weight staying slightly back. Doing this, you'll get tension in your lines from the carve, not by pulling against the bar! In the pic, you can see that Karine has dropped her weight and is back on her edge, carving forcefully upwind. She hasn't sent her kite, and she's not pulled the bar in.

STAMP & RELEASE PIC C.

As soon as you've got your edge engaged and are carving, it's time to pop. You're going for full extension off the water, so give it the beans and stamp away hard off your rear leg, through your heel, extending up as you go. As you do, release your front



hand; you will need it soon. Looking at Karine, she's fully extending her pop, stamping hard. She's released her front hand, and because her weight is slightly back, the nose of her board is pointing skyward. Also, look at her bar. If anything, she's actually pushed the bar out a touch to stop the kite pulling her off her edge.

GRAB PREP PIC D.

Now that you're off the water, you can't hang about. It's all about getting everything into position so that you can grab. Lift your front knee to bring your board's nose up towards you. This will also bring the nose into the wind, which will help with the switch to toeside. Look where you want to grab and reach towards it with your front hand. Karine has her eyes



on the prize - in her case, it's the heelside fin. She's lifted her front knee and is reaching down with her front arm. Her bar is still out.

Grab & Tweak Pic E.

The money shot. Grab the board with your front hand and pull the nose up towards your bum, flexing your knee to get it as close as possible. With a good hold on the nose, you can bring your back leg through, rotating your hips forward to help. Bone your rear leg, pushing your foot away from you, extending your leg down whilst pushing the board around. While doing this, bring your bar back onto the sweet spot for some support. Hold as long as you dare... Here, Karine has pulled the nose of the board under her derriere, pushed her rear foot away and through,



F

turned the board downwind and got her bar on the sweet spot. She's now looking down to see where and when she'll land...

RELEASE PIC F.

Depending on your pop and kite position, the time you have for grabbing will vary. A higher kite matched with more pop will give you more time, but even then, it's not a jump, so it'll only be a few "frames" long. As soon as you feel that weightlessness abandons you it's time to prepare for landing. Release your grab so that the board can drop under you. Karine sees that she'll be landing soon, so let's go off her board.



G

Undercarriage Down Pic G.

It's important to land tail first as you don't want the new nose to dig in, so you need to do this early enough. Once you release, let the board swing under you and reach for the bar with your free hand. Karine is focused on where she'll land. She's released her grab and lets the board drop under her so that she'll have a stable landing platform while reaching for the bar.

Stomp It Pic H.

With your board swing under you and your front hand back on the bar, you can stomp it. Aim to land tail



H

first with the board pointing downwind. The longer you hold the grab, the more likely it is that you'll land with your weight slightly on your heels. If so, just get balanced and then carve back onto your toeside edge. It's also likely that your kite sneaked up a touch during your grab. Now, with your front hand back on the bar you can give a little tweak down on the bar to put the kite back where it belongs for some forward pull. Here, Karine lands tail first with her kite around 11:30, weight slightly on her heels (she held the grab for as long as possible), and she'll now carve back onto her toeside edge. Jobs a good'un!



TOP TIPS

Build up to this by first trying bigger pops to toeside without adding the grab. Once you get comfy with you take off and landing, you can add the grab and then the tweak.

Same as with most pop tricks, you can start with the kite a bit higher to help give you more time. This will impact your landings, as you won't have as much forward momentum, but it'll certainly help with the learning.

Do get used to the idea and feeling of landing off the wind, in preference to turning all the way to your toeside edge. With big pop, landing on your edge

will be tricky, whilst landing off the wind will be way more stable.

Excellent. Check out the sequence for a step-by-step walkthrough and the video for a real-time look at what's going on.

COMMON PROBLEMS

The most likely problem you'll experience is the kite drifting up too much whilst attempting this. At best, it'll kill all your speed for a smooth landing. At worst it'll bull you back off balance. Make a real effort to take off using your pop. It's too tempting to drift the kite and wait for some lift, but you'll never get the kite forward again if you do this.

