The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous celebrated its tenth anniversary in style. The event, which is held just before Christmas each year, was extended from its usual two days to a three-day programme, in honour of the anniversary. This year’s fleet consisted of the 50m Perseus built by Perini Navi in 2001; 42m Maverick II, built by Sterling in 1988; 40m Lady Arraya built by Oceanfast in 1990 and based in Thailand; 36m We Sang Sious built by King Yachts in Taiwan; the 74m Silver Zwei built in 2009; 53m Noble House built in 2005 by Sensation Yachts; 27m Major Affair built in 2007 by Sunseeker; and Pershing’s 24m Cavallino.

On the opening day the superyacht fleet gathered in Nai Harn Bay at the south end of Phuket island, in memory of the first Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, which was held there. Owners, VIP guests and captains were invited on board the beautiful Lady Arraya for the opening cocktail party. ‘It is a wonderful way to meet the other owners who are cruising in the region,’ said Philippe Chettou, Lady Arraya’s owner. ‘As a relatively new owner of a superyacht, I am keen to learn more about cruising in the region, and the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous provides a unique opportunity to do so. I just wish that more boats were taking part – but I am sure the event will continue to grow.’

Johnny Warrillow, owner of Maverick II, said, ‘We are here because it is a very friendly gathering of yacht owners in Phuket, a region that has an exciting future as a base in Asia.’ The relaxed and informal evening set the tone for the rest of the event.

The following day, the fleet cruised up the coastline in rally style. For those on board it was a grand tour of the scenic beaches that line the west coast of Phuket, and for the guests lucky enough to be on Maverick II if this was combined with a long lunch on the aft deck featuring local delicacies, accompanied by fine wines that perfectly suited the relaxed mood of the day. The final destination was Surin Bay, where the yachts anchored up in front of The Surin resort, the host sponsors for the event.

That evening, the ever-popular Feadship Boat Challenge was held poolside at The Surin. The combination of an opulent cocktail party combined with a fun-filled games programme engaged owners, guests and crewmembers. There was a real sense of rivalry among the owners, crew and guests making friends and enjoying the celebrations in Thailand.

words Suzy Rayment
photography Kevin Miller

After the dinner and dancing, the final evening finished with the traditional lighting of Lanna sky lanterns from The Surin’s beautiful private beach.

Eight superyachts anchored off Phuket for the event, which included Asia’s first formation cruise, directed by race director Andy Dowden.
competing yachts as they built and raced model yachts. Prizes were awarded for the fastest and the best-designed yachts. Add to all this excitement a spectacular sunset, cocktails and a delicious gourmet buffet – and it’s the sort of evening that makes for a lifetime memories.

Day two of the event was slightly different from previous years. As there was only one sailing boat in the fleet, the usual day of racing was replaced with a dramatic formation cruise up the coastline of Phuket. Following an exciting day on the water, owners and guests, including designer Philip Briand, were invited to attend the Boat International Media Gala Dinner at The Surin.

The social highlight of the three-day programme saw guests enjoy a delicious feast of culinary delights from east and west, and then dance the night away to a live band. ‘The event exceeded all my expectations,’ enthused Dr Herbert Wertheim, owner of Westport 105 Brain Power, and World Superyacht Award 2011 judge. ‘It was very worthwhile attending, and I met many owners who share my love of yachts.’

Perseus, currently on a world cruise, and having clocked up 20,000 nautical miles last year, changed her schedule to attend the Rendezvous. She received the ‘Spirit of the Rendezvous’ award given by Boat International Media in recognition of a yacht owner who has contributed ‘notable enthusiasm and spirit to the event’. On receiving the award and a bottle of Möet & Chandon, Perseus’s owner said, ‘We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, and are sure to be back.’

For those owners and guests who were still seeking action, it was off to the Rolling Stock Crew BBQ & Beach Party, which was held nearby at Surin Beach. Organisers Gordon Fernandes and Captain Charlie Dwyer led guests in toasting a successful Rendezvous with celebrations continuing into the small hours.

Koos Zitman, director of Feadship, reflected that ‘Feadship has been involved with this event for 10 years, and we are sure the association will continue. We believe in supporting the region and growing the superyacht industry in Asia.’

François van Well of Merle Wood & Associates, another proud sponsor of the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, said, ‘Boat International Media has done a great job in attracting more owners and large superyachts from all over the world to come to the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, making it the premier superyacht event in Asia.’

**Asia Superyacht Rendezvous 2011**

Will be held in Phuket, Thailand, from December 16 to 18.

[www.asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com](http://www.asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com)