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WINTER 2009

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Cruising into 2009

This time of year signals a two-fold duty: first you have to see out the current year in style, and then you have to ensure the new year starts as you mean to go on. In this issue of *sea&i* we have both covered.

Trips abroad cover the ambit from Sydney to St Barth's and Mauritius to Mexico. All these areas are fantastic charter destinations, and as it has never been a better time to secure the yacht and charter dates of your choice, why not contact your CNI charter broker and treat your family to an early Christmas present?

Talking of presents, London-based Amber Aikens selects her recommendations for travel-sized treats to take on board, and world perfumery expert Roja Dove sniffs out the latest, greatest fragrances.

Also heady with the scent of success, the newly launched Xanadu and Salu invite you on board for a sneak preview.

With travel, gifts, fashion and design covered, all that remains is for all of us at CNI to wish you the best for the end of 2008, and a very happy new year to come.



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AMBER AIKENS

A love of all things beautiful was instilled in Amber from an early age thanks to a childhood spent in the Bahamas amid crystal-clear waters and golden sands. Now married to Michelin-starred chef Tom Aikens, Amber lives in the UK where she is an integral part of the London scene. Despite a glamorous lifestyle, Amber keeps it real and spent her honeymoon mackerel fishing off the coast of Cornwall while researching for her husband's latest cookbook. For this edition of **sea&i** she presents her favourite ideas for gifts to take travelling.



ROJA DOVE

As the world's sole professeur de parfums, who better than Roja Dove to present a selection of his favourite new scents for men and women? Gracing our Glam Femme and Pour Homme pages, Dove offers his expertise and insight honed over a lifetime of experience in the fascinating world of fragrance.



DOMINIQUE ALDER

Dominique Alder is a regular contributor to **sea&i**. In the past she has offered her tips on the most exclusive island idylls of the Caribbean and the Mediterranean; in this issue she dips her toes into some of the world's most spectacular pools to bring you the ultimate five.



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sea&i

Published by Camper & Nicholson's International, sea&i is a quarterly magazine for the world's most discerning travel connoisseurs – those who have made luxury travel a way of life. It celebrates the exceptional, the extraordinary, the priceless, the indulgent, the esteemed and the ultimate that the world can offer.

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Produced & printed by Camper & Nicholson's International

Front cover: Onboard the 30.2m Salu
Photography by Natalia Mlodzikowska

Publisher
Camper & Nicholson's International
8 avenue Jules-Crosnier
CH-1206 Geneva, Switzerland

Printed by Solutions In Ink Limited,
United Kingdom

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(sea&i scenes)

News from around the world of luxury yachting



A WINNING TEAM

Following the recent departure of Bob Saxon, former President of Camper & Nicholsons USA, Jillian Montgomery, CEO of CNI, is delighted to announce the appointments of Toby Walker as International Sales Director and Jeffrey Beneville as Director of Business Development for CNI.

Walker comes to the position of Sales Director following many years as a successful yacht broker and his new role will

see him working with CNI brokers globally. Montgomery comments, "We are delighted that someone with Toby's knowledge of the industry has chosen to join the management side of the business. His experience and understanding of the market will be invaluable to the continued growth of our company."

Walker currently has a couple of major construction projects under way — a 43m (161') and a 60m (197') yacht. Despite the managerial nature of his new role, Walker is

determined to maintain a hands-on approach. "It's important to me to continue to have a direct role in the brokerage process," he says. "I'll continue to work directly with my long-standing clients, but I now also have a key insight into all our operations worldwide. This means I can help ensure each and every one of our clients has the very best broker, matched to their unique needs."

Beneville, meanwhile, is a familiar face in yachting having notched up numerous sailing achievements including two America's Cup campaigns with Dennis Connor's Stars and Stripes. Additionally, he has competed in countless major Maxi championships, Newport-Bermuda Races, and the Millennium Cup aboard Georgia and Hyperion. Beneville owned one of the largest marine insurance brokerage firms for 22 years prior to selling his company. He will now be concentrating on developing new business opportunities and liaisons for CNI, primarily in the United States.

Thanks to their extensive experience working at CNI, not to mention the respect they have earned within the yachting industry in general, Walker and Beneville are ideal candidates for their new roles. Together they will continue to build on CNI's 200-year-old reputation as the acknowledged leader of the luxury yachting world.

MEMORIES OF MONACO

CNI's presence was stronger than ever during the 18th Monaco Yacht Show in September. Jillian Montgomery, CEO of CNI, comments "It has been an incredibly active Monaco Yacht Show, with lots of interest in the CNI yachts displayed as well as in the new ones presented by the shipyards. Although the question that was on everyone's lips was whether the market would remain buoyant given the US financial situation, there was no sign of the European side of the business slowing down, thanks to the current growth of the Eastern European market and beyond."

For the fourth consecutive year, CNI, in partnership with the Monaco Show's organisers, further made the event a worthy one by ensuring it was CarbonNeutral. By measuring the source and levels of greenhouse gases produced from the travel, electricity and waste of the exhibiting companies — as well as those of the yachts and stands — the energy expended can now be offset with dedicated environmental programmes.



The CNI social scene

As well as specialising in yachts, CNI also excelled on the social front at the recent Monaco Show.

On the eve of the opening day CNI set the ball rolling by hosting an evening at the Yacht Club de Monaco in association with Banque Jacob Safra SA. Maybach had its latest model on show, while noted marine photographer Kos Evans showcased her unique exhibition *Against the Elements*.

The following evening, CNI's annual Gala Dinner, in association with the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority, and in collaboration with Cartier and Maybach, took place at the Monte Carlo Beach Hotel in the company of 250 select clients and friends.

CNI then concluded a busy week of sales and events with a cocktail party on board the 46m (150') Leopard 'Pure One', partnering with Van Cleef & Arpels and Timbers Resorts.

Eric Kroll

SAG Harbor

On a particularly stunning Fall Saturday, CNI and the New York based non-profit organisation CampInteractive held a fun brunch for potential clients and donors on board the 31m (103') Cheoy Lee Blue Sky. Captain Ollie Lee and his crew were gracious, the yacht was immaculate and the drinks flowed (thanks to Remy Martin's generosity). What is more, Plum TV featured Blue Sky, CNI and CampInteractive on its local channel in the Hamptons.

The event was a great success in raising awareness for the non-profit organisation CampInteractive. CNI has been working with CampInteractive now for some years with the aim of raising confidence and building new skills in at-risk youths.



CNI and St Barth's Yacht Club

At this year's St Barth's Bucket, CNI made a commitment to the St Barth's Yacht Club and sailing school to purchase a fleet of new Vanguards from Laser. These have now been delivered to the sailing school and are flying the CNI logo. They are being used to teach local children how to sail – part of the obligatory school curriculum in many parts of France and its dominions.

Top students from CampInteractive are also able to benefit from the dinghies. The St Barth's Yacht Club fully supports the first CampInteractive sailing programme that takes place at the end of the summer in St Barth's, and they will be providing sailing tuition and island transport for the CampInteractive students. Preparations are also under way for a mini-Bucket Race during the St Barth's Bucket Regatta in March 2009.

FORT LAUDERDALE INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

From the 30 October to 3 November, superyachts rubbed fenders with fast production boats at the 49th Fort Lauderdale Boat Show — the largest boat show in the world. CNI's Fort Lauderdale office, at the Bahia Mar Marina, was exceptionally well placed at the centre of the show, and this year CNI had two further areas to welcome clients: one on the Face Dock of the show and the other at the Las Olas Marina.

Yachts from the CNI fleet included the 48m (157') CRN Kanaloa, the 45.72m (150') Vita from Trinity, the 33.4m (109.7') Lady J from Mangusta, the 32.9m (108') Musbe Dreamin from Westship, the 32m (105') Pacific Mermaid from Johnson & Winter, the 31.4m (103') Blue Sky from Cheoy Lee, the 25m (82') Ellen Louise from Horizon, and the 22m (72') A-Rate from Lazzara.



Fort Lauderdale fun

Work hard, play hard was certainly the motto for CNI crew this year. Following excellent summer charters, and in anticipation of a busy winter ahead, CNI and Dockwalk held their fourth



annual pre-Fort Lauderdale Boat Show crew bash, A Crewed Affair, for all the hard-working captains, chefs, deckhands and stewardesses.

The captain and crew community descended on this popular event in great numbers and the final count was around 600 happy party-goers. The atmosphere was fantastic with a great live band inspiring everyone to dance.

Also for the fourth successive year, CNI held its pre-show Captains' dinner. As this exclusive event has grown, CNI moved the venue to the Piertop at the Hyatt, where over 100 guests enjoyed music and food from the highest point in Fort Lauderdale. The event was hosted in partnership with Rolls Royce, Wines by Angelo, and Global Marine Travel.



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CNI (super)Yachting Index

Released in May 2008, the first edition of the CNI (super)Yachting Index gives an overview of the yachting business in year 2007, with a wealth of information and statistics about the industry.

Given the interest generated by this first ever analysis of a sector often deemed too opaque, many observers are now eagerly awaiting for the updated second edition, to be published in May 2009. If interested in obtaining your own copy, please contact Miriam Cain at mc@lon.cnyachts.com

The definitive guide to chartering

It is that time of year again, and CNI has launched its much anticipated annual Charter Collection.

Once again the Annual has been released early due to the rising demand for charters. The chic, hardback book is the most stylish edition to date. Each year the superyacht industry notches up a gear as more yachts launch onto the market and greater numbers of charter areas open up for longer seasons. To reflect this rich diversity, this year's Annual is larger than ever. For the first time we have been obliged to add a new category to the yacht pages to cater for the great increase in the number of vessels that fall under the 50m to 60m and 60m+ headings. The new Charter Collection gives you a real feel for the lifestyle and activities in each destination.



The 49m (161') Anjilis



The 60m (196') Amnesia

ANTIGUA LINE UP

Opening the winter season in the Caribbean, the Antigua Yacht Charter Meeting, from the 4 to 9 December, will be welcoming 12 yachts from the CNI charter fleet, including a debut from the 60m (196') Xanadu from Benetti and the 49m (161') Anjilis from Trinity Yachts. Other yachts showcasing at the show include the 60m (196') Amnesia, the 50m (164') High Chaparral from Feadship, the 47m (153') Big Aron from Royal Denship, the 43.65m (143.2') Sedation from Heesen, the 37m (121.4') Beverley from Benetti, the 36.9m (121') Java from Broward, the 36m (118') Redemption from Broward, and the 34.1m (112') Symphony II from Westport. Sailing yachts on display include the 37m (121') Northern Spirit from Perini Navi, and the 28.35m (93') Sea Shuttle from Jongert.



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Aspen downhill

If you are in Aspen at the end of February 2009, look out for CNI's ski team. It will be participating with sports and film celebrities for the benefit of the Aspen Youth Experience, during its Aspen Celebrity Downhill event.



Young Designer Award

CNI is once again proud to be sponsoring the inaugural Young Designer Award 2009, one of the divisions of the World Superyacht Awards hosted by *Boat International* magazine.

Sponsored by CNI and co-organised by the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA), this ground-breaking competition is now in its second year. The 2008 Award received an impressive 40 entries, submitted from all over the world. Fadi Pataq's design was selected by the judging panel — which includes some of the industry's top names.

WARMING UP FOR THE SUPERYACHT CUP

The Superyacht Cup Antigua is the perfect way to kick off the Caribbean season, and CNI is delighted to be sponsoring the event, once again, this year.

Following on from the Antigua Yacht Charter Meeting in December, the Superyacht Cup gives owners and crew an opportunity for some great sailing before they head off around the Caribbean for the winter season. The event follows the same format as the Superyacht Cup in Palma: three days of pursuit racing and a specially developed 'superyacht performance assessment' to ensure exciting sailing for everyone. Each evening the social programme will promise the best of Caribbean hospitality during many social functions.

At the time of going to press, a dozen yacht owners had registered interest to participate in the event, including the owner of the 35m (115') Sojana from CNI — the current holder of the cup. The event will be held at Nelson's Dockyard, Antigua, from 9 to 12 December 2008.





THE LATEST TOY FOR YOUR YACHT

The upcoming lightweight aircraft Akoya opens up a new category of fun toys for yachts. Designed to fly from airstrip to yacht to ski slope, it is built from high-tech composite materials, is capable of landing on a 100-metre strip, and features a swivelling wing to make it storable on a yacht.

Recently completing its first test flights, the Akoya is already in high demand from buyers keen to own the first aircraft designed to land on ground, water and even snow. Its wheels and snow skis retract to seal the aircraft's hull, which, equipped with small hydrofoils, allows for proper landing on water. Its unique wing system allows for very short takeoffs and landings – and there is also an inbuilt parachute to ensure a soft landing in emergencies. With a range of 1500km and a maximum speed of 300km/h, the Akoya is clearly targeted at aviation enthusiasts looking for an exciting and unique bridge between yachting and skiing leisure lifestyles. Aesthetically it will fit in with any modern megayacht, the tailfin-mounted propeller and sleek composite body giving it a sleek and stylish eye-catching appearance.

Against the Elements

Following the success of her exhibition *Against the Elements* at the Yacht Club de Monaco during the latest Monaco Yacht Show, supported by CNI, marine sports photographer KOS is working closely with CNI to travel the project further. Although the schedule of openings was not finalised at time of printing, it is expected to travel to various places ranging from the Gstaad

Yacht Club to the Abu Dhabi yacht show to the Superyacht Cup in Palma, among others.

In addition, plans are already under way for another photographic exhibition in 2009 at the Yacht Club de Monaco, during the 19th Monaco Yacht Show, featuring another famed marine photographer. Watch this space for further information in the next issue of *sea&i*.

Dreams dates & destinations

DECEMBER

- 4 – 7
ART BASEL MIAMI
- 4 – 9
ANTIGUA CHARTER SHOW
- 6 – 14
SALON NAUTIQUE DE PARIS
- 9 – 12
SUPERYACHT CUP ANTIGUA

JANUARY

- 8 – 22
25TH ST BARTH'S MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 9 – 18
LONDON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW
- 17 – 25
40TH INTERNATIONAL DUSSELDORF BOAT SHOW
- 18 – 29
MIDEM (WORLD MUSIC MARKET) Cannes
- 22 – 25
ST MARTIN CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA

FEBRUARY

- 4 – 8
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW
- 12 – 16
MIAMI INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW
- 19 – 22
GRENADA CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA
- 28 Feb – 2 March
MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

MARCH

- 3 – 7
DUBAI INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW
- 6 – 9
MIAMI GRAND PRIX
- 6 – 15
MIAMI FILM FESTIVAL
- 10 – 13
MIPIIM (PROPERTY MARKET) Cannes
- 12 – 14
ABU DHABI BOAT SHOW
- 26 – 29
ST BARTH'S BUCKET
- 26 – 29
INTERNATIONAL ROLEX REGATTA
- 30 March – 3 April
• MIPTV (AUDIOVISUAL & DIGITAL CONTENT MARKET) Cannes



The 60m (196') Cloud 9

on (charter)

sea&i brings you the latest charter news

New to the CNI charter fleet...

