

Sydney party scene: December 26-31

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We farewell the Sydney to Hobart yacht race with bubbles and BBQs and then see in the New Year with a bang in this week's Insider Parties!



Sail with the Stars Boxing Day Bon Voyage

THERE'S nothing better than waking on Boxing Day knowing that the festive season is still going full pelt and heading off to a Boxing Day celebration. The Sydney to Hobart race is one of this city's most spectacular events and few of the invited could resist what would be one of the day's big winning parties - the chance to farewell Anthony Bell's Investec Loyalty and its celebrity crew.

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SHE is the short-priced favourite for the Sydney to Hobart, has won line honours in five of the past six years and holds the race record

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With the Pommeroy being poured for this brunch and some really imaginative savoury treats from Sonoma, guests including Gail Elliott, Joe Coffey, Kirk Pengilly, Layne Beachley, Camilla Franks and a very pregnant Sara Huegill were in a buoyant mood for the morning's formalities.

Star of the day was Bell and Kelly Landry Bell's beautiful baby daughter, Charlize, who had just enjoyed her first Christmas.

With the Loyalty's fundraising efforts going to the Humpty Dumpty Foundation and the children's charities it supports, it was also one of the feel good events of the day.

All who had been there felt that they had a small hand in the yacht's eventual (after an international jury dismissed a protest against them) Sydney to Hobart win because so far all the good wishes bestowed on the yacht and her crew.

Wild Oats Sydney to Hobart Boxing Day BBQ

BOB Oatley couldn't have wished for a better send off at the Wild Oats Sydney to

The 250 strong crowd gathered to send his s super-maxi Wild Oats XI on its way and among the guests were a host of famous guests.

Guests tasted their way through all 11 wines including a brand new Pinot Noir from Victoria and an incredible spread from Hugos Catering, with chefs Pete Evans, Justin North, Sean Connolly, Lyndey Milan and Peter Kuruvita all putting in an appearance and giving the cuisine their seal of approval.

Seven's Mei & Kachie, and hot couple Daniel MacPherson and Zoe Ventoura, who was joined by her Mum Ruth Osborne also made it for the send off.



For the second year running Catriona Rowntree and husband James Petit were also there to hear Hobart Race veteran Gary Gietz regale the crowd with stories of the Race.

The big



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taste

Chicken & barley salad with avocado and grapefruit

Bid farewell to butter and embrace the creamy richness of avocados in this warm salad with poached chicken.

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