Suppose you're finding it challenging to grab the board. This often results from trying to lift both legs to get the board near you. Leave your back leg extended from take-off and only bring your front knee up.

If you're landing too much on your heels and falling back, it's because you've drifted the kite. Start with it a tad lower and leave the bar out during the grab.



HOW TO TWIN TIP UPWIND 360 ▶

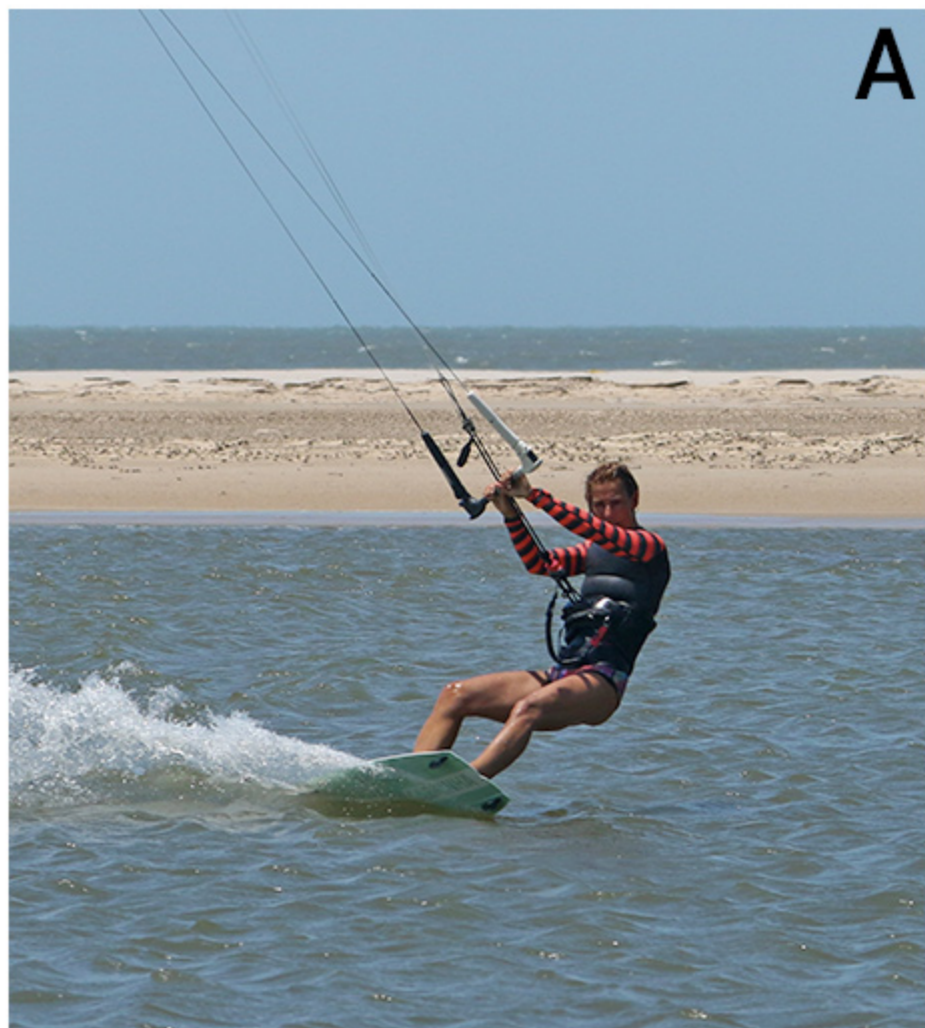
The last move of 2024! This is a classic strapless move, favourably adopted by the foiling community, and has a place in every twin tipper box of tricks. Moreover, if you've nailed the twin-tip duck tack, the carving upwind 360 is the flowing follow-up you never realised you needed. Still, you so do:) You'll use the skills you already have from the duck tack to get yourself up and through the wind, and you'll also need to call on your down loop transition from our learning to loop series, as it's the only way to come out of this beauty and carry on as if nothing happened!

Let's crack on. The first three moments that we'll look at are the same as for the duck tack, so you should be happy with these! However, we will go through them again as a little refresher.

