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Chopard

TWO O TEN COLLECTION

Classic good taste

Timeless classics are not just vintage favourites that have stood the test of time, they are also those new-to-the-market things that you can predict will have enduring appeal for many, many years to come. This issue we celebrate a healthy dose of both.

We travel around the world to bring you old favourites with a modern twist. From the timeless appeal of New York – the focus of our city guide, to five hotels offering iconic views that have stood the test of time – in some cases for more than 500 years. Speaking of travel, we also, as you'd expect, head to the decks with cruises to Thailand and the Caribbean, and ashore in South Africa. Our ever-popular watch supplement returns with 16 pages devoted to the timepieces that are breaking news now and are forecast to stand the test of time. Finally, our classic issue winds up with an expert review on the restoration and racing of classic yachts. ■



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Contributors



Clockwise, from top left: Simon de Burton; Thomas Grant; Massimo Vilardi; Amanda McCracken; Eric Othenin-Girard

SIMON DE BURTON

Simon de Burton is a freelance journalist who regularly contributes to the style sections of the Financial Times, The Independent, the Daily Telegraph, and the Wall Street Journal's Style Journal, among other publications. In this issue of *sea&i* de Burton provides his thoughts on the latest watches in the annual Time & Tide supplement.

ERIC OTHENIN-GIRARD

A journalist since 1970, Eric Othenin-Girard is both a specialist in international geopolitics for Swiss radio and a renowned expert in the field of fine watchmaking. He is currently the chief editor of the Swiss watch magazine *MOVMENT*. In this issue of *sea&i* Othenin-Girard provides his expertise and edits the annual Time & Tide supplement.

AMANDA MCCRACKEN

Amanda McCracken is a keen sailor whose passion for luxury yachts lead her to Boat International where she has been editor for the past 12 years. Her work as editor takes her on board the most stunning luxury yachts, which are covered within the pages of the magazine. In this issue of *sea&i*, McCracken casts her expert eye over the interior of the ISA 120 Illusion.

THOMAS GRANT

In his role as *sea&i*'s regular art contributor, Grant has been giving previews of forthcoming exhibitions around the world. His travels have taken him far and wide, and in this issue Grant adopts a new role, taking us on a tour of South Africa.

MASSIMO VILARDI

Trained as an Engineer in Aeronautics, Vilardi has specialised in helicopters and is currently in charge of operational marketing at Eurocopter, where he focusses on the development of the private sector as well as choppers on board yachts.



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(sea&i scenes)

News from around the world of luxury yachting

CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER

CNI is pleased to congratulate Fadi Pataq, the winner of the Young Designer of the Year competition — one of the divisions of the World Superyacht Awards hosted by *Boat International* magazine in April. With more than 60 designs submitted from all over the world, this is a great achievement for Pataq. A recent graduate in Industrial Design at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan, Fadi chose for his final project a Roman helmet to form the basis of a 107m (351') yacht, while the inspiration for his 70m (229') entry for the Young Designer of the Year came from watching a wildlife programme on alligators: "I saw how effortlessly these creatures swam through the water and I thought it would be a unique idea for a boat," he explains. Pataq's design includes innovative ideas such as a bridge with walls of glass positioned on the top level of the yacht, allowing the captain to have 360-degree visibility at all times. He has also created a system to replace fenders, and his design for the tender is based on the concept of a convertible car. Watch out for Pataq's name in the near future.



IN LOVING MEMORY

It is with great sadness that CNI must announce that our dear colleague Nicholas Baker has passed away. On Saturday 17 May, following a long and courageous battle with lung cancer, Nick passed away at home surrounded by his family. Nick joined CNI in London as a sales broker in 1989, aged 30. He had a very successful career, commissioning and selling some of the world's largest and most unique yachts. His encyclopaedic knowledge of yachts and their owners was legendary and a great asset to his colleagues. Nick showed the utmost discretion, professionalism and integrity in all of his client and colleague relationships and will remain a truly inspirational figure both at CNI and throughout the yachting community. Nick had a huge impact on the industry and, in his memory, the Superyacht Skills Foundation has established The Nicholas Baker Award. Each year the Foundation will recognise Nick in its awards to its most successful students.

While fighting cancer, Nick took the decision to do something positive and set sail on a solo Transatlantic voyage to Antigua in a Bowman 48, named AquaLung, in order to raise money for four charities that he held close to heart: the Institute of Cancer Research, the Winchester Medical Foundation's Magpie Cancer Centre Campaign, Merlin and Encompass.

*Any donations to Nick's charity, AquaLung, will be gratefully received and should be sent to:
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CNI's Superyachting Index

Launched at the New York Yacht Club in May, CNI's *Superyachting Index* has already proved to be a huge success, providing an in-depth analysis of the industry's various departments. Using a cross-reference of industry data, the landmark study shows the realities of a booming sector that has evolved from a cottage industry into one of the world's strongest-growing luxury markets. The report provides a snapshot of three segments (the current fleet of superyachts of 24m (78') and above, the brokerage market, and the charter market), as well as current and historical data and a cross-analysis of the industry, with projections for the future.

The definitive guide to chartering

The superyacht industry has long been a rollercoaster of activity but each year it 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 newly launched CNI charter annual is even larger than ever. For the first time we've been obliged to add a new category to the yacht pages to cater for the great increase in the number of vessels in the 50m to 60m (164' to 197') and 60m+ categories. We've also split the destinations into different types of charter to bring to life just some of the options available. Our Explore Ashore, Pure Hedonism, Family Fun and Energy Zone will give you plenty of ideas, but this really is just the start and your charter broker can fuel you with so much more inspiration.



WORLD-CLASS AWARDS

Sea&i reported in the last issue that the 56m (183') *Selene* from Perini Navi was short-listed as a finalist in the Best Sailing Yacht Interior category at the World Superyacht Awards in April 2008. CNI is now delighted to announce that she won the award. A favourite in the CNI fleet, *Selene* was built in collaboration with a CNI broker and, following her launch in 2007, she has become a highly popular charter yacht.

Superyacht Cup Palma

Following last year's successful regatta, CNI once again sponsored the VIP lounge for this year's Superyacht Cup Palma, held between the 11 – 14 June. The event saw 13 superyachts gathered for the 13th Superyacht Cup – the largest, longest-running superyacht event in the world.

The occasion attracted owners of sailing superyachts from all over the world, including the likes of *Ranger*, *Senso One* and *Hyperion*, all of which raced for three days in the Bay of Palma. Following torrential downpours preceding the event, the first day of racing was greeted with a



Photography: Claire Matthes

clear sky and building breeze. The racing was fun and the events surrounding the action attracted most participants to the CNI VIP lounge for some well-deserved refreshments.

VOILES D'ANTIBES — PANERAI CLASSIC YACHT CHALLENGE

The 13th edition of the Voiles d'Antibes — Panerai Classic Yacht Challenge (4 — 8 June 2008) was held at a new venue this year. Following the success of the Antibes Yacht Show held near what is nicknamed 'the Billionaire's Quay' (IYCA), the Voiles d'Antibes moved to the Esplanade Saint Jaume, near the Vauban fortifications. With a terrace lounge set on top of the 18th-century walls, VIP guests were able to follow the regattas in the most magnificent surroundings, with views of both the sea and the mountains. Certainly a great attraction, and sure to draw the crowds in future regattas.

As in previous years, CNI supported the event by awarding the Trophée d'Elegance to the most deserving vessel. A tough choice, since most, if not all, of the splendid 50 or so classic yachts that participated in the regattas are worthy of praise. In the end, the winner was Rowdy (pictured below), a 20m (65.6') sloop built in 1916 by Marconi B, who also won the regatta in her category. Among the other notable winners were much-loved classic yachts Cambria, Bona Fide and the 12-metre Ji South Australia.

With renewed success and continuous improvements to the event, no doubt every yacht and owner is already geared up to attend next year, from 3 — 7 June 2009.

For more information, go to www.voilesantibes.com



Showboats Awards

The 18th *Showboats Awards* named Selene, the 56m (183') Perini Navi launched in 2007, as Best Sailing Yacht Interior. This was the second such award for this yacht, built in collaboration with a CNI broker and a firm favourite among CNI charterers.

Other finalists from the CNI charter fleet included Diane, the 43m (141') Benetti, as well as Serenity Now, a 29.35m (96'3) Westship shortlisted for The Best Refit Award. Among new construction projects built in collaboration with CNI and delivered in 2007, Deniki, the first in the Amels 52m (171') Limited Edition series, also joined the short-listed yachts, as did Helios, the 45m (147.8') Perini Navi. Congratulations to all.

Antibes Boat Show review

With ten superyachts on display at the CNI showcase at the second Antibes Yacht Show, held from 14 – 17 April, there was one for every taste. These included the 43m (150') Griff and the 22m (74') Hot Chocolate. Being the only show held before the Med season starts, it has already established itself as a key occasion to look for a brokerage yacht in time for the summer.

Super Car Club

Collaboration between CNI and the Super Car Club led to CNI's participation in two events this summer. First, there was a cocktail party on board the 50m (165') Benetti Jo in Monaco on 13 June. One hundred guests appreciated the treat after spending the past few days driving their supercars around Monaco.

The second event saw CNI hosting guests at the Ultimate Collection display during the British Motor Show this July. The largest showcase of the most desirable supercars was on display, including the latest Aston Martin DBS, McLaren SLR Roadster and Pagani Zonda. The combination of exceptional cars and exclusive yachts proved to be a successful and highly enjoyable venture for visiting clients.



Newport, new office

Ever-attuned to the needs of its increasing volume of clients in the northeast US, CNI is pleased to announce that its summer office in Newport is now a permanent base managed by Jeff Beneville, who also heads up the New York office. Located within the grounds of the Newport Shipyard, activity in the area is already busy as Newport is the home of the PUMA Racing Team for its Volvo Round the World Race campaign.

In charge of Business Development for North America, Jeff is a familiar face in yachting having notched up a number of achievements in sailing. He has raced in two America's Cup campaigns, has been an active member of the NYYC since 1987, and has competed in numerous major Maxi championships, Newport-Bermuda Races, as well as the Millennium Cup in Auckland aboard Georgia and Hyperion.

Helming CNI's sales

CNI is delighted to announce the appointment of Toby Walker as its new sales director. Toby, formerly a yacht broker at CNI, will have responsibility for the European-based sales brokerage division and will look to develop the business further. CNI CEO Jillian Montgomery said: "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."

See page 104 for information.

CNI's new fleet

At this year's Bucket Regatta in St Barth's, CNI made a commitment to the St Barth's Yacht Club (SBYC) and sailing school to purchase a fleet of new Vanguards from Laser. These will be used to teach local children how to sail — part of the obligatory school curriculum in many parts of France and its dominions. Besides bearing the CNI logo on sails and hulls, part of the agreement ensures that top students from CampInteractive

are able to benefit from the dinghies. The SBYC has given the initiative its full support and the first CampInteractive sailing programme takes place at the end of the summer in St Barth's. A local school has donated accommodation, and the SBYC is providing sailing tuition and island transport. If you're in St Barth's this winter, you may find your newspaper or the latest issue of *sea&i* being personally delivered to your yacht by CNI Laser.

CNI AT ISLAND GARDENS

After many years of competitive bidding, negotiating with the City Commission, voting by public referendum, and several changes in design and layout, Island Gardens Miami will be breaking ground this fall. Intended for completion in 2010, the luxury development will encompass two first-class hotels, including the Hong Kong based Shangri-La, upscale retail shops and dining experiences, waterfront cafés and a superyacht marina. It will also serve as another new home for CNI.

Situated on Watson Island just north of the Port of Miami, with the open ocean just minutes away, South Beach to the east and Downtown Miami to the West, Island Gardens enjoys a prime location.





SUNRISE 45

As announced in the previous issue of *sea&i*, Sunrise Yachts have now moved to their new facility in Antalya, Turkey. It is one of the largest in the Eastern Mediterranean, with two halls measuring 100m long and 16m wide as well as a 70m by 16m fully acclimatized laboratory-style paint shed. In addition to its own production, the shipyard will undertake new construction and refit projects (power and sail) up to 65-meter in length and 1,500-ton displacement.

The first of the two SUNRISE 45 motor yachts, a full displacement, long-range motor yacht with high-tensile steel hull and aluminum superstructure, made quite a stir in Antalya as it entered the new facility early June. Available through CNI broker Michael Payne, who visited the shipyard together with eight other CNI brokers, the Paolo Scanu exterior styling and Frank Darnet interior design motor yacht is on time for delivery in spring 2009. As Michael Payne then commented: "This is a remarkable facility which justifiably endorses Sunrise Yachts as a significant super yacht builder."

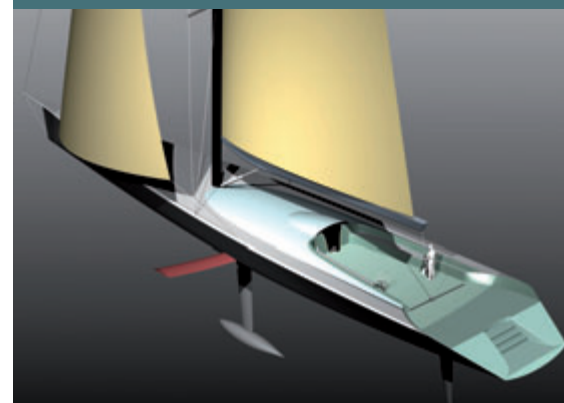
For more information, contact Michael Payne at mp@mon.cnyachts.com

A steady bet

Today's yachting technology is innovation at its finest, but one piece of equipment is particularly exciting experts at CNI. Dynamic Stability Systems (DSS) could well prove to be the next revolution in yachting. Based on hydrodynamic foils that slide through the hull, they increase performance and stability, improve comfort, and reduce displacement and draft. Effective, simple and safe, they also have the advantage of not affecting the interior volume of a yacht like other stability systems often do.

CNI Sales Director Toby Walker believes that DSS has produced a breakthrough concept that is effective, fast, stylish, secure and comfortable. Traditional methods of keeping a yacht upright involve lead at the bottom of the keel, and crew on the rail on race boats, but recent building methods have taken this a step further in the form of water ballasts and canting keels. The latter are considered state-of-the-art at present, but have limitations. DSS has invented an elegant alternative. While canting keel or waterballast systems weigh down the weather side of the boat, DSS technology works in the opposite way: it lifts a boat's leeward side.

DSS is the brainchild of America's Cup designer and foil specialist Hugh Welbourn and has been some six years in development. On a superyacht fitted with DSS, displacement is reduced, with the added stability provided by the retractible foils, producing an increase in performance and improved comfort.





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The next generation

If you read *sea&i* regularly, you'll know that we are a committed supporter of several child-oriented organizations in the US, in particular CampInteractive, which provides year-round programmes that combine adventure and technology to inspire at-risk youths. CNI has been eager to establish a South Florida offshoot that will be designed around water activities, from swimming and snorkelling to learning to sail.

This past spring, the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation in the US held its annual sports celebrity golf and tennis initiative to benefit Miami CampInteractive. CNI, together with IWC Schaffhausen, presented the fun weekend held at the exclusive Indian Creek Country Club where more than 30 sports celebrities (golf, tennis, football, hockey and Olympic stars), came together to join NFL legend and event host Marcus Allen, and chairman of the Laureus World Sports Academy and Olympic gold medallist Edwin Moses.

More than \$150,000 was raised over the weekend for the new South Florida chapter, which included a star-studded evening gala featuring a private performance by Broadway star Alton Fitzgerald White (*The Color Purple*, *The Lion King* and *Ragtime*); live and silent auction items including a land/sea travel package donated by CNI and One & Only Resorts; and a cocktail reception on board a *Mangusta 72*, kindly donated by the Rodriguez Group.

EXCELLENCE V

Whenever a superyacht is launched she is sure to make headlines, but particularly so if she has famous predecessors. Scheduled for launch in 2011, the 60.92m (200') Excellence V is the fifth in the line of successful Excellence yachts. Built in collaboration with Jim Wallace of CNI Palm Beach, this latest vessel is a triumph of evolution. Her interior and exterior are the inspiration of the owner in conjunction with Reymond Langton Design of London, and built by the renowned Abeking & Rasmussen shipyard. A yacht of unquestionable pedigree, Excellence V draws on the owner's experience and knowledge of large yachts. Accommodating 14 guests and 18 crew, she will exemplify luxury on board.



14th RODRIGUEZ RENDEZ-VOUS

In spite of the motto: "Why fix it if it isn't broken?" change can be a good thing.

Due to the ever-increasing number of guests, the 14th edition of the Rodriguez Rendez-Vous was partly moved to a remote area of the parking lot on the port – although the cocktail party was still held on the port where the fleet of *Mangustas* and *Leopards* were berthed.

The apparent inconvenience of the location was quickly turned to advantage as a huge 1,200 square-metre crystal tent (decorated with Latin American motifs – including an old Cuban chevy) offered double the capacity of previous years. The extra space also allowed for a private mock beach created with over 200 tons of sand. This proved the ideal place to enjoy the fireworks, perfectly synchronized to the music that carried on through

to the early morning. Partner brands Cartier, Maybach and SLR also contributed to the success of the evening with exquisite displays at the cocktail party. Maybach cars, meanwhile, roamed the streets to bring guests from the port to the tent where the dinner was held in view of a huge MTU engine that was on display.

F1 Monaco Grand Prix

Changing weather conditions, with rain showers alternating with rays of sun, made for a fantastic Grand Prix in May. Numerous changes of leaders and a string of accidents – none of them serious – made for an exciting event. CNI guests at our terrace on the 12th floor of the Panorama building enjoyed the weekend of racing with perfect views of the track and the harbour.

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Parsifal III

Totally custom built for highly experienced and exacting owners, the 54m (177') Perini Navi Parsifal III is no ordinary sailing yacht. She is the winner of no less than five prestigious awards: Best Interior Design and Best Overall Sailing Yacht (Readers Choice Award) from *Showboats* in 2006; Superyacht of the Year (Sailing), Best Interior Design (by Remi Tessier) and Best Sailing Yacht Interior in the *Boat International* World Superyacht Awards 2006.

From her one-off exterior design with striking black hull and exterior furnishings and details to her extraordinary interior, she can only be described as exceptional. She offers accommodation for up to 14 guests in six en suite cabins with an owners full-width suite aft with direct private access to an extra large swimming platform. Her main saloon and dining area open fully to the aft deck and can also be opened forward to the wheel house giving a unique 360-degree view from within. It goes without saying she is fitted with the latest in entertainment systems.

Parsifal III also boasts the largest flying bridge seen on a sailing yacht of her size, with full dual sailing stations, Jacuzzi, bar and Teppanyaki grill, lounging and dining areas and bimini top. With her high-tech carbon masts and fully automated in-boom furling winged keel, she is capable of speeds in the region of 18 knots under full sail. She has a 7m (23') and 4.8m (16') tender, two SeaDoos, a jet-ski and an impressive array of watersports equipment for all the guests. She is offered for sale for the first time.