The CNI charter division in Monaco welcomes the CMN-built 60m (196') Cloud 9 to the charter fleet. Due to be launched in summer 2009, she will be available in the Mediterranean for the summer season. The Andrew Winch interior is enriched with warm woods and subtle blue and cream tones. Sleeping 12 guests in six cabins, she is perfect for large family groups.

For the first time in the history of the Maldives, it is now possible to charter a locally based crewed yacht to explore the islands in style. The two new CNI central agencies — the Sultan's way 007, a 31.3m (103') Azimut, and the Sultan's way 001, a Leonardo 96 — are the

ideal choice for cruising the 1,190 islands that make up the Maldives.

With 26 atolls in a combined landmass of 300 square kilometers spread over 90,500 square kilometers of Indian Ocean, there is more than enough of the Maldives to explore. Each island is surrounded by crystal-clear lagoons encrusted with reefs, providing some of the most outstanding dive sites in the world. One sixth of the islands are inhabited and are, in the main, exclusive holiday retreats. Step ashore for spa treatments, fine dining and all manner of beach activities, or stay at sea for equally fine dining opportunities, watersports and superb diving.

Fresh from a refit, the 35m (115') Benetti Classic Latiko (ex Eliza Jean) now boasts all manner of upgrades to her interior, including new fabrics and audiovisual equipment, and a new layout option in her seating areas. Guests can bask in the sun while enjoying the Jacuzzi on the sun deck, or relax in her luxurious main saloon before heading to the formal dining room. Latiko accommodates eight guests in two double and two twin cabins. She will be available for charters in the Mediterranean during summer 2009.

The 33m (111') Bulldog W (ex Alter Ego, ex Louise), meanwhile, is a fantastic converted Tug



The 29m (96') Sultan's way 001



The 30m (98') Cristalex

that is ideal for both family charters and corporate events, as she has an impressive capacity for 100 guests while berthed. In addition to this, she has exceptional deck space, a stunning interior, Jacuzzi, and a vast array of watersports equipment and toys, including a sailing boat. Bulldog W sleeps 12 guests in five double cabins plus Pullman berths. She is available for charter in the Mediterranean throughout the year.

CNI Monaco also welcomes the 31m (102') sailing yacht Thuraya to the fleet. Available in the Mediterranean in summer 2009, she is a stunning classic restoration by the Vankerk Yard. Originally built by Lubbe Voss in 1982, she is,

today, an outstandingly attractive modern classic. She has an elegantly tapered bow, uncluttered decks with plenty of space, accommodation for six guests in two double cabins and two single cabins, and excellent sailing performance, meaning all who sail aboard her can enjoy an exhilarating sailing experience.

The 30m (98') Cristalex also joins the Monaco fleet. This 2006 Azimut has been built to the highest standards for which the yard is renowned and the resulting yacht is a great combination of Mediterranean flair and superlative comfort. Her sun deck is one of the most outstanding features of her design, with a

Further afield

The 32.3m (106') sailing yacht Carl Linné was designed for a comfortable sailing experience, yet she is perfect for exploration. Her lifting keel allows her to go through shallow waters and the yacht accesses places that other large yachts cannot. She is the ideal choice for charterers looking to explore further afield, and throughout 2009 she will be cruising in French Polynesia. She will be available for charter in the Marquesas islands through May, in Tahiti and its surrounding islands during the summer months, and in Fiji and Tonga in winter 2010.



The 32m (106') Carl Linné

Jacuzzi, sun pads, a covered table and a large bar area. Cristalex accommodates eight guests in four cabins. Following a successful season in the Mediterranean, she is available in the Caribbean this winter.

On the other side of the Atlantic, CNI's charter division in Fort Lauderdale welcomes two new Browards to the fleet. The first is the 36m (118') Redemption, and the second is the 31.3m (103') Lady Andrea. The latter yacht has recently had a US\$2 million refit and is now available for charters in the Bahamas. She sleeps eight guests in four cabins, one of which is a full-width master stateroom on the main deck. ■



Ian Carter on board Emerald Star

Captain of the 42.6m (140') CRN-built Emerald Star, Ian Carter has certainly come a long way since his first taste of the sea on board a sailing dinghy at the age of eight

CARTER ON... HIS CAREER

It was my very early experiences sailing on the Solent in the UK that inspired me to follow a career on the water. When I was 18, I started delivering sailing boats from the UK to Marbella in Spain, and then all across the Mediterranean. Then I was asked by one of the owners to stay on board as skipper. Since then I've worked on Princess Tanya, Princess Lauren and now Emerald Star, among many, many other yachts.

CARTER ON... THE SUPERYACHT INDUSTRY

I've been involved in the yachting industry all my adult life and things have certainly moved on since those early days. As everyone in yachting has noticed, the number and size of yachts has been the biggest change. With this the old problem of where to berth has become more difficult. That's just one great thing about Emerald Star – she fits into almost any harbour or port and we can anchor close to the beach. As far as the future of yachting in general is concerned, it looks very bright.

CARTER ON... TRAVEL

Naturally I love to travel. As far as sailing goes, I'd most like to cruise the waters of French Polynesia; I've not yet made it there. Other than that, anywhere with a decent golf course works for me.

CARTER ON... BEING A CAPTAIN

The crew world has evolved a great deal since I first began. Now, as a captain, dealing with crew can be one of the most stressful parts of my job, but at the end of the day a good crew can make a yacht and a charter. If you do get the odd troublesome member, it all makes for a good story in time. One



example that immediately comes to mind is a French chef who tried to sneak through receipts for cat food when he did his expenses – we always did wonder about the meat in his shepherd's pie!

CARTER ON... EMERALD STAR

I'm really enjoying being on board Emerald Star. She was only launched in 2007 and she's received a lot of positive attention. Her floating trampoline is something that goes down well with charter guests of all ages. Speaking of guests, Emerald Star has been extremely popular on the charter market and we've had some really great people on board. Forget opting for royalty or celebrities for my top five fantasy charter guests, I'd go for happy repeat clients any day. ■



spotlight on **Xanadu**

Steeped in Italian design genius and destined to rule the Mediterranean and Caribbean cruising grounds, the 60m (197') Xanadu is the latest Benetti masterpiece to grace the CNI charter fleet



With her name signifying an idyllic place, her interior reflecting the grand hotels of the Italian Riviera, her exterior lines paying homage to the sleek profiles of Ferrari and Lamborghini motor cars, and her on-board spa being one of the finest in yachting, Xanadu cannot fail to inspire.

Launched this past autumn, the new 60m (197') Benetti motor yacht is a study in artisanship in every respect. Created with the most discerning charter clients in mind, every detail has been executed to exacting standards.

The Andrew Winch-designed interior is replete with luxurious fabrics, Italian hand-carved detailing, inlaid marble floors and sculptures. Each level of this delightful interior is connected by a floating staircase that ascends from the lower deck to the sundeck where it is crowned by a skylight. Complete with hand-painted decorative panels evoking Coleridge's famous poem Xanadu, after which the yacht is named, the staircase is so striking its functional role almost plays second fiddle to its status as a spectacular work of art.

To highlight it all, Xanadu has an on-board spa that is virtually unrivalled in the yachting industry for its service and commitment to honouring nature and health. Each treatment is an exquisite ceremony in pampering excellence, complete with meticulously sourced organic products, soothing music and candles, specialist Chinese wellbeing teas, and expert consultations.

Outside, Xanadu's decks are equally impressive. Her sun deck has shaded areas for comfortable relaxation, a vast pool with raised cushioned sides for basking in the sun, and stylish teak sun loungers on an area of the deck that is so large it can be converted into a stage for live entertainment.

All in all, Xanadu's guests (accommodated in an owner's suite, a VIP stateroom and four double cabins) are set for a charter experience that is as legendary as the yacht's name.

For more information on chartering Xanadu, please contact your charter broker, see page 8

SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH	60m (197')
BEAM	10.4m (34')
DRAFT	3.2m (10.5')
BUILDER	Benetti
YEAR	2008
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR DESIGN	Andrew Winch
SPEED	16 knots
GUESTS	12
CREW	15

(where in the **world...**)

sea&i brings you the latest luxury travel news

TIS THE SEASON...

The Four Seasons is the latest luxury resort hotel to open its doors in Tahiti, French Polynesia. Situated on the small island of Bora Bora, the ten-kilometre (six-mile) resort includes 100 over-water bungalows and seven beachfront villas, all designed with traditional thatched roofs and decorated with indigenous artwork. The resort has a selection of culinary venues offering a tempting array of Polynesian, French and South Pacific fusion foods in four separate dining areas. It also has a stunning spa with open treatment decks amid the mangroves. *For more information, visit www.fourseasons.com/borabora*





Ushvani indulgence

London's exclusive Southeast Asian day spa, Ushvani, is launching a private VIP suite. The Asmara Suite is opulently furnished with beautiful Malaysian carvings, traditional furniture and twin treatment beds. You can relax in a private steam room and the suite's sunken bath before experiencing your Malaysian, Thai or Balinese inspired treatment. The Ushvani Spa is the brainchild of Usha Arumugam, a Malaysian spa guru who has recreated a genuine Southeast Asian luxury spa in the heart of a beautiful London townhouse.

For more information, visit www.ushvani.com



CAPE TOWN'S ONE AND ONLY

The One & Only resort in Cape Town, South Africa, is set to open early in 2009. Situated at the centre of the city's fashionable Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, the resort commands an enviable location overlooking the marina and has panoramic views across to Table Mountain.

The resort is the first in South Africa for One & Only and furnishes its guests with a myriad experiences — from taking off on wildlife safaris to ensuring access to pristine beaches to arranging tours and wine-tastings at the world renowned Cape vineyards.

The resort itself also dazzles with its bold, contemporary design, ensuring that it will become a significant landmark. For more information, visit www.oneandonlyresorts.com



MAYA MAGIC

Mexico has a knack of creating exquisite luxury resorts, and the new haven on the Riviera Maya, just south of Cancún, is no exception. The Rosewood Mayakobá unfolds across small islands on 20 acres of crystal-clear lagoons linked by waterways amid the mangroves and surrounded by jungle. The 128 suites overlook the tranquil lagoon or the Caribbean and have wide-open spaces, modern furnishings, private plunge pools, rooftop terraces, outdoor garden showers and boat docks. There is also a spa on one of the islands, a variety of restaurants and wine rooms, three pools, and access to an 18-hole Greg Norman golf course. *For more information, visit www.rosewoodmayakoba.com*





DEAD STYLISH

The Kempinski Hotel Ishtar presides over the largest stretch of private beach in Jordan, on the edge of the Dead Sea. The resort opened in 2007 with rooms and villas and nine outdoor, freshwater swimming pools, but in 2008 the resort added to its attractions with the opening of the Anantara Spa – the largest spa in the Middle East. The resort's concept of therapeutic tourism is well supported by the mineral-packed Dead Sea water and mud from the immediate area, which provides raw ingredients for all the spa treatments. The resort is near to Amman, in an area dotted with important historical sites. Mount Nebo (from which Moses first saw the Promised Land) and the Baptism Site (where, it is claimed, Jesus was baptised) are close by, and Petra is a two-hour drive away. Across the water from the hotel lies the Israeli West Bank, and at night the lights of Jerusalem flicker in the distance.

For more information, visit www.kempinski-deadsea.com



SHANGHAI-RISE HOTEL

The new Park Hyatt Shanghai, which opened in late 2008, occupies the 79th to 93rd floors of the Shanghai World Financial Centre. The highest hotel in the world, the Park Hyatt whisks its guests in high-speed elevators from the ground floor to the 87th floor in 51 seconds. Designed by Toby Chi, the

interior of the hotel reflects the lines of a modern Chinese residence. The entrance is through a series of traditional Chinese zigzag courtyards that meet in a lofty lobby. All the guest rooms have views over Shanghai's cityscape, including the Jin Mao Tower, the Huangpu River, and the historic Bund district. For more information, visit www.shanghai.park.hyatt.com

London escape

One of London's best-kept secrets, the hotel at 51 Buckingham Gate is a bolthole right in the centre of Westminster – and right at the heart of the hotel is Spa at 51. Fans of Anne Sémonin (the original pioneer of the bespoke treatment philosophy) will love the fact that the boutique spa now has a new menu of exclusive Sémonin treatments delivered by Sémonin-trained therapists. The new treatments include a Signature Facial, the Serenity Treatment with Hot Stones, and the Eternal Youth Cryotherapie Facial – all using 100% organic ingredients. The spa itself is a haven away from the bustle of Westminster and extends a welcoming feel throughout its treatment rooms, relaxation areas, Jacuzzi, sauna and steam rooms. For more information, visit www.51-buckinghamgate.com/spa



Spa from the madding crowd

New York's busy executives and relaxation junkies alike will be beating a path to the new Sense spa at the legendary Carlyle Hotel. Providing an oasis of luxury on the Upper East Side, it has five treatment rooms, a relaxation room, a 'Duet' suite and a high-tech fitness centre. True to its name, the spa indulges all the senses. The most sumptuous materials have been used throughout the 1940s Hollywood-inspired décor, with Art Deco touches to complement The Carlyle's heritage.

For more information, visit www.thecarlyle.com



HONG KONG HIGHLIGHT

New to grace Kowloon's hottest neon neighbourhood is W Hong Kong. The W Hotel chain's latest property has 393 skyline-view rooms — the king of which is its Extreme Wow Suite. The name goes some way to preparing you for the level of luxury you'll find, including 400-thread-count linens, a 65-inch Plasma screen in the lounge, a 40-inch home theatre in the bedroom and floor-to-ceiling windows with city and harbour views. The hotel also boasts Asia's first Bliss Spa, sizzling hot restaurants, lounges and bars and one of the highest rooftop pools in the world. Footsteps away (on ground level) are oriental markets, the lauded Elements shopping mall, a waterfront boulevard, restaurants, the famous Tsimshatsui area and Temple Street. *For more information, visit www.starwoodhotels.com*

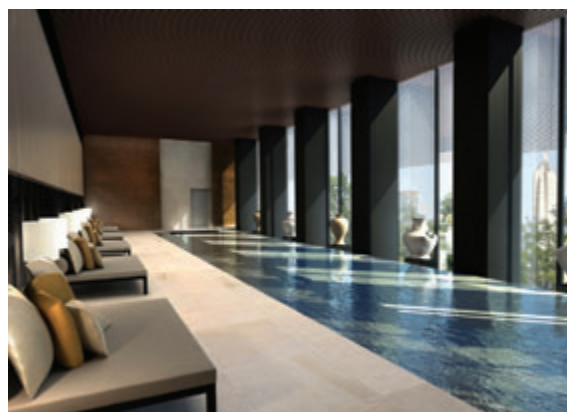


THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET

Europe's latest significant property club, Botiga, has adapted the fractional ownership trend to allow its members to have a stake in a series of high-end properties around the world. Launched by Kit Harrison, of luxury ski company Descent, the ethos



behind the club is for likeminded people to share a portfolio of properties worldwide. Those looking to buy a property abroad and wanting the services of a five-star hotel but with more privacy can invest in a diversified portfolio of properties. Not only can member owners enjoy the benefits as each property increases in value, they also have access to the property all year round and are saved the trouble of dealing with any upkeep. The first property in the portfolio is a stunning Moroccan villa (above), set in five acres of gardens designed by Miranda Brooks, with interiors by Nicholas Haslam. Botiga's aim is to own 60 such properties worldwide within the next six years. *For more information, visit www.botiga.co.uk*



FINE CHINA

Opening early in 2009, the PuLi Hotel and Spa in Shanghai signals the arrival of the city's first true urban resort. Exuding a sense of understated luxury and elegance, the hotel was designed by Jaya Ibrahim

and the Layan Group. The guest rooms will be some of Shanghai's largest. They are complemented by spacious public areas, a signature fine-dining restaurant, the Anantara spa, and an Olympic-sized infinity pool with spectacular views over Shanghai's JingAn Park. Altogether this creates an unparalleled urban space in the heart of Shanghai's business, shopping, sightseeing and entertainments districts. *For more information, visit www.thepuli.com*

From villains to villas...