APPROACH PIC A

First off, check that you have plenty of space. You'll loop the kite to come out of this, so you need lots of room.

Your approach needs speed, as you have a long way to go. This doesn't mean you should be blatting, but you don't want to go slowly. You must also get weight on both feet to carve up through the wind. There's still more on the back foot, but make sure you have some on the front foot, too. You must get the kite up to 12 and dump some power to carve into the wind. Looking at Karine in the photo, she is approaching on a gentle edge, so she has some speed. Her hips and shoulders are closed, parallel to the board's centre line, putting weight onto both feet. She drifts her kite



up towards 12 and feathers her bar out so the board starts to turn upwind.

DROP & CARVE PIC B

As the kite rises, you need to drop your weight low, sinking as much of your heel side edge into the water whilst hinging your hips to keep your upper body upright. Drive the board upwind, turning the board rather than twisting your body. Dropping your weight and carving upwind will increase tension on your lines. As such, you'll need to let the bar out further so the kite doesn't lift or pull, preventing you from carving further. As Karine drops and carves, her hips are still parallel to the board's centre line. She's still



steering the kite up, but it has broken at the waist so that she can push the bar out.

KEEP CARVING PIC C

You need to keep carving so that you turn your board's nose through the wind's eye. You aim to keep the kite moving slowly, tracing the edge of the window so that it passes through 12 o'clock without pulling you. What you do here will vary depending on wind strength, how quickly you move the kite, or even the sweet spot position. You don't want to get lifted, and you don't want to get wet. If you have a lot of power or moved the kite too quickly, you'll need to sheet out further. If you steer the kite slowly,



C



D



E

you can squeeze the bar in a touch. This will give you just enough support to continue to carve, driving against the board so that it passes through the wind. Karine is upright, still steering her kite softly across, and now that it's at 12, she pulls gently on the bar for support whilst continuing to carve on her heels.

OK, so far, so familiar. From here on, it's all new and very different...

KEEP CARVING PIC D

Perhaps it's worth starting this part by pointing out the difference between this move and its predecessor, the duck tack. At this point, in the duck tack, you would be shifting your weight forward to step the board through eventually. Here, however, your goal is to carve the

the tail will slide out, and it's game over. You need to shift your hips and weight back a touch. This way, you can push your back foot away from you, which will drive the board that extra bit further. To make this possible, you also need some support from the kite, which should be drifting just past 12. Pull the bar in gently for support to drive the board around. You can see that Karine has shifted her weight back. The nose of her board has lifted, and she is carving off her tail. Karine has pulled her bar in touch for support but continues to steer the kite slowly back as her board turns through the wind.

AND CARVE SOME MORE PIC E

You need to get the board facing back from where

you came. This may sound like fool's gold, but it is possible. To keep the carve going, you need support and some pull. To achieve this alchemic combo, your kite must be pulled from the side of the window, the opposite side from which it started. As such, you must steer the kite further while supporting yourself and driving against your back foot. Look at Karine; she's still carving; she's feathered her bar out but is steering her kite back with her rear hand. This helps pull her further around whilst giving her support. You can see that there's still a plume of water chasing her around. It's a sure sign that she's carving.

It's worth noting that this is not the time to pull your bar in. You'll leave the water and spin into a low-back roll if you do!



PULL THE TRIGGER PIC F

If all has gone well up to this point, you've officially got as far as you can without mentioning the loop word. You've gone through the wind, carved as far as possible, and steered your kite back into the rear side of the window, keeping yourself dry and moving the board whilst staying in contact with the water. You now require the kite to pull you the rest of the way around your 360, and there's no better way than to loop the kite. The good news is that as your kite is now quite far back in the window, the loop is a continuation of the steering and can be executed without too much power. With the bar where it is in relation to the sweet spot, you can call on your looping skills, pulling hard on the rear hand and pushing away



with fury on the front hand. This is a moment to which you need to commit. Looking at Karine, you can see that her weight is back, and her board is still carving because she's given it the full Monty on the bar. As a result, the kite pulls her back, and then it loops...

