



BENETEAU

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PRESS RELEASE

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FIRST 40 WINS SYDNEY HOBART RACE



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MARION, SC, JANUARY 6, 2010: Beneteau USA is pleased to announce that First 40s have taken first and second overall in the IRC Division of the 2009 Rolex Sydney to Hobart Race. The victory comes fresh off the announcement of *Sailing World* Magazine awarding the First 40 with its Boat of the Year Award for Best Crossover.

Andrew Saies's First 40 *Two True* finished first overall in a fleet of 77 boats sailing from Sydney, Australia to Hobart, Tasmania under the IRC rating system. *Two True* took first overall among the 33 boats racing in the ORCI Fleet, as well. Additionally, the First 40 *Wicked*, owned by Mark Welsh, finished less than an hour behind *Two True* on corrected time to claim second overall in the IRC Division. The two boats completed the 628 nautical mile course in just under four days. Saies, who had previously owned a First 40.7, was impressed with the new boat's performance.

"A great boat, this new Beneteau," said Saies. "It's a fast boat, we had a strong belief that this boat was going to rate well and do ok in this event."

The new First 40 made its U.S. debut at the United States Sailboat Show in Annapolis this past October, and was designed by Farr Yacht Design to replace the First 40.7, which also won the Sydney to Hobart race in 2003.

To see full results for the 2009 Sydney to Hobart Race, visit rolexsydneyhobart.com.

For more information about the First 40 please visit Beneteauusa.com.

Beneteau USA, the American division of the world's largest sailboat manufacturer, builds hundreds of 31-50 foot production sailboats in Marion, SC and imports sailing and power yachts up to 58 feet in length from its parent company in France.

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