Big-screen fame is not solely the reserve of celebrities — properties can also have a star role. Villa La Guardia in Tuscany, Italy, is the latest to make it big by landing on the credits of the new James Bond film, *Quantum of Solace*. The villa, an historic Spanish tower on the Maremma coast, has a history of intrigue and is suitably glamorous for its role in a 007 film. Set on the edge of the Maremma National Park with its own private dock, the four-bedroom villa has a pool, views of the Tower of Pisa, a fireplace, billiards room and fully-equipped gym and sauna — all the accoutrements Bond would expect! *For more information, visit www.wimco.com*



Top Thai in town

David Thompson of Michelin-starred restaurant Nahm (the first and only Thai restaurant in London to claim the distinction), has launched his latest book, *Thai Street Food*. Thompson has travelled through Thailand seeking out undiscovered dishes that are now being reflected at Nahm by head chef Matthew Albert. The stylish restaurant is located within London's Halkin Hotel in Belgravia. Thompson's modern take on Thai cuisine sets Nahm apart and diners are advised to order soup, salad, curry, stir-fry and relish for a typically rounded Thai meal.

For more information, visit www.halkin.como.bz





WHITE-LION SAFARI

The chance to see wild animals in their natural environment is always exciting, but now you can go on a unique safari that takes you right to the heart of a pride of rare white lions.

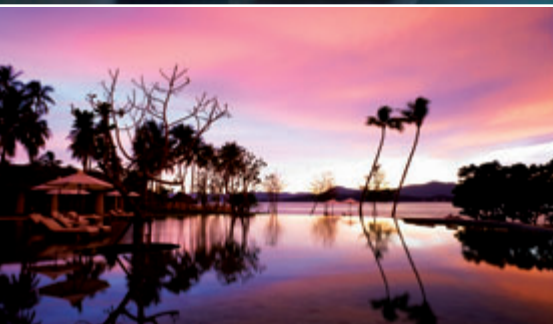
At the 130,000-acre Sanbona Wildlife Reserve in South Africa's Western Cape, you can stay in luxury lodges and take part in game drives and nature walks, stargaze or luxuriate in the spa that overlooks ancient rock formations and the mountains. The reserve gives you the chance to spot tawny lions, leopards, white rhino, elephants, cheetahs, giraffes, hippos, zebras — and the rare white lion. Thirty years ago, the entire breed was at risk of being made extinct by poachers and was removed from the wild for its own protection. But in 2008, the lions were reintroduced to their natural habitat as part of a project that aims to establish the world's only free-ranging and self-sustaining integrated pride of white and tawny lions. *For more information, visit www.sanbona.com*

A TALL ORDER

Raffles Hotels and Resorts has extended its footprint in China with the iconic Raffles Tianjin hotel in the city of the same name. Opening in 2009, the property is located at the top of the Tianjin Centre, right in the heart of the city's most important business and retail district.

The city's first penthouse hotel, Raffles Tianjin will occupy the 32nd to 45th floors of Tianjin Centre's West Tower, meaning all 116 rooms and suites (as well as its rooftop restaurant and bar) will have spectacular city views. Just two hours' drive from Beijing, Tianjin has a 1,000 year-old temple, mountain backdrops and luxury shopping malls — one of which is linked to the Raffles hotel. *For more information, visit www.rafles.com*





APPEALING TO THE SENSES

Located just ten minutes by boat from Phuket, the new Six Senses Destination Spa is based on the fishing island of Naka Yai. Combining serious fitness and wellbeing with pristine natural surroundings, the Six Senses property is the only resort on the island. Opened in June 2008, it has already won the *Tatler Spa Guide's* Best Spa of the Year award for 2009.

Guided by Feng Shui and inspired by the four life elements of fire, water, air and earth, the spa has a wide range of treatments and therapies drawn from the main Asian cultures. The Chinese section includes traditional Chinese treatments; the Indian Pavilion offers colonic therapy, energy healing and Ayurvedic treatments; a Thai massage school provides guests with the opportunity to learn the traditional art of massage; and the Indonesian section features outdoor water therapy treatments in a jungle setting.

The space is also a fitness haven and includes therapies such as oxygen fitness therapy and kineses training. All the villas have their own personal butler, swimming pool, outdoor and indoor jungle bathrooms, and all manner of other facilities.

For more information, visit www.sixsenses.com

The Coral Reef Club

The Coral Reef Club in Barbados has opened its new spa just in time for the holiday season. A colonial-inspired, two-storey building houses the spa's facilities which include a luxuriously appointed indoor relaxation room, four individual treatment rooms with private gardens, a couples' outdoor treatment pavilion, spa garden with cloistered relaxation, a hydro-pool with shaded cabanas for post-treatment relaxation, and a thermal suite. The interior design, by British designer Helen Green, is based on classical Caribbean design with a modern, streamlined look. For more information, visit www.coralreefbarbados.com



Dive in:to 2009

The in:spa team, featured in previous issues, has discovered a perfect location in the heart of the British countryside for a mini retreat to kickstart the new year. Throughout January, in:spa and Cowley Manor in the Cotswolds are teaming up to provide three days of gourmet, cleansing cuisine combined with yoga, hiking and fabulous spa treatments, leaving you feeling recharged for 2009.

For more information, visit www.inspa-retreats.com

fragrance Liquid assets

Known for his peerless expertise in creating bespoke perfumes, Roja Dove is the world's foremost fragrance authority. Trained at the house of Guerlain, and now nurturing a haute parfumerie at Harrods in London, UK, Dove presents, exclusively for **sea&i**, a selection of his favourite newly presented scents for men and women

THE PARTY IN MANHATTAN

Eau de Parfum, 100ml

First created in 1930, and originally launched at a legendary party in Manhattan, this scent is presented in a bottle with a limited-edition bejewelled stopper that is encrusted with pavé diamonds of more than 40 carats.



"We are seeing two distinct trends in the world of scent this season: re-introductions of classic fragrances by major perfumers, and bespoke scents created by small houses that specialise in one-off perfumes for those who choose not to follow the masses. It's all about niche, originality and a new type of luxury expressed through individuality."

Roja Dove



LA PERLA Eau de Parfum, 100ml

The signature scent of La Perla is being presented in a ravishing new way. This harmony of Osmanthus and carnation is made lively by the inclusion of spices on a mossy, woody background. It is a composition that has often been copied but never equalled.



TED LAPIDUS LOVELY FANTASME Eau de Toilette, 100ml

Ted Lapidus is the name behind Lovely Fantasma. The scent is as light as mountain air with refreshing mandarin mingling with a delicate floral harmony of rose, lily of the valley and tender violet, which swirl around with delicious notes of peach and musk.



FAÇONNABLE FEMME Eau de Parfum, 30ml

Femme by Façonnable is an ultra-feminine harmony of mandarin, passion fruit, peony, jasmine and gardenia on a soft, powdery base of heliotrope, vanilla and musk.



AZZARO COUTURE Eau de Parfum, 75ml

Azzaro has re-launched its beautiful Azzaro Couture – a fresh, soft floral composition where violet, lily of the valley and orris are re-worked to recreate a modern version of its 1974 signature scent.

LALIQUE APHRODITE Eau de Parfum, 30ml

With Aphrodite, Lalique has introduced a beautiful limited-edition flacon for 2009 to house its sumptuous signature floral scent Lalique de Lalique.



LUBIN L'EAU NEUVE

Eau de Toilette, 75ml

Lubin has revived its scintillating L'Eau Neuve – a fresh scent created with the rebellious Parisian youth of the Left Bank in mind.



JEAN-CHARLES BROSSEAU OMBRE ROSE Eau de Toilette, 100ml

When Jean-Charles Brosseau launched this sensual scent, perfumery was changed forever. It is dense, sensual and utterly beguiling. Every woman who wears it refers to it as 'my Ombre Rose'.



THIERRY MUGLER MIROIR DES VANITÉS

Eau de Parfum, 50ml

With Les Miroirs, Mugler has launched a highly creative range of scents. Each is designed to inspire us to reflect on ourselves and the person we would like to be. Miroir des Vanités is an especially intriguing blend of citrus notes, vetiver and rare cinchona bark nestling on a bed of liquorice.





TED LAPIDUS ALTAMIR Eau de Toilette, 30ml

Altamir, the latest creation from maverick designer Ted Lapidus, has a teakwood base along with an unusual floral heart of orange blossom, jasmine and cyclamen to reflect the duality of man.



LALIQUE LE LION
Eau de Parfum, 30ml

Athlet is the new limited-edition flacon for 2009. It was inspired by the car mascots that Lalique made in the 1920s and 1930s and is now used to house its signature men's scent Le Lion.



JACQUES BOGART
BOGART CITYTOWER Eau de Toilette, 30ml

Jacques Bogart is the specialist men's fragrance house. Its latest urban creation is inspired by the modernity of the new towers which grace Dubai as incense, pink pepper and geranium mingle with one of the most legendary of all perfumery materials – oud.



GRIGIO PERLA HEDÒ
Eau de Toilette, 50ml
Hedò is the award-winning composition from La Perla. Its remarkable opening method reveals a blend of luxurious cashmere and cedar woods enlivened by the inclusion of ginger and pepper.



BUGATTI PURE BLACK
Eau de Toilette, 125ml
This is for men who crave luxury. A distinctive Chypre-style composition, it is based around oakmoss, wood and leather – which are redolent of the interior of the Bugatti Veyron Pur Sang that inspired its creation.

THE TEN PARTY 1986 Eau de Toilette, 100ml
Ten of the richest men in the world meet once a year to debate philanthropic projects. This new creation sings of such high-flying success with its blend of bergamot, lavender, sensual Petitgrain and jasmine on a base of incense and musk.

FAÇONNABLE STRIPE
Eau de Toilette, 100ml
Façonnable's signature stripe is the inspiration for its most recent creation: Stripe. Citrus harmonies are further refreshed by Artemisia and mint and given radiance by the inclusion of precious rosewood.



JEAN-CHARLES BROSSEAU THÉ BRUN Eau de Toilette, 100ml
A one-of-a-kind scent for a one-of-a-kind man, Thé Brun is a creation for those who like the rare and the exotic. Its warm, smoky, leathery harmonies are ensured by the inclusion of Lapsang.



BOIS 1920 AGRUMI AMARI DI SICILIA
Eau de Toilette, 100ml
This scent, from the Florence-based house of Bois, has a sun-drenched freshness that will transport you far from winter skies.

LUBIN L'EAU NEUVE
Eau de Toilette, 75ml
Lubin has revisited its classic scent L'Eau Neuve to come up with this fresh new fragrance inspired by the Parisian Left Bank.



travel size Gorgeous gifts to go

If you're spending the festive season on a yacht, selecting gifts for their size, as well as their style, is a priority. Amber Aikens has chosen a tempting selection of her favourite portable presents



1) **Linley chocolate box** Bespoke chocolates presented in a specially commissioned box www.sirhanssloane.com

2) **Sunshine cami and shorties** The finest Lyon silk and Chantilly lace in eye-catching shades www.carinegilson.com

3) **EP120** Limited edition watch (just 120 available). Each piece has individual certification and a dial featuring the original World War II Spitfire www.bremont.com

4) **Swim shorts** Wearers of these will be stamping style on beaches and pools across the globe www.orlebarbrown.com

5) **INA white gold detoxifying crystal salt** These bath crystals contain minerals and trace elements with a detoxifying effect, making them perfect to help expel toxin build-up after the festive season www.spacenk.com

6) **Meridiist phone** Time on your hands? Grab this premier phone by TAG Heuer www.tagheuer.com

7) **Gommino loafers** The classic Tod's driving shoe, available in a range of colours www.tods.com

8) **Penguin Classics** Bill Amberg and Penguin Books have collaborated to produce this series of luxury leather Penguin Classics. Perfect for snuggling in front of the fire or reading on deck www.billamberg.com

9) **Crackers** Elegant gifts include yo-yos, clocks, pens, poker sets and bookmarks www.asprey.com

10) **Lion and monkey ashtray** See no evil, hear no evil and, puffing on a handrolled 18-carat gold cigar, the 'smoke no evil monkey'! www.patrickmavros.com

11) **Highgrove Christmas pudding** Christmas is not complete without a pud – even on a tropical beach – and this one contains The Prince's Ginger Liqueur, brandy and port www.highgroveshop.com

12) **Cashmere socks** Legendary British craftsmanship comes guaranteed with this colourful collection of cashmere socks www.grosvenorshirts.com

13) **Copper diamond deluxe beauty trunk** Sure to be a favourite in the beauty world, this luxurious box of beauty delights is crafted in copper diamond leather www.bobbibrown.co.uk

14) **Asha by ADM Victoria white onyx necklace with moonstone** This exquisite piece is perfect to wear in the winter sun www.astleyclarke.com





aqua appeal Deep impact

The next time you drape your beach towel over a sun lounger, make sure it is skirting a truly exceptional pool. **sea&i** dips its toes into five of the best...

By Dominique Alder

The Banyan Tree, Mahé, Seychelles

The Banyan Tree Seychelles is famed for its beautiful main pool. This work of aquatic design genius takes the form of a wide slip of electric blue water, impossibly calm, infinity edged and suspended in tropical surrounds – akin to a sleek diving board reaching out to the Indian Ocean below. Around the pool, jade-green palms stand like sentinels fanning their leaves to cool you. If that is not enough to counter the sizzling Seychelles sunshine, just a step away a creative bartender delivers thirst-quenching iced-fruit cocktails. Yet all that magic aside, this is still the ‘main’ pool, which implies ‘sharing’. So take a tip and reserve the Presidential Villa for a little secluded soaking.

Sunning itself on its own private cove by the water’s edge, the villa is fronted by a free-form infinity pool carved into the wonderfully unique Seychellois granite boulders. The pool is, to put it mildly, quite spectacular — like a mirror laid out on the terrace and slithering into the ocean below, making it truly irresistible during hot sunny days and hopelessly romantic by night. The Presidential Villa also has a grand *porte cochère* entrance, an outdoor jet pool and shower and a large sun deck – and that’s just the exterior living space.

