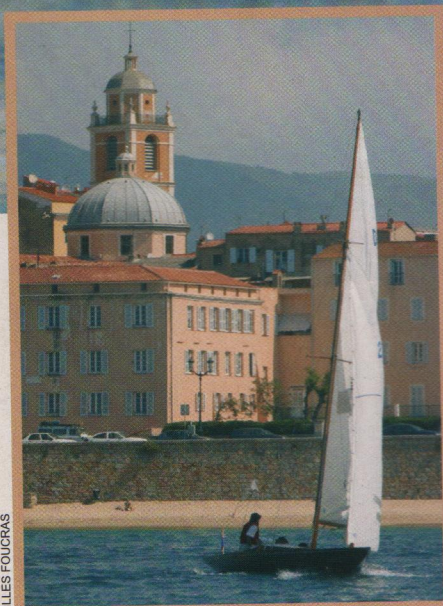


GILLES FOUCRAS

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The classic yachts bask in the evening sun; the horn signals the start of the following day's race and the fleet spreads out in the Gulf of Ajaccio



GILLES FOUCRAS

The Dragon *Elouan* ventures close inshore



GILLES FOUCRAS

Sailing these classics is thirsty work

flat water and steady thermals, or so they say. Day one was a disappointment – the airs were very light and it took the smaller boats most of the day to get around the 18-mile course. Day two came up trumps, however, and while the sea stayed calm, the wind picked up to a steady 12-15 knots – perfect sailing for the sturdy long-keeled classics and equally for the flighty Spirit of Tradition yachts that charged home hours before the rest of the fleet. Days three and four were sunny and windy, and according to