FOLLOW THE PULL PIC G

.. it pulls you down and around. As with all loops, you need to be ready, and in this case, being ready means having your weight back and the kite back in the window. This means that the power comes low and slow, and you can resist it, follow it and use it to your advantage. Here, Karine has her weight back, which holds the nose of her board up, meaning that she carves around on the tail and follows the kite.



Note how she's still got the bar on full lock.

BREATHE & LEVEL PIC H

As you come around, follow the kite until you can carve back onto your heels to finish the move. Once you are on your heels, it's much the same as exiting a downloop transition. You must let the bar out so the kite can breathe and rise. Then, level the bar to stop the kite from looping and aim the kite in the direction in which you want to go. Moreover, as you've carved 360 and the kite looped with you, you won't have a twist in your lines to prove that anything happened! To finish off, Karine lets the kite breathe and levels her bar so that she can carve back up onto her heelside edge and claim the move.



TOP TIPS & COMMON PROBLEMS

We'll mix the two for this move as they go very much hand in hand.

OK, we're going back to the beginning and repeating that you want plenty of space. So do check that the coast is clear. When your kite loops, it can scythe low across the water as it comes around!

The timing of your loop is critical. Too early, and you risk being pulled onto your back or, worse still, launched into an involuntary back roll kite loop.

Err on the side of caution and loop late. If you loop too late, you'll get pulled low and bury the nose. The good news is that if this happens, you just need to go a bit earlier.

Get used to moving the kite for support. You'll be accustomed to pulling in on the bar for support if you've nailed the duck tack. If you do that here, you get lifted off the water, and it won't be a 360 carving.

Brilliant; check out the sequence and then watch the video for the whole experience.

Have a great time, enjoy the moves and happy holidays. C&K





LIEUWE X THE WINDSEEKERS

WORDS QUINTY VAN GEMERT
PHOTOS ARIS GIANNOUKOS

When the Red Sea's vibrant energy meets Dutch design's precision, magic happens! The Windseekers and Lieuwe Boards have teamed up to create the Falcon Red Sea—a stunning Big Air board inspired by the Red Sea's crystal-clear waters and dynamic movement.

Find out more about this collaboration [here](#).

When the Red Sea's vibrant energy meets Dutch design's precision, extraordinary things happen!

The Windseekers Red Sea, based in Egypt, and Lieuwe Boards, from the Netherlands, decided to join forces. This collaboration tells the story of the vibrant energy of the Red Sea and the precision and craftsmanship of Dutch design. The partnership resulted in a board that is not just stunning but also one of the best Big Air boards on the market—the Falcon Red Sea.

The inspiration behind this custom-designed board comes from the beautiful Red Sea in Egypt, a destination loved by many kitesurfers and the home base of The Windseekers. The Windseekers is a travel agency specialising in kite safaris on the Red Sea, where they will take you on an adventure along the islands of the Red Sea while staying on a luxurious yacht where every detail is flawlessly arranged.

The Falcon Red Sea reflects the beauty of the Red Sea. The turquoise colours reflect the crystal clear waters and vibrant marine life, while the abstract shapes represent the ocean and wind movement. The board captures the dynamic movements of the Red Sea, from the deep blues to the white sands—it's all there.

But this collaboration is more than just the aesthetics. The Windseekers and Lieuwe Boards are known for their commitment to performance and quality. Lieuwe Boards has spent years developing kiteboards and is an expert on the craftsmanship of building kiteboards.

" THEY WILL TAKE YOU ON AN ADVENTURE ALONG THE ISLANDS OF THE RED SEA WHILE STAYING ON A LUXURIOUS YACHT WHERE EVERY DETAIL IS FLAWLESSLY ARRANGED. "





**" THIS PARTNERSHIP MARKS AN EXCITING STEP
IN THEIR MISSION TO CREATE UNFORGETTABLE
KITESURFING EXPERIENCES. "**

The Falcon has an ultra-light carbon design with great comfort and control. It gives insane levels of speed, pop and energy without the usual disadvantages of a carbon board. Whether in choppy oceans or riding through 40 knots, the Falcon Red Sea offers precisely what you need while riding in style.