The Banyan Tree Seychelles also has five Intendance Pool Villas, which come with private jet pools and swimming pools carved into the granite cliff at different levels and connected

by walkways garlanded with tropical flowers. Reserve the right one and you’ll get a massage pavilion thrown into the deal – just one more idyllic setting from which to absorb all those endless Indian Ocean views.

For more information, visit www.banyantree.com



Opposite: The main swimming pool at the Banyan Tree Seychelles
Below: An Intendance Pool Villa with its pool carved into the cliff





Top: A private terrace at the Hotel Caruso
Above: Infinity-edged view-gazing doesn't get much better than when you're soaking in the pool at the Hotel Caruso
Right: The lobby at the Park Hyatt Tokyo
Below right: Dive in and swim towards the lights of Tokyo extending far beneath you at the city's Park Hyatt hotel

Hotel Caruso, Ravello, Italy

The *raison d'être* of an infinity pool is to give you uninterrupted views as you soak in an oasis of mirror-calm water. With that in mind, if you're planning some serious scenery-gazing it makes sense to select an infinity pool with a breathtaking view. The Hotel Caruso on Italy's Amalfi Coast is as fabulous as it gets.

The hotel perches atop a cliff, and occupying prime position and a huge expanse of space is its open-air heated infinity swimming pool. Backed by blinding white sun loungers and pillars, edged by an ancient Italian building and cool poolside bar, topped by an endless blue sky, and fronted by an expanse of Mediterranean Sea, the pool has genuine wow factor. You can simply float and enjoy the view, or swim the most scenic lengths in the world to work up an appetite for the wood-oven baked pizzas and salads served at the bar alongside.

Adding to the appeal of Hotel Caruso, as if it needed any more, is its history. The hotel has welcomed the likes of the Bloomsbury Group, Virginia Woolf, Graham Green, Gore Vidal, Humphrey Bogart and Jackie Kennedy – and it's not hard to see why. Along with 'the pool', it has a wellness centre, a variety of dining venues and 48 rooms and suites. The Executive Suite is particularly delightful with its sea views, soothing décor and vast private terrace.

For more information, visit www.hotelcaruso.com

Park Hyatt, Tokyo, Japan

For many, the perfect pool is one fronting a secluded sandy beach, drenched in sunshine and fringed by tropical mountains, but city pools can have more than their share of appeal. The Park Hyatt Tokyo bears testament to this fact.

Floating 47 floors high in the heart of Japan's capital city, you can gaze out on the city lights below and Mount Fuji in the distance. Night-time is particularly spectacular as the dazzling lights of the city far below are enhanced by the under-lit pool, which glows neon blue. This sleek strip of water is 20 metres (65 feet) long, split into four lanes and surrounded by tall palms and floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the Shinjuku district of the city. An architectural masterpiece, it begs to be dived into.

The hotel's spa extends the experience with its sky-high venue offering massages, soft bath robes and great juices and food. To complete your visit, the Park Hyatt more than satisfies with its Presidential Suite and 50th floor Tokyo Suite, both offering breathtaking city views, a living room and king-sized bedroom, a grand piano, sauna and spa tub, marble bath and rain shower – just in case you miss soaking in that amazing pool.

For more information, visit <http://tokyo.park.hyatt.com>





Halekulani Hotel, Hawaii

Think of Hawaii and no doubt you picture endless beaches, tropical vegetation and exotic charm. The Halekulani Hotel certainly had all this in mind when it came to designing its pool. A veritable work of art, the Halekulani fresh-water Orchid pool is a huge heated pool surrounded by lush palms and overlooking the famous Waikiki Beach. Dive down into the achingly blue water and you'll be faced with 1.2 million fragments of coloured glass sparkling back up at you. Meticulously arranged into an exquisite mosaic depicting an exotic Cattleya orchid, each and every piece of glass was brought over from South Africa and shimmers beneath the water like a mirage.

Should you require more than the visual splendour of the pool to amaze you, personal attendants are on hand to deliver drinks, towels, magazines and CDs as you recline on a lounge chair on the spacious deck. The hotel also has a tempting array of suites, a spa, award-winning cuisine and a century of experience in welcoming guests.

For more information, visit www.halekulani.com

Top left: Not for the faint-hearted, the pool at the Murano Resort in Marrakech is sizzling red
Below: Soak up the delicate image of an orchid made from more than a million pieces of sparkling glass at the Halekulani, Hawaii
Bottom: The view beyond the Halekulani pool is also mesmerising

Murano Resort, Marrakech, Morocco

It might either be the red-hot style of the resort or its location in the so-called Red City of Marrakech, but whatever the reason the Murano's pool is a one-off wonder. Nothing can quite prepare you for walking into the grounds of the hotel and seeing a sea of blood-red water extending before you. The effect is created with infinite red mosaic tiles lining the pool, and it certainly makes for a novel swim.

Not for the faint-hearted, perhaps, but certainly for the über cool, Murano's pool is unique. Stone walkways extend into the water, decorated with snow-white tables and daybeds topped with red cushions. This, combined with the blue sky and vivid green palms of Marrakech, makes for a dazzling vista. At night, if possible, it is even more stunning with the under-lit red water offset against the black sky with the silhouettes of palms as a backdrop. The remainder of the resort is equally bold, with red and purple adding splashes of colour in the stylish décor, where traditional Moorish features merge with the modern.

For more information, visit www.muranoresort.com



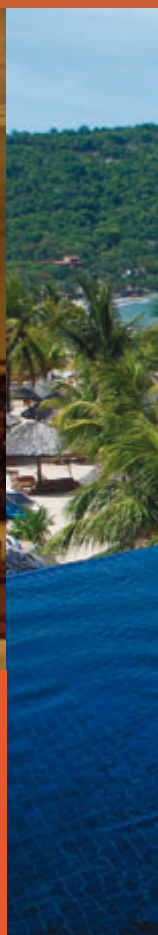


Pacific highs

mexican cruise

Feather-soft sand, irresistible resorts, jungle adventure and sparkling shorelines... a cruise of the Pacific coast of Mexico is as intoxicating as a shot of tequila

By Kate Rigby



YOUR CRUISE AT A GLANCE...

Fly into Zihuatanejo and relax at an exclusive hotel for a few days before joining your yacht. Cruising north to Mazatlán, you'll catch the highlights along the coastline before heading across the Sea of Cortez to Baja California. Following a leisurely cruise of the famous Los Cabos region, sun yourself at one of its exceptional resorts.

Mexico has it all. It is a microcosm of the universe with just about everything you could want wrapped up together like an amply packed enchilada. Sun, sea, desert, jungle, mountains, ancient culture, five-star resorts, friendly locals and eons of deserted space spice the country with interest and intrigue, and the Pacific coast and nearby Baja California are among the most irresistible areas of all.

A first taste of Mexico

Languishing along the Pacific coast of Mexico, a little northwest of Acapulco, Zihuatanejo has more than been shaken awake from the sleepy fishing village it once was. Now a key gateway to the west coast of Mexico, the town has an international airport so you can fly direct and be lapping up the luxury of an ocean-facing, five-star resort with the minimum of effort.

Several excellent properties lie within easy reach of the airport, but topping your list should be the Tides Zihuatanejo. Dizzily luxurious, its garden waterfalls, lagoons, jungle and ocean views and voguish sun loungers suspended between palm trunks mean you'll be tapping straight into Mexico's compelling vibe. Similarly impressive is the new Capella Ixtapa with its open-air reception making the most of that Pacific sunshine, while its décor of handmade clay and polished marbles and woods celebrates both rustic ancient Mexico and chic modernism. Also to hand (Ixtapa being just five kilometres from Zihuatanejo), is the welcoming InterContinental Ixtapa.

Reserving a suite at any of the above resorts will inevitably tempt you to make full use of its fabulous restaurants, pools and spas, but of the two or

three days you spend in Zihuatanejo, balance out resort hedonism with plenty of time spent exploring the region. Options abound; you could head to the La Ropa or Playa Linda beaches, scuba dive on the coral reef, or challenge yourself with a round of golf. The main area of downtown Zihuatanejo is also worthy of a morning excursion. After a late breakfast at your hotel, you could wander down the narrow streets of the town where the locals go about their day, saunter through the market, or simply browse a magazine as you sip a freshly squeezed juice and watch the world go by.

With the heat of the day upon you, the midday sun is a signal to escape to the waterfront for a long, iced drink and tasty snack in the shade of an ocean-front taverna before an afternoon of lazing beneath the beachfront palms.

Coasting along

A few days ashore in Mexico will put any visitor in a state of beach-induced horizontal hedonism, but all that gazing at the sparkling Pacific Ocean will soon have you restless to explore further up the coastline. With your yacht primed, polished and waiting, you have the perfect means of escape.

Following welcome cocktails on board, and a chance to settle in and get to know the crew, you'll have plenty of time to freshen up before your first supper on board in the air-conditioned comfort of the main dining room. As you retire to your cabins, you'll ease out of the harbour on a northern course for Puerto Vallarta, some 500 kilometres (300 miles) up the coast.

Puerto Vallarta lies along Banderas Bay, one of the largest bays in the world and nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountains. With such varied



terrain at hand, the area begs to be explored. Venturing inland, you'll stumble across forests, rivers, waterfalls, mountain streams, jungle canopies and tropical flora and fauna. Your means of transportation are as varied as the sights, with hiking, cycling, 4-wheel drives and horseback all on offer. Follow the right tropical mountain path just a short way from the coast and the trail will wind you through peaceful, scenic landscapes until you arrive at a waterfall in a small canyon. Dipping into the pack of goodies provided by your crew, you can feast on fresh pastries, fruit and juices to restore your energy as you sit by the waterfall and take in views of the bay – the cool waters of which will tempt you back for a refreshing swim before dinner.

Ajunt in the jungle

The next day, inspired by your previous encounter with Mexico, you may wish to go a step further, or, more accurately, higher. In the heart of the Sierra Madre mountains an eco-reserve invites you to take a canopy tour some 20 metres (69 feet) above the forest. Swinging from treetop to treetop on pulleys and cables above the tropical landscape is an unforgettable experience. Beneath you in the depths of the jungle crowd all manner of wild orchids, creatures and reptiles, while above you bask blue skies and endless sunshine.

After hours of jungle fun, and if you have energy left after a cool drink on the aft deck, head ashore, swap the tender for a horse and take a sunset ride along Yelapa beach – it's a great alternative way to splash through the Pacific.

Other highlights of a trip to Puerto Vallarta include humpback whale-watching off the coast from mid-December to the end of March, or diving amid

the abundance of sea life in the welcoming waters of Banderas Bay. Golfers are also in for a treat as world-class courses abound and rounds can be pre-arranged to highlight your cruise every few days. Among the many excellent courses that dot the Puerto Vallarta landscapes is Von Hagge's El Tigre at Paradise Village – a par 72 course surrounded by mountains.

You'll arrive at the resort through a huge stone archway in the mode of a Mayan temple, aside which, endorsing the club's name, a live Bengal tiger prowls in his secure habitat. A mere ten minutes away are the Nicklaus and Weiskopf championship courses of Vista Vallarta. The latter draws on an abundance of native jungle, ravines and natural features to make it a really challenging and scenic round. Also not to be missed is the Jack Nicklaus designed Punta Mita course for its par 3, 190-yard hole that plays to a black, lava-rock island. For pure wow-factor, though, try Marina Vallarta Golf Club. It has a superb course winding through jungle foliage laced with lagoons, iguanas, palm trees and, less enticingly, alligators. Perhaps it is best not to let the eye-catching views of Banderas Bay distract you for too long!

Golf widows are also well catered for in this part of the world by the Apuane Spa at the Four Seasons Hotel at Punta Mita (which adjoins the aforementioned golf course). Plentiful massages, detox treatments and →

Previous spread: The One & Only Palmilla hotel in Baja California
This page, from top left: Ease into Mexican life in the Tides Zihuatanejo's relaxation lounge, then take a dip in its infinity pool; sun worshippers can soak in the Punta Mita pool while their golfing partners tee off at the resort's nearby course



oceanview, poolside and garden cabanas will more than absorb a day until golf-worn partners return for dinner.

You could then begin your evening at the Cora Lounge, which provides binoculars during whale-watching season. Once you've seen the sun set over a cocktail or two, you can choose from one of three fantastic restaurants for dinner before the tender arrives to speed you back to your yacht.

On to Mazatlán

A short distance north you can step back 50 years in the tiny fishing village of Sayulita. White beaches and friendly locals remind of a quintessentially rural Mexico, complete with children and chickens playing in the cobbled streets. The peaceful town square is surrounded by colourful, rustic taco stands where, for a few pesos, you can get a taste of Mexico wrapped up for lunch before spending a lazy afternoon on board.

Make yourself at home stretching out on the sun deck, soaking in the Jacuzzi, diving into the ocean and treating yourself to fresh exotic fruits or home-made ice cream as you while away the hours before a tasty barbecued fish dinner on board. Later that evening you can set sail on an overnight cruise.

Mazatlán is your parting taste of life on mainland Mexico, and there's plenty to leave a lasting impression. A day in Old Mazatlán could include a

trip to La Basílica de la Catedral de Inmaculada Concepción. If you are visiting in February or March you may catch the century-old, world-famous Mazatlán Carnival and get swept away with the festivities. The region also has beautiful beaches the likes of Playa Norte, Playa Gaviotas and Playa Venado, the latter of which has both calm water that is ideal for swimming, sailing or snorkelling, and areas that are favoured for surfing. You can also spend an intriguing few hours investigating the rock drawings left by the ancient inhabitants of the Sinaloa coastal region.

Heading inland, the natural beauty of Mazatlán makes it an ideal place to go mountain biking, and trails have been carved into the landscape to ensure you experience the best of the terrain. Pista El Bitachi is particularly popular for a speedy spin on a bike. That evening you can stroll along the boardwalk cooled by the ocean breeze as you debate which of the nightclubs, bars or discos to patronise in the port's popular area of Zona Dorada on Avenida Camarón Sábalo. The next day, enjoy more of the same before you leave the west coast behind and take an overnight cruise across the Pacific to the inviting southern tip of Baja California.

A world apart

A strip of land barely kissing the top of mainland Mexico, Baja California is flanked by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Sea of Cortés to the east.

Cabo San Lucas is as fine an entry point as any you could hope for and makes for an exciting vista to behold as you gaze out of your porthole on waking the following morning. Heading up to the sun deck, you can scan this

Clockwise from top right: The shores of Mazatlán; the famous El Arco beach; great diving abounds in this region; take it easy in Los Cabos; the 32m (106') Carl Linne is just one of the CNI yachts that cruises the region; the quaint fishing village of Sayulita



fantastic landscape of desert, sea, mountains and forests from a distance as you fuel yourself with a tasty breakfast before setting off in the tender to explore ashore.

Famous for marlin sportfishing, white-sand beaches, intriguing rock formations, world-class golf and exemplary hotels, the region adds to its considerable attractions a warm climate during most of the year. As well as magnetising human travellers, the region also attracts Californian gray whales that migrate here from Alaska to breed. From January to March they wallow in the coves and inlets of Baja, making this a prime spot for whale watching.