For further information contact CNI Monaco's Alex Lees-Buckley, see page 12.



FESTIVAL DE LA PLAISANCE

From the 10 — 15 September 2008 the Festival de la Plaisance in Cannes welcomed 16 yachts for sale through CNI. Following the success of last year's show, the 2008 show was the biggest and best to date. CNI welcomed all to view the following yachts along the main pier of Port Canto (above, left to right, top to bottom): the 45.73m (150') Perfect Persuasion from Oceanfast, the 44.86m (147') No Escape from Heesen, the 43.4m (142') Griff from Marinteknik, the 38.6m (126') Betty from Royal Denship, the 38m (125') Rominta from Baglietto, the 37.6m (123') Madhuri from Eurocraft, the 34m (111') Rubbecan from Ferretti, the 33m (108') Mangusta 108' from Overmarine, the 31.5m (103') Happy Day from Benetti, the 30m (98') Fanfaron V from Couach, the 28m (92') Another Time from Falcon, the 27.4m (90') Asha from Maiora, the 27m (88') SL 88 from Sanlorenzo, the 25.6m (84') Dandy D from Astondoa, the 23.6m (77') S/Y Algol IV from CNB, and the 23m (75') S/Y Spip from CNB.



18TH MONACO YACHT SHOW

The 18th Monaco Yacht Show will be hosted between the 24 — 27 September. To date, CNI has confirmed it will have seven yachts on display, including the newly launched 60m (196') Xanadu from Benetti, the 48.3m (158.5') Kanaloa from CRN, the 46m (151') Leopard, the 40.25m (132') Monte Carlo from Amels, the 39.6m (130') Lionshare from Heesen, and the 41.6m (136') Ranger from Danish Yachts, along with a few surprise showings.

CNI will be hosting guests at the Miramar Hotel terrace throughout the day, transforming it into a private hospitality venue overlooking the harbour. The social scene at the show sees CNI hosting events every evening.

The Timbers Collection at Monaco

Signalling the beginning of a collaboration between CNI and Timbers Resorts, one of the latter's estates, the Castello di Casole, will be joining CNI for cocktails and canapés on board a CNI yacht for an evening of fun during the forthcoming Monaco Yacht Show. The Castello di Casole estate (as featured in *Travel News*, see page 38) produces its own wine and guests will have the opportunity to taste this on board.

The Timbers Collection is a group of small, private, luxury resort properties in the world's most sought-after ski, golf, beach and scenic countryside

locations. Owned, developed and operated by Timbers Resorts, these properties combine hassle-free second-home ownership with the services of a five-star hotel. Current properties in the Timbers Collection include One Steamboat Place in Steamboat Springs, Colorado; The Preserve at Botany Bay on St. Thomas in the USVI; Castello di Casole in Tuscany, Italy; The Rocks Luxury Residence Club in Scottsdale, Arizona; Esperanza Resort in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; The Timbers Club in Snowmass, Colorado; and now The Orchard at The Carneros Inn in Napa Valley.

KOS against the elements

The cocktail party organised by CNI at the Yacht Club de Monaco on the eve of the MYS will also mark the opening of the photography exhibition *Against the Elements* by renowned marine photographer Kos Evans. From 24th – 27th September, this unique exhibition will feature some of Kos' most breathtaking work. "This exhibition offers something for everyone, from abstract images to visually stunning classic shots," says Getty Images Gallery director Louise Garczewska, where Kos regularly exhibits. An acknowledged pioneer in her field, Kos is renowned for her extraordinary trademark masthead shots, some taken at 60m (200'). She has also been known to hang out of the side of a helicopter capturing powerboats 6m (20') off the water at 100mph. Her aim, as always, is to capture the best, most elusive and challenging photograph, working against the elements to reflect her love of the ocean in all its unfathomable majesty. "The sea is a moving canvas that changes by the millisecond and I have strived to show its every aspect," Kos says. "You must always perceive the action before it happens."





Showing how it's done for the fourth year

For the fourth consecutive year, CNI, in partnership with the Monaco Yacht Show, has made the show CarbonNeutral. The organizers are measuring the source and levels of greenhouse gases produced from the travel, electricity and waste of the exhibiting companies — as well as the electricity and waste of the yachts and stands — and are offsetting them with dedicated programmes to raise awareness among participants and visitors to the show. In the process, they hope to encourage others to reduce their own emissions.

Celebrity occasions

CNI was delighted to once again be a part of Azur Productions' celebrity events, with two glamorous occasions in recent months. One of the events was Azur Productions' celebrity evening with host, British actress Joanna Lumley, at the Hôtel Hermitage on 7 May. Following a fabulous dinner with fine wines and gourmet cuisine, Lumley recounted her fascinating personal story in the most glamorous of settings. The top-class entertainment continued in London with a celebrity lunch hosted by Ian Hislop, Editor of *Private Eye* magazine, at Quaglino's restaurant on the 4 July.

For further information on Azur Productions' forthcoming celebrity events, visit www.azurproductions.com

FORT LAUDERDALE INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

From the 30 October to 3 November, superyachts will be rubbing shoulders with fast production boats at the 49th Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show — the world's largest boat show. CNI's Fort Lauderdale office, at the Bahia Mar Marina, is based at the centre of the show, and this year CNI has two areas, one on the Face Dock of the show and the other at the Las Olas Marina, where, to date, four yachts from CNI have been allocated space. At the time of going to press, confirmed yachts from the CNI fleet include the 48m (157') Kanaloa from CRN, the 45.72m (150') Vita from Trinity; and the 31.4m (103') Blue Sky from Cheoy Lee.



CNI's Superyachting Index

Launched at the New York Yacht Club in May, CNI's *Superyachting Index* has already proved to be a huge success, providing an in-depth analysis of the industry's various departments. Using a cross-reference of industry data, the landmark study shows the realities of a booming sector that has evolved from a cottage industry into one of the world's strongest-growing luxury markets. The report provides a snapshot of three segments (the current fleet of superyachts of 24m (78') and above, the brokerage market, and the charter market), as well as current and historical data and a cross-analysis of the industry, with projections for the future.

The definitive guide to chartering

The superyacht industry has long been a rollercoaster of activity but each year it 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 newly launched CNI charter annual is even larger than ever. For the first time we've been obliged to add a new category to the yacht pages to cater for the great increase in the number of vessels in the 50m to 60m (164' to 197') and 60m+ categories. We've also split the destinations into different types of charter to bring to life just some of the options available. Our Explore Ashore, Pure Hedonism, Family Fun and Energy Zone will give you plenty of ideas, but this really is just the start and your charter broker can fuel you with so much more inspiration.



WORLD-CLASS AWARDS

Sea&i reported in the last issue that the 56m (183') *Selene* from Perini Navi was short-listed as a finalist in the Best Sailing Yacht Interior category at the World Superyacht Awards in April 2008. CNI is now delighted to announce that she won the award. A favourite in the CNI fleet, *Selene* was built in collaboration with a CNI broker and, following her launch in 2007, she has become a highly popular charter yacht.

Superyacht Cup Palma

Following last year's successful regatta, CNI once again sponsored the VIP lounge for this year's Superyacht Cup Palma, held between the 11 – 14 June. The event saw 13 superyachts gathered for the 13th Superyacht Cup – the largest, longest-running superyacht event in the world.

The occasion attracted owners of sailing superyachts from all over the world, including the likes of *Ranger*, *Senso One* and *Hyperion*, all of which raced for three days in the Bay of Palma. Following torrential downpours preceding the event, the first day of racing was greeted with a



Photography: Claire Matthes

clear sky and building breeze. The racing was fun and the events surrounding the action attracted most participants to the CNI VIP lounge for some well-deserved refreshments.



The 42m (138') Mac Brew

on charter

sea&i brings you the latest charter news

New to the CNI charter fleet...

The CNI charter division in Monaco welcomes the 43m (141') Hana from CRN. One of the latest yachts for charter, she boasts enormous volume giving the feeling of a 50m+ (164'+) yacht. Sleeping 11 guests, her master cabin offers a private balcony and the yacht boasts a gym, oversized swim platform and an excellent range of toys. Hana will be available in the Caribbean this coming winter season.

The 42m (138') Mac Brew from Heesen also joined the Monaco fleet this summer. Previously named Al Khaliq, she has an unusual layout accommodating 12 guests, and is perfect for a large family group as one of the cabins has

four bunk beds. Following her extensive refit earlier this year, she now boasts a sundeck Jacuzzi and a stunning interior featuring pale carpets with cream upholstery for a contemporary finish. Mac Brew is available in the Caribbean this winter.

The 31m (102') Hero is also joining the CNI fleet. Launched in July 2008, this new Falcon has been built to the highest standards for which the yard is renowned. She has a combination of Mediterranean flair and superlative comfort. She enjoyed a successful debut in the West Mediterranean and will stay in the Mediterranean this winter. Hero sleeps ten guests in five staterooms.

Another new launch joining the fleet is the 30m (98.5') Salu. Built by Italy's renowned Benetti shipyard, she boasts a classic exterior with a contemporary interior, which offers a sense of wellbeing, comfort and tranquillity. Charter guests have been prioritised throughout so as well as several sunbathing and seating areas, there is a sophisticated entertainment system. Following her successful launch, Salu is available for charters in the West Mediterranean during the autumn and winter.

CNI Monaco also welcomes the 25.15m (82.6') Outback Star from Sunseeker. A sleek yacht with clean lines, Outback Star is at the cutting edge of



The 31m (102') Hero



Hero



The 45.3m (148.6') Helios



The 25.15m (82.6') Outback Star



Outback Star

design and performance. The yacht embodies every aspect of the definitive sports cruiser and has been cleverly designed to maximise all guest areas and store an excellent inventory of water-sports equipment. Entertainment on board was the owner's primary concern, so the yacht is equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual and communications equipment of a standard that would normally be found on a much larger yacht. This system is complemented by a professional crew of three, whose infectious enthusiasm is a key ingredient in what is undoubtedly a first-class charter yacht. She is available in the West Mediterranean this winter.

Those looking for a jet-set lifestyle on the Côte d'Azur this winter should turn their attention to the new 27m (88.6') Leopard Caramia. A truly unique vessel, she boasts a spacious interior with accommodations for eight, complemented by a flexible use of deck space.

On the other side of the Atlantic, CNI's charter division in Fort Lauderdale welcomes the 45.3m (148.62') Perini Navi Helios to the fleet. This exciting new sloop is a major breakthrough in the development of the Perini line, with a flybridge, side-boarding hull opening and a fold-down transom. Accommodating ten guests, Helios is available for charter in the Caribbean this winter.

CNI Fort Lauderdale also welcomes the 34m (111.8') Resilience from Westport. A fast, sleek-lined yacht, Resilience offers a first-class charter experience from her Caribbean and New England bases.

The 32.31m (106') Primadonna from Westship also joined the CNI fleet for a summer season in the Bahamas, and is available this winter in the Caribbean. Her Versace-inspired interior includes an expansive main saloon and formal dining area, which follows through below deck to the master stateroom and three guest staterooms. She also boasts a full complement of water toys for active guests.



The 60m (197') Xanadu at her pre launch

New launches...

The past 12 months have been an incredible year in the new-build market for CNI, with exciting projects and deliveries. Groundbreaking trends in design and technology continually grip designers, builders and their clients, resulting in some remarkable yachts and noteworthy design developments currently showcasing in the yards.

Offering an unequalled degree of privacy and new standards in accommodations comparable to the most luxurious of land-based properties, the yachts' facilities continue to surprise even those within the industry. Elite communication systems ensure that guests can remain in contact

with their business interests, and adding private jet and helicopter facilities into the equation means owners and guests can come and go as they please. As such, today's superyachts are not only an undeniable attraction as a holiday home, they also provide a base with conference centres for corporate use or as exclusive floating retreats on which to entertain clients.

Many exciting projects and deliveries are now making their way onto the charter market, including the 60m (197') Xanadu. If ever a yacht was conceived to fulfil all imaginable desires for a luxury charter, it is Xanadu. A Benetti in name, she is, in fact, unlike any other yacht from the



The 49m (161') Anjilis

shipyard thanks to her original styling by Andrew Winch. Following her debut at the Monaco Yacht Show in September, Xanadu will be heading to the Caribbean for what already looks to be a highly successful charter season.

The 49m (161') Anjilis also launches in September 2008. Designed through the unique vision of Glade Johnson and built by Trinity, the new Anjilis features a sophisticated contemporary take on Art Deco elements. Her inspiring interior encompasses many exotic woods, custom marquetry and stone inlays. Anjilis will be available for charter for 11 guests in the Caribbean this coming winter.

Further afield

Having been bought by a new owner, the 49.8m (164') Braveheart is planning to venture further afield to Southeast Asia and will be available for charters around Phuket. Braveheart accommodates ten guests over three decks, topped by a wonderful sun-drenched flying bridge deck — ideal for the waters off Thailand's southwest coast. Meanwhile, the award-winning 56m (184') Galaxy is available to charter in the Indian Ocean this coming winter. The truly inspired cruising grounds of the Maldives provide a plethora of opportunities for island hopping between resorts and uninhabited islands and diving in some of the world's most beautiful spots. Built by Benetti in 2005, and recently refitted, Galaxy now boasts zero-speed stabilizers, whilst her interior displays exotic timbers, leather panelling and a glass lift,

which also acts as an atrium. The vast upper deck area is excellent for entertaining as is her semi-circular dining room, which can be opened onto the aft deck. Galaxy welcomes 12 guests: her owner's suite is on the main deck and boasts panoramic views; the VIP stateroom is on the upper deck; and on the lower deck there are four staterooms, comprising two doubles and two twins. Finally, the 48.5m (159') sailing yacht Georgia from Alloy Yachts will soon be coming out of her extensive refit and will be available for charter throughout the Indian Ocean. A highly popular charter yacht, Georgia was conceived as the ultimate family world cruiser. Her updated decks and spacious interior combine to provide a powerful sailing yacht that now boasts the latest in entertainment systems.



Galaxy heads to the Maldives



Marcel Dekker on board **Symphony II**

Zimbabwean-born of Dutch descent, Marcel Dekker has recently stepped aboard as captain of the 34.11m (111') Symphony II. Here he looks forwards, and backwards...

DEKKER ON... HIS CAREER

I launched my career at sea at the age of 18 when I became a navigating cadet in the South African Merchant Marine, serving seven years on cargo ships. Among sailing in all the waters of the world, one I will never forget is rescuing a research vessel trapped in the frozen ice of Antarctica on the largest salvage tug in the world at the time. Circumnavigating the globe on a 43 foot staysail schooner was my vacation before landing back in the commercial industry. I Captained four-masted schooners for 13 years, before moving onto private sailing and motor yachts in the Caribbean. I've recently become captain of Symphony II, previous to that I was chartering on Shalimar and My Fair Lady, among numerous other sailing yachts

DEKKER ON... THE SUPERYACHT INDUSTRY

Without doubt the superyacht industry has changed in recent years but I don't see the brokers and business side of things have changed too much, of course the price of diesel will effect things substantially. The industry in general has grown, there are just so many more and larger yachts. There has been a great growth in marinas around the world. As the trend and technology increases, I think we'll see new, alternative destinations opening up. St Barth's is now a chic European hangout but it was very different when I started working there - they were selling fruits and vegetables, slaughtering cows in front of the harbour master's office, back in the day.

DEKKER ON... TRAVEL

The Caribbean is my favourite place to cruise because I know it so well. But it'd be fun to explore off the beaten destinations, like the Galapagos, South Pacific or the San Blas Islands. Generally, the market will dictate where we end up chartering. There's a great bar at the east end of Aruba, Charlie's Bar. Sandy Island and Bankie Banx in Anguilla is a favourite spot of mine. The Pitons and Marigot bay are just spectacular sights in the Caribbean My perfect travel companions? Blackbeard! Mike Meyers, my girl Channing and throw in Demi Moore for looks.



DEKKER ON... BEING A CAPTAIN

It's a wonderful job but it really pays to start at the bottom and work your way up - you need to know seamanship inside out. This with your technical training will stand you well for your future. Probably the most stressful part of my job is communications, managing the crew and of course the weather - the hurricanes in the Caribbean and Bermuda are some of the worst I've encountered.

What's the most curious request you have had from a guest? Having a guest stand at the gangway, bags all packed at two in the morning, 50Nm from nearest land, demanding we get her off the boat to catch her flight.

Those were the good ol days when the Scapalimine patch was at full strength, Hitlers truth serime. She was wearing two behind each ear and had been drinking heavily

DEKKER ON... SYMPHONY II

What do you like most about your current yacht? Manageable size and great crew. Great owner who is willing to communicate.

Who is the most eccentric/strangest/funniest member of your crew? Only just stepped aboard so not sure yet but have a feeling it may be the chef. ■

spotlight on **Amnesia**

The first shook the charter world, the second surpassed all expectations, but it's the latest, third, Amnesia that really has it all. Thanks to a sterling pedigree, this latest launch easily lives up to expectations





Three is a lucky number for many, and the owner of the latest Amnesia certainly fell on his feet when his yacht launched earlier this year. The third Amnesia in this hugely successful series of yachts builds on all the experience of her previous two sisterships, assimilating the finest elements of their heritage and adding to this her own unique identity. Built by lauded Italian yard Benetti, the new Amnesia is pure class. At 60m (195') she is blessed with space enough for 12 guests and as many as 16 crew to offer unparalleled service. Comfort and entertainment were foremost to mind when the layout was planned and, as such, the various interior and exterior lounging and dining spaces offer excellent opportunities for formal entertaining and easy relaxation. The interior, with a large main-deck saloon, upper deck saloon, owner's suite, VIP staterooms and various twin and double cabins, is the inspiration of Redman Whiteley Dixon. Clean, contemporary and well considered, it perfectly complements the stylish destinations Amnesia is set to visit in the Mediterranean and Caribbean.

Bearing in mind that both those regions are made for outdoor living, unsurprisingly Amnesia's deck areas are also vast and impressive. A Jacuzzi on the sundeck and a raft of watertoys, watersports equipment and tenders ensures all 12 guests can be kept busy simultaneously and, while at anchor, Amnesia has a working gymnasium and massage room to keep guests looking their very best.

Built in close association with the owner, Amnesia certainly reflects his years of yacht-building experience and bears all the signs of her classic Benetti pedigree. As such, she is a highly worthy addition to the Amnesia sisterhood and a safe bet to take the charter world by storm. ■

For more information on chartering Amnesia, please contact your nearest charter broker, see p12.

SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH	.60m (195')
BEAM	.10,4m (34.1')
DRAFT	.3,2m (10.5')
MAIN ENGINES	.2 Caterpillars 3512B Dita 1380kW @ 1,600hp
BUILDER	.Benetti
YEAR	.2008
SPEED	.15 knots
GUESTS	.12
CREW	.16

(where in the world...)

sea&i brings you the latest luxury travel news



GROWING INTEREST

Looking backwards to move forwards is a growing trend, and The Grove hotel in the UK's Hertfordshire countryside is going all the way back to the 1870s to breathe life into the fine dining menu of its restaurant Colette's.

The estate's kitchen garden (which was an integral part of the original Grove estate well over a century ago) has been completely recreated to ensure guests can dine on the very finest, freshest home-grown produce. The idea was the inspiration of new head chef Chris Warwick (from London restaurant Galvin at Windows). Bringing a wealth of culinary experience to Colette's, Warwick has introduced a menu that embraces refinement and flavour, and honours his reputation for sourcing the finest produce. The on-site kitchen garden, which would have been an integral part of the original Grove estate, had not been in use since the Second World War. Today it supplies 60% of all the fruit and vegetables used in the hotel's kitchens. As well as managing the Grove's home-grown produce, Warwick also scours the local countryside and beyond for the finest fresh ingredients to complement the estate's bounty. *For more information, visit www.thegrove.co.uk*



Setting a grand example

The Savoy, one of the world's most iconic hotels, prides itself on its reputation for 'firsts'. It was the first hotel to generate its own electricity supply, install electric lifts, provide air-conditioning and supply constant hot and cold running water. Continuing this tradition, it is now leading the way in helping to combat climate change by investing in a special carbon-reduction strategy.

In December 2007, the Savoy closed its doors to undergo a £100 million restoration programme that includes all guest rooms, public areas, restaurants and the Savoy Court. Designer Pierre-Yves Rochon has been appointed to manage the extensive 16-month project, which is expected to conclude in May 2009. When the hotel re-opens, guests will certainly notice the difference in upgraded public areas, river-view suites and restaurants but they will not necessarily know that the hotel has set a target to reduce energy consumption by up to 40%, and become the most environmentally responsible luxury hotel in London. Let's hope it's the first of many.

For more information, visit www.savoy2009.com

MALLORCA MAKEOVER

High above Palma in Mallorca's Son Vida estate is Castillo Hotel Son Vida — one of the grandest and most successful hotels on the island. Steeped in atmosphere, draped in Mallorcan tradition and infused with quiet charm, the 13th-century castle-turned-hotel underwent a huge renovation a few years ago and today offers all you would expect from a member of The Leading Hotels of the World. Relax and rejuvenate in the elegant Castillo Beauty Spa, recently extended over two floors; indulge yourself in the steam room and sauna; refresh yourself with a choice of indoor and outdoor pools; and discover a range of both traditional and innovative health and beauty therapies. The treatment menu has also been extended and adds Anne Sémonin and Ligne St. Barth branded products to its menu.

The restaurant, Es Vis, is worth a visit just to enjoy the panoramic views over the whole of Palma and the bay, (and to discover one of the most spectacular wine cellars on the island), whilst a walk through the hallways of the hotel is akin to visiting a private art gallery.

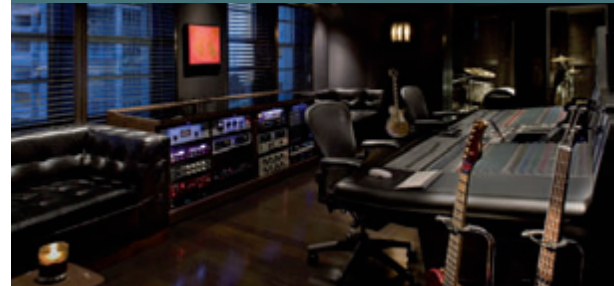
In the golden days of travel, Mallorca was a remote winter getaway for artists and writers, but today this Spanish island is home to the rich and famous. Its necklace of white-sand beaches has come to mean discreet luxury at a handful of peaceful hillside hotels and converted fincas. While the sandy shoreline near the main city of Palma has become a high-rise monument to tourism, beyond this a whole other Mallorca awaits. Taking on a new glamorous style, five-star hotels are emerging and the beautiful island of white-sand beaches and soaring mountains is becoming one of the Mediterranean's chicest holiday destinations. *For more information, visit www.lhw.com*





London's latest star

Fame brings expectations and as the only chef in the world to have run a trio of Michelin three-star restaurants simultaneously, Alain Ducasse certainly has a lot to live up to. When he opened his eponymous restaurant at The Dorchester in London in November 2007 the pressure was on, but Ducasse, along with Jocelyn Herland from Alain Ducasse at Hotel Plaza Athénée in Paris, has created a beautiful restaurant with impeccable service and exquisite food that excites and stimulates the senses with a menu of Ducasse classics. As expected, the restaurant has a real 'wow' factor. *For more information, visit www.alainducasse-dorchester.com*



A South Beach beat

The Setai's oceanfront location on South Beach is hard to beat, and now the hotel has a new feature to further its reputation. Behind the Art Deco-inspired exterior of this stylish hotel and the sleek Asian-influenced interior, The Setai has a recording studio. The digital and analog studio, created by Kravitz Design Inc, is set in a two-floor penthouse suite in the hotel, complete with ocean views and a private outdoor patio. The studio exemplifies the serene Asian tone that defines The Setai with cast bronze, textured slate and rich teak woods. These elements are combined with vintage furniture, plush wool shag carpeting and custom hand-screened wallpaper. *For more information, visit www.setai.com*

YOUR OWN SLICE OF TUSCANY

Those wishing to secure their own prime plot in the heart of Tuscany can now buy part of a property at the Castello di Casole, a 4,200-acre estate near Siena and Florence. Surrounded by lush vineyards and olive groves, the vast Castello di Casole estate is an unmatched private resort featuring traditional and authentic farmhouses and a boutique hotel in the restored castle (scheduled to open in autumn 2009). Nineteen restored farmhouses are scattered throughout the exclusive Italian estate, once owned by a Sienese family, the Bargagli, and later by film and theatre director Luchino Visconti.

The restored farmhouses are a mix of modern and traditional, featuring 17th-century stone facades, glass-tiled infinity pools, private patios, wood-burning ovens and breathtaking views of the Tuscan hills. Fractional and full-ownership plans are available, with prices from 7.75 million euros for whole ownership to 290,000 euros for fractional interests of one twelfth. The fractional ownership programme has been created so that owners can take either four homes for one week or one home for four weeks, meaning friends and family can also be accommodated. Owners will have access to the main restaurants and cafes, fitness centre and spa, along with a share in the estate's private-label wine and olive oil, harvested from the estate. *For more information, visit www.castellodicasole.com*

Start spreading the news...

Edgy, modern and provocative, Thompson LES is one of the latest hotels to grab attention on New York's sidewalks. Stamping avant-garde sophistication and industrial cool on New York's Lower East Side, this latest addition to the Thompson portfolio combines high-end luxury with raw industrial design thanks to the combined genius of some of the most exciting designers working today. Guests can sink into the low beds and couches of the rooms, suites and penthouse, sidle up to the private outdoor roof-

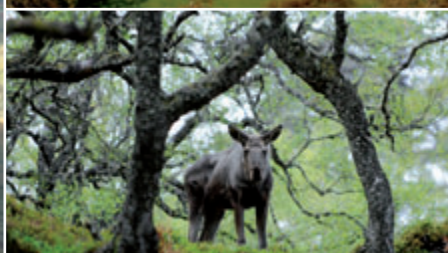


top bar, or launch themselves towards lithographed images of Andy Warhol studding the floor of the swimming pool. Back inside, a global Chinese restaurant is helmed by celebrity chef Susur Lee, style shouts out from every corner, and even the staff uniforms have the designer touch.

For more information, visit www.thompsonhotels.com

MOOSE ON THE LOOSE

After 1,000 years, moose and wild boar are back in the Scottish Highlands. They have been set free in a 450-acre enclosure as part of a multimillion pound project to return the Highlands to their former state. Thanks to Paul Lister, owner of the 23,000-acre Alladale Wilderness Lodge and Reserve north of Inverness, this is Europe's first wilderness reserve. In addition to reinstating moose, the reserve has already established a breeding population of wild boar, has planted 80,000 native trees and aims to re-introduce brown bear, lynx and wolves. A tiny haven of luxury will remain as the imposing lodge on the estate welcomes up to 16 guests. Guests can enjoy wildlife drives, deer-stalking, fishing, spa therapies and delicious meals reflecting the freshest local organic ingredients. Lister hopes Alladale will one day offer safari-style trips into the reserve to spot wolf, bear, lynx, red deer and golden eagle — Europe's Big Five. For more information, visit www.alladale.com



New York's new treatment

The Clearing Factor is a new treatment that has been exclusively created for The Spa at the Mandarin Oriental New York, by Wafa Cunningham-Mzeghet, its senior therapist. Cunningham-Mzeghet is an expert in Lymph Drainage Therapy (LDT) and believes that maintenance of a healthy, well-circulating lymphatic system is the cornerstone of good health, which is why LDT is The Clearing Factor's key treatment. LDT helps re-circulate body fluids in specific areas, regenerates tissues and filters out toxins so that the immune system is stimulated and the nervous system is brought to a balanced state. When LDT is administered, the body can experience all kinds of benefits, including decreased water retention and swelling, tissue regeneration, deep relaxation for better sleep patterns, relief from depression, inflammation, stress and fatigue, and a decrease in muscle spasm. The Clearing Factor is a three-to-four-hour treatment and uses a carefully customised sequence of intensive clearing and detoxifying therapies including exfoliation, massage, lymph-drainage techniques, clay body wraps and traditional cupping. For more information, visit www.mandarinoriental.com/newyork/spa



The China Palace

Beijing is opening its doors to the exclusive Amanresorts group for the first time this autumn. The Summer Palace, built in 1750, is a lakeside garden estate and former imperial retreat from the Qing dynasty. Guests will stay in one of the 25 suites or 18 guestrooms, some overlooking the courtyard and many with four-poster beds. The Imperial Suite has three separate dwellings with every luxury, and a décor reminiscent of the Ming dynasty. The property offers easy access for excursions to the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and Temple of Heaven, as well as the boutiques, restaurants and galleries of Beijing. *For more information, visit www.amanresorts.com*



Argentina's art of living

Making a statement in the hip Palermo Hollywood area of Buenos Aires is new design property Hotel Vitrum. Each of its 16 edgily designed rooms has a kitchenette with espresso machine, just in case the décor isn't enough to wake you up. The hotel has its own art gallery leading into the garden, an open-air spa, tapas bar, restaurant and terrace barbecue so you can make the most of this stylish hotel inside and out. *For more information, visit www.cazenoveandloyd.com*

SAVING GRACE

Bas^Basking in the scenic setting of Marigot Bay on the west coast of St Lucia would inspire anyone to want to preserve this natural beauty, and that is exactly what the resort is doing by joining the Leading Green Link programme.



Through Leading Green Link, Discovery at Marigot Bay now enables its guests to make their reservations carbon-neutral when booking online. Each time they do so, The Leading Hotels of the World makes a contribution to Sustainable Travel International (STI), a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting responsible travel through programmes that allow consumers to contribute to the wellbeing of the places they visit.

"We enable our guests to help increase climate-friendly travel through the donation of funds to offset the carbon emissions generated during their stay," says Discovery's manager Carl Beviere. "And our room rates have not been inflated to support this programme, so there is no cost to our guests," he adds. Let's hope more hotels follow this example and help preserve the world's natural beauty. *For more information, visit www.marigotbay.com/discoveryhotel.html*

A glimpse into SHA

Opening this September, the SHA Wellness Clinic near Valencia will be the first ever macrobiotic wellness clinic in Spain. Here, guests will be introduced to Método SHA, a new wellbeing concept created exclusively for the clinic. It states that the Método SHA approach improves the body and mind by rebalancing using the fusion of advanced technology and ancient wisdom. This is achieved through a combination of a personalised macrobiotic diet (blending Mediterranean and Japanese influences), natural therapies and specialist consultations that focus on improving the healing powers of the body. A schedule of natural therapies work with the diet, including yoga, t'ai chi, Shiatsu, Watsu, acupuncture, ozone therapy, hydrotherapy, meditation and macrobiotic cooking classes.

For more information, visit www.shawellnessclinic.com





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'Natural', 'pure' and 'organic' are buzzwords in the beauty world. *sea&i* goes in search of the latest products to transform you into the ultimate green goddess



1. DR. ALKAITIS

Organic Universal Mask

This therapeutic treatment mask nourishes, soothes, calms and rejuvenates sensitive, irritated and inflamed skin.

www.alkaitis.com

2. ILA — BEYOND ORGANIC Body Balm

Argan oil feeds and softens skin, while rose otto revives.

Face Oil

Rich in damascena rose otto oil, and other essential oils, skin is left feeling radiant and replenished.

www.ila-spa.com

3. ORIGINS

Purifying Tonic 95% Certified Organic

Draws on organic willow bark and lavender to gently control surface shine and excess oil without over drying.

Nourishing Face Lotion

95% certified organic, this helps restore moisture, soften skin, and protect against moisture loss and free radical damage using organic shea butter, cocoa butter and plant oils.
www.origins.com

**4. AVEDA
Green Science Lifting Serum**

Boosts skin's natural cellular renewal with organic cactus, organic argan oil, anti-oxidants and peptides.

Green Science Firming Face Crème
Moisturises and smoothes fine lines using lady's thistle, organic argan oil, organic cactus, organic shea butter and anti-oxidants.
www.aveda.com

**5. NUDE
Nude moisturising body cream**

This hibiscus-fragranced body cream contains organic cupuacu and hyaluronic acid to nourish the skin,

sesame oil to condition, and organic shea to deeply moisturise.

Nude moisturising body polish
Hibiscus monoi and organic sugar intensely moisturise skin.
www.spacenk.com

**6. NEOM BY NATURAL MAGIC
Organic Body Crème Lotion**
Calm and nourish skin with extracts of sapphires and anti-oxidizing pomegranate oil.

Organic Body Polish
Intense mineral de-stress therapy with extracts of sapphires and softening macadamia oil.
www.neomorganics.com

**7. LIZ EARLE
Cleanse & Polish Hot Cloth Cleanser**
Containing soothing almond milk and skin-brightening eucalyptus, this cream-based cleanser leaves skin clear, smooth and glowing.

Superskin Moisturiser
Potent plant oils including naturally sourced Omega-3 and GLA combine with antioxidants to smooth, plump and replenish mature and dry skin.
www.lizearle.com

**8. ESPA
Super Active Cellular Hydration Concentrate**
Contains Codium Tommentosum (a seaweed) to deliver a long-lasting hydrating effect, enhanced by botanicals rich in antioxidants.
www.espaonline.com

**9. JURLIQUE
Biodynamic Beauty Eye Cream**
Rich with euphrasia and arnica, this deeply moisturising eye cream helps re-energise tired-looking eyes.

Biodynamic Beauty Serum
Boasting beneficial organic black elder and liquorice, this helps fade discolorations and brighten skin.

Biodynamic Beauty Night Lotion
Drawing on the goodness of organic liquorice and black elder to help reduce discolorations and enlighten skin.
www.jurlique.com

**10. MÓA
The Green Balm**
100% organic, this miraculous balm calms, nourishes and protects, making it effective in harsh winds, or for sun-damaged skin.
www.thegreenbalm.com

**11. DR HAUSCHKA
Regenerating Serum**
With moisture-regulating quince seed extract, this serum smoothes wrinkles and fine lines while fortifying the skin's natural functions.

Regenerating Day Cream
Refines and smoothes skin using ingredients such as acerola fruits, rose petals and the finest plant oils.
www.drhauschka.com





UNDERWATER FUN submersibles

It may sound James-Bondesque, but the trendiest toys to carry onboard a superyacht, besides the yacht herself, are those that can take guests for a ride in ultimate style, onboard a pocket submersible. Laurent Perignon takes a peek underwater.

A number of yachts have been said to carry their own submarine, or rather “submersible”, without necessarily much evidence of it - the idea being to remain discrete about it. However, what has been the rare privilege of some of the largest yachts in the world may soon become “mainstream”, as much as having a submersible onboard one’s yacht can be called mainstream.

There are a few reasons behind such evolution, not only because of the lower cost of these machines but also because the space required and the technicalities of their operation onboard have become more accessible to a broader range of yachts. Operation wise, the most crucial aspect is that there now exists submersibles that can be launched almost as easily as a tender, with cranes, and float on the surface, tied in to the beach area of the aft deck before welcoming passengers onboard, safe and dry. This is also possible because such submersibles now bear reasonable weight, without requiring a specific launch area to immerse into.

In addition, and that’s probably the best part of it, the new generation of pocket submersibles can be driven to great depths in complete confidence

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS



OCEAN PEARL

LENGTH: 14.9' / 4.53m

WIDTH: 8.0' / 2.44m

HEIGHT: 7.7' / 2.34m

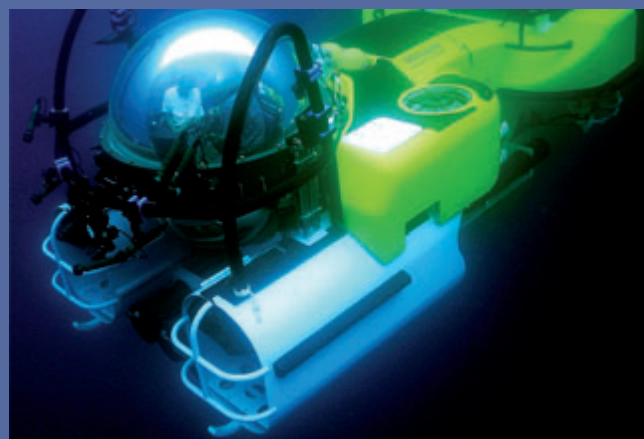
WEIGHT: 7,100 lbs / 3,200kg

PROPULSION DURATION: 6 hours

RESERVE CABIN POWER: 72 hours

STANDARD MAX DEPTH: 500' / 153m

OPTIONAL DEPTH UPGRADE: 1,000' / 305m; 3,000' / 914m



TRIUMPH

LENGTH: 17.5' / 5.33m

WIDTH: 10.2' / 3.11m

HEIGHT: 10.0' / 3.05m

WEIGHT: 15,000 lbs / 6,800kg

PROPULSION DURATION: 6 hours

RESERVE CABIN POWER: 72 hours

STANDARD MAX DEPTH: 1,500' / 457m

OPTIONAL DEPTH UPGRADE: 2,000' / 610m; 3,000' / 914m

and safety, via a joystick, while remaining at a pressure inside the cabin of one-atmosphere: this means one may dive down all the way to 3,000 feet as if staying at ocean level, with no adjustment to pressure needed - unlike deep sea diving - and in full comfort. Imagine watching a pod of dolphins playing around your "sub", not just on a large flat screen onboard, on the surface of the Ocean, or through a glass window in the hull, but actually properly surrounded by them all. A 360° by 360° perspective left to right, top to bottom. Hardly anything could beat such a voyage of discovery; except probably a trip to the Moon.

