

WINNERS OF THE COSTA SMERALDA LITERARY PRIZE ANNOUNCED

Literature, ecology, sustainability and blue innovation, the key words of the April 28th meeting with the winners of the three sections of the prize: Simone Panda, Sandro Carniel and The ISWEC Project

The first edition of the prize depicts an important opportunity to discuss the theme of the sea, to encourage its awareness, protection, and safeguarding. With this spirit, works of fiction and non-fiction have been selected to give rise to the fundamental intentions of the Costa Smeralda consortium.

PORTO CERVO, XX April 2018. - The jury for the Costa Smeralda Prize has announced today the winners of the first edition, confirming their awarding on April 28th in Porto Cervo, a day that hosts many events alongside the presence of important Italian cultural and scientific figures.

The honorary president of the jury, **Donatella Bianchi**, together with her fellow jurors; **Alberto Luca Recchi**, **Mario Tozzi**, **Alessio Satta** and the artistic director **Beatrice Luzzi**, announced the winners: for the narrative section, *Rais* di **Simone Perotti** (Frassinelli) and for the Essays, Oceans by **Sandro Carniel** (HOEPLI) and the project *ISWEC* conducted by the **Politecnico di Torino** and **Wave for Energy** for the Blue Innovation section.

"**Rais** is the story of a journey in time and space, with the sea and freedom as protagonists. An abandoned slave on an island, a cruel Ottoman pirate and a spy reveal to us the background of the international chaos provoked by the discovery of America, reminding everyone that taking hold of their destiny is possible. The sea thus becomes an opportunity for confrontation and moral reflection on each of us and on our own ability to make choices." Describes Alberto Luca Rab, who will deliver the prize to the writer Simone Perotti.

"**Oceans** provides a key to the fundamental disciplines related to the world's oceans in a simple and modern way, through short paragraphs introduced by an intriguing and symbolic premise. A reasoned



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synthesis regarding a vast matter that keeps sight of the passion to protect seas, backed by scientific knowledge. It has been awarded thanks to its clarity, with consistent scientific rigour, fully involving the reader. This essay takes a less 'traditional' angle and more of an amusing intellectual challenge with which everyone can enjoy." says Mario Tozzi who will deliver the prize to Sandro Carniel for the essay section.

"Wave for Energy in collaboration with the **Politecnico di Torino** has developed a device to produce energy using the sea's waves - titled **ISWEC** (Inert Sea Wave Energy Converter). It responds in an intelligent and innovative way, exploiting wave's energy, one of the most interesting sources of renewable energies available on our planet. The ISWEC technology, which looks like a small boat, also has a very low environmental and landscape impact because the installations can be placed at a sufficient distance from the coast in order to clear the visual impact." Says Alessio Satta, who will assign the award for the Blue Innovation Project.

The winners will receive an economic contribution and a work of art titled *The Diver*, created by artist **-Consiglia Marino**. To open the award ceremony, and with thanks to innovative monitoring and shooting techniques, there will be a short film uncovering footage of monk seals in Sardinia. In the **Mystery of the Mediterranean**, director Emanuele Coppola continues his personal battle to defend the fascinating and mysterious mammal that embodies all the wonders of our sea, with its weaknesses and fragility.

Environmental writer **Sergio Bambarén** will conclude the event alongside **Brando Quilici**, who will pay a special homage to his father **Folko Quilici**; one of the most influential environmental writers and scientific figures in the world. A special mention will also be given to **Rosalba Giugni**; president of Marevivo, for his thirty-year activities to defend the environment, to the student-winner of the literary competition **A Sea to Read*** with the same focus as the Costa Smeralda Prize, for students of the local schools, who are already involved in the project **Adopt a Beach**. *During Friday 20th, in fact, four classes of secondary schools from Arzachena and Abbiadori scoured the beaches of capricious, Pevero, La Celvia and Romazzino, collecting more than 40 kg of waste (mostly plastic and Aluminum). Part of the plastic will find new life in the work of **Giorgia Concao**, the artist who will decorate the setting of the Sala Smeralda del Cervo Tennis Club.*

The prize envisages two days full of events dedicated to the enhancement and protection of the marine environment, aimed at contributing, with a strong message, to the cultural, economic and touristic debate, already taking place on a global scale. The Costa Smeralda Consortium, the municipality of Arzachena, sponsors; Hotel Cala di Volpe and Castalia, and several local associations

have collaborated together to testify to the livelihood and commitment of a territory that intends to make a valuable contribution to the awareness required for better safeguarding of the sea.

The award ceremony will take place in Porto Cervo at 16.30 at the Sala Smeralda Cervo Tennis Club. "Authors, innovators, and personalities of the environment, literature and art will give testimonies around and for the sea, to raise creative acts and artistic performances in the broadest sense of the term, in an attempt to 'transform the world', by striking and marking the head and heart of those who participate on the spot or through the national and international media partners"- declares Artistic director **Beatrice Luzzi**.

NOTE

* A SEA TO READ

Thanks to a close collaboration between the Costa Smeralda consortium and the Arzachena municipality to encourage a greater commitment to defend the sea and its coasts, the prize provides a series of initiatives and collective mobilization of the territory and the communities that live in it. Among the main projects is 'A Sea to Read': a literary competition which will reward the most persuasive work among 100 school students in Arzachena and Abbiadori.

THE MARINE ADVISE DIVER

The works with which the winners will be awarded were made by the Neapolitan artist Consiglia Marino using Powertex techniques. The theme is that of the challenge of a vital impulse for those who plunge into the blue in search of emotion and knowledge but also bow to our sea, promise of protection of its fragile ecosystem.

The Costa Smeralda Consortium has been committed since its establishment in 1962 to safeguarding the environment and the sustainable development of a piece of Italian coast that the entire world envies. The consortium has created the literature prize, **to focus the attention of the public, the literary world, the political world and operators on the sea, an inestimable commodity**; a necessary element for climate regulation, a renewable energy supplier, raw material of



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