Magdalena Bay lends itself to kayaking, sportfishing or simply sitting on the beach. Nearby, El Arco is a must to visit. It's a naturally hewn rocky arch shaped by centuries of rousing waves and wind at Land's End, and it's a fun area to explore by tender or kayak. Other natural attractions include the 'Corridor' – a strip of land where the desert meets the sea stretching 30 kilometres (18 miles) between San José and Cabo San Lucas. This scenic strip of beach has sheltered coves and other than its fabulous resorts, spas and golf courses, it's wonderfully secluded and the beaches are virtually deserted.

Indulge in everything

Surrounded by water on all sides, it is no wonder Los Cabos has capitalised on its potential for activity and adventure. It is considered by many to be the marlin capital of the world, but dorado, yellowfin tuna and wahoo are also there aplenty for catching (and releasing) in the mouth of Cabo San Lucas harbour and the Sea of Cortez.

If you are a watersports lover, be sure to tell your CNI broker when you are planning your cruise as your itinerary can be specially adapted to ensure you visit the best spots for your chosen sport. For instance, the Sea of Cortez throws up shipwrecks, caves, reefs and sandfalls galore and your captain can deliver you to numerous dive sites, including Anegada, Land's End, Cabo Pulmo, the Blowhole and the Sand Falls. Alternatively you can dive off the yacht at every opportunity, or the crew can launch the kayaks off the decks so you can explore the more remote coves and shorelines. As you paddle along in the sunshine you can be sure your crew will be close at hand, if need be, with refreshments and sun cream whenever you desire. If you are a surfer, reserving a few hours on the breaks at Costa Azul is a must, while Los Barriles is the place for windsurfers.

Land-based adventurers are also in luck as the area can be explored on wheels and feet. Your CNI broker can arrange to hire a private all-terrain vehicle to whisk you off on a guided tour across the Los Cabos deserts and beaches. This is something the whole family can enjoy and it allows you to access trails and areas that are otherwise unreachable. Alternative wheeled transport could see you hiring bikes and taking a spin to visit the old lighthouse of Los Cabos.

Southern Baja California is also an inspired place for desert hiking among fantastic rock formations and vegetation. The La Laguna mountains and fossil fields of the Cape region are popular options, or you could hike to the waterfalls of Santiago – a little village about an hour from Los Cabos past San José. After an enjoyable half-hour ramble up through a maze of boulders →



and rock formations, the heat of the Mexican sun may slow you down but the natural pools at your journey's end more than make up for it. As you plunge in for a cooling dip, your crew will prepare a gourmet picnic nearby.

Having seen things on ground level, you might also desire an aerial perspective, in which case you have the choice of a helicopter, ultralight glider or parasailer. The view above Land's End of the famous El Arco is particularly camera-worthy.

Town-bound adventurers have the choice of either San José Del Cabo or Cabo San Lucas. San Jose is the quiet face of Los Cabos with a charming downtown area characterised by 18th century architecture and friendly locals. It is fun to stroll through the spacious town square taking in the pleasures of its courtyard cafés, galleries and boutiques.

Cabo San Lucas, meanwhile, is a more lively offering. A product of the 1970s, it is not as scenic as San José but is worth a visit. Head here for its busy marina, shopping, nightlife and dining. As far as the latter is concerned, fish features highly on the menu, but as well as classic Mexican cuisine (typically a bold infusion of fish, corn, beans, tomatoes, chocolate, avocado, papaya, spices and chilli peppers), the area is pleasantly influenced by international flavours. Expect Californian, French, Italian, Asian and Japanese offerings to tempt your palate. As well as the type of cuisine there is an equally inspired

variety of places to eat it, ranging from elegant silver-service establishments to street bistros, trendy beachside eateries, and hacienda restaurants with live music and dancing. Your charter broker and crew can recommend excellent choices for any occasion.

Ashore again

Los Cabos may be your first encounter with Baja California but it is your last with your yacht and crew, as after a few days exploring the coastline your cruise comes to a close. But this need not mean the end of your holiday. Los Cabos is renowned for exclusive hotel resorts that lure travel aficionados from across the world, so you're highly recommended to remain a few days on land, winding down after the highlights of your cruise.

One excellent option is Las Ventanas Al Paraíso – a desert resort with a world-class spa. A Mecca of refined elegance, the suites have marble showers, limestone floors, cosy fires and a rousing melody of ocean waves crashing just outside your window. The three-bedroom Presidential Suite is the ultimate with four baths, a kitchen and dining area, a private infinity-edged pool and Jacuzzi on the patio, and an outdoor shower with private garden. You'll be assigned a personal butler and he'll be only too happy to recommend which of the resort's many dining venues you may wish to try each evening.

Another celebrated resort is Esperanza in Los Cabos. Golfers will be in their element here and a round or two can be pre-arranged at a handful of fine nearby courses. Cabo del Sol is the highly acclaimed Jack Nicklaus designed 18-hole, par 72 course luxuriating along a mile of coastline with mountain,

Clockwise from top left: Beach dining at Las Ventanas Al Paraíso; the entrance to Las Ventanas Al Paraíso; relax in a hammock at Esperanza before dining at its beachfront restaurant; the Jack Nicklaus designed Palmilla golf course; a cosy fire burns in one of the ocean-front rooms of Las Ventanas Al Paraíso



desert and ocean views. The Cabo del Sol Desert course, meanwhile, is an 18-hole par 72 course designed by Tom Weiskopf, while the Jack Nicklaus designed Palmilla Golf Club has 27 holes over three courses (Mountain, Ocean and Arroyo) winding through cacti and rugged desert and complemented by the fabulous One & Only Palmilla hotel. Formerly a hideaway for Hemingway, Hollywood greats and presidents, this ocean-front resort has won many awards for its golf, spa, restaurants and facilities and service in general.

Another golf course to try is Cabo Real – an 18-hole par 71 masterpiece by Robert Trent Jones II, with mountain terrain, hills, valleys and beach views.

Back at Esperanza, non-golfing partners can be massaged, wrapped and pampered to their heart's content. Or you can both indulge with the spa's 'couples' treatments, one of which is its two-hour Rites of Passage. The experience begins in a couples' suite with a water massage followed by a fresh-water rinse, full body massage, scalp treatment and foot therapy. The setting is equally restful. Themes of the sea and desert remind you where you are, with rustic stone walls trailing with flowers reminiscent of old Mexico, while day beds with blinding-white cushions add a welcoming touch of modern glamour. Plunge pools, warm soaking pools, steam caves, waterfalls and gardens mean you are never at a loss for relaxing venues.

Refreshed by a few days of leisurely resort life, you can fly home from nearby San José Del Cabo International Airport, or extend your stay and travel north, flying home from La Paz.

For more information on cruises in Mexico, including the Yucatán Peninsula region, please contact your nearest CNI broker, see page 8.



the *Chic* of it!

saint barth's

More Côte d'Azur than Caribbean, St Barth's is the St Tropez of yesteryear. **sea&i** recommends a few favourite haunts that sum up the island's appeal

By Miriam Cain

Decorated with rocky peaks, sandy beaches and spectacular, verdant scenery, St Barth's is the *très chic* destination of the Caribbean. Located far across the pond from its motherland France, St Barth's still has a distinctly French flavour. From its *joie de vivre* to its *laissez faire* spirit, this is the Caribbean's take on the Côte d'Azur.

The most elegant and exclusive of the Caribbean islands, it is a haven for those in search of peace, pristine white-sand beaches, stylish accommodation and great numbers of innovative gourmet restaurants.

New visitors call it St Bart's, while those who know the island well prefer St Barth's. Either way, it is short for St Barthelemy, named in 1493 by its discoverer Christopher Columbus in honour of his brother. The island has been French for nearly 350 years, save for the century-long interlude when it was Swedish (hence the name of the island's capital, and only town, Gustavia). Exchanged by the French for a warehouse in Gothenburg, St

Barth's became a free port during its Swedish rule, but in 1878 the islanders voted to return to French rule.

Today, a hype surrounds the island but above all the atmosphere is one of calm – the only essential business is to don your bathers and stay on the beach until sundowners and fine French cuisine ease you into the Caribbean evening.

The rich and the beautiful congregate in St Barth's between Christmas and April, when yachts sit shoulder to shoulder on the dock of Gustavia, with many more anchored in the bay. But it is New Year's Eve when the island comes into its own; when A-listers are ten a penny and the St Barth's scene really kicks in.

Lazing the day away

St Barth's is seriously low-key during the day. Whether lounging on the decks of your yacht at anchor, picnicking on Saline or Gouverneur beach, strutting your stuff at St Jean's beach clubs, or duty-free shopping, there is something for everyone. There are many beaches on the island, and from →



Above: The pools are the same electric blue colour as the ocean
Opposite page: Red roofs, green palms and white beaches define the island



Clockwise from top left: Hotel Guanahani & Spa; the Eden Rock Hotel; the island's great climate means nightlife is an outdoors affair; an early-morning beach waits for sun-worshippers; the interior of the island is lush and green; dance the night away at one of the high-profile beach clubs; the St Barth's airstrip is famous for its dramatic views; the Sand Bar at Eden Rock; the yachts at Gustavia Harbour

the cosmopolitan St Jean to the wild Anse de Toiny, there is something to suit all tastes. Marigot Bay and Grand Cul-de-Sac attract the locals, but the latter is also popular with visitors for its watersports as it is sheltered from the prevailing winds and is reef protected. Nudists go to Grande Saline (which has the longest stretch of powder-white sand on St Barth's) and Gouverneur, snorkellers head to Colombier (a precarious walk down a leeward hillside, so best reached by boat), and swimmers and surfers head to Anse de l'Orient, where an offshore reef tames the swell for swimmers and there is a good point break for surfers. But the beach at St Jean is the place to see and be seen. Home to Eden Rock's Sand Bar, Nikki Beach and La Plage, it is probably the hippest strip of sand in the world.

Gustavia Harbour is still a duty-free port, and today the waterfront is lined with labels the likes of Cartier, Bvlgari, Dior and Hermès, dotted among the more eclectic boutiques. Calypso is one of the island's trendiest stores and stocks Chloé and Jimmy Choo, among others. In St Jean, Mia Zia has Marrakech-made kaftans and raffia beach bags that the glamorous don on the beach, and Lolita Jaca has runway-style kimono wraps and luxe satins for daytime and night-time glamour. Ilena is the island's essential shop for lingerie. For men, La Casa del Habano is devoted to Cuban cigars, and Human Steps stocks designer wear from Prada to Gucci.

When the sun goes down...

St Barth's is full of the spirit of St Tropez, and it is at night that this becomes particularly evident. As with St Tropez, the social scene revolves around eating and drinking, but this is where

the similarities between the two end. An evening in St Barth's is a casual, laid-back event that pans out as the sun goes down. Your night may begin with a 'ti punch aperitif (white rum, sirop de gomme and lime) at Le Select in Gustavia, or with sundowners with the trendy crowd at Nikki Beach.

Many prefer to entertain in the privacy of their own villa or on board their yacht, but for those wishing to venture ashore St Barth's has some of the best dining in the Caribbean. The three finest French restaurants are Le Gaiac at Hotel Le Toiny, On the Rocks Restaurant at Eden Rock Hotel, and Le Sapotillier in Gustavia. For fusion food on a menu that changes daily, head to L'Esprit Saline, one of the most fashionable spots on the island. Maya's, meanwhile, serves eclectic Créole food using the freshest ingredients (reservations are essential), or treat yourself to Do Brazil, perched on the rocks above Shell beach where you will be served a fine ceviche and South American stew. The evening then casually slips into drinks at one of the island's bars. Among the best are Boubou, where there is dancing and lounging, and Le Ti St-Barth – a popular hilltop spot that perfectly captures the funky spirit of St Barth's.

The hottest hotels

For those not fortunate enough to be visiting St Barth's by yacht, the island has a showcase of stunning hotels. Located on the stylish Baie de Saint Jean, the small and fashionable Eden Rock Hotel is one of the most famous on the island. An erstwhile retreat of Howard Hughes and Greta Garbo, after whom suites are named, the hotel is built on the craggy Eden Rock and overlooks Saint Jean beach. Use of the word "no" is banned by the staff, who outnumber guests by 140 to 66. This year marks the completion of the Eden Rock development with the opening of its new six-star ultra-luxurious Villa Rockstar. Unrivalled in the Caribbean, the property is built over three levels and includes four master suites, its own gym, cinema, recording studio and putting green.

Hotel Le Toiny, located on the remote Anse de Toiny, the surf-beaten end of the island, is where you should head for privacy and seclusion in one of its 14 chic cottages or its one suite, all with private pools and views of the Caribbean.

Located on the northeast side of the island on Grand Cul de Sac, Hotel Guanahani & Spa is one of the only spa retreats on St Barth's. The Guanahani plays host to the island's Annual Gastronomic Festival. From the 1 November to 21 December, the 11th event will invite prestigious chefs from France and America to create exclusive menus. And last but not least is the Hotel Saint-Barth's Isle de France, located on the stunning Anse de Flamands. Not all the rooms have ocean views but those that don't are nestled in lush gardens, making this the ultimate peaceful Caribbean retreat. ■

St Barth's basics

The island is a year-round destination but is at its best between Christmas and April, and July and August. It is wise to avoid St Barth's during its unpredictable hurricane season, later in the year. The St Barth's Bucket, sponsored by CNI, runs from 26 to 29 March 2009.





High life down under

city guide

Australia's oldest city, Sydney is also its most modern, exciting and dynamic. Hardly surprising, then, that millions of travellers each year put it right at the top of their wish list

By Kate Rigby

Sydney is a city that celebrates every culture, attitude and idea, and its talent for honouring the old and putting a twist on the new sees it brimming with life, innovation and inspiration. Its setting is legendary – gracing the edge of the ocean, backed by the Blue Mountains and blessed with sunny skies – but aside from nature's benevolence, Sydney is a city that has only itself to thank for its popularity. It has made its buildings architectural landmarks, its cuisine exciting, its art scene dynamic and its vibe irresistible.

CULTURAL ACCLAIM

Just ten minutes' walk from the city centre, Darling Harbour is the city's lively waterfront hub. Here you'll find shopping, great restaurants, entertainment, exhibitions and a busy stream of ferries, boats and yachts ensuring a fervent buzz of activity.

King Street Wharf – home of hip eateries – is the place to enjoy an alfresco lunch before you hop on the light rail to the legendary Sydney Fish Market, or board the monorail for a tour of Darling Harbour. Then switch rails for waves with a boat trip of Sydney Harbour and beyond. As you round the corner, the Harbour Bridge and Opera House unfold before you as you cruise into Circular Quay – an area that could entertain you for days.

Start with The Rocks, just behind Circular Quay. Its history dates back to convict days, so a Rocks Ghost Tour (replete with tales of suicides, hangings and hauntings) is a must. Follow this with a smoothie in one of the many cafés (try the irresistibly named Gumnut Tea Garden where they play live Jazz on a Sunday afternoon). Then explore the modern face of the Rocks. Far removed from its colourful past, it is now a pleasing maze of lanes

and courtyards packed with cafés, boutiques, galleries, pubs, warehouses and restaurants. In the evening, head to the Sydney Opera House for music, opera, theatre or ballet, perhaps stopping off for dinner in one of the fabulous restaurants that highlight the waterfront area.

