

**America**  
Length at  
water line:  
27.39m  
N.Y.Y.C.

# America's Cup returns to Europe

In 1851 the schooner *America* of the New York Yacht Club beat a 15-strong fleet from the Royal Yacht Squadron around England's Isle of Wight. Since that first race, only three nations other than the U.S. have laid claim to yachting's most prestigious trophy, with the latest, Switzerland, taking it back to Europe for the first time in more than 150 years

**Stars & Stripes**  
13.96m  
San Diego  
Y.C.



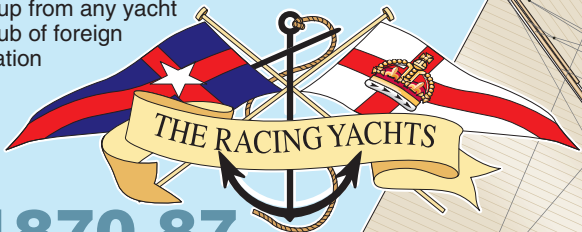
**1987**

**CONNER'S REVENGE**  
**Fremantle:**

**Dennis Conner**, first U.S. skipper to lose Cup in 1983, atones by winning it back from Australia at first attempt

**1851 AMERICA**

Open race for **100 Guinea Cup**. Most advanced yacht of her time, **America** – after which trophy was later renamed – shatters British self-confidence. **New York Yacht Club** later announces it will accept challenges for Cup from any yacht club of foreign nation



**1870-87**

**EARLY DEFENCES**

Venue: **New York**  
**N.Y.Y.C.** sees off variety of mainly British challengers during evolutionary phase in which size and type of boat varies greatly

**1893-1903**

**90-FOOTERS**

**New York**  
Largest and most impressive of all America's Cup yachts. Era totally dominated by U.S., which wins every race in five contests



**Reliance**  
27.32m  
N.Y.Y.C.

Largest sloop ever built, designed by Captain **Nathanael Herreshoff**, wins in 1903

**1920-37 J-CLASS BOATS**

Racing resumes after Great War under **Universal Rule** – boats have to conform to formula involving sail length, area and displacement to reduce size and costs involved in challenge

**1958 AGE OF 12 METRE**

In effort to revive Cup after World War II, N.Y.Y.C. allows rule to be relaxed to allow smaller and less expensive boats to compete

**Columbia**  
13.95m  
N.Y.Y.C.  
1958 winner



**1983 ACHILLES' KEEL**

**Newport:** After 132 years, longest winning streak in sporting history ends when **Alan Bond's Australia II** wins sudden-death 7th race

**Australia II**  
Royal Perth Y.C., 13.10m  
Revolutionary winged keel helps win victory



**Louis Vuitton Cup** – preliminary competition to weed out multiple challengers – established

© GRAPHIC NEWS Sources: America's Cup

**New Zealand**  
27.43m  
Mercury  
Bay B.C.

**Stars & Stripes**  
16.76m  
San Diego  
Y.C.



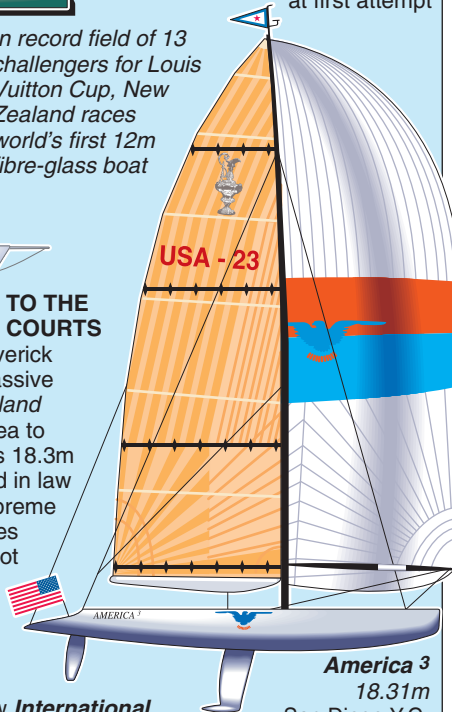
**1988 TO THE COURTS**

**San Diego:** Maverick challenge by massive 37.5m **New Zealand** loses battle at sea to Dennis Conner's 18.3m catamaran – and in law to New York Supreme Court, which rules mismatch was not illegal

**1992**

**CLASS OF '92**

**San Diego:** New **International America's Cup Class** of ultralight yachts – established to define valid challenge in law – contest Cup. **America 3** defeats Italian challenger **Il Moro di Venezia**



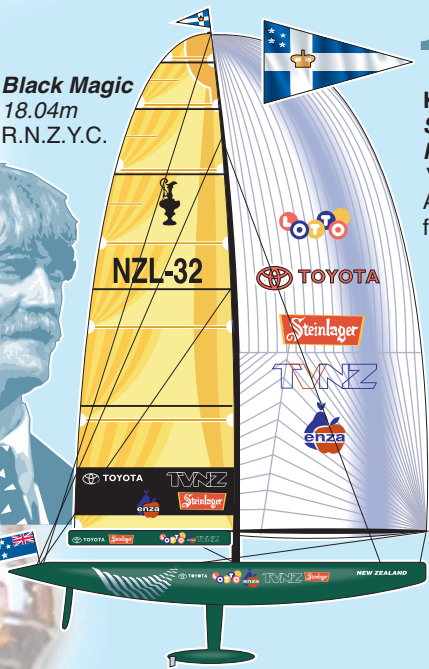
**America 3**  
18.31m  
San Diego Y.C.

**1995**

**KIWIS' TURN TO SHINE**

**San Diego:** Textbook campaign by **Peter Blake** demolishes Conner's **Young America 5-0** and brings America's Cup to New Zealand for first time

**Black Magic**  
18.04m  
R.N.Z.Y.C.



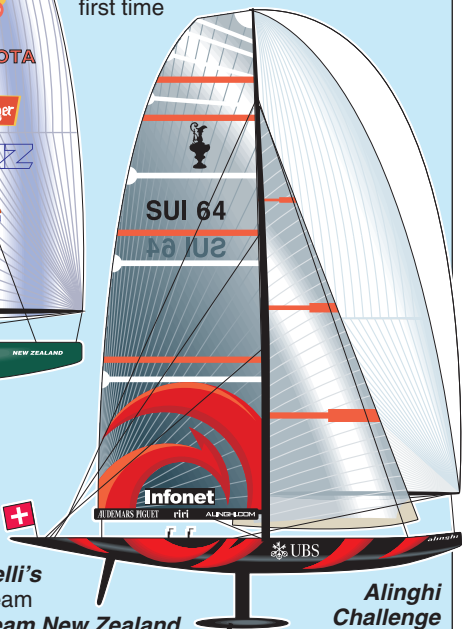
**2003**

**SWISS GLORY**

**Auckland:** **Ernesto Bertarelli's** Swiss **Alinghi** team sweeps away **Team New Zealand** – which had retained Cup in 2000 – in five consecutive races, becoming first Challenger to win trophy on its initial attempt

**2007**

**BACK TO EUROPE**  
**Team Alinghi** from landlocked Switzerland will defend Cup in Valencia, Spain



**Alinghi Challenge**  
18.00m, Société Nautique de Genève