For The Windseekers, this partnership marks an exciting step in their mission to create unforgettable kitesurfing experiences. By teaming up with Lieuwe Boards, they've created a design that complements and enhances their trips.

Want to give it a try? You should! Investing in a new board is a decision worth careful consideration. That's why we invite you to test the Falcon Red Sea yourself. Contact the Windseekers or Lieuwe Boards to find a test centre nearby and give the Falcon a test!

Get in touch or read any of the many testimonials about the Falcon board online at www.lieuweboards.com

TRIED & TESTED

The IKSURFMAG Test Team has been busy testing some of the hottest new gear, and their reviews are here! This issue features the Ozone Enduro 7m, Ride Engine Carbon Elite Hyperlock, MYSTIC Haze Hoodie, Prolimit - Flare Free-X 6/4 and ION Amaze Amp 5/4 Front Zip. Ready to dive in? Turn the page and check out Tried & Tested Issue #108!

RIDER SANTIAGO CISNEROS
PHOTO JULI CRUZ



WORDS & PHOTOS
THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM

BRAND OZONE

MODEL ENDURO

SIZE 7M

YEAR 2025

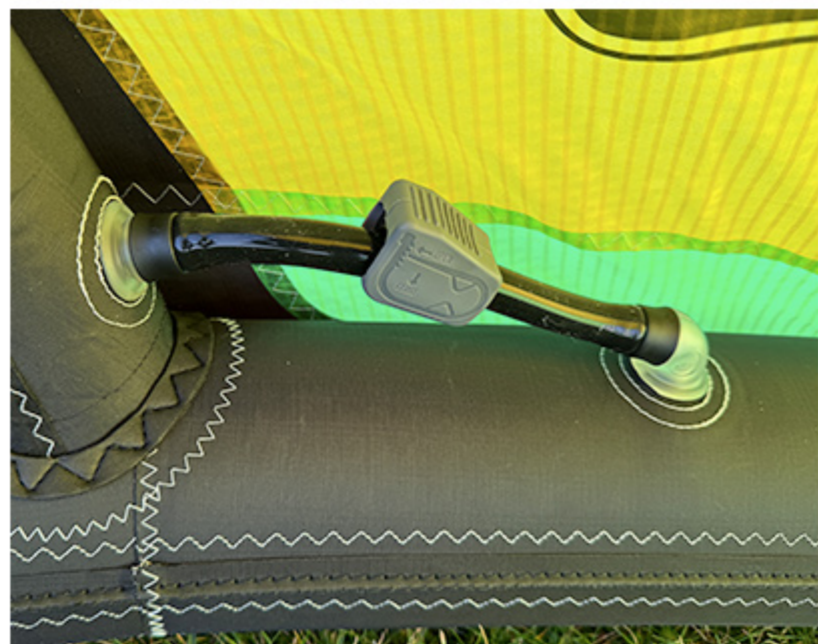


"BOOSTING BIG AIRS, FREERIDING, FOILING, WAVES, AND EVEN FREESTYLE ARE ALL ON THE TABLE WITH THIS KITE."



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS, [CLICK HERE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, [CLICK HERE](#)



AT A GLANCE

The Enduro has been part of the Ozone lineup for a while now; it's a three-strut do-it-all machine aimed at riders of all abilities. Great for boosting, easy to fly, dynamic in the waves and decent for throwing freestyle tricks, it is an all-around performer and has been one of Ozone's most popular kites to date. The key to its versatility is the Variable Bridle Geometry that lets you tune the bridle to get the kite to fly differently according to the discipline you want.

With three settings, the freestyle option lets the kite sit a little further back in the window, producing constant power and giving you slack after the pop to perform tricks. The big air/freeride setting is in the middle and pulls the kite a little further forward in the window, allowing it to fly quickly for boosting big air. Lastly, the wave setting pulls it further forward, allowing the kite to drift and sit at the front of the window with less pull, allowing you to carve lines on the waves.