Another place to explore is the Royal Botanic Gardens on the edge of the harbour. Dating back to 1816, the gardens vary between open parkland with fabulous views of the Opera House, paths winding through all manner of trees, ferns and vegetation, and beautiful flower-filled gardens. There are →

Opposite page:
The iconic Opera House, and Harbour Bridge beyond
Below: The skyline at Circular Quay



Below: The Rocks is the place to go for galleries, cafés and boutiques
Clockwise from left: Bats hang from the trees in the Royal Botanic Gardens; the coastline stretching from Bondi towards Coogee; dinner with a view at the Shangri-la; the grand entrance to the Sir Stamford Hotel; the pool at the Observatory Hotel; Summit restaurant



organised tours, or you can make your own way around. Look out for the Rose Garden, the Oriental Garden and the Herb Garden, where you can take a pew on the rosewood seats by the fountain and watch the world go by. For museums and historic sites, head to the city centre.

WHAT'S IN STORE?

Make your way to the centre of the city where designer labels crowd the boutiques lining Elizabeth and Castlereagh streets. Another day, take a tip from the locals and visit the David Jones and Myer Sydney department stores for every style under one roof. The Rocks area also has some lovely bespoke boutiques and galleries worth browsing.

PILLOW TALK

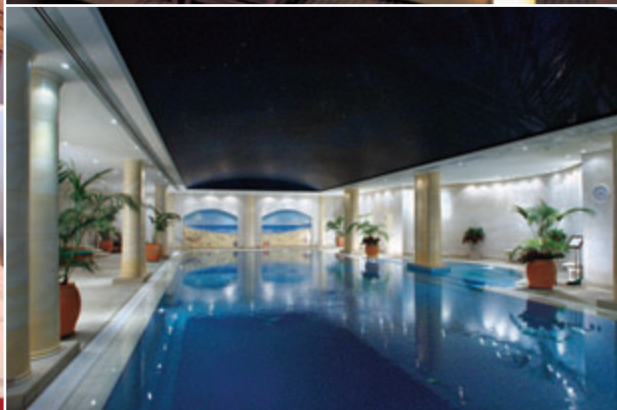
Located near Sydney's historic Rocks, the Observatory Hotel is a grand, sophisticated establishment. The Observatory Suite with its *objets d'art*, four-poster bed and wall-to-wall marble bathroom is elegance epitomised.

Views of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge, meanwhile, recommend the Shangri-la, as do its eye-catching interior, its Blue Horizon Bar and its cuisine. Overlooking the Opera

House and Royal Botanic Gardens, the InterContinental enjoys one of the city's most prestigious locations, while the Sheraton on the Park has more than 500 rooms – each displaying grand elegance but still honouring true Aussie comfort. Ultra stylish suites abound at the Four Seasons Sydney, while the Park Hyatt claims an enviable stretch of waterfront in the historic Rocks district. The nearby Sir Stamford at Circular Quay is the stately master of the Sydney hotel scene, housed, in part, in a National Heritage Register building dating back to the 1800s. Inside, Louis XV and Georgian antiques and one of Australia's largest private collections of fine art welcome guests.

TOP TABLE

Great dining in Sydney is a matter of walking a few steps from wherever you are. Fine restaurants of every cultural cuisine abound. For Japanese, Kobe Jones overlooking Darling Harbour has food and spectacular views wrapped up. Galileo in the historic Rocks is also very worthy of a reservation. Housed in the five-star Observatory Hotel, it is known for its silk-lined walls, antique crystal chandeliers, cosy 17th century leather armchairs, grand arched Georgian windows and tasty French/Japanese cuisine. Bilson's (headed by 'Godfather of



Australian cuisine' Tony Bilson) also offers award-winning five-star dining that blends French techniques with local flavours. There's even a full-time sommelier and cheese expert on hand to ensure you choose wisely. Aside from the food, Bilson's is lined with intriguing art collections. Summit is another fine restaurant to try. It is a landmark dining venue with lofty views of the city and the Blue Mountains in the distance. Designer chairs and lighting set the scene and the presentation of the innovative food equally matches the visual splendour of the setting.

Other greats at which to book a table are Tetsuya's, which overlooks a Japanese garden; Rockpool for seafood delicacies; the award-winning Bécasse; and the gloriously celebrated est.

AFTER DARK

The type of place that draws entertainment and media moguls, Mint is the trendy bar at the InterContinental, while Orbit and Establishment are popular watering holes in the city centre. The Shore Club on Manly Beach, the seductive Jimmy Licks and the neon-lit Water Bar are also hot spots. For all-round evening action, head to the Star City where you'll find restaurants, bars, shows and 200 casino tables all under one roof.

TIME OUT

The best place for spa action tends to be in the major hotels, as most have impressive havens of wellbeing.

The Day Spa at the Observatory Hotel is abundant with La Prairie treatments, while the Park Hyatt Iluka Spa has a rooftop pool overlooking the Opera House for scenic post-treatment relaxation. Fans of Elemis should make a date with the spa at the Four Seasons.

LIVE LIKE THE LOCALS

The Aussies love their sport and know how to stir up a great atmosphere, so head to the Sydney Cricket Ground and catch a few overs with the Sydneysiders.

IT'S A CLICHÉ BUT...

Bondi Beach may be a tourist Mecca but it still attracts its fair share of billionaires as well as backpackers, giving it an eclectic vibe. There are some nice restaurants along the waterfront, or you could have an ice-cream at the Bondi Pavillion, or take a walk on the Bondi to Coogee cliff walk. This scenic route has some nice cafés along the way so you can stop and absorb the sea views with a large cappuccino. ■



aboard salu

Beyond the clouds

Jet black and every shade of aqua make their way onto the waves this season. The look flits between fitted and fluid cuts for women, with casual chic defining styles for men

Photography and styling Natalia Młodzikowska

Assistant Audrey Savoniti

Make-up & hair Barbara Rdzanek

Models Elsa and Charles, Enjoy Models Starke Management



Rayon and elastane twin-set dresses,
Philosophy by Alberta Ferretti





Opposite: Lambskin trousers and Massai lambskin and organza top, both Jitrois

Above left: Cotton shirt, silk tie and wool trousers, all Fred Perry; corduroy cap, Borsalino

Above right: Orilag and dipped lambskin jacket, Jitrois; cut diamond necklace, Van Cleef and Arpels



Opposite page and above left: Acrylic and elastane dress, Philosophy by Alberta Ferretti; ruby ring (in mouth), Van Cleef and Arpels
Above right: Mini jersey tunic dress with coral detailing, Jiki; sapphire ring, Van Cleef and Arpels; stretch lambskin trousers, Jitrois; T-shirt, Jitrois; tuxedo jacket with satin collar, Gala Licona







Opposite page: Jersey tunic dress, Jiki; diamond fairy clip, Van Cleef and Arpels

Above left: Silk top and dress, both Surface to Air; diamond and sapphire necklace and earrings, Van Cleef and Arpels

Above right: Tuxedo, cotton shirt and silk belt, all Gala Licon; satin and spangles black tie, Alexis Mabille



Above left: Stretch lambskin trousers and python jacket, both Jitrois; white cotton shirt, Gala Licon

Above right: Wool trousers and cotton shirt, both Fred Perry; velvet lambskin jacket, Jitrois

Opposite page: Enamelled and lacquered jersey evening dress, Jiki; diamond fairy clip, Van Cleef and Arpels



city apartments

STAYING POWER

Enjoy the view of Rome
over breakfast on the private
terrace of Suite Princesse

There's nothing quite like staying in the heart of a city, provided you have a private sanctuary in which to retire whenever you wish to keep the vibrant metropolis at arm's length

By Kate Rigby

SUITE PRINCESSE, ROME, ITALY

WHERE WILL YOU FIND IT? In the very heart of Rome, just a few minutes' stroll from the Piazza di Spagna and the Via dei Condotti boutiques.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT? Palatial luxury – quite literally – as the apartment stretches out over the two top floors of one of the most prestigious aristocratic palaces in Rome. Three bedrooms sleep six guests with every room exhibiting exquisite Italian style – think high-ceilinged rooms, magnificent drapes, gilt-edged furniture and a rich colour palette. The two floors accommodate a dining room, kitchen, master bedroom, double bedroom, twin bedroom, en-suite bathrooms for each room, guest bathroom, living room and terrace overlooking the city. Dusk-to-dawn security is provided.

WHO LOVES IT? Those looking for something extra special with a story to tell. Over the centuries these rooms have welcomed European royalty, including Napoleon III. As such, the apartment has a fabulous history and invites guests to add to its esteemed heritage.

WHY WILL YOU KEEP COMING BACK? Aside from its fabulous décor, modern luxuries and captivating history, Suite Princesse's location means you can pop down for a cappuccino to watch the world go by on the famous, ever-bustling Spanish Steps. However, thanks to the apartment's lofty location, within minutes you can swap the city bustle for the peace of your own palace.

HOW CAN YOU FIND OUT MORE? Visit www.indigolodges.com



VILLAHOTEL FOCH, PARIS, FRANCE

WHERE WILL YOU FIND IT? Just steps from the Champs-Élysées and the Arc de Triomphe.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT? Four king-sized bedrooms, a Jacuzzi, home theatre and private bar. The apartment also invites you to indulge with fine Egyptian linens, welcome Champagne, a humidifier and fresh flowers. A butler, chauffeur, chef, masseuse, security guard and personal trainer can also be arranged.

WHO LOVES IT? Design and art lovers will fall for the inspired interior décor. The apartment is hung with striking art works and tastefully finished with hip furniture, all strategically lit for maximum impact. A neutral colour palette is injected with splashes of bold colour, and dark-wood furniture and wood-panelled walls add more than a touch of French chic. Sleeping eight, the apartment easily welcomes a large family or a group of friends visiting the city.

WHY WILL YOU KEEP COMING BACK? The apartment is a superlative place to entertain, with design features to stun guests. Or you can simply luxuriate in the vast space yourself, relaxing with the home theatre, basking in the huge baths in the marble bathrooms, and ensconced in luxurious embroidered bathrobes as you sip a cocktail prepared at your private bar. Outside, the very best of Parisian shopping, dining and entertainment awaits.

HOW CAN YOU FIND OUT MORE? Visit www.villazzo.com





APARTMENT FONTAINE, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

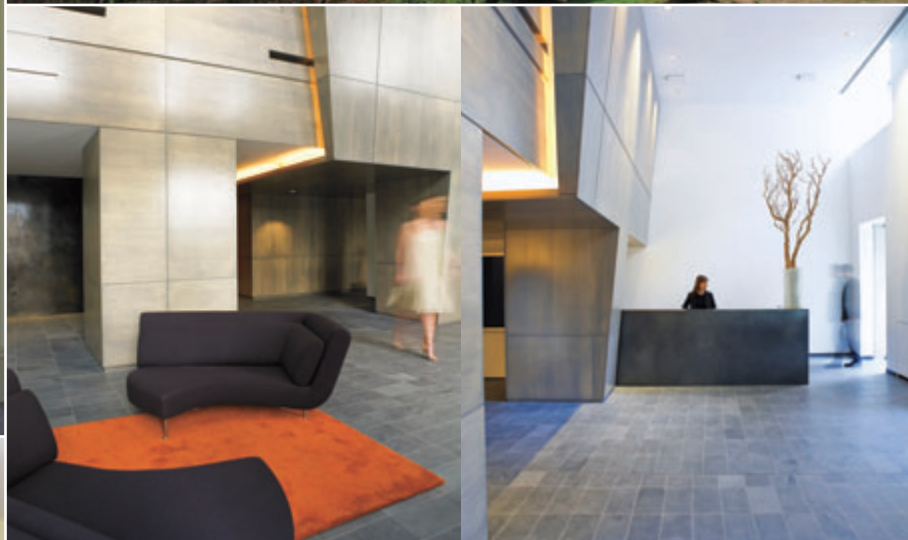
WHERE WILL YOU FIND IT? In Geneva's old town, metres away from the popular Bourg de Four and within walking distance of the city's financial district and nightlife.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT? An appealing blend of modern and traditional. The building itself is historic with low ceilings, wooden beams and large windows, but the décor is tastefully contemporary with soothing earthy tones and a Chinese screen giving way to the bedroom. There is also a living room with a fireplace and flat-screen television, an open-plan kitchen and dining area and an en-suite bathroom. A private chef, domestic staff, chauffeur-driven transport, and massage and beauty treatments can all be arranged to make your stay even more enjoyable.

WHO LOVES IT? This apartment is a compact but extremely clean and fashionable space that is very well placed for Geneva's attractions. It is therefore perfect for any couple visiting on business or for a few days' shopping, as the old town is layered with exclusive boutiques and interior design shops.

WHY WILL YOU KEEP COMING BACK? Apartment Fontaine at one and the same time feels like a luxury retreat and a welcoming home. Walking out of the front door, you are in the heart of a pedestrianised area of the old town, meaning you're nicely buffeted from the noise and bustle of the city traffic. This quaint Bourg de Four region has an 18th-century fountain decorated with flowers, and plenty of options for morning coffee and croissants.

HOW CAN YOU FIND OUT MORE? Visit www.indigolodges.com



AKA CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK, USA

WHERE WILL YOU FIND IT? Just west of Fifth Avenue on 58th Street, and a heartbeat from Central Park.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT? Entering through a designer lobby, you make your way up to a one or two-bedroom apartment. Each one has St Laurent stone flooring and a state-of-the-art kitchen with granite worktops, oversized bathrooms with mosaic stone floors and emperador costa stone walls. The décor is purity itself with creams, whites and slate greys illuminated with plenty of natural daylight and with ample space to make yourself at home.

WHO LOVES IT? Those in the city for a few days will love the apartment's convenient access to boutiques, culture and nightlife. In a city where space is a premium, there's more than enough for complete relaxation.

WHY WILL YOU KEEP COMING BACK? In summer, the free New York Philharmonic concerts on Central Park's Great Lawn are just a short stroll away, while all year round you have the Fifth Avenue shops, nearby restaurants and no less than nine museums – including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Guggenheim.

HOW CAN YOU FIND OUT MORE? Visit www.hotelaka.com



Something mauritius old new borrowed blue

Far from being solely a favoured haunt for honeymooners, Mauritius is a true paradise for any discerning traveller. This island has it all — fun-filled activities, turquoise waters and a colourful mix of cultures from all corners of the world

By Laurent Perignon

A politically stable country, and one of the richest in Africa, if not the richest, Mauritius has a unique mix of influences. Poised on the cultural cross-roads between Asia and Africa, and spiced with a dash of European flavour, it brings together a wealth of cultures living together in harmony and sharing an admiral approach to economic development.

Something old

Discovered by the Portuguese in the early 16th century, Mauritius inherited the name it now bears from the Dutch, when an expedition mistakenly landed there in 1598. The explorers decided to name the island 'Prins Maurits van Nassaueiland' after Prince Maurits of the House of Nassau, the stadholder of Holland. Today, many places around the island still bear names that have a Dutch influence, such as Pieter Both mountain and the Vandermeersh region. It was also the Dutch who introduced sugar cane to the island, and, a less auspicious endeavour, contributed to the extinction of the endemic dodo species.