SEAmagine, a company based in the US, on the West Coast, has developed two models of one-atmosphere submersibles, which both follow the same philosophy and are designed for the superyachting market. While the Ocean Pearl accommodates two passengers, the pilot and a guest, the larger - and twice as heavy - Triumph can carry three occupants. In addition, the latter is ideally suited to be equipped with subsea tools such as manipulators, underwater lighting, cameras and more. The only downside: they take from 18 to 24 months to build.

These are the seventh generation submersibles created by William Kohnen, President of SEAmagine Hydrospace Corporation, and his team since the inception of the company in 1995. All their submersibles are classed +A1 by the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), and have now performed a total of over 10,000 dives in five countries. ■

For all your submersible needs, the close collaboration between CNI brokers and SEAmagine is a guarantee that your interest is properly taken care of. SEAmagine models of submersibles are visible with CNI during the Monaco and Fort Lauderdale Yacht Shows, so do not hesitate to come and visit us for more information.

In addition, Richard Boggs, from CNI Fort Lauderdale, is currently the only submarine expert working in a yacht management team of any brokerage house: any question, do not hesitate to contact him at rb@ftl.cnyachts.com. For more information, log onto www.cnconnect.com or www.seamagine.com



Iconic views

● world wonders

Hotels in great settings are hardly a rarity nowadays, but those with truly iconic outlooks — some of which are listed among the Seven Wonders of the World — are something quite special. **sea&i** uncovers five of the very best

By Kate Rigby

SHANGRI-LA HOTEL SYDNEY

The snow-white sails of the Sydney Opera House have been iconic since the building was inaugurated in 1973. Architecturally it is a remarkable accomplishment, but it has become a beloved icon for many different reasons: for its quirky appearance, its reputation as a superlative venue for arts and cultural performances, and its status as a UNESCO world heritage site. Many hotels in Sydney overlook the Opera House and the acclaimed Sydney Harbour Bridge, but one of the finest is the Shangri-La. This five-star hotel has some of the largest rooms in the city, a private lounge, world-class dining, an indoor pool, and a spa and gymnasium. Vast windows in the communal areas and private rooms ensure every view of the Opera House is optimised with a fantastic blue sky and sea encircling the blindingly-white building at every angle. Turn your attention inwards, and the inspired modern décor of the hotel ensures you'll be equally impressed. Cream, beige and chocolate brown fabrics and furnishings abound. For more visual splendour, visit

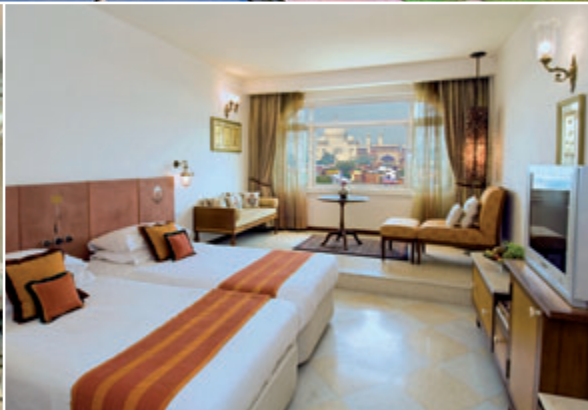


the view itself and take in one of the many acclaimed ballets, operas or shows that star at the Opera House – or simply climb the steps, find a quiet spot, sit in the sun and marvel at the details of this remarkable monument first hand.

For more information, visit www.shangri-la.com



Opposite page:
A dream view as you dine at the Shangri-La's Altitude restaurant
Above: The Presidential Suite at Sydney's Shangri-La Hotel



MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY LODGE, PERU

An ancient citadel buried deep in the heart of South America's tropical mountains and forests is another of the Seven Wonders of the World. Uncovered in 1911, the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu were built by the Incan Indians of South America and have lain hidden beneath jungle vegetation for over 500 years. Today, the remnants of this hilltop city, rolling out across a carpet of lush green grass framed by mountains, makes for one of the world's most treasured sights. As such, visitors are aplenty, but you can still view this remarkable region in privacy, luxury and seclusion if you head to the award-winning Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge where your own private suite offers you a window on this ancient Incan world.

The only hotel adjacent to the ancient citadel is the Lodge. It is perfectly situated to make the most of the historic views, lit up by spectacular sunsets and moonlit nights that reawaken the charm of South America's native heritage. There are two suites with king-sized beds and exquisite views from private terraces, and a further 29 rooms, some of which offer views of tropical mountains and forests. International and Peruvian cuisine is offered in a choice of restaurants, or it can be delivered to you in your room so you can make the very most of enjoying your five-star view in rare seclusion.

<http://machupicchu.orient-express.com>



TAJ VIEW HOTEL, AGRA, INDIA

In 1631, Shah Jahan of India so cherished the memory of his beloved wife (Mumtaz Mahal) he built a monument in her honour. The Taj Mahal took 22 years to complete by more than 20,000 workers and 1,000 elephants. Hauntingly beautiful, nearly 400 years on it is listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. To visit the monument is a mystical experience; to spend several days luxuriating in its ethereal shadow is unforgettable. The Taj View Hotel in Agra masterfully encapsulates the beauty of the monument it overlooks, lavishing its guests with marble-inlaid floors, silk tapestries on sofas, hand-woven carpets and latticed windows. The luxury suites are stately and elegant; reserve the right one and in the morning the floor-to-ceiling curtains sweep back to reveal the timeless marble wonder that is the Taj Mahal as you lie in bed. At night, fall asleep to the same image illuminated against India's night sky. From the serene landscaped gardens to a fresh-water pool, fitness centre and cookery classes, there is a wide range of leisure facilities on site, while golf courses and excursions of the surrounding area are not to be missed. Needless to say fine dining abounds, including personalised options to dine with the majestic Taj Mahal as a backdrop.

www.tajhotels.com

Top: The awe-inspiring Taj Mahal in India
Above left: Dining is an elegant affair at the Taj View Hotel
Above right: Your personal view of the legendary monument
Right: Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge is the only hotel adjacent to the ancient citadel
Right below: Great views extend to the dining room



MOUNT NELSON HOTEL, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

You generally can't go wrong if you opt for a Penthouse, but the one at the Mount Nelson Hotel in Cape Town is something quite special. For many people, South Africa encompasses some of the most spectacular landscapes in the world, and the gracious drapes of the Mount Nelson Penthouse Suite glide back to focus on one of the finest views of them all — the majestic expanse of Table Mountain.

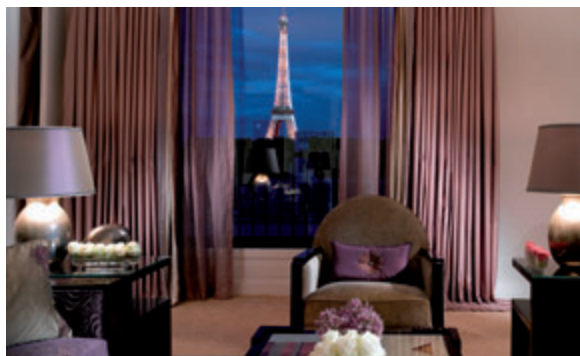
Very few cities have a mountain in such close proximity and Table Mountain is well known for its hiking trails, many of which form part of the Table Mountain National Park. Beautifully framed against it in striking candy pink, the Mount Nelson Hotel luxuriates in a lush garden estate, promising peace, serenity and excellent service. Here you can enjoy the best of city and countryside. The hotel's Penthouse has a marbled entrance hall, private lounge, mountain-view balcony, private dining room and king-sized bed. Baccarat crystal lighting, Venetian mirrors, pale silky fabrics and hand-painted wall panels ensure ultimate elegance. Also acknowledged to be one of the — if not the — best of Cape Town's day spas is the hotel's Librisa Spa. Two restaurants offer delightful cuisine, and not to be missed is the option to dine under two magnificent natural wonders: the African night sky and the shadow of Table Mountain.

www.mountnelson.co.za

HÔTEL PLAZA ATHÉNÉE, PARIS

More than 100 years old, the Eiffel Tower has long been a global symbol of romance. Over six million people visit the monument each year, but there is an alternative and somewhat more exclusive way to gaze at the tower, and that is from your private balcony at the Hôtel Plaza Athénée in Paris. The hotel has been seducing guests — including the likes of Jackie Kennedy, Grace Kelly and Johnny Depp — since 1911. Its location on the Avenue Montaigne, near the Champs Elysées, Seine River and Eiffel Tower make it an exceptional spot, and inside you'll find a chic merging of glamour, tradition and state-of-the-art technology. Along with the 188 guest rooms the hotel has 43 suites, including the stunning Terrace Eiffel Suite with a panoramic roof-terrace with 360-degree views of the Parisian skyline, including, of course, the Eiffel Tower. The suite has a dining and living area, master bedroom with a seating area, bathroom with mosaic bathtub and Eiffel views, and shower room — all in an Art Deco style to honour the Eiffel Tower itself. As an added bonus, guests at the suite have use of the latest Maserati Quattroporte Automatic for the duration of their stay. Two further Eiffel Suites offer you a tempting selection of classic or Art Deco design looking out over the Eiffel Tower, and the Royal Suite has a balcony overlooking a side view of the Tower. The hotel also has restaurants overseen by culinary genius Alain Ducasse, and there is an award-winning bar, fitness centre, spa services and 550 staff — including a full-time security team for your utmost comfort.

www.plaza-athenee-paris.com



Top left: The Penthouse at the Mount Nelson Hotel has stunning views of Table Mountain
Left: Outside the Mount Nelson Hotel, Table Mountain presents a spectacular backdrop
Below: The legendary Eiffel Tower as seen from your suite at the Hôtel Plaza Athénée
Bottom: The colourful courtyard at the Hôtel Plaza Athénée



land of plenty

magical thailand

For those with a yen to explore beyond the popular shores of the Mediterranean and Caribbean, turn east to the hauntingly beautiful cruising grounds of Southeast Asia

By Miriam Cain



Top: The 49.8m (164') Braveheart is an ideal escort around the Thai islands
Above: Underwater marine life offers an alternative view of Thailand
Opposite: The lazy shores of Krabi

Uninhabited islands, pristine beaches, turquoise waters, amazing underwater life, and well-protected anchorages make the Andaman Sea, with Phuket as its hub, the reigning maritime jewel of Southeast Asia. Thailand has long been a well-established travel hot spot yet it still retains its endemic appeal, offering a timeless serenity that stems from its ancient and mystical Buddhist heritage. From the popular island of Phuket, you can disappear to the largely uninhabited surrounding islands, famous for their stunning topography and underwater marine life, before stepping ashore to the Rayavadee resort, nestled between two vast headlands on the Krabi province.

a first taste of thailand

The area of Phang Nga Bay, surrounded by Phuket, Phan Nga and the Krabi provinces, is made up of over 100 islands. The geology varies from low, gently sloping mountains to the steep karst outcrops for which the bay is most famous. These great rock formations towering out of the sea are the ones immortalised by the James Bond film *The Man With The Golden Gun*. At the northeast end of Phuket, The Yacht Haven Marina is the ideal launch pad for a charter through these stunning cruising grounds. Just minutes from Phuket International Airport, you can step aboard the 49.8m (164') Braveheart and cruise across the bay. Before you know it you are relaxing on deck and leaving the crew to do the work as the islands travel to you.



CRUISING ON TO THE SIMILANS

For those looking to venture further, the Similan Islands lie 80 kilometres (50 miles) to the northwest of Phuket. This island group comprises nine uninhabited islands and is one of Asia's most famous National Parks, and counted among the ten most interesting dive areas in the world. The word 'Similan' is derived from the Malay 'sembilan', which means 'nine', and each of the nine Similan Islands has a number as well as a name. Formed of huge granite boulders, their scenery is not as dramatic as the limestone cliffs of Krabi and Phang Nga Bay, but the underwater world has some of the most spectacular coral growths in the world, and the boulders that scatter the shores above the waters have turned the area into an adventure playground for divers. Submarine peaks, canyons, caves and passageways provide scuba divers with stunning prospects, while there are plenty of shallows for snorkelling as well. Although the waters around the islands average from 30–45 metres (100–150 feet) dropping down to 70–80 metres (230–260 feet) between islands, you will also find coral gardens in as little as six to seven metres (20–23 feet). The continental shelf is only a few miles west of the Similans, and promises some great game fishing for those seeking the legendary black marlin of this area. Above sea level there are also plenty of coral-sand beaches that are often deserted, and as picturesque as one could wish for.

a world of your own

Most of the islands within Phang Nga Bay are uninhabited, offering secluded anchorages under soaring cliffs fringed with jungle. The bay itself is not that large, but its great number of islands ensures you can steer away from any other yachts and take the tender to discover hidden beaches, caves and creeks often not shown on charts and maps. Lying north of Phuket, Koh Phing Khan (which means two islands leaning back to back), is the most popular attraction in the area. It is more commonly known as James Bond Island – again thanks to its fame as a 007 film setting. Here the surrounding seascape is littered with limestone outcrops, some rising vertically from the water, others humped or jagged. Koh Phing Khan is an impressive site, but due to the large number of day-trippers it is best visited in the early morning or late afternoon when the crowds have eased. The surrounding islands of Kho Panak, Koh Hong and Koh Naka Yai are ideal for a quiet anchorage.

Kho Naka Yai is a sleepy fishing island, but well worth a visit for the rare South Sea pearls that are cultivated and sold here. You can stretch out on silk sands or simply snorkel in this private paradise. It was only in the 1990s that aerial surveys revealed hidden 'rooms' that lie inside many of Phang Nga Bay's islands. Created by collapsed cave systems, stunning pools are open to the sky and surrounded by →



towering limestone walls. For adventurous charterers, equipped with flashlights from the crew, it is possible to kayak through Koh Hong and Koh Panak's caves. Koh Hong is so named because of its large internal lagoon, but the island is also a popular collection point for bird's nest soup, and you will see locals shimmying up bamboo poles to lethal heights in pursuit of the prized swallows' nests.

double take

Lying equidistant between Phuket and Krabi on the mainland, Koh Yao Noi and Koh Yao Yai are the largest islands of Phang Nga Bay. Both provide a quiet refuge from neighbouring Phuket and offer secluded anchorages. They have remained relatively undeveloped as the islanders have been keen to preserve their traditional ways, so there are few restaurants and bars away from the islands' handful of resorts. Further south, the Phi Phi islands are world famous and attract their share of tourists. Nevertheless, Phi Phi Lei is completely free of inhabitants (though you can visit during the day), and Phi Phi Don has resisted the building of any roads, meaning they both remain true to their island roots. As Braveheart approaches, the Phi Phi Islands rise from the sea like fortresses as sheer cliffs tower overhead, eventually giving way to beach-fronted jungle. The best anchorage is on the southeastern end of Phi Phi Don in Ton Sai Bay. From here paths encircle the entire



circumference of the island. Step ashore and climb the Sunset Point for spectacular views over the two bays of Phi Phi Don. During the day, you'll spot the locals scaling palm trees to knock loose the coconuts, so watch out while you're wandering around the island tracks — or head to the relative safety of the surrounding waters which are rich in marine life and perfect for snorkelling or diving. After a lazy day in the sun, you'll find the surprisingly lively nightlife of the island will wake you up with reggae and jazz streaming out from the local bars. Neighbouring Phi Phi Lei has plenty of secluded coves, and its very own 'Viking' cave filled with bird nests and wall paintings from a bygone era.

from one luxury to another

Directly north of the Phi Phi islands, Krabi offers an expanse of coastline of outstanding natural beauty, with clear waters and long stretches of golden sand flanked by awesome limestone cliffs festooned with greenery. The luxurious Rayavadee, located on the Phranang headland and accessible only by boat, is the most stylish resort in the area. As the Braveheart tender takes you onto the shores of Nam Mao Beach, your crew will depart and the resort staff will welcome you with the charm and warmth for which the Thai are famous.

Ensnconced in 26 acres of coconut grove and lush tropical gardens, Rayavadee is like a Thai village, and has been designed to blend seamlessly with its natural surroundings. Its →

Clockwise from top right: Limestone outcrops stud the shores in this area of Thailand; the huge pool at Rayavadee seems to merge with the beach; spectacular views in wonderful isolation inspire you to be ruler of all you survey; ancient temples add a touch of mystery to your cruise; the luxurious Rayavadee resort is located on the Phranang headland of Krabi



Above: Some of the private villas at Rayavadee have their own gardens and pools
Opposite page: A striking Karst outcrop emerges from the ocean

authenticity has been safeguarded by its owners, a Thai family who wanted the resort to maintain a genuine jungle-like atmosphere, yet with all the trimmings of pure luxury. Private villas and luxurious two-storey beehive-shaped pavilions, some with private gardens, hydro-pools and Jacuzzis, are nestled in coconut groves. The décor is regional (including hand-painted papier-mâché wallpaper), and the furnishings are quirkily original, sourced from all over Thailand by Rayavadee design director Vichada Sitakalin.

Winding paths meander among lotus ponds, linking the Thai-style villas, beaches, spa and restaurants. Stretch out on one of the resort's three stunning beaches (Nam Mao, Railay and Phra Nang), swim, snorkel, windsurf or kayak in the surrounding national marine park, or opt for top-to-toe pampering at the award-winning Rayavadee Spa, where the Thai massage is the real deal, with your therapist stretching and pressing you with a vigour usually reserved for seasoned locals. Even the infinity pool competes with the stunning beaches. An endless stretch of water that seems to merge with the ocean, here you can relax while being refreshed with cold water, cool towels and fresh fruit. Exploring further afield, the surrounding cliffs are full of caves, including the nearby Princess Cave, believed to be the womb of a sea princess who, for many years, provided the locals with food. Even today fishermen leave offerings in the hope that the sea princess will favour them with greater catches of fish. The outcrops are also home to lagoons that you can explore in a sea kayak, and there are few more impressive places to try a spot of rock climbing.



PLANNING YOUR CRUISE

There are a few yachts in the CNI fleet that venture further afield to cruising grounds such as Southeast Asia; some are on circumnavigation trips and some base themselves around Thailand for the winter. Yachts will usually only be in this part of the world for a limited seasonal period and charters need to be booked well in advance. So, if you are looking for a Thai adventure it may take some planning but the end result will be spectacular.

The southeast monsoon in southern Thailand lasts from June to September and generally brings good winds for sailing, with a couple of hours of rain in the afternoons to cool the heat of the day. The northeast monsoon, from November through to April, offers sunny and dry weather, with calmer seas and lighter winds.

Anchorage in the Phang Nga Bay area are protected, though the region is exposed during the southwest monsoon. Cruising to and among the Similans is not recommended during the southwest monsoon season due to heavy swell and squalls, together with a scarcity of protected overnight anchorages for superyachts.