New for the V5 Enduro is a new bridle system inspired by the hugely popular Vortex big air kite. It's a 16-point design

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND RIDE ENGINE

MODEL ELITE CARBON TYPE 1 HYPERLOCK

YEAR 2025



" I AM CONFIDENT
THAT IF IT FITS
YOU, YOU'LL FALL
IN LOVE WITH IT
JUST LIKE I HAVE "



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS,
CLICK [HERE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE,
CLICK [HERE](#)



AT A GLANCE

Ride Engine has been championing harnessed innovation and development for some time now. Many moons ago, they were the first company to explore the possibilities of a rigid shell harness, a tech that is now pretty much synonymous in the harness industry.

Next, they focused on the webbing straps and the way we connect the spreader bar to the harness with the Unity system, which featured the Unity Ladder Lock composite "strap" concept and the Unity Spreader bar.

For 2025, they have taken that development even further with what might just be the pinnacle of harness design. The new Hyperlock system will be introduced as the next evolution in harness and spreader bar integration.

This new system features four ratchet buckles, two on each side. If you've ever used ski boots, it's a similar system, but it's been designed to withstand the stresses and strains of saltwater use. In addition to this new Hyperlock design, the rest of the harness has been tweaked, too.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



BRAND MYSTIC

MODEL HAZE HOODIE

YEAR 2025

"IT'S WARM,
WINDPROOF, AND
DESIGNED WITH
THOUGHTFUL
DETAILS"



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS,
CLICK [HERE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE,
CLICK [HERE](#)



AT A GLANCE

Anyone who gets in the water often knows the value of a good neoprene hoodie, and Mystic's Haze Hoodie delivers everything you need to combat that extra winter windchill, while looking good!

This 2mm layer is designed for practicality and can be worn over your wetsuit, making it an essential part of your cold-weather gear. The Haze is constructed from wind and water-resistant MX2 neoprene, providing a reliable barrier against the elements without feeling too bulky. I've previously tried other models that felt cumbersome while kiting and stopped using them because they generally felt so bulky that they didn't feel very safe to wear in an emergency.

The adjustable hood includes a water drain, ensuring you stay comfortable even when conditions get rough. One of the standout details is the spreader bar hole, allowing you to wear it seamlessly while hooked into your harness.

In addition to its technical features, the hoodie is secured with an elastic waist strap to keep it in place during your session.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND ION

MODEL AMAZE AMP 5/4 FRONT ZIP

YEAR 2025

" WELL-THOUGHT-
OUT FEATURES
THAT MAKE LONG
SESSIONS IN COLD
WATER EASILY
BEARABLE! "



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS,
CLICK [HERE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE,
CLICK [HERE](#)



AT A GLANCE

I recently received the ION Amaze Amp 5/4 Front Zip wetsuit, and what better time to test it than during Storm Darragh! As a long-time fan of ION wetsuits, I was excited to try their latest model. What immediately stood out was the wetsuit's Max_Flex outer lining, offering 30% more stretch compared to standard materials. I couldn't even understand how that was possible as I had tested the previous model and was already impressed with it. This extra flexibility is focused on key areas like the chest, shoulders, and neck, guaranteeing a full range of motion. Paired with the Hot_Stuff 2.0 thermal lining on the front and the Plasma_Plush 2.0 lining on the back, you get a combo that can't beat the warmth, wind-chill protection, and quick-drying functionality. The wetsuit also has seamless shoulders, fused edges, and flexibly taped seams, ensuring safety and comfort. It is made with low-density I_Foam neoprene, incorporating oyster shell powder for peak heat retention and eco-friendliness. The Eco_Stretch material from recycled nylon waste highlights ION's commitment to sustainability, which we're a bit fan of.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND PROLIMIT

MODEL FLARE FREE-X 6/4

YEAR 2025

" I REALLY ENJOYED HOW EASY IT WAS TO PUT THIS SUIT ON AND TAKE OFF, WHICH, AS WE ALL KNOW, IS A MASSIVE BONUS "



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS, [CLICK HERE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, [CLICK HERE](#)



AT A GLANCE

After what seemed like a mild autumn here in the UK, we suddenly had some proper wintry weather and a sprinkle of snow. This seemed the perfect time to test the new Prolimit Flare Steamer suit! However, I have never used a 6/4 before and frankly expected something super thick and cumbersome.