Above: The pool and beach restaurant at Le Telfair Golf & Spa offers stunning views of the reef and Indian Ocean

Abandoned by the Dutch in the early 18th century, the island fell under French rule after Guillaume Dufresne d'Arسل landed there in 1715 and renamed it Isle de France. But it was only from 1735, and with the arrival of Governor Mahé de la Bourdonnais, that the island started developing efficiently. It was then ceded to Great Britain at the end of the Napoleonic wars when the British armies overpowered the French privateers in the island's capital of Port Louis. However, the British guaranteed they would still respect the language, customs, traditions and laws of the island's inhabitants. It was then that Mauritius took its current name.

While the Creoles trace their origins to the slaves that were brought to work on the sugar fields, and the Franco-Mauritians are descended from the elite that owned the sugar estates, the Indo-Mauritians are the descendants of the Indian labourers. These 'coolies' migrated to the island *en masse* after the abolition of slavery in 1834, together with a smaller group of Chinese, Malay and African workers.

This mosaic of cultures, which was termed 'coolitude' by poet Khal Torabully, is one of the island's principal

characteristics. It dictates the social diversity of the country as much as its admirable policy of openness to otherness.

A country that gained independence in 1968, and became a Republic in 1992, Mauritius has managed to make the best of its tumultuous history. Today, not only does the literacy rate hover at around 90%, its multi-ethnic cultures (a mix of Hindu, Islamic, Christian and Buddhist faiths) coexist peacefully, with most of the inhabitants speaking a wide variety of languages including English (the official language), French, Creole and Hindi, as well as German, Italian and Spanish in the tourist sectors.

Something borrowed

The Mauritians are smart. Although sugar cane is still the main agricultural pillar, with sugar fields abounding all around the island, the glorious days when it was a rare and expensive commodity have been gone for some time now.

Banking on their perfect climate, the lack of hurricanes (unlike the Caribbean), and their various cultural links with the old world, the successive Mauritian governments →



Above, clockwise: The 18-hole golf course of Bel Ombre is set between lush hills and the ocean; Valriche nature park; the open library of Le Telfair is reminiscent of the British times; Deer abound in the Valriche nature park

have borrowed inspiration from other idyllic, developing nations and made it a priority to focus on luxury tourism. As a result, the island's collection of peerless hotels means it is one of the forerunners when it comes to concentration of luxury resorts per square kilometre.

From One&Only resorts to the Accor Group to Sun Resorts, the Hilton, the Meridien, Oberoi and Taj, all the major luxury hoteliers from around the world have settled here, a process that was started in the eighties and has seen no sign of abating since. Those that have not yet established themselves are now rapidly catching up, with, for example, a Four Seasons Resort launched earlier this year, and the recently opened Luxury Collection's Grand Mauritian adding to the exceptional hotel offerings.

Many unique properties such as Le Touessrok, Beau Rivage and the Shanti Ananda remain favourites. Like other hotels of a similar calibre, they have undergone make overs in order to up their game and list VIP facilities. These include golf courses (there are no less than 13 top-notch courses on the island), private villas and branded spas.

With recent trends focusing on hardcore relaxation — as opposed to just lying on the beach — most luxury hotels and resorts now offer the whole range of Ayurvedic, Swedish or Thai massages, therapy treatments by spa specialists such as Cinq Mondes or Six Senses, and yoga, vedanta or t'ai chi. The list is endless, and if you are more interested in matters of the palate than those of the physique, ultimate offerings come together with a range of culinary experiences by starred chefs from France, Italy and Japan, among others. As a result, Mauritius is no longer restricted to its stereotype as a place for honeymooners spending time between their hotel room and the white sand beaches. Now the island is building a reputation as a destination that has it all, including its very own luxurious Mauritian way of life.

Something new

A recent example of Mauritian success in luxury tourism is Le Telfair Golf & Spa, located in the southern region within the Domaine de Bel Ombre. It is part of the locally-owned Indigo group that also comprises the Labourdonnais and Suffren



hotels and marina. Launched in 2005, Le Telfair Golf & Spa sits on a 3,500-acre estate that runs from the pristine and secluded beaches of Bel Ombre up to the foothills of the Plain Champagne mountain, through the Valriche nature park. The best-kept secret of this part of the island, the estate is named after Charles Telfair, an English naturalist who lived in the beautiful mansion of the Château de Bel Ombre until his death in Port Louis in 1833.

Highly symbolic of the philosophy with which the owners of the Domaine have developed the resort, the Château de Bel Ombre has been turned into a magnificent clubhouse whose terrace opens onto an 18-hole championship golf course perfectly nestled amid sugar fields and the hills of the Valriche nature park. It also has a fine Mauritian restaurant with mouth-watering dishes inspired by local produce, fish and spices, all harmoniously blended by the resident chef. From the wood-fire bringelle chutney with shrimps, and cari poulet leaf pesto to the chicken and prawns salmi or the panfried fillet of vieille rouge with thyme grilled pumpkin, each dish is executed as a uniquely Mauritian symphony that embodies what life on the island is all

about: quality living, a delicate yet spicy touch, and a taste for fun and all things natural.

This spirit is found everywhere in the resort and is what makes it stand apart. From the stunning suites, that are as much a tribute to Charles Telfair's native Britain as to Mauritian influence, to the open-air, colonially styled Cavendish Bar, to the delicate Italian and Japanese cuisines of Annabella's and Gin'Ja, there is a unique identity and feel to Le Telfair. This all goes to make guests, honeymooners and families alike feel welcome the moment they step through the finely sculpted wooden entrance.

Yet the resort is not only about being pampered. Certainly, the Six Senses spa provides comforting relaxation experiences, and undoubtedly the long white sandy beach is an invitation to sloth, but Le Telfair is also a pioneer in Mauritius when it comes to eco-tourism and enhancing the experience by optimising the use of the endemic flora and fauna.

The Valriche nature park is a jewel in the island's crown and a ride through the preserved, lush green, deer-filled hills on a quad-bike is paramount to understanding the essence of Mauritius as an island that has more to offer than meets the eye.

Something blue

With 150 kilometres of coral reefs fringing the island, turquoise water abounds. The presence of such a long reef is a rarity given the size of the country — the islands in the Seychelles and the Maldives being much smaller. Its beautiful waters certainly mean that all parts of Mauritius are worth visiting, whether for enjoying a day at the beach, going diving, or exploring the coastline and nearby islands of Rodrigues and l'Ile aux Cerfs by boat. However, access to Mauritius with a yacht is no easy task — yet.

As the Integrated Resort Scheme launched by the Mauritian government is designed to facilitate the acquisition of resort and residential properties by non-citizens, there has been a flurry of new developments over the past few years to build exclusive villas — forecast to reach 4,200 units by 2010. As such the government has already identified potential and sustainable areas around the island to meet the future mooring requirements of yachts bought by new villa owners. To date, such projects remain as a blueprint only, but there are high expectations that Mauritius could some time become a favourite destination for yacht owners.

The Mauritians have a saying: Mauritius was made first, and heaven was copied afterwards. As the island is already rich in everything else, including culture, duty-free boutiques and fine dining, proper yachting facilities are perhaps the final step towards making that saying come true, not only for honeymooners and land travellers, but also for yachts. ■

For further information please visit: www.letelfair.com

Top: The Cavendish Bar at Le Telfair Golf & Spa is a great place for cocktails and a relaxing evening

Bottom: The suites at Le Telfair are of mixed influences, with British, Mauritian and colonial flair



MATERIAL world

linens

Selecting the perfect linens for your yacht is far from being merely a practical consideration; it is a crucial statement of style and prestige. [sea&i](#) unveils the labels of some of the finest linens in the world, and looks at how to impress with a well-dressed yacht

By Miriam Cain

Think about how carefully you select your clothes. The label, colour, fabric, cut, feel and look must be just so. Each outfit should suit the day, the mood and the image you wish to convey – your clothes are, after all, one of the first visual impressions you project and speak volumes about your personality and lifestyle. It is not such a leap of the imagination, therefore, to appreciate how linens have a similar impact on board a yacht.

Fine details, accessories, finishing touches... call them what you will, linens are a major element of any design scheme and many companies have devoted more than a century to perfecting their fabric offerings.

IN THE LOOP

The likes of Yves Delorme, Frette and Sferra Bros have been in business for more than a century and have set industry standards by using the finest materials and craftsmanship. The oldest, French, label, Yves Delorme (which began life as Fremaux), has been championing a reputation for quality and excellence for more than 160 years. Not far behind, two Italian labels, Frette (1860) and Sferra (1891), have both established a rich identity worldwide with their varied collections of luxury bed and bath linens. But the market is by no means reserved for the long-standing; instead, the high standard set by these companies is being admirably challenged by younger arrivals – such as Josephine Home – meaning consumers are treated to an ever-abundant selection.

CREATIVE COMPOSITION

The styling of yacht interiors is increasingly moving towards comfortable elegance rather than the ostentatious statements that were often formerly associated with yacht interiors.

Over the years, the design and production of fabrics has become, in its own way, as sleek and advanced as the technology on board yachts – and just as diverse. From bed linen to towels, robes and table linen, the composition of an interior requires a delicate balance in the choice of fabrics, combination of colours and juxtaposition of elements. The effect should be viewed as a work in progress; that, after all, is one of the joys of linens. They can constantly be embellished or subtly changed to create new looks for different guests, tastes, moods or even seasons. Whether your inclination is to use basic essentials for a tailored, minimal look, or to layer

colours, patterns and textures to create a very rich, distinctive character, the options are almost infinite. Here we focus on some of the main details to consider.

BED LINEN

The bed is a focal element of any cabin and is a wonderful blank canvas on which to express your own unique style. A few well-chosen coordinates (such as sheets, duvets and pillow-cases) along with one or two accessories (think cushions, throws and blankets) can transform a bed and a room, and the effect can be continuously evolved by adding more of one element or reducing another. For example, a Frette Mongolian cashmere blanket draped over the tail of a bed can add colour, texture, warmth and a touch of luxury all in one.

As far as inspiration is concerned, you may find it comes from other furnishings in the room, your favourite colour, a cultural destination you admire, or a season of the year. Simply by selecting the appropriate colours, textures and patterns for the linens that dress your bed, you will transform the whole character of the room.

For example, using warm colours, like gold or scarlet, can brighten a room. Select them in a decadent fabric, such as pure silk or velvet, and the mix of bold tones and seductive →



Opposite page: Fine linens and throws from Josephine Home
Left: Layered colours and textures give a pleasing effect with Sferra bed linens

LABEL LANGUAGE

The quality of linen depends on several criteria including cotton type, thread count, weave and loom, as well as the finishing process. The following is a general guide as everyone has their own preference when it comes to what they wish to rest their head on or wrap around themselves.

COTTON

Use of the best cotton is essential. Egyptian cotton is the finest as Egypt has a unique, moderate year-round climate, which is ideal for cotton cultivation. The long staple, or long fibre, of Egyptian-grown cotton means that there is more continuous fibre to use to create threads or yarns. This yarn is smaller in diameter yet stronger than other cotton, so it can be used to create more resilient fabric that is light in weight yet breathes well.

THREAD COUNT

The thread count is based on the number of horizontal and vertical threads in one square inch of material. The higher the thread count, the softer the fabric. Yarn size effects the thread count as the finer yarn is thinner, therefore there is more per square inch, producing a higher thread count. Finer yarns can only be

made with a long staple cotton. Softness also depends on the quality of the fibre, which is why a lower thread count using finer cotton can have a softer feel to that of a higher thread count using an inferior grade of cotton.

COMBED COTTON

The combing process, used by the highest quality linen companies, removes short staples and dirt that can cause yarn breakage in weaving. This leaves long staples ready for spinning into yarn that is strong and finer to the touch, resulting in a higher quality fabric. Some sheets have a high thread count but may not be made of long-staple cotton and therefore will not be as smooth.

WEAVE

The finest looms are used by weavers to create both satin weaves, which are soft with a silk-like finish, and classic, crisp weaves. It is a matter of personal taste as to whether you prefer the crispness of a linen weave or the softness of satin. Once woven, the more esteemed linen companies remove treatments used during weaving. The finishing process helps reduce wrinkling, maintains the brightness of the colour, and gives the fabric a softer feel.



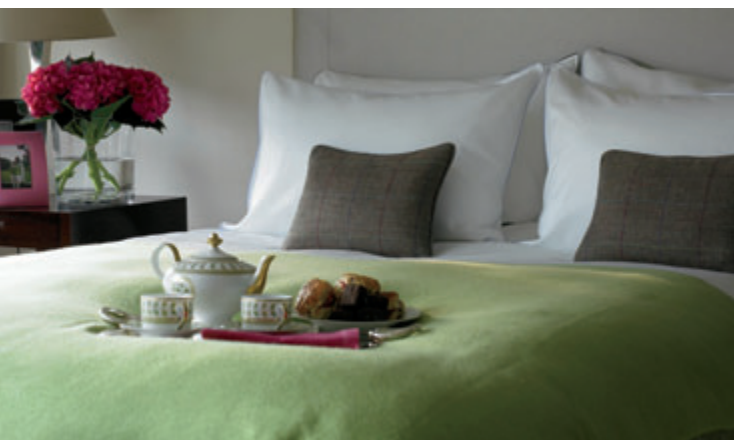
texture will instantly add glamour to the room. For a fresh, spacious feel, cool blues and greens can work wonders. Natural earthy tones, meanwhile, blend with most colour schemes, and can create a soothing atmosphere, while white is always clean and fresh and equally adaptable to feminine, masculine, traditional, contemporary, minimalist or complex themes.

Contrasting colours, such as red and green, or orange and blue, create an intense energy when used together, while analogous colours such as yellow and green have a harmonious effect. Playing with several tones of the same colour can also work well — this winter, for example a marriage of glacial and midnight blues is on trend. The most popular colour combinations tend to be monochromatic, where hues of the same colour provide the ideal base on which to play with texture and pattern. Speaking of patterns, using large prints

with just a few colours can create a bold statement, while a detailed design can give the appearance of delicacy.

Stephanie Betts of luxury linen brand Josephine Home says, “We are seeing an increase in the number of requests for simple, tailored bed linen in plain white or pale silvery greys as they are easier to layer with coloured throws and lend a more sophisticated look to the cabins thanks to a sleeker appearance.” The texture of fabrics may have a more subtle effect than the colour, but is no less crucial. Your choice of fabrics, weaves, stitching and detailing will make all the difference to the overall composition, and with just a few subtle changes you can transform a complex look into a contemporary one, for example.

Betts says “We like to add subtle details, with discreet, same-colour monograms or with our trademark fine grosgrain



pipings which can be matched to any colour for the perfect, unique finish. We also like to combine super-fine Egyptian cotton sheets – up to a 1,000 threadcount – with a few linen cushions for a traditional and refined combination of textures. Last but not least, linen should feel amazing to touch.”

TABLE LINENS

When it comes to dressing a table on a yacht, you want to create a statement that will complement the food, destination and occasion and establish a look that will survive throughout the dining experience, not just dazzle at the initial setting.