ON TROPICAL EVENINGS

As noted for its epicurean pleasures as it is for its stunning setting, Rayavadee boasts four restaurants, each one unique. The Raitalay Terrace is located beside the pool and is the perfect setting for a cocktail while watching the sun set over the soaring limestone cliffs that curtain Railay Beach. The other side of the headland hosts The Grotto, where you can spend an exclusive evening dining alone with limestone cliffs above and sand beneath your feet, looking out onto the stunning Phra Nang Beach. Located at the end of Phra Nang Beach, the resort's Thai restaurant, Krua Phranang, is set over two levels and provides stunning views over the neighbouring outcrop Happy Island. Finally, the main restaurant, Raya Dining, serves international cuisine and a fabulous breakfast.

When it comes to shopping there is no need to stop off in Bangkok to trawl the markets for unique pieces as, befitting Rayavadee's style, the resort's on-site boutique is a veritable Aladdin's cave. Rayavadee design director, Vichada Sitakalin, curates the constantly changing inventory of clothing, jewellery, house wares and textiles, all by up-and-coming Asian designers, allowing you to take a little piece of Thailand home with you. ■

For information on charters in Southeast Asia, please contact your nearest CNI charter broker, see page 12. For further information on Rayavadee go to www.tropical-locations.com. Tropical Locations can organise flights and transfers to Krabi with EVA Air.



new england

EAST COAST FEASTS

Planning the gourmet arrangements for a charter is always exciting. Here, **sea&i** tempts you with ideas for dining aboard and ashore on a cruise along the Rhode Island and Massachusetts coastlines

By **Kate Rigby**

States that skirt a coastline have it all when it comes to fine cuisine. Facing inwards, they have land to nurture crops and livestock; looking seawards they have an ocean of potential from which to scoop all manner of fish and shellfish. The New England states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island are no exception.

The types of food in these areas have changed little since the Puritan immigrants arrived in the 17th century. Land produce included berries, maple syrup, yams, apples, potatoes, squash, pumpkins, salt pork, corn and beef. From the sea they drew cod (these were so prolific the early explorers could lower a basket in the water to fill it); clams (think of the famous Boston clam chowder); and lobster, which was so commonplace the Native Americans used it as fertiliser and bait.

While many of the ingredients may have remained the same, the ways and means of preparing and presenting them →

Left: The Newport coastline is one of the most welcoming you could wish for

have seen no end of variation as modern-day chefs have burst the boundaries of culinary creativity. And what better way to sample the produce of the sea and land than cruising on a yacht that invites you to dine aboard or ashore at your leisure?

Dining aboard

Dining aboard is a must for three reasons: your chef will have sourced the finest local ingredients, you can specify what dishes you have a taste for each day, and the coastal views from the aft deck dining table will be unparalleled.

Joe Matta, captain of the 29m (97') motor yacht GiGi regularly charts in the New England waters and, having grown up on Cape Cod, knows a thing or two about the local cuisine. "If you want classic New England food, you don't have to look far. I can't tell you how many cups of hot clam chowder I've had, and I still love it," he says. "Another local dish you can serve in numerous ways is lobster. My favourite method would simply be to boil it, work the meat out of the shell and drown it in butter, which is the most common way you would find it in a restaurant. Another popular dish is a white fish such as cod or flounder in a lemon and caper sauce."

When it comes to sourcing the finest seafood, superyacht chefs often head to the docks to talk directly with the wholesalers or

captains of the fishing boats to find out exactly how and where the fish is caught. "And it's fun to get guests involved," says Matta. "We sometimes organise a special licence and take them to the beach to dig their own clams for their supper — which they love." Handing their catch to the chef, guests can then relax while the crew transport them to a suitably inspired anchorage for dinner.

"Just to the south of the Cape Cod Canal is a great place to anchor for a lovely view of the sunset," adds Matta. "It's on the east side of Mashnee Island. Up in Boston Harbor there are also a lot of great places and views if you're careful to avoid the high-speed ferries that weave between the islands. We also often take guests further up in Maine to a couple of good anchorages called Gilkey Harbor off Seven Hundred Acre Island, and Tenants Harbor to the south of Rockland. These two lesser-known harbours are great places to enjoy the food and beauty of New England."

Dining ashore

BOSTON

This international city has a host of first-class restaurants. Among the many you can reserve a table at is 33 Restaurant & Lounge. This venue is as much about décor and atmosphere as it is about food. Begin at the bar with one of its white passion sangrias, then saunter to the restaurant or patio to enjoy the

Below from top right: The 29m (97') GiGi regularly cruises in New England; lobster delicacies at the Spiced Pear; dining on the seafront at the Wauwinet; Brant Point Grill's intriguing FireCone on Nantucket Island; New England delicacies from KO Prime in Boston





Left: Newport's Castle Hill Inn & Resort at dusk

award-winning menu from executive chef Peter Eco, who fuses New England cuisine with hints of the exotic, such as grilled Hawaiian ahi tuna steak, porcini pasta and birch beer braised ribs.

Heading to Aujour'hui restaurant at the Four Seasons Hotel, classic French décor honours exotically French cuisine. The tasting menu changes weekly, or you could battle a tough choice between the likes of braised rabbit ravioli with dandelion greens, fricassée of frog legs with sweetbreads and Burgundy escargot, followed, perhaps, by seared sea scallops with squid-ink farfalle and mussels.

Another Boston best is KO Prime. Sexy, modern and creative, this is the inspiration of award-winning chef Ken Oringer and Boston's Jamie Bissonette. Boston's coast provides inspiration for the Raw Bar and seafood dishes, and the restaurant has a rooftop garden where it cultivates its own vegetables. Meat ranges from Kobe beef to Japanese Wagyu beef, to Porterhouse or filet mignon steak, to veal, duck and rack of lamb.

NANTUCKET ISLAND

Nantucket Island is one of the furthestmost islands from the coastline, but worth the trip for its choice of fantastic fare.

Topper's restaurant at The Wauwinet is a Relais & Châteaux hotel and Nantucket's premier waterfront resort. Joining them for dinner, you may find yourself dipping into chilled island creek

oysters with pearls of hibiscus and its mignonette with American caviar, lobster and summer onion soup with fizzy citrus dust and truffled lobster salad, or sirloin steak with truffled spinach.

Brant Point Grill, at the White Elephant on Nantucket Island, has been honoured with the Wine Spectator's Award of Excellence for the past four years. Right on Nantucket Harbor, it seats guests on its Harborside Terrace or in the lounge. Not to be missed is its FireCone — a unique cooking method based on a Native American technique and used to prepare dishes such as planked Atlantic salmon.

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Considered by many to be the heart of New England, Newport has a lively waterfront, wonderful coastal scenery and great restaurants. Jeff Beneville, who heads up CNI's Newport and New York offices, is an authority on the area. "The entire Bannister's Wharf is Newport's most famous. It's safe to say the way in which The Clarke Cook House (aka 'The Candy Store') prepares its New England lobster, striped bass, swordfish and tuna is extraordinary — and its clam chowder has been voted one of the best in New England."

Also worthy of note is the The Spiced Pear restaurant at the Chanler at Cliff Walk, which has an inspired oceanfront setting with its outdoor terrace cooled by the ocean breeze. Dine in the restaurant, or reserve one of its Ultimate Romance Private Dinners with six courses, wine pairings for each course, a dozen roses, a table decorated with rose petals and candles, homemade chocolates to take home, and your choice of music.

On Newport's famous Ocean Drive at the Castle Hill Inn & Resort there are numerous venues in which to dine, including The Ocean Room with a fireplace and oriental rugs, and the Agassiz Room, Newport Room, and Sunset Room overlooking Narragansett Bay. A Sunday brunch with live jazz and sweeping lawns reaching down to the bay also makes for an exceptional occasion. Native and seasonal menus feature local fish and fresh produce, and the wine list tempts you with more than 500 choices.

For panoramic views on Martha's Vineyard, The Beach Plum Inn Restaurant atop Menemsha Harbor (a 300-year-old fishing village) is the place to be. As you dine you can gaze at the passing yachts and setting sun. The award-winning regional cuisine is presented with flair by executive chef James McDonough, and you'll find plenty of fresh, native Atlantic seafood and aged beef. Begin, perhaps, with the likes of garbanzo bean, cilantro and roasted golden pepper cakes, followed by grilled filet mignon with Hudson Valley foie gras.

The White Horse Tavern — one of American's oldest taverns, is also acclaimed, as is the Boat House at nearby Tiverton, which has a quintessential New England setting and style. ■

Treasure island parrot cay

Once pirate-infested, the idyllic archipelago of the Turks and Caicos in the British West Indies is now the place to go for a discreet hideaway. **sea&i** brings you a taste of what to expect from this island chain's most exclusive retreat: Parrot Cay

By Miriam Cain

Not quite the Caribbean and not quite the Bahamas, the eight islands and 41 cays of the Turks and Caicos are marooned between the two. As its name suggests, this archipelago is made up of the Turks islands and the Caicos islands. Long regarded as the poor relation to the glitzy Bahamas to the north and the millionaire's playground of Barbados in the Caribbean, the Turks and Caicos were originally overlooked when the rest of the Caribbean was being developed for tourism, and have only been explored by developers in the past ten years or so. They therefore boast the best of both worlds: they have been blessed with more than a touch of luxury but they remain, as yet, unspoilt. The area was previously mainly known to divers (the islands boast the third-largest coral reef in the world) but the chic, private island of Parrot Cay changed all that, being the first exclusive resort to put the region on the luxury travel map.

Original inspiration

Opened in 1998, Parrot Cay has brought glamour to the islands, putting them on a par with chic St Barths. Located just half an hour by speedboat from the archipelago's main island of Providenciales (known as Provo), Parrot Cay is one of only ten inhabited islands in the Turks and Caicos. It was the first to bring Asian style to the Caribbean and, in doing so, led the way for a growing trend.

Parrot Cay has lush gardens of palms, pines, bougainvillea and hibiscus. Accommodation is in the colonial-style main building or the beachfront cottages, where white and cream reign throughout. White tongue-and-groove walls compliment huge four-poster beds draped in billowing muslin nets and huge bathrooms. The cottages open out onto a deck, plunge pool, dunes and a seemingly endless stretch of sandy beach.

The tiny island is glitzy without being intimidating. Here you will find a scattering of movie stars mingling with →

Top left: Enjoy spectacular views at sunset from the Lotus Restaurant or poolside bar
Left: The beachfront villas are a castaway's idyll



Right: The beachfront cottages have huge four-poster beds where you can laze and enjoy spectacular sea views
Below: The beach is seemingly never ending
Below right: The Zen-like Como Shambhala spa has a separate pavillion for couples, and can also be hired for private dining



guests and staff as though with family. Parrot Cay is not the place to come to party, but if you like socialising you will find like-minded guests at the bar, at the poolside Lotus restaurant, or stretching out in the daily yoga classes.

Spend the morning lounging by the infinity-edged swimming pool, relax in the privacy of your villa, or while away the day dozing on the beach — if you stick a little flag in the sand by your lounger, your drink orders will be delivered faster than you can say “rum punch”. As far as dining is concerned, you can alternate between the Lotus, which reflects the Orient, the Terrace, which leans towards Italian cuisine, or the spa menu.

Island of plenty

Whether you're looking for peace and privacy, a chance to renew and rebalance yourself, or a simple beach holiday, Parrot Cay will deliver. From complimentary yoga classes on the beach at sunrise and sunset, to all manner of watersports activities, to the award-winning Como Shambhala spa, you can do as little or as much as you desire.

Consistently voted one of the best spas in the world, the Zen-like Como Shambhala has been so successful it has recently been expanded into a double-tiered pavilion. Overlooking a pale blue, glass-like lagoon, and set away from the main resort, the pavilion has both double and single treatment rooms and an encyclopaedic array of treatments, mainly Eastern in origin. These range from the signature Como Shambhala massage to the Dr Perricone facials, including the three-day Nutritional Face

Lift, which is tackled from the inside with the spa menu of salmon, salad, steamed vegetables and seasonal berries, washed down with mineral water and green tea.

While you may not want to stray from the magical setting of Parrot Cay, it is, nevertheless, the perfect base from which to explore the surrounding islands. From nightlife, shopping and golf on nearby Provo, to fantastic cruising and water sports, this region plays host to numerous activities, but it is the underwater world that has become the most famous. The waters of the Turks and Caicos are said to be among the top ten dive sites in the world. Divers can choose wall-dives dropping off 2,000 metres (7,000 feet) into a blue abyss, or opt for sun-drenched sites of coral valleys, where the best depth to view the thriving ocean life is 12 to 18 metres (40 to 60 feet) down.

Emerging from the deep, you can then wade your way back up onto the beach and arrive, like pirates did centuries before, to revel in the treasures of Parrot Cay. ■

Direct flights currently operate from Miami, New York and London, among many other destinations, and fly into Providenciales, South Caicos and Grand Turk. British Airways Prestige Collection offers a package to Parrot Cay and COMO Shambhala Retreat with flights via Nassau and Miami. For further information, visit www.ba.com



wellbeing

HOLISTIC JOURNEY

A holiday used to be the perfect opportunity to indulge, but today's hectic lifestyles mean we often want to use our time off to focus on our health. **sea&i** continues its quest to combine wellbeing and relaxation with a visit to Southeast Asia

By **Miriam Cain**

Two of the oldest medical disciplines on earth — Chinese and Ayurvedic — hail from Asia, making this enticing area of the world the ideal place to experience the ancient healing arts of wellbeing. Much of the theory underlying these ancient therapies has become a foundation for the most desirable treatments all over the world today. Their calming, balanced approach serves as an antidote to the pressures of our Western way of life. But while we may be familiar with various Asian-inspired treatments and therapies, some of which have been successfully adopted in the western world, we usually only spend the odd hour, day, or at most a weekend, devoted to them — and even then their impact is often diluted by western influences. Out in Southeast Asia, however, one can spend a week or more entirely ensconced in Oriental scenery, wisdom and peace — soaking up the soothing way of life and its associated benefits.

The Chiva Som effect

With a reputation for being Thailand's foremost health resort (it was also its original luxury retreat), Chiva Som (meaning 'haven of life'), takes a holistic approach to wellbeing — catering for mind, body and soul with a combination of healthy eating, exercise and spa treatments.

For years, Chiva Som has been ranked in the top three of *Conde Nast Traveller's* Readers' Travel Awards — and it's not hard to see why. Set in seven acres of tropical land along Thailand's Gulf Coast at Hua Hin, just a few hours' drive south of Bangkok, Chiva Som →



is perfect for groups where individuals have different objectives in mind — be it weight-loss, relaxation, improving fitness, or simply balancing the mind. Detox programmes and weight-loss boot camps have long been associated with deprivation, suffering and even penitence in order to elicit results, but at Chiva Som you can get the same impressive effect with the benefit of high-thread-count sheets and spa treatments as you relax in luxury air-conditioned Thai pavilions surrounded by pagodas, waterfalls and tropical gardens.

Creating your stay

Each programme is tailored to your specific needs and includes daily massages, beauty treatments, exercise and diet. Whether on a Personal Discovery Retreat, a Weight Management Retreat, a Detox Retreat, or one of the many other retreats on offer, the programme combines alternative procedures, like reflexology, with scientific procedures such as live blood analysis to establish the state of your health and, therefore, how best to benefit it. Along with a timetable of personal and group sessions, every guest has a daily 50-minute massage, on top of which a range of treatments is proposed to suit your individual needs. The signature treatment is a deep stomach massage designed to release trapped emotions. It is also a great prelude to colonic hydrotherapy, which many guests opt for three or four times a week in order to remove toxins from the liver. For those looking for something a little more relaxing, the treatment menu has fantastic Thai massages, cleansing facials, soothing body wraps, and much, much more (there over 50 treatments on offer). It is very tempting to spend hours relaxing in the treatment area with its lotus-flower-strewn sauna, steam room and plunge pool, but taking exercise is essential if you are really to benefit from the retreats, and even if you are at Chiva Som to relax, the activities are so compelling you can't help but be caught up in the spirit of it all. Each day the exercise classes range from t'ai chi at sunrise (in open-air pavilions overlooking the ocean) to aqua-aerobics in the huge



outdoor pool, a power walk along the beach, Thai boxing, Pilates, yoga and salsa. Along with the exercises, there are art classes, stress-management courses, beauty workshops and sea kayaking, but many guests chose simply to take advantage of the serene pool to relax between treatments.

Dining for health

The spa cuisine at Chiva Som is legendary. The food is delicious, whether you choose to be on a cleansing diet of fruit, tasty broths, vegetables and a plethora of herbal teas, or a healthy version of traditional Thai classics where the high-fat content of coconut cream and peanut oil have been removed. All the dishes are calorie counted and fat controlled, and created in such a way as to remain flavoursome without the need for salt, fats or sugars. The menu also covers low-calorie options from other parts of the world. Breakfast and lunch consist of tropical fruits, freshly baked breads (wheat-free if desired), exotic salads, fish dishes and soups (much of the produce comes from the resort's own organic garden). Dinner, meanwhile, includes curry, soup and, should you desire a chilled glass of white wine with your meal, the resort has a fantastic wine list considering alcohol is not really the done thing (alcohol is only permitted after 6pm). For those who want to take their healthy diet home with them, there is also a spa-cuisine cookery course.

Something for everyone

Many guests come alone as the resort welcomes single travellers, but although there are slightly more women than men, the gap is closing. Most come to achieve a specific goal but, as mentioned earlier, if one person wants to detox and their partner wishes simply to relax and clear their mind, Chiva Som will ensure the best experiences for both of you. ■

For further information on Chiva Som and flights with Eva Air go to www.tropical-locations.com

Opening page: The serene pool at Chiva Som
These pages, clockwise from bottom left: Salute the sunrise with t'ai chi on the beach; relax in the hydro-pool; Chiva Som's pavilions are fully geared for luxury; the cuisine at Chiva Som is legendary; t'ai chi at sunrise in the open-air pavilion



It's got to be...

New York, New York

Frank Sinatra described New York as 'the city that never sleeps' — but sleep is about the only thing that it doesn't do. **sea&i** samples this seductive metropolis, famed for its vitality, innovation and irrepressible spirit

By Kate Rigby



The streets of New York fling out an iconic moment at every turn: smoke spiralling up from a subway grating; a reflection caught in Tiffany's 'Hepburn' window; fleets of canary-yellow taxi cabs hurtling down wide streets beneath pendulous traffic lights; sun glinting off the mirrored windows of skyscrapers, and endless signs flaunting names that have become A-list celebrities in their own right: Fifth Avenue, Wall Street, Broadway, Park Avenue, Times Square... a maze of fame slotting neatly together to make up one of the best-loved cities in the world.

On a first visit to New York, the streets already seem to be old friends because their buildings, parks and monuments have become indelibly committed to mind from the plethora of films, TV shows and magazines that pay endless homage to this city. Yet the seasoned visitor is also in for a surprise, for you could visit New York countless times and still unpeel a new layer, encounter

a new experience, or discover a new-found treasure at every step. The face of the city is ever-changing, with hotels, restaurants, shops and attractions opening and closing daily, reeling over at a phenomenal pace — the ultimate city on a rollerdex. *sea&i* holds a few pages open for you to take a closer look.