However, the Flare wetsuit is not cumbersome in any way; it is, of course, a winter suit with a lovely 6 mm NaturePrene2 through the body but 4mm on the arms and legs, making it quite flexible and not bulky at all. Prolimit has announced that going forward, all their wetsuits will be neoprene-free and will use NaturePrene2 material. NaturePrene2 is a biobased rubber derived from FSC-certified rubber trees. You can find a lot of detailed information on the material on the Prolimit website, but from my point of view, it is a fantastic step forward in wetsuit technology.

ON THE WATER

Once on, the stretch and flexibility for a winter suit are excellent, and it is very easy to put on, mainly because the

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



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!

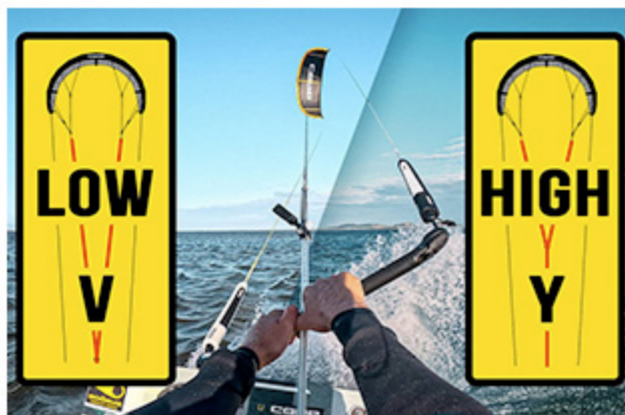
MOVIE NIGHT

#1

LOW V OR HIGH Y | WHAT IS BEST & COMPATIBLE // KITEBOARDING

Steven Akkersdijk talks about the high Y versus low V split. In this video, Steven tests both setups, covering kite handling, steering, and compatibility, helping you decide between playful turns or stable power control!

1586 votes

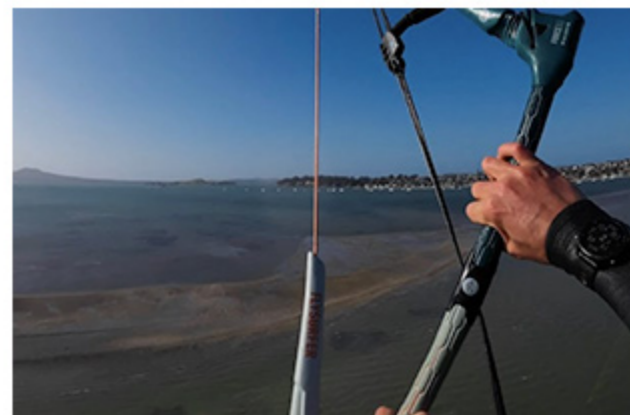

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2

I JUMPED OVER 500M DOWNWIND!!

We had a feeling this video would be a popular one amongst our readers! Landing at #2 Hugo Wigglesworth covers 586 meters downwind with an incredible 72 seconds of airtime. Stop whatever you're doing and watch this!

582 votes


[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3

KITEBOARDING ON THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS IN CANADA

Landing at #3, it's Steven Akkersdijk again, and this time, he takes on the stunning Magdalen Islands in Canada! Think flatwater lagoons, epic landscapes, and all the wind and water you could dream of!