As with bed linens, it is a matter of evolving the theme, meaning you can add, reduce or interchange components to create new design schemes for each meal, or even for each course of one meal. Tablecloths, napkins, placemats and

runners can all play with various patterns, textures and colour combinations. As with bed linens, crisp white allows for all manner of variations – although introducing a shot of colour with a distinctive motif, or contrasting lively napkins with a plain tablecloth, can work well.

TOP TOWELLING

Soft, plush towels are a must on board a superyacht, meaning cotton is the only option as it is naturally absorbent. The thickest, softest towelling uses denser, longer and tighter loops, and Turkish cotton is favoured for its softness and absorbency.

As with bed and table linens, the colour and pattern of towelling is a matter of personal taste, but crisp white is often the preferred choice for a bathroom, while on deck the colour of beach towels can be matched to the more distinct colours and designs of the sun pads and exterior finishes. “For clients who decide to eschew the clean look of fluffy white towels,” says Betts, “We offer a bespoke service matching the towels to the colour theme of each cabin. We can also distinguish between his and hers by picking two of the accent colours of the room for a discreet trim on the towels. For deck towels we recommend bespoke solid colours and a design echoing the lines, materials and colours used for the vessel’s deck. The towels should be bold, generously sized and look like they ‘belong’ to the vessel,” Betts adds.

Ultimately, the fun in selecting linens and towelling for your yacht comes from exploring the latest offerings from the finest companies. All offer bespoke services, so can create linens that are unique to your vessel and its interior design concept. Likewise, they can inspire you with ideas on how to introduce design effects and colours into your linens and thus on board your yacht, ensuring it’s the best-dressed vessel around. ■

For further information, visit www.sferralinens.com;

www.yvesdelorme.com; www.frette.com; www.josephinehome.co.uk

Clockwise from top left: Elegant dining with Sferra; bright flowers and accessories can really lift a colour scheme; beautiful wood needs only the simplest table decoration; towels can be embroidered with your yacht’s signature motif – as on board Xanadu; customise towels to suit the colour scheme of each en suite



yacht interior A salute to style

With more than 20 years of experience in high-end contemporary design, Sarah King brought the hitherto classic interior of a Benetti Tradition bang up to date with a thoroughly contemporary interior for the 30m (98') Salu

Is this the first yacht interior you have designed?

King: Yes, I have always been fascinated by the precision and practicality required in designing a yacht interior and I was delighted to be able to apply my creative skills to this project.

What is your background in design?

King: My career began in television production, although my very first job was as a junior in an architect's practice – hence

my passion for design. My creative side, however, really only emerged once my husband and I set up a business in London and at the same time bought a large family house – both needed high-end interior design and decoration so I turned my hand to those projects. I then took a break from design to help establish a school for dyslexic children, which now flourishes. I also set up a scuba-diving business (diving being my other passion), but I was always drawn back to interior design.



CNI BROKER AND PROJECT MANAGER OF SALU'S BUILD, NEIL CHESTON SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE PROCESS

"Salu was the first yacht for this client and therefore I advised that the comfort and reassurance of a custom series build was probably the right choice for them. Salu is number 19 in the Benetti Tradition Series and therefore her predecessors have ironed out any issues that might arise with a new-build yacht. I believe that the Benetti Tradition is one of the only credible lines of series yachts in her size range, and this, added to the yard's phenomenal reputation, gave the clients confidence in her build. Italian builders are far more accommodating of owner input and as I knew the owners had new ideas for her interior, I thought Benetti would be their best option. The Benetti Project Manager, Nabil El Jammal worked wonderfully with Sarah King. The end result is a customised finish the likes of which I have never seen on a production yacht."

Were you involved in the design of all Salu's interior and exterior deck spaces from the beginning?

King: Yes. The Benetti Tradition, as its name suggests, is all about classic style, but my feeling was that Salu needed the opposite treatment – that is, a contemporary design. Therefore it was important I was involved as early as possible. I originally worked on the concept with François Zuretti, developing the light feel of the interior and the wavy line, which is a strong signature feature of Salu. The yacht was already under construction so we were designing as the shipyard was building, which is not ideal. As I began to understand the vagaries of working on a yacht interior, I took over all the design and detailing – literally from parquet to pastry brush.

How difficult was it adapting your land-based skills and style to a yacht design?

King: My style adapted easily to a nautical environment, although the project was not without its challenges. You can point to anything – walls, windows, ceilings, furniture, furnishings – and therein lies a story of how a problem arose and was solved, or a custom and practice adapted. On a yacht, concealed bulkheads,

pipework, fan coils, air-conditioning and all sorts of other paraphernalia have to be cleverly integrated into the scheme without allowing function to detract from the design.

What was your inspiration?

King: The owner's brief really grabbed me. He, like myself, has seen so many yachts with glitzy accessories and dark interiors reminiscent of a gentlemen's private club. We both preferred to subscribe to the lightness of the fabulous Mediterranean and Caribbean settings generally associated with luxury yachts. The owner's request for an unstuffy, contemporary design which was still comfortable, sophisticated and aesthetically pleasing allowed me to strip away the traditional heavy-weight embellishments and create a fresh feel for each space.

What was your thought process behind the design?

King: I've always taken an intelligent and practical approach to creating appealing interiors. Beyond the fundamental contemporary concept and the space constraints unique to a yacht, there were constant challenges that had to be addressed and re-evaluated. Thus, a good deal of →

Opposite page: Salu cruises the West Mediterranean, reaching speeds of over 12 knots
Above left: Lie back and relax on the sun deck
Above: The toys come out to play



lateral thinking was applied to the design and manufacture of many of the interior elements.

For example furniture and furnishings had to be suitable for a floating vessel. Table tops had to be secured to their supports and these, in turn, to the floor. The selection of china had to take into account that it needs to be easily stackable, and tableware had to be weighty enough not to fall over at the slightest movement of the vessel.

Practical use of space was also fundamental as, being both for private and charter use, Salu needed to incorporate enough storage space for extended voyages, and therefore be able to be stocked like a floating hotel. I discovered that space was a huge issue. The vessel and all its furnishings also needed to be relatively easy to maintain to the extremely high standard expected at this end of the industry, particularly with the charter market's fast turn-around times.

Finally keeping the style fresh with an attention to detail that incorporated every element right up to the branding of toiletries, towels and accessories was of paramount importance for me.

How did you go about deciding on the interior style of Salu? And how would you summarise it?

King: I was lucky – it came naturally. I'd describe the style as contemporary, practical and full of interesting, subtle details.

What is your favourite area on board?

King: The owner's bathroom. This pushed the boundaries of Benetti's traditional bathroom interior but still worked within the limits of the original space. We used curved cabinetry, pale veneers, a freestanding oval bath and an unusual treatment of Fox Linton's Raindrop nytek on the wall. We then enhanced this with complementary detailing for the flooring, lighting, storage space, door and bathroom furniture.

When you were working on the original designs for Salu, did any other yacht interiors catch your eye?

King: I know that there are many brilliant designers working in the yachting industry, however since I knew exactly what the owner wanted, and I was confident that my skills would provide



what was needed, I didn't feel the need for further reference. As it was, once the project was under way I had very little time or opportunity to look at any other yacht interiors anyway as my work was so intense.

On reflection, how different was designing a yacht interior to your usual work?

King: More so than I could ever have imagined. To give just one example: specifications have to be in place at a much earlier stage in a yacht's development than for a land-based property, and you can't possibly leave a finish until the last minute. The classic attitude of "we'll paint the walls white and work out what we want to do later" was simply not an option.

Did you enjoy the experience?

King: Very much so. It was an intense process but the finished yacht more than makes up for it. ■

For more information on charters aboard Salu, please contact your CNI charter broker, see page 8.



Clockwise from top left:
The master en-suite bathroom; the upper aft deck; the main saloon; the master bedroom; the bathroom to the VIP stateroom; dining on board; the aft deck



Face to face with... CNI CEO Jillian Montgomery

Chief Executive Officer of CNI, and this year celebrating a phenomenal 30 years with the company, Jillian Montgomery has long been one of the most respected and enduring figures in the luxury yachting industry worldwide

Interview by Miriam Cain

What first inspired you to start working in the yachting industry?

When I moved to Monaco, many years ago, I saw the yachts lined up in the port and I was fascinated by them. I really couldn't imagine anything more irresistible than working in such an exciting environment and I knew I had to be a part of it.

What has kept you in the industry for so long?

The same thing. The industry has continued to evolve and has always excited me. I've never considered doing anything else.

Even in times like these?

Absolutely. In 2007 CNI sold over a billion dollars worth of yachts and we're hoping to do so again this year. We have the best brokers, the largest fleet of yachts (including many of the largest yachts), and offices worldwide. Economic climates come and go, but at the end of the day CNI is at the top of its game and we are always working on ways to remain so, meaning we can offer the ultimate service to our clients.

What is the greatest challenge you have faced in the industry?

The huge growth in the industry over the last few decades has been very exciting but also a great challenge. What started off as a cottage industry has grown enormously worldwide, and is still

growing. CNI is the pioneer of superyacht charter; George Nicholson really is the original broker and I am proud, myself, to have been a part of this evolution in the industry. Keeping up with the growth is a real challenge but with the established teams at CNI it is a truly exciting business.

What is the one piece of advice you always give to your clients?

Listen to your broker, be it for charter or sales. You have the services of an expert available to you, and a good broker (and CNI has the best) is completely tuned in to the needs and wishes of each client. They really are your greatest ally.

Superyachts are known for their exceptional luxury, but what features do you feel are the real 'can't-live-without' luxuries?

A Jacuzzi, gymnasium and sumptuous furnishings really make a difference. But in my opinion, it is the little touches that are the true luxuries. It is those details where the interior designer and owner have gone that extra mile that really make the yachts in the CNI fleet stand out.

We're seeing a huge increase in the size of yachts. Is there such a thing as being too big?

Sometimes, because the marinas, in the main, do not have berths large enough for extremely big yachts. This means that these vessels must either

berth in the commercial area of a marina or anchor off, neither of which is ideal. But there are several new marina developments under way that should help rectify this issue.

What is your favourite yacht on the water today?

There are so many amazing yachts out there, I couldn't pick one. I love the romance and thrill of the classic sailing yachts for a genuine sailing experience, but the large, modern motor yachts are spacious and stable and exude glamour. And then the smaller, performance motor yachts are perfect for exploring the coastline of the Côte d'Azur, for example. Their power and speed at a touch of the throttle is pure adrenalin.

What is the most outrageous request you have received from a client?

It has to be when one of our luxury superyachts was chartered for two dogs because they didn't like flying. But there are many stories I hear from our charter brokers; they really do go to the ends of the earth in search of some bizarre things for clients.

What is the next big thing from your company?

You'll have to wait and see!

And finally, tell us something most people wouldn't know about you.

I used to be a croupier in a casino. ■

Buying the ^{CNI listings}best

Of all the superyachts you could wish to buy, CNI can offer you the widest choice. Here are the latest listings to have come onto CNI's books in the last few weeks

Welcome to CNI's instant guide to the finer things in yachting. At any one time the CNI brokers have between 120 to 150 yachts listed for sale, meaning we have the largest collection of available yachts listed with any brokerage house. In addition to this, every month new yachts come onto our radar.

This is also true of CNI's charter fleet, which is the largest and most versatile in the industry. Recent additions to the 100+ strong list of superyachts available for charter through CNI

exemplify the fact, as does the fact that many of these yachts are among the top scorers when it comes to charter bookings.

It is therefore no stretch of the truth to say that there is a yacht on our books to suit every taste. For example, we list the highly successful 54m (177') ketch Parsifal III built by Perini Navi in collaboration with CNI, and now available for sale, as well as the soon-to-be-launched 56m (180') Trinity motor yacht Anjilis. There is also the latest 60m (200') Benetti motor yacht Xanadu to consider, or long-time favourites such as the series of Amnesias,

Mirabellas and Excellences — all of which are available for charter and/or sale through CNI.

With access to over 1,300 yachts over 24m (80') currently for sale, and more than 800 on the charter market, the CNI brokers across the world are in the best position possible to advise and help you find the relevant vessel to fulfil your yachting dreams.

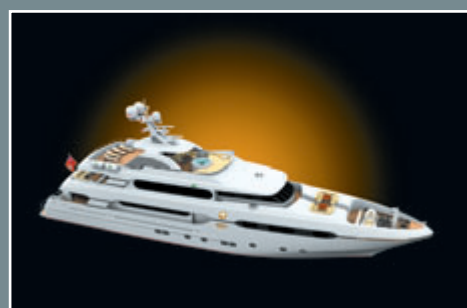
We hope you will be inspired by the current fleet of yachts for sale displayed over the following pages, and we look forward to hearing from you soon. Please see p8 for your nearest CNI broker. ■



TACANUYA 56.10m (184') Swiftship, 1992



FLYING EAGLE 48m (157.5') Bloemsma Van Breemen, 2005



SUNRISE 45 HULL 182 44.85m (147.1') Sunrise Yachts, 2009



EXUBERANCE 43m (141') CRN, 2010



ALOUETTE 42m (137.9') Benetti, 1972



BLUE EYES 42m (137.9') Baglietto, 2004



HULL Y0101 39.6m (129.11') Marin LuxurYachts, 2009



TRADITION 36.6m (120.2') Feadship, 1974



ILLUSION 36.5m (120') ISA, 2007



FOLLOW ME 4 34.95m (114.7') Benetti, 2006



LAYMAR II 34.7m (114') Codecasa, 1989



THE ONE 34.63m (113.6') Baglietto, 2006



SPIRIT OF SALIMA 34.2m (112.2') Tecnomar, 2006



PURE WHITE 34.11m (111.8') Arno, 2007



RUBECAN 34m (111.6') Ferretti, 2003



LA BELLE AIRE 33.53m (110') Feadship, 1973



MASTER BLASTER 33.48m (108.6') Overmarine, 2004



MUSBE DREAMIN 33m (108.2') Westship, 1998



PACIFIC MERMAID 32m (104.11') Johnson & Winter, 1997



POWDERMONKEY 30.5m (100') Falcon Yachts, 2004



LADY LUCK 30.5m (100') SanLorenzo, 2001



COCKTAILS 30.48m (97') Hargrave, 2006



SERENDIPITY BLUE 26.21m (85.11) Falcon Yachts, 2005



PRAISE THE LORD 26.2m (86') Tarrab, 2001



DANDY D 25.6m (83.11') Astondoa, 2001



LEONESSA 25.3m (83') Ferretti, 2005



CHOINI 24.99m (82') Hargrave, 2002



CARRE D'AS 24.1m (78.6') Azimut, 2001



A-RATED 22.86m (75') Lazzara, 2007



LADY ELICA 22.83m (74.1') Princess, 2004



CAROAMA 22.23m (72.11') Overmarine, 2005



SELENE 56m (183.8') Perini Navi, 2007



SEAN PAQUITO IV 38m (124.8') Custom, 2009



VITA BELLA 24.95m (81.1') Dubbel & Jesse, 1991



SPIP 23.4m (77.5') CNB, 2006



GRACE 21.5m (70.6') CNB, 1998

MANGUSTA 165'



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