Pillow talk

A shimmering 21-storey glass tower, Hotel on Rivington is pure minimalist chic. Towering on Rivington on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, it gazes down over the up-and-coming galleries, boutiques and nightlife. Opt for the three-storey Penthouse with its 360-degree views of Manhattan and you'll open the door to a home theatre, mezzanine bedroom with fireplace alcove, a walk-in closet, 50" Plasma television and two-person bathtub. For those who wish to soak a little closer to the city, out on your private landscaped rooftop is an eight-person Jacuzzi and outdoor shower.

Heading to Midtown Manhattan on Madison Avenue, The Library Hotel has a private club feel with a unique design concept. Each room has a personalised theme that is complemented by its choice of artwork and books (over 6,000 books are meticulously arranged throughout the hotel). With that much reading fodder, accept the invitation to relax in the company of leather sofas, fireplaces, rugs, dark woods and pale soft furnishings. Escape between reads to the fantastic roof terrace and restaurants.

Lounging in the heart of Manhattan's SoHo district is 60 Thompson, a boutique hotel with an edgy yet sophisticated vibe. The guests and members-only rooftop lounge 'A60' has views over downtown New York, with soft candlelight and under-lit foliage echoing the backdrop of the city lights at night. Inside, a Thai-inspired dining room and the Thom Bar are desirable venues for glamorous evenings.

Despite its septuagenarian status, leading North American hotel Jumeirah Essex House on Central Park South holds its own against newer properties thanks to a \$90 million refurbishment that takes it to new levels of luxury. This stately 40-storey 1930s landmark faces Central Park and has one of the finest addresses in the city. Classic meets modern in the Art Deco rooms, and the expansive lobby proffers a wonderful welcome with its lavish parkview seating areas surrounded by artwork. The hotel's sophisticated South Gate is set to become one of New York's culinary hot spots, with many gastronomes considering this to be among the best up-and-coming restaurants in town. The décor is sleek, with a long marble bar and fractured mirrored panels along the ceiling and walls reflecting the park opposite.

Also transformed, this time by the acclaimed Ian Schrager, is the Gramercy Park Hotel. Described as 'Bohemia reinvented for the 21st century' its bold décor makes it the place to be — particularly its Penthouses with living room, dining room, →

Opposite page:
The Chrysler Building disappearing into the clouds

This page, top: The city can best be seen in all its splendour from above

Left: The Rockefeller Center from ground level — you can also travel 70 stories up and look down on the city from the Top of the Rock Observation Deck



library, kitchen, antiques and one or two bedrooms. All the Penthouse rooms face Gramercy Park and the hotel also has a private Roof Club and garden, an Aerospace gym, spa, and two edgily-designed bars.

Top table

Dining in New York offers endless possibilities. The leading hotels have acclaimed restaurants, countless standalone establishments make headlines with their innovative vibe and concept, and then, of course, there are those all-American walk-in diners serving up tasty, honest food and a depth of character you simply can't buy. As far as fine dining is concerned, the choice is impressive. The Italian Cipriani Dolci and the Oyster Bar & Restaurant are both set



within the auspicious walls of Grand Central Station. Meanwhile, the award-winning Polo Restaurant at the Garden City Hotel has won acclaim for its opulent atmosphere, service, wine list, pastry chef and excellence in fine dining — reason enough for a visit. Le Bernardin's three Michelin stars are more than enough to endorse this esteemed establishment. For pure French class, book a table at the two-Michelin-starred Picholine near the Lincoln Center, or the three-starred Michelin Per Se in the Time Warner Center at Ten Columbus Circle. For French with a twist, try Sapa on 43 West 24th Street for its lauded French Southeast Asian cuisine, or go all-American at Gallagher's — a former speakeasy that's attracted Broadway stars and sporting icons for over 80 years with its prime aged steaks and New York ambience.

After dark

Nights in New York are made to shock, seduce and inspire. New bars and clubs open and close like curtains, and one recent unveiling was The Rusty Knot at 425 West Street, in the trendy omeatpacking district. Established by the Spotted Pig's Ken Friedman and Freemans' Taavo Somer, and run by Momofuku co-owner Joaquin Baca, it's a genuine 'bar' bar.

For lounge life, head to 105 Riv at the aforementioned Hotel on Rivington. This seventies-vibe space gives you the sense of your own private party with neon lights illuminating a dark lounge. Over at The Kimono Lounge at 62 Thomas Street, which overlooks the achingly hip Megu Japanese restaurant through vast interior windows, style is equally sharp. The whole place is a study in exquisite Oriental design — with killer cocktails to boot. The design innovation is carried through to the restaurant and the Kimono Lounge on the upper level where there is a striking wall made from bolts of ancient kimono fabric.

Simmeringly cool (provided you're blessed with the rare nod to enter), is the highly exclusive Beatrice Inn on 285 West 12 Street. A former speakeasy, it is a maze of antiques, oil paintings and mirrors, strictly reserved for the uber cool, and owned by the brother of actress Chloë Sevigny.

To step back in time to the Prohibition era, Employees Only on 510 Hudson Street is an Art Deco-style backlit hotspot with food

and cocktails aplenty and a late-night menu from midnight to the early hours. Evoking the frivolous spirit of the 1920s and 30s, it has a full dining room and bar for private events and sit-down dinners. Expect mahogany walls, leather banquets and a sky-lit ceiling, along with a fireplace to cosy-up to on cold winter nights, while summer nights can be spent basking in the garden.

Cultural acclaim

Set between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) is one of, if not the, foremost museums of its kind in the world and always worthy of a visit. A Broadway show or two is also a must, but walking the streets of New York is culture enough for many, offering a multitude of attractions and ambiances, from the iconic triangular-shaped Flatiron (or Fuller) Building to the buzzing Rockefeller Center to the arty SoHo district (great for brunch and browsing), to trendy TriBeCa with its hub of new galleries and restaurants.

What's in store?

Even those who haven't been to New York will no doubt have heard of the shopping heavens that are Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue. Slicing the centre of Manhattan, high-street shops, department stores and designer boutiques spring thick and fast on Fifth, while Madison is just a block North from the famous Rockefeller Center.

South Street Seaport is also a charming area to browse, and heading SoHo way reveals some intriguing, independent boutiques and design shops with a more arty essence. While you're there, get the taxi to drop you off on Prince Street where the flagship Dean & DeLuca delicatessen is a wonderful place to visit. Or head to its café at the Rockefeller Center for a slice of heavenly American cheesecake amid a shopping spree.

It's a cliché, but...

Scale the dizzy heights of the Empire State Building at midnight. A star guest in around 80 movies, this legendary monument carries you up into the night sky, while beneath you blink a million lights from this dazzling city. ■

Opposite: The Flatiron Building has been an icon since 1902
Clockwise from bottom left: 60 Thompson hotel; neon-lit nights at the Hotel on Rivington; the recently renovated Jumeirah Essex House; 21st century Bohemia at Gramercy Park; the bar at Picholine restaurant



aboard maraya

Stir up a storm

Neutral colour palettes are the perfect base for dramatic clashes of texture, giving the latest fashions a lightening-bolt effect

Photography Marie-Pierre de Larue Dargère Assistant Bertrand Bonte

Art direction Olivier de Larue Dargère Stylist Mélanie Braut

Make-up & hair Kim Chincholle Models Nadezda @ Next, Asia @ Metropolitan,

Jérôme Thémée @ Success Published in SOON magazine Issue 6

White silk dress by PAULE KA;
Grey silk jacket with hood by EMMANUEL UNGARO;
Sunglasses by ALAIN MIKLI



Main picture: Silk jacket by JOSE CASTRO; Monaco Yacht Show Limited Edition necklace by VAN CLEEF & ARPELS; Silk dress by BARBARA BUI. **Above:** Blue asymmetric pull-over with zipper by Y-3; Silk trousers by DIOR HOMME; Leather shoes by DIOR HOMME; Silk scarf by PAUL SMITH



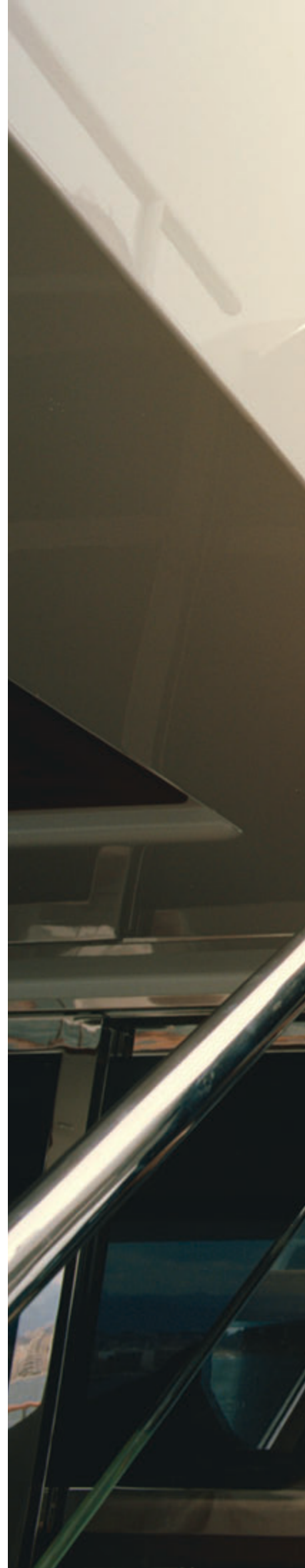




Main picture: Top embroidered with pearls and silver thread by MANISH ARORA; Jumper in fine grey cashmere wool by PAULE KA; Embroidered metal dress by MANISH ARORA; Black trousers by JEAN CLAUDE JITROIS. **Above:** Jacket made of cashmere wool by EMMANUEL UNGARO; Cotton shirt by DIOR HOMME; Cotton trousers by PAUL SMITH; Leather belt by SONIA RYKIEL HOMME



Main picture: Embroidered silk jacket by DIOR HOMME; Wool scarf by FILIPPA KA; Silk and wool Jodhpur trousers by JUUN; Shoes by PAUL SMITH. **Above:** Silk top by CELINE; Black trousers by JEAN-CLAUDE JITROIS; Butterfly rings by VAN CLEEF & ARPELS







Embroidered leather jacket by MANISH ARORA;
Sunglasses by ICIBERLIN



SHOT ON LOCATION IN CANNES ABOARD THE 54.2M (177.9') MARAYA

The latest launch from CRN, Maraya achieves an equal balance between the very latest technological innovations and luxury comfort. One of the most striking features is the master stateroom

balcony, which can be lowered at anchor for guests to indulge in a vast private relaxation area. Throughout the rest of the interior and exterior spaces the luxury continues with on-demand entertainment

systems, water toys and excellent service. **Prices from €300,000 per week for 12 guests in four double cabins and two twin cabins.**

For further information, contact your CNI charter broker, see page 12





south africa

Wild at heart

Start with Cape Town, sample a healthy dose of safari, and finish with a drive through the scenic Garden Route — a holiday to South Africa offers a veritable feast of choice

By Thomas Grant

Cape Town is without doubt one of the most exciting and beautiful cities in the world. Sandwiched between the mountains and the Atlantic seaboard, with the iconic Table Mountain presiding majestically over the city bowl, it provides by far the most glamorous entrance into South Africa. Just as easy to fly into as Johannesburg, and a good deal safer, it makes better sense in almost every respect to begin a visit to the southern coast here on the site of the original European settlement.

City of possibility

Cape Town's geographical position makes it an ideal holiday location, whether for a long weekend taking in the city sights (including the dramatic Cape peninsula and the stunningly beautiful Cape winelands), or as the leisurely entrée into a longer vacation taking in a safari or two and exploring the famed Garden Route.

Scenery apart, however, South Africa's appeal for those seeking a generous slice of hedonism along with their sightseeing lies in the exceptional quality of its hotels and restaurants. The intoxicating cultural and geographical brew that is South Africa has yielded a dizzying array of culinary traditions, and many of its best restaurants are to be found in its hotels where superb food is complemented by world-class wines and service. Visitors to the country are 'guests' and the generosity of this term is manifest in the luxury and diversity of accommodation available. Whether you want a secret tree-

top lodge, a romantic safari tent or an exclusive coastal retreat away from the city, South Africa gives liberally of its bounty.

Cape Town offers a multitude of city-centre hotels but the canny traveller steers clear of the heat and bustle of the bowl and the ersatz attractions of the reconstituted V&A waterfront. The calm, cool elegance of the pocket-sized Alta Bay hotel offers a more tranquil alternative. Perched on the lower flanks of Table Mountain and only a short drive from the city centre, this delightful hotel, like Dr Who's Tardis, seems more spacious on the inside than its exterior suggests. This is partly due to its construction — a series of open and closed rectangles with tiny courtyards shimmering at night with candlelight. Surprisingly spacious rooms have shady private decks with walkways leading to the pool and breakfast terrace. Best of all, though, the upper terrace offers panoramic views across the city bowl towards the waterfront and Dolphin Beach to the northwest, and Signal Hill to the southwest. If you can secure the Bay Suite, the view is yours to command — and it is some view. Watching the lights of Cape Town sparkle into life at dusk while sipping a restorative from the complimentary bar is perfect preparation for an evening of gastronomic pleasure.

Though the hotel does not have its own restaurant, Alta Bay can provide light meals on request if the exertions of the day have been too great. Better, however, to consult the helpful staff who will recommend a restaurant guaranteed to revive the most flagging of spirits. Prime among these is the award-winning and often fully-booked Ginga in the Bo-Kaap district, where →



east meets west in piquant culinary harmony and where a permanent table is reserved for the hotel's guests.

On the waterfront

Alta Bay is an ideal base for exploring Cape Town and its environs, including illuminating and inspiring visits to townships such as Langa, and Robben Island, famous as Nelson Mandela's prison for 18 years. Luxuriant Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens are nearby, with 36 of its breathtaking 528 hectares devoted to South African plants, and with summer evening concerts of music ranging from the classics through to rock.

If, however, the pull of the sea is too great to resist, then the Twelve Apostles is unbeatable for its combination of unabashed luxury and spectacular setting within easy reach of Cape Town. Uniquely situated in a nature reserve in the Table Mountain National Park, at the foot of the range of mountains from which it takes its name (though there are not 12 but 18 of these jagged peaks), the Twelve Apostles has the most prized position of any

hotel in the area, and a reputation to match. While the mountains rear up precipitously behind, in front is an exclusive view over the Atlantic Ocean, which surges over the rocks below.

The Twelve Apostles has built on its impressive natural advantages to great effect. In practical terms, it has stylishly extended the original hunting lodge, and created a helipad for those wanting speedier access to its attractions. It has also secreted furnished picnic spots in the fynbos (the heathland vegetation unique to the Cape) beyond the swimming pools and sundeck where you can linger over an alfresco meal — prepared to your specifications and transported ahead of your arrival — and savour that stunning seascape from a wilder perspective. Furthermore, the hotel lies on the route to one of the world's most spectacular marine drives.

Chapman's Peak Drive skirts the coast between Noordhoek and Hout Bay over a distance of five miles, offering a plenitude of sweeping, empty beaches. Hout Bay is worth a visit in its own right to enjoy the sub-aquatic antics of resident seals from a glass-bottomed boat, while a gentle stroll in the enchanting colony of African Penguins at Boulders Beach provides an opportunity to stretch the legs before pushing on down the peninsular to the Cape of Good Hope. Not, as often proclaimed, the most southerly tip of Africa — that is Cape Agulhas, some 90 miles away - the Cape is nonetheless supremely satisfying to visit in the pursuit of a vicarious identification with ancient mariners and the focus of a day's exploration of the varied peninsular landscape. Whale watching is possible from this coast, but it is well worth visiting the coastal town of Hermanus, 90 minutes away, for guaranteed sightings of Southern Right whales between August and November. If your tastes tend more to the vinous than the marine, then the Constantia winelands are only an hour away from the Twelve Apostles, which will arrange a private guided tour of the region's finest vineyards and restaurants. But it's hard to venture far afield when the hotel's sumptuous cuisine and cellar provides such temptation to stay put. Chef Roberto de Carvalho has put a local spin on the hotel's mouth-watering international fusion dishes with a 'fynbos' menu, using herbs gathered fresh from the mountains while sommelier Luvo Ntezo will provide a fascinating and refreshingly unaffected masterclass on the prime vintages.

When it comes to pampering and revitalizing mind and body after all that sightseeing, the hotel's atmospheric Sanctuary Spa takes its business seriously. Hewn from the rock on which the hotel stands, its seven subterranean treatment rooms offer a delicious range of treatments. In addition to its sauna, Vichy shower, hydrotherapy bath and brine pool it boasts Cape Town's only Rasul chamber. Emerging into the evening light, your final treatment is a sundowner to accompany the magnificent diurnal drama of the sunset over the ocean.

Game for anything

Any visit to South Africa beyond a few days should include a safari. Most big game is located further north and requires a serious detour away from the south coast, but a short flight from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth takes you within easy reach of the celebrated Addo Elephant Park. Addo became a national park in 1931, when only 11 elephants survived in the area. It is now home to the most concentrated population of elephants in the world, with more than 450 animals sharing the bushveld with the rare black rhino, Cape buffalo, lions, leopards, zebra and various antelopes — all indigenous species.

