

# Salvador is destination for 10th South Atlantic race

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SAILORS competing in the 10th Heineken Cape to Bahia Yacht Race, also known as the South Atlantic Race, are to set sail next year for Salvador instead of Rio de Janeiro.

Competitors in the race, held every four years, are to leave Table Bay on January 4.

The change shortens the course by several hundred miles, which means the record of 12 days for completing the crossing will most likely be shattered.

The new destination has been chosen to eliminate the risk of yachts becoming becalmed near the end of the race.

The former route followed the trade winds to the island of Cabo Frio and then down to Rio de Janeiro.

"The frustrating part used to be the last 100 nautical miles," said race communications officer Ronelda Visser.

"There's little wind (around Cabo Frio) and the fleets would get stuck for several days. This route cuts out the frustrating part and the winds are steady."

Also, Salvador had a highly developed yacht basin. "They really wanted this race and made a lot of facilities available to host it," explained Visser.

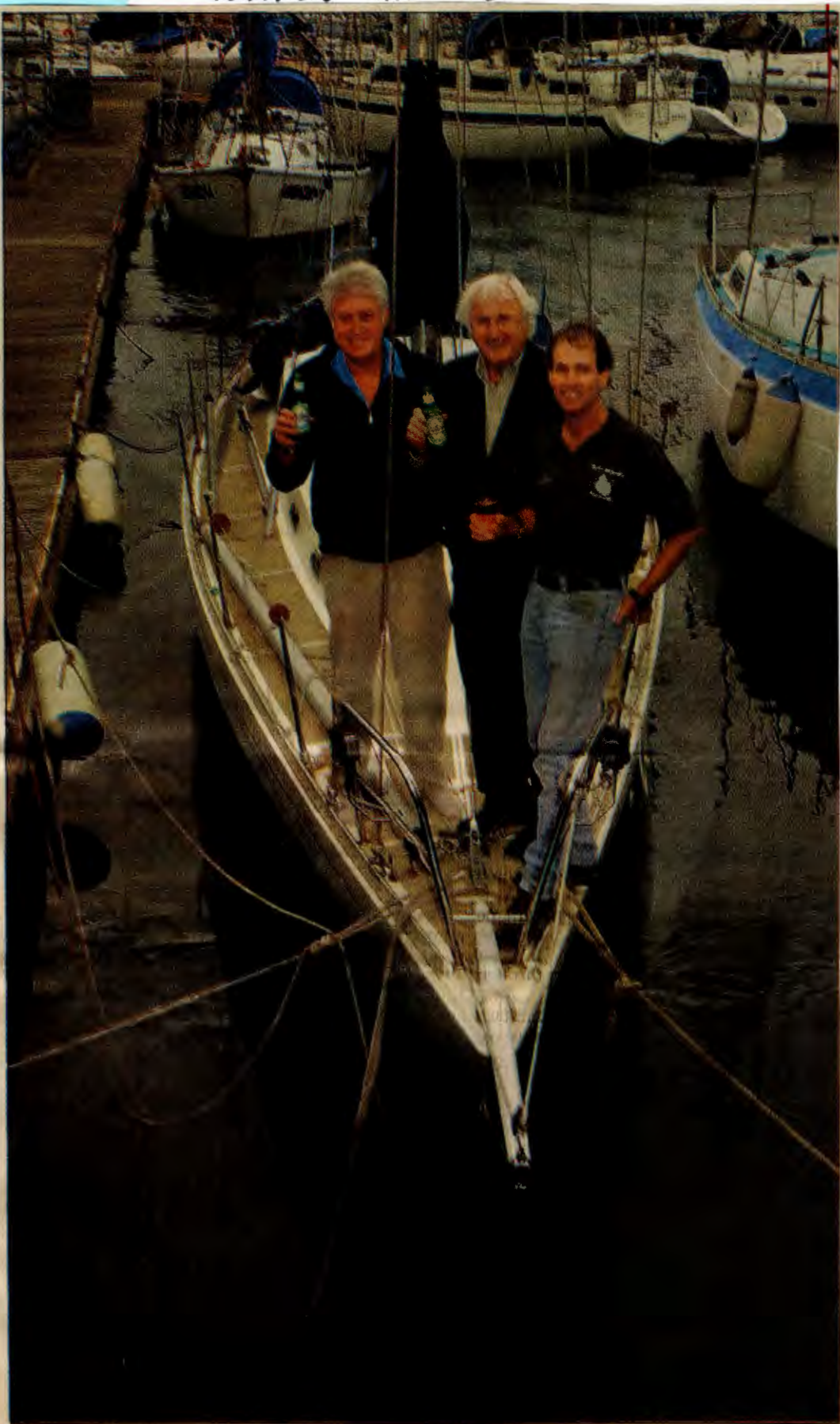
Another advantage was that the new route was 300 miles closer to the Caribbean.

Traditionally, after the race, many participants liked to cruise the Caribbean.

The race has also added a mini transat class, which includes yachts as small as 6.5 metres manned by one sailor for the 3 380-mile marathon. Previously, the smallest allowed were 12.2m yachts manned by a crew of three people.

Responding to concern expressed for the safety of solo sailors, Royal Cape Yacht Club president Teddy Kuttel said: "If people go out there on their own they must look after themselves."

Forty-two yachts have registered for the race, eight in the mini transat class.



**NEW HORIZONS:** Celebrating the announcement of the new route for the South Atlantic Race are (from left) John Martin, skipper of MTU Fascination, president of the Royal Cape Yacht Club, Teddy Kuttel and Rhett Goldswain, skipper of Auto Atlantic Thunderchild. *Picture: ALAN TAYLOR*