569 votes


[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4

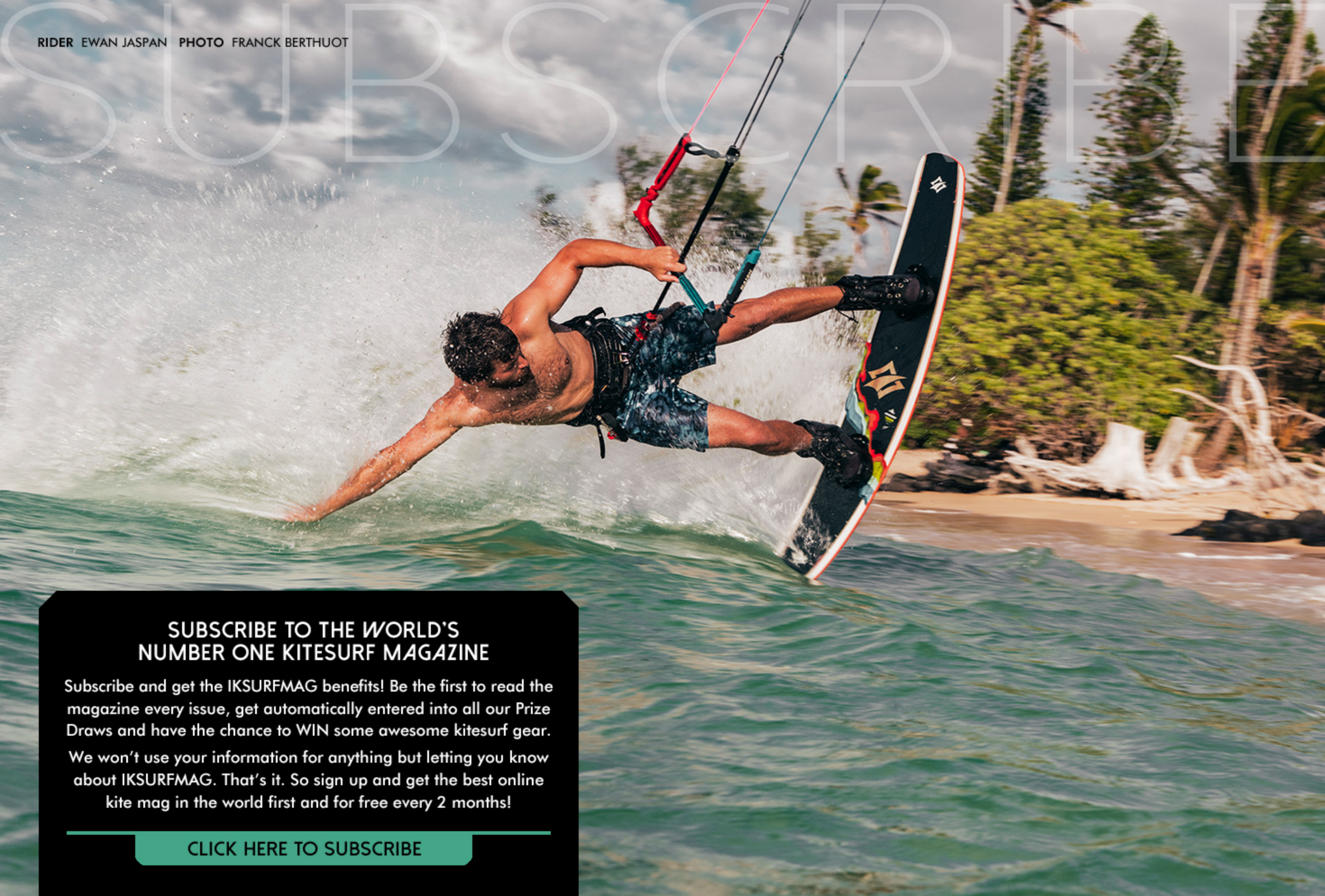
DON'T MAKE THIS TAKE OFF MISTAKE

Landing at #4 is 'Get High with Mike!' In his latest vlog, Mike breaks down a common takeoff mistake and shares expert tips to help you nail it every time. Tune in for invaluable advice and take your skills to a new level!

528 votes


[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

RIDER EWAN JASPAN PHOTO FRANCK BERTHUOT



SUBSCRIBE TO THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE

Subscribe and get the IKSURFMAG benefits! Be the first to read the magazine every issue, get automatically entered into all our Prize Draws and have the chance to WIN some awesome kitesurf gear.

We won't use your information for anything but letting you know about IKSURFMAG. That's it. So sign up and get the best online kite mag in the world first and for free every 2 months!

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)