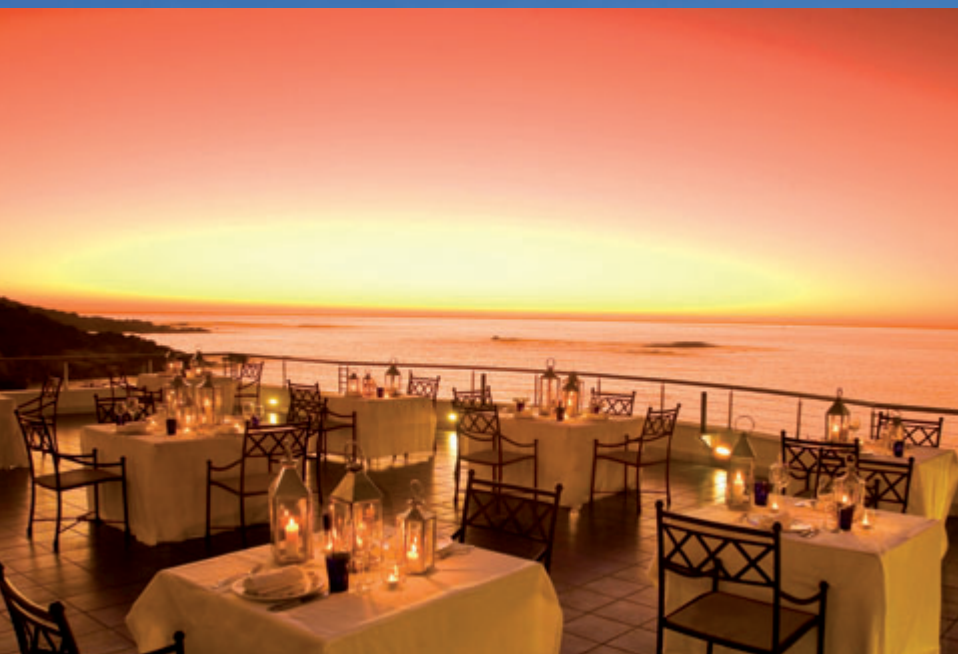
There is no question that the place to stay in Addo is Gorah Elephant Camp, the first private concession ever to be granted in a National Park. Here the Hunter family have sympathetically restored the 200-year-old Gorah Lodge to Edwardian colonial splendour, and surrounded it with 11 safari tents for guests. 'Tents' is misleading, since with their antique furnishings, armchairs, four-poster beds and solar-powered double

showers, these dwellings offer a degree of luxury beyond the scope of any white hunter of the early 1900s. The close proximity of the wildlife is truly thrilling. Your wake-up call is the roar of a lion and an early morning coffee on your tent veranda is enlivened by a procession of elephants, hartebeests, kudu and warthogs coming to drink at the waterhole in front of the lodge. Sometimes animals get even closer. During our visit, the ragged corner of a Turkish rug on the lodge veranda testified to the playful attentions of two young lions during the previous night, as did a scattering of feathers from cushions they had slaughtered!

There are two game drives a day at Gorah. The first follows a leisurely breakfast, the second is preceded by afternoon tea and succeeded by dinner. Menus reflecting individual dietary requirements and preferences promise the sumptuous evening dining and attentive service that are standard in Hunter hotels. At Gorah, chefs Erika and Sarah play inventive variations on local and international cuisine, producing rare delights such as eland stroganoff and gin-and-tonic granita, all accompanied →

Far left: Safaris give you the chance to get up close and personal to the locals
Below, clockwise from top left: Gorah Elephant Camp; one of the suites at Hunter's Country House; a suite at Tsala Treetop Lodge; the Phantom Forest in Knysna





Above, from left: The deck of the Azure Restaurant at the Twelve Apostles hotel; Cape penguins; the peerless setting of the 12 Apostles hotel; a safari is a fantastic way to explore the South African countryside

by the finest Cape wines and served in the glow of candlelight. Reminisce about the day's pleasures with a nightcap before the roaring fire in the library on chillier evenings, or on balmy ones lounge in one of the welcoming armchairs on the lodge veranda to the sound of elephants drinking at the waterhole.

Along the Garden Route

An easy day's drive south takes you, via Port Elizabeth, to the eastern end of the Garden Route at Storms River, near the beginning of the Tsitsikamma National Park, a stunning narrow strip of coast 80 kilometres (50 miles) long, bounded by the Tsitsikamma Mountains to the north and the Indian Ocean to the south. If time allows, make a short diversion to Storms River Mouth or to the aptly-named Nature's Valley: one of the loveliest beaches on the Garden Route. Either, though, can be easily reached from the main tourist destination in the area, Plettenberg Bay.

Just beyond Plett, several fine hotels have been established in private estates, among them Hunter's Country House and Tsala Treetop Lodge. The Hunter family began their hotel business here back in the 1980s with the old thatched Pear Tree Farm house that is now the central lodge of the Country House hotel. Here, as at Gorah, they have sensitively recreated the elegance of an old-style colonial mansion to house the restaurant and reception rooms. Guests dine in the elegant candlelit dining room, or take breakfast and lunch in the sunny conservatory. All the meals are of a standard to arouse the envy (or shame) of European and American hoteliers.

Accommodation is in 23 individual thatched cottages, charmingly furnished with contemporary and antique pieces. These cottages are spread out like a small village in the lovingly maintained landscaped gardens. The two Classic Suites have a grand, split-level sitting room, a gracious bedroom and bathroom, and a private pool set in its own garden. Children are welcome, and can be looked after by specialised staff in Pumba's garden, the children's play area.

While retaining the same high standard of creature comforts as the Country House, nearby Tsala Treetop Lodge brings you much closer to nature. Each of its ten suites is constructed within the tree canopy itself so that your unobstructed view is across acres of treetops to the mountains. Though traditional materials and techniques were used in their construction, these tree-suites are very much 21st century opulence within. A generous bathroom with indoor and outdoor showers and a huge marble bath, a king-sized bed confronting a wall of windows, and a chic sitting room replete with wood-burning stove all ensure that sophistication co-exists harmoniously with nature. The private terrace features your own infinity plunge pool apparently flowing into the forest below. Your neighbours are vervet monkeys who provide an entertaining distraction. Suites connect by a system of wooden walkways to the reception and restaurant buildings. Here again the service and food are superb, a mixture of Eastern, African and European dishes served in a building of wood and stone to echo the natural theme.

A little further along the coast is the Phantom Forest Eco Reserve, whose 14 tree suites are set in a larger nature reserve



of 137 hectares of Afromontane forest, fynbos and the estuarial wetlands of Knysna lagoon. The views over Knysna from the huge gable windows of the suites are alone worth staying for, but the emphasis at Phantom Forest is very much on the ecological. Guests are encouraged to explore the forest trails, looking for a decent percentage of the 150-plus bird species that inhabit the forest, not to mention bushbuck, grysbok and bush-pig. Alternatively, they can use one of the reserve's canoes on the Knysna river. Any wear and tear can be eased away at the Body Boma, where a wide range of natural spa treatments is available, or in the bubble barrel hidden in the treetops. The food served in the Forest Boma is fusion cuisine African-style, with balsamic-marinated springbok and apricot skewers, Crocodile carpaccio, and red wine-marinated kudu served up by the new chef Kirsty. Follow it with quiet meditation on the firedeck before returning along the forest walkway to your tree-suite.

Drawing to a close

Though the Garden Route continues westward beyond Knysna for some distance, the prettiest stretch of the route ends at the glorious beach of Brenton-on-Sea. Unless you plan to whale-watch at Hermanus, turn northwards at George and head through the jaw-dropping Outeniqua Pass to Oudtshoorn, capital of the Klein Karoo.

From here, the westward route runs straight and almost devoid of traffic along a glaciated valley between the massive Swartberg and Langeberg mountains. Why this route is so little used is a mystery, for it is truly spectacular and takes you

past one of the great gorges in the world at Seweweekpoort, between Ladismith and Calitzdorp. As you travel west, the grand bare bones of the mountains gradually give way to vivid verdant splashes of colour. These increase as you drop down into the Cape winelands, an area whose name should not presage any similarities to the wine-growing areas of Europe or California. The vineyards of the Cape thrive in fertile valleys between rearing mountains creating an exhilarating tension between untamed nature and human endeavour.

Near the old French Huguenot town of Franschhoek is Klein Genot ('Little Indulgence'). This petite Cape Dutch style hotel and vineyard were originally conceived by Angie and Joey Diamond as their home, but it is now a haven of calm and luxury in the valley of the Groot Drakenstein Mountains. Its six gorgeous suites — each with its own unique character — lead off an open atrium in which elongated ponds glint with koi carp. The mood is a benign blend of French elegance and Japanese purity. It is a place where mind, spirit and body can discover a deep and satisfying peace.

There is currently no restaurant, but Klein Genot's breakfasts and high teas are made with produce plucked fresh from the hotel's own gardens. And what need of hotel dining with the wealth of South Africa's finest restaurants on your doorstep in Franschhoek? A table at the very best is reserved at the drop of a hat with transport included. Add to this easy access to the country's great vineyards, a tip-top wellness spa and landscaped grounds overlooked by awesome mountains and you have an idyllic setting from which to bid South Africa farewell. ■

A celebration of craftsmanship

Tuiga, Hispania & Eilean

Designed by esteemed naval architect William Fife III, the three classic yachts Tuiga, Hispania and Eilean were all semi-abandoned or ill-maintained, but today they have been, or are close to being, rebuilt to their original state thanks to the sheer passion of connoisseurs, and the talent of many craftsmen

By Laurent Pérignon

Classic yachting has witnessed a surge of interest during the past 20 years, thanks to the dedication of numerous individuals and organisations who have committed to restoring not only these wonderful sailing vessels, but also the regattas that bring them to life. Watching Tuiga (built in 1909 owned by HSH Prince Albert II and the Yacht Club de Monaco) race at the Monaco Classic Week, Cowes Week, and the Voiles de St-Tropez, is a sheer delight. As she surfs the waves, twisting and turning, her frail body echoes the immense pressures of the wind on her mast and sails with tortured yet musical sounds. She is still today a marvel of engineering: flexible yet strong, powerful but sleek, with a character of her own and a balance which, while hard to maintain, must be exhilarating for the crew when reaching that perfect moment where she unites with the ocean in all her glory.

A story of men

It takes visionaries to make a difference in the world, and this certainly applies to the current renewal of classic yachting. Although credit must be given to William Fife III – and many other architects for creating wonderful sailing yachts, in times when computerised calculations did not exist, further praise should be directed to Alfred Obrist, the Swiss entrepreneur whose interest in collecting and renovating anything that has a history (he once owned an amazing collection of vintage Ferraris) lead him to undertake the initial restoration of Tuiga, the class gaff cutter. Advised by a friend that Tuiga was for sale in 1989, he proceeded with the acquisition while the latter managed to bring her back to the United Kingdom where she was to undergo

full restoration to her original Lloyd's classification IRC 15 over the next four years.

This is also when Albert Obrist established Fairlie Restorations (named after the place where the Fife yachts were originally built), near Glasgow, Scotland, in order to provide a suitable place of work for wonderful craftsmen who, as Albert Obrist put it, were to be "prevented from going back to their previous work at the plastic shoe-box factory". With standards of renovation now in place, a whole new era dawned.

Tuiga was then acquired by the Yacht Club de Monaco in 1995 after she first participated to the, then named, Nioulargue in Saint-Tropez. Neither HSH Prince Albert II nor Bernard d'Alessandri, the Club's managing director, could resist her charms. They decided that bringing her back to Monaco was the right thing to do. They had just started the Monaco Classic Week, and Tuiga was to be their flagship. More than ten years on, it seems she has justified her status: Tuiga not only sails at all the major classic yacht events, welcoming on board members of the Club who participate actively, but she often wins – as was demonstrated during Cowes Week in August this year. But, her story doesn't end with her success in regattas and role as the Monaco Yacht Club's flagship yacht.

The recovery of Tuiga served as an example and a lesson for Hispania, also built in 1909. Tuiga was the yacht ordered by the Duke of Medinaceli, who requested William Fife III to build him a twin-ship capable of competing with the vessel of King Alfonso XIII, Hispania, in equal conditions. However, at the time of her recovery, Hispania was in even worse condition than Tuiga. →







A long process

Jonathan Syrett, Managing Director of CNI Palma and Vice President of the Royal Hispania Foundation of Vintage Yachts, recalls: "In 1993 we saw the recently restored Tuiga. The following year she took part in our regatta staged in the Principality of Monaco. We realised that we had lost out. The Monegasque Yacht Club had bought her and made her its flagship. But we also knew that Tuiga was the sistership of Hispania. With limited funds but determined not to lose out, I went with Dr William Collier (a classic yacht historian) to West Mersea, a large beach in the southeast of England. The passage of time and the historical events that convulsed the first half of the 20th century had almost made Hispania disappear, along with structural causes such as electrolysis, often suffered by yachts constructed with a mixture of wood and metal. With a broken keel, corroded frame and masts lost decades ago, Hispania was found in a lamentable state, semi-aground in a British shore overlooking the English Channel, serving as a precarious home to a veteran sailor". That was in 1996.

Their unique discovery was immediately reported to Emilio Espinosa, the president of the Foundation, and José R. Bono, public relations manager in charge of sponsorship of the Foundation, who travelled to the United Kingdom to examine the boat with the intention of buying, restoring and returning her to Spain for a re-launch on the regatta scenes. He also assigned her the noble duty of training young navigators.

Eventually Hispania was bought, transported to Fairlie

Restorations for a full hull refit and later returned to Spain for complete restoration and aesthetic work in the shipyard, Astilleros de Mallorca. With 12 years and over 3,000,000 Euros spent on Hispania's reconstruction, it has been a daunting task, yet one, Syrett acknowledges, that has been worth every penny.

It is not a surprise, therefore, that the whole classic yachting society eagerly awaits the 2009 season. With the two sisterships Tuiga and Hispania fully restored and celebrating their 100th birthday, there is already early evidence of some serious, almost mythical, racing to take place next year. Although there is no doubt that all gazes will be turned towards the two contenders, whichever wins is of lesser importance, it is the racing itself that takes precedence. Every crew member and the yacht herself will give their very best; and, above all, it will be a gentlemanly competition, generating an atmosphere that will keep alive classic yacht racing's original spirit.

Return on investment

The story is somewhat similar for Eilean, a 22.2m (72') ketch also designed by William Fife III in 1936. Although she was designed much later than Tuiga and Hispania, she was found in the Caribbean in 2006 in poor condition, floating idly next to a tug-boat workshop with her mooring cables tied to mangrove bushes, stripped of her masting, the saxboard split, the deck fixtures useless and the toerail dismantled.

It was, however, no fault of her owner, the architect John →

Opposite page & above: Restoration and aesthetic work on Hispania has taken over 12 years and over 3,000,000 Euros



This page & opposite: Eilean's frames had to be replaced one by one before she was transported to the restoration yard in Viareggio, where work on new riveting, beams and deck structure were completed. Work has begun on her masting

Shearer, who had purchased her in the mid 70s. Having been on board as a boy when his uncle was her captain, he spent the next few years chartering her, making many Atlantic crossings, and even getting her featured in one of Duran Duran's videos in 1982, when she was captained by Simon Le Bon shooting the song 'Rio'.

As time went by, Shearer's dream of reviving her to her original state was too huge an endeavour for just one man to undertake. It was because of such circumstances that the yacht was eventually sold to fine watchmaker Officine Panerai in 2006, to a team led by Angelo Bonati, Officine Panerai's managing director – the man behind the rebirth of the Italian watchmaking brand and a passionate sailor. With Officine Panerai's involvement in the classic yachting scene through the Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge, there was reason for the company to look into the acquisition of a classic yacht, much like the Yacht Club de Monaco had considered the opportunity ten years earlier.

Of course, from a corporate perspective, the purchase is a wise one. Beyond the investment such acquisitions represent, in terms of assets, they are also ideal instruments for a wide range of activities and public-relations ventures. However, a project like the restoration of Eilean serves both as a cause and a purpose. Rather than see such a beauty die a slow death, Bonati and his team certainly made the right call when deciding to save her. Although Eilean is not a pure racing yacht like Tuiga or Hispania, she certainly provides a great platform for viewing classic regattas, with ample deck and interior space.

In addition, as Eilean was built in 1936, the very year Officine Panerai was actually founded, it must have felt as if destiny had placed her in the team's path.

After quite a tumultuous towing and transfer from the Caribbean, Eilean passed through the gates of the Francesco del Carlo boatyard in Viareggio, Italy, in February 2007. A lot of the groundwork has already been done since her initial dismantlement (the boat was stripped of everything). First, the 48 frames that constituted her skeleton were replaced one by one, as they could not be taken all at once or Eilean would have collapsed onto herself. The new riveting followed, applied the traditional way rather than by modern riveting methods in order to keep to the original spirit. Then came the beams and the deck structure.

There is still a lot to undertake, starting with the masting, and dates of Eilean's actual re-release are unknown. Expectations are for her to be back at sea, sailing, in 2009, when she will participate in most of the classic yachting events, from the Antigua Classic Week to the Nantucket meeting and, of course, the Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge.

Looking further into the world of classic yachts, one can see that their restoration is more than just passion for sailing's sake. With the right plans in mind, there is far more to gain by being involved than the opportunity, a luxury in itself, to navigate on board mythical yachts.

For more information on the activities of the yachts, log onto the following websites: www.yacht-club-monaco.mc; www.fundacionhispania.org; www.panerai.com



Above: Eilean in her full glory during the 1960's





bespoke style

ALL IN THE DETAIL

The Lalique-highlighted interior of the ISA 120 yacht Illusion is a true study in detail, with tasteful design elements echoed throughout to create a highly superior finish

By Amanda McCracken

Pushing the boundaries of design has long been *de rigueur* on board large, custom-built yachts, but another development is under way. When it comes to production yachts, owners are using the same designer that they hire for their homes, planes and beach houses to maintain a sense of continuity on board.

The owner of Illusion decided to go down this route. Already experienced, having owned a 72 and 92 Mangusta, he wanted an additional sundeck instead of an open yacht, and decided to hand over his boat to a company he was familiar with for a bespoke interior with all the elements, so that he could just step on board and go. Enter Argent, a design, construction and development company that has a worldwide reputation for restoring everything from bijou houses to mansions to private planes.

AN IDEA IN THE MAKING

The owner's confidante and adviser Alex Lees-Buckley, from CNI Monaco, was working with hull number five of the, already hugely successful, ISA 120 series: a triple-engine waterjet flybridge sports yacht capable of speeds in excess of 30 knots. Lees-Buckley is a highly experienced individual in the yachting industry with a technical aptitude that seeks to make much of the impossible become possible. He acted as liaison between the yard, and in particular with its architect Pietro Mingarelli, enabling Argent, an expanding company, to use its creative prowess and massive resources to succeed where other design companies would have struggled. Nothing stops Argent from pushing the design boundaries, and this is backed up by sound manufacturing capabilities. Copious hours are spent drawing up general arrangement plans, planning the detail around the labyrinth of pipework, air-conditioning and technical areas and sketching out furniture — the company even creates a piece to show the client so they know what to expect in terms of design and quality. →



Above, from top: Even the black and white superstructure of this yacht maintains the design illusion; the top deck is the absolute highlight of the yacht; Italian custom-made sofas stud the interior; the master suite is cleverly illuminated and blessed with storage space

A FLASH OF INSPIRATION

From the outside, Illusion is a typical ISA 120 but with a subtle flash of jet black striking a masculine tone down her topsides. But look closer. The story of her interior starts with a single piece of Lalique glass that caught the owner's eye. Talking through the principles of design with senior designer Nicola Fontanella and her team at Argent, the image of Lalique — a palate of the blackest black and cool white, along with plentiful glass and mirrors — was agreed. Dramatic: certainly; practical: not really; comfortable: definitely; stylish: exceptionally.

Now the hard work was to begin. Detail, detail, detail is what this yacht is all about. Look from afar and you see a glamorous swathe of perfectly positioned silk cushions. Look closer and it's a cacophony of subtle and unsubtle artistry, with a slight teaser towards Art Deco. Finishes and lighting play a huge role in casting seductive shadows by night and a cool elegance by day.

The owner loves to lounge and entertain, so having lots of areas to sit, talk and eat was important. Walking up the steps from the aft deck you notice that they seem to float, as do all the staircases aboard. This is achieved simply by using either black or white between each step and LED lighting. The teak deck furniture is also black. It is clear that the design flows through the yacht, reaching forward into the main saloon, where you feel a home environment has been transported on board — and this is exactly the comfortable feel that was intended. Not a beach house or Manhattan loft but a welcoming, sophisticated home on the water with a sun terrace that turns into a fabulous cocktail area by night.

THE LAIR OF LALIQUE

To give the ultimate feel of continuity, doors to the galley and crew quarters have been concealed by a seamless sliding panel and the layout has been redrawn to create a harmony of symmetry. Everything is symmetrical, down to the lighting, ceiling panels and pieces of furniture. There is no art on this yacht; instead there are photographs in specially made Lalique frames. In fact Lalique has been introduced everywhere, from the sliding doors to the television to intricately adapted details on taps, door handles and drawer knobs.

Nothing is standard size. Oversized for the boat's proportions, the sofas are Italian custom made and curve seductively, inviting you to put your feet up. A huge glass table with chairs by Robert Scott to an Argent custom design is the main attraction as you enter. The interior walls are black lacquered walnut and the ceilings pure white leather, cut to create a geometric pattern that is further enhanced by raised cornices and down lighting. Forward is the master cabin in exactly the same uniform. Cleverly, a door to the outside has been removed, which gives the room much more space and a good-sized shower room, all in black with bevelled mirrors, but with clever lighting and lots of hidden storage areas. A large cupboard hides the towels, tailor made to complement the area. In fact, the oversized mattresses, sheets and towels are as much a matter of pride as anything else and complete the effect perfectly.

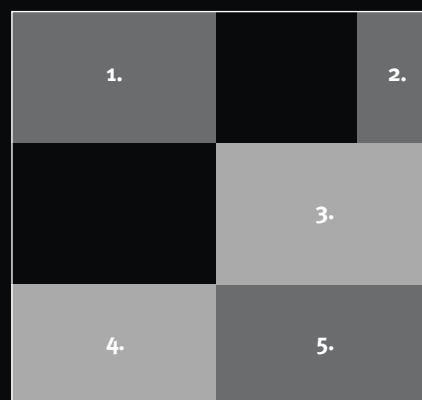
In the guest accommodation a small lobby with a huge mirror hides the entrance to the technical spaces. The bedrooms echo the same theme throughout the yacht and the profusion of cushions with a handcrafted crystal design, fur throws, Lalique taps and drawer handles and a sumptuous white carpet will certainly make guests feel at home.

However, the *pièce de résistance* has to be the top deck, which has been redesigned as a superbly chic area. Right aft, a sofa with a mass of white and black cushions is accompanied by large, elegant, overstuffed rattan chairs sprayed black and shielded from the sun by an awning that can be left up when it's windy. Gone is the plastic spa pool. Here you find a swathe of teak and a black and silver mosaic-tiled pool that shimmers seductively in the sun. It just proves that if you want to go the extra mile and have bespoke, it is worth it.

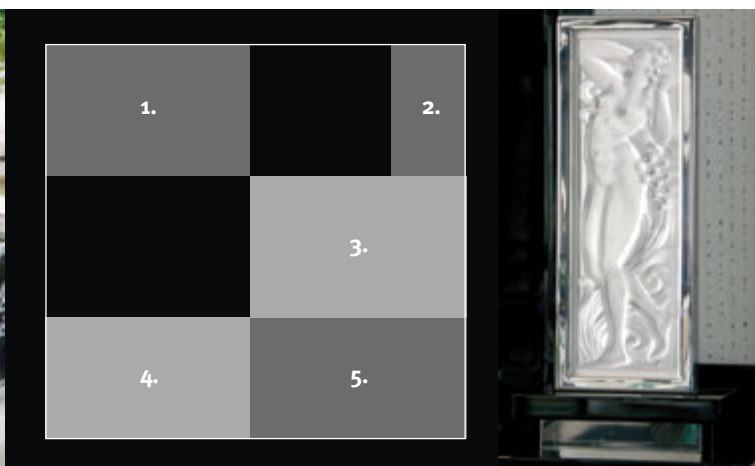
For further information on Illusion, contact your nearest CNI charter broker, see page 12. For information on Argent, email design@argentdesign.co.uk

Design in detail

Here we focus on just a few of the key highlights of Illusion's Laliqie-inspired, monochrome styling



- 1. The taps in the master cabin are from the Laliqie Metropolis collection. The surrounding crystalware is from the Laliqie Daisy collection
- 2. This couture lamp was made from a Laliqie panel combined with an ebony base and a chrome mirror frame
- 3. The Jacuzzi is edged with platinum leaf and black-onyx mosaic tiles
- 4. Striking deck furniture is crafted from black teak to contrast with a mass of pure white cushions studded with Laliqie crystals
- 5. Crystal from Laliqie necklaces is used as button detailing in the Robert Scott chair backs and cushion covers, carrying the theme through from the decks





choppers

ON BOARD OUTBOUND

More and more superyachts are being equipped to carry helicopters, which can be a wonderfully convenient and stylish form of transport if everything has been set up correctly

By Massimo Villardi



Although superyachts are increasingly flouting the boundaries of size, they are, nevertheless, still tied by certain restrictions with regard to the use of space and the weight of materials on board. These regulations are as much a question of safety as of seaworthiness. As tempting as it can be to load new devices, toys and entertainment gear on board, there are realities of safe yacht operation to consider – and this applies, in particular, to those owners that are planning to equip their upper deck with a helipad. What is more, although nowadays yachts operate in a highly regulated environment, aircraft are subject to even more detailed and stringent regulations. As one industry professional put it “You cannot put a pencil on a helicopter unless it has been approved.”

WHAT IS YOUR HELICOPTER FOR?

At the outset, a yacht owner contemplating operating a helicopter needs to sit down and ask himself/herself basic questions: what is it for? Is it a flying tender or a special kind of toy? Will it be operated at anchor, under way, in daylight and good weather, or in all conditions including darkness? How many people will it carry? Is it going to be kept on board?

The most obvious use of a helicopter would be as a super-tender to a superyacht. The exceptional role it can play is to whisk guests directly from an airport to the yacht, which may be well offshore at the time, or perhaps even under way. A helicopter transfer is quick, convenient, comfortable and adheres to important security considerations. Admittedly all of this can be done by a locally-rented machine, but an on-board helicopter can do a lot more than simply run airport transfers. For example, it can be used for sightseeing in remote areas, heli-skiing, collecting fresh supplies, and fetching and carrying in general. Furthermore, a number of yacht owners nowadays are qualified pilots, for whom time in their own helicopter would be a highly-valued part of any holiday. But despite all these advantages, there are downsides too. A superyacht cannot simply show up in a foreign country and immediately fly its embarked helicopter; first, temporary registration is required. In some countries this is easy but in others – including France – it takes as long as three months to arrange, and in certain countries it is completely impossible. This is a valid point in favour of hiring a helicopter locally.

‘TOUCH AND GO’ OR PERMANENT?

It is relatively straightforward to build a new yacht or adapt an existing one to enable a helicopter to temporarily land on board. Helicopters can be hired in most parts of the world and if its principal role is to transport people aboard or take them ashore, then rental is by far the simplest and cheapest option.

Whether you’re considering a permanent or hired helicopter, however, the first concern is the landing pad and, not →



surprisingly, there is a considerable body of legislation concerning its construction and use. Firstly, the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), acting in concert with principal ship classification societies such as Lloyd's Register and BV, and after consulting widely in the yacht and aviation industry, has issued a new annex to the Large Yacht Code (LY2). It takes into consideration the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the International Chamber of Shipping's 'Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations'.

These documents give details of how large the landing pad must be (which depends on the largest aircraft able to use it), its strength, construction, surface, lighting, freedom from obstructions and associated matters, including fire-fighting requirements. Also, while the classification society is looking for a safe structure, the aviation legislators are interested in the 'Final Approach and Take-off Area' or FATO, especially with regards to nearby obstructions. Those whirling blades have to be a very specific distance away from anything solid.

A private owner, flying his own helicopter onto his own yacht, can waive many of these rules – although his insurance company may have something to say about this – but as soon as you are talking about a commercially operated yacht or aircraft, the rules come winging in. A crucial regulation affects the selection of aircraft permitted to fly over the sea or hazardous areas, such as cities.

As a side note, several yachts have been built with helipads in the bows but this is actually the worst location as when the vessel moves ahead it creates severe air turbulence in this area. The aft part of the top deck is considered to be a better option but can conflict with the requirements for a luxurious sundeck. In addition, the ship's main engine or generator exhausts should not be too close to the landing pad because the helicopter's engine will not benefit from 'breathing in' this exhaust air. Stanchions and handrails have to be removable or fold flat, which is why landing a helicopter on a sailing yacht is particularly difficult as the helipad has to be clear of all rigging. But it is possible, as demonstrated by Tiara built by Alloy Yachts in New Zealand with her EC130 B4 (Eurocopter).

A SHELTER OR NO SHELTER?

For a yacht with a basic helipad that is going to be used on a 'touch-and-go' basis, there is no need for further provision. If an aircraft is going to spend a significant length of time on board, however, there is. Helicopters are built as lightly as possible using high-strength alloys that don't like a salty atmosphere. There are also hydraulics and electronics to consider; they all have to work correctly for the machine to be safe. When you see how quickly

a car can go rusty when by the sea, it really is not sensible to have a helicopter sitting in the open in a salt-laden atmosphere.

The alternative option is to build an enclosure of some description, but this is hard to achieve without constructing some form of large, unsightly garage. Some recent yachts have under-deck hangars with a lifting deck system but the engineering is formidable and expensive. The alternative is to leave the helicopter on its landing pad and enclose it with some protective cover but this is, at best, a sub-standard solution. What is really needed is a warm, dry, salt-free enclosure of some kind. The navies of the world have studied this extensively and, as a result, warships that carry helicopters invariably have a hangar.

ROTOR SAFETY

A point to bear in mind is that the tail rotor is always a safety-critical item that needs to be checked at fixed intervals and this is difficult if the tail-boom is projecting some way off the back of the helipad. It has to be possible to reach it. Another point is that placing the machine inside a hangar will be infinitely easier if the rotors are made to fold back along the tail-boom. Second-best is a two-blade rotor, so there is only one projecting blade to worry about. A rotor with three or more fixed blades is always going to be impractical on board a yacht. Some of the non-folding models have blades that can be removed easily but this is always going to be more of a chore than folding, while finding safe storage for 5-6m (16-19') long blades could be an issue.

Noise is also always an issue and here multi-blade rotors have the advantage, as do enclosed tail rotors of the 'Fenestron' type, which also have a safety bonus, being less likely to hit things – these are exclusively designed and certified by Eurocopter.

MODELS

All helicopters are certified in two categories: CAT A, which ensures that the twin-engine helicopter has safe force landing; and CAT B, where safe force landing is not ensured (i.e. single-engine and some twin-engine helicopters). There also exist three performance classes in accordance to the operations:

- **CLASS 1:** multi-engine machines that can continue a flight, including take-off or landing, in the event of the failure of one power unit.
- **CLASS 2:** multi-engine machines that can continue a flight safely in the event of failure of one power unit, unless this happens during the critical stage of take-off or landing.
- **CLASS 3:** Multi-engine machines that may be obliged to make a forced landing in the event of a power failure, or single-engine machines that will always have to.

In short, whatever option you lean towards, it remains best to ask the advice of experts in both marine and aviation fields. ■

Previous page:

Helicopter landing on support vessel PEACEFUL FISH

Opposite, clockwise from top: Approaching PEACEFUL FISH; landing on ANNALIESSE; PRINCESS MARIANA's helicopter stays on board; TIARA's helipad is unique amongst sailing superyachts





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Face to face with...

Toby Walker

CNI sales director

Capitalising on more than a decade of experience as an international sales broker, Toby Walker takes the helm as CNI's newly appointed sales director

Interview by Kate Rigby

CNI has been established for over 200 years; what prompted the recent creation of the sales director role?

Over the years CNI has opened offices all over the world, and the past few years in particular have seen a great growth in the company internationally. Our biggest business concerns brokerage, which has meant our volume of brokers has risen and, with this, the need to establish a strong cohesive link between the operations of all our individual brokers and offices.

What impact will this development have on CNI clients?

It will vastly enhance the service we offer clients — something we are constantly aiming to improve. The greatest strength of our brokers is their diversity. Between us we have a vast knowledge of all the different yachts and yards across the globe. My role as sales director is to unify CNI's sales operations worldwide and capitalise on all our individual skills and information. Sharing this with all our brokers, so we all have access to an ever-more sophisticated pool of resources, will hopefully further strengthen our position as the leading international brokerage house. We can then draw on this for each and every sale to guarantee our clients the utmost choice, service and expertise.

Will this enhancement of the brokerage department impact on other areas of CNI?

Absolutely. CNI has superb staff and facilities in every one of its departments, from brokerage to charter, yacht management, charter marketing, crew placement and marketing. In this day and age, with a constantly changing market, the need to homogenise all our departments is ever-more crucial — so I'll be looking to unify and optimise our operations across the board.

Will you still have an active role in brokerage yourself?

Very much so. I've been a broker for 12 years, eight of which have been with CNI. I currently have three major constructions

under way for a 43m (141'), a 60m (197') and an 80m (262') yacht. It's important to me to continue to have a hands-on role in the brokerage process. I'll continue to work directly with my long-standing clients, as well as new clients. But, thanks to my new role, I now have a key insight into our entire operations worldwide. This means I can benefit every one of our clients by ensuring the very best broker is matched to their unique needs.

Will you remain working out of the London office?

Essentially, yes. A large number of our clients are either from the UK, are based here, or visit regularly on business, making our office in the heart of Mayfair ideally situated for them to drop by and discuss their yachting needs and potential opportunities. Many of our other offices are based in marine areas (Cannes, Antibes, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Monaco, Palma, Palm Beach etc) but it's also crucial for us to have a strong presence in a financial capital such as London. However, my role will see me spend at least half of my time travelling worldwide to visit clients, CNI offices, trade shows and boatyards — as well as exploring opportunities in emerging markets the likes of China and India.

What challenges do you anticipate CNI will face in the coming years, and what is the company doing to address these?

So far we've seen little downturn in business as a consequence of the current international financial climate, but chances are the effects will hit at some point. There is still a very healthy demand for new yachts, but the market has slowed on used yachts. We're addressing this with more creative, aggressive marketing and advertising campaigns and ensuring our service is second to none. One of my key aims as sales director is to ensure our knowledge of yachts, yards and the industry overall is flawless. Only through understanding how the industry is changing can we be sure we constantly adapt to meet the challenges. ■



What's up recent CNI listings in the brokerage market?

Launched at the New York Yacht Club in May, the **Camper & Nicholsons International Superyachting Index** provides an in-depth analysis into the industry's different segments

Using a cross-reference of industry data, the landmark study shows the realities of a booming sector that has evolved from a cottage industry into one of the world's strongest-growing luxury markets. A snapshot of three segments – the current fleet of superyachts (24m or larger); the brokerage market; and the charter market – the report provides historical and current data and a cross-analysis of the industry, with projections for the future markets.

Based on research conducted for the *CNI Superyachting Index*, and taking into consideration many factors*, there were well over 300 superyachts above 24m (80') sold in 2007. The total value for these deals, (taking into consideration a generous 10% correction on their 2007 asking prices and currency fluctuations) was over US\$3.5 billion. Figures represent an estimate in excess of US\$300 million in brokerage commissions, with a third of the total market of yachts above 24m (80') changing ownership.

TYPE AND SIZE OF YACHT

Based on 2007 data, when it comes to distribution by type, motoryachts contributed to the main share of business, at 87.5%, with average deals of US\$10.3 million, whilst sailing yachts stood below average market price, at about US\$9 million a deal. This represented 25% of the active fleet of sailing superyachts for sale, and 12.5% of the value of business generated.

When it comes to distribution by size, the lower range of the market, between 24m (80') and 30m

(100') accounted for around 30% of the volume of sales, and around 10% of the brokerage business. The next market segment, between 30m (100') and 40m (130') accounted for the largest market share at 40% of the volume of sales, however these sales only accounted for 32% of the overall value of yachts sold. The combined figures of these two size segments shows that 70% of the volume of sales achieves 42% of the turnover, mainly due to the fact that the smaller volumes in the upper end of the market command higher prices and therefore higher revenues.

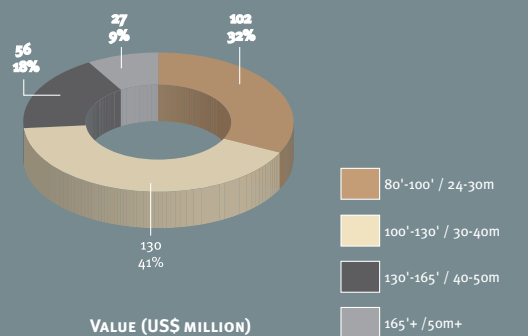
The 40m (130') to 50m (165') segment accounts for 18% of the volume of sales, yet represents close to 30% of the sales value – making the average deal in this segment at US\$18.75 million. Again, taking into account the suggested correction for currency exchange rates, and asking/selling price factors, this figure also suggests that the majority of yachts sold in that segment were in the lower range, between 40-45m (130'-148'). The higher end of the market, the segment of yachts above 50m (165'), accounted for 8.5% of the volume, with an average deal at US\$37.2 million.

The above figures show that the sale and purchase market in 2007 was buoyant. Twelve companies accounted for over two-thirds of the deals, but when it comes to individual performances, the leaders are distinguishable; any company that had a record of sales higher, in volume, than a third of its active fleet, outperformed the market.

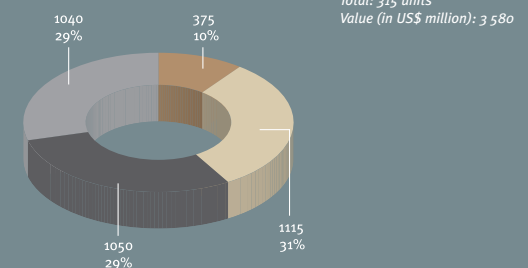
For more details on the *CNI Superyachting Index*, please contact your CNI broker, see page 12.

YACHTS SOLD

VOLUME (UNITS)



VALUE (US\$ MILLION)



Total: 315 units
Value (in US\$ million): 3 580

* Given that over 45% of the yachts for sale are affected by currency fluctuations, the data applies a 5% correction to the average price per yacht. The market valuation is based on asking prices, not negotiated prices. For further details refer to the *CNI Superyachting Index*

** When compared with the asking price at 2007 prices, the average price was US\$25 million but the suggested correction for the currency exchange rate as well as difference between asking and sold price needs to be taken into account



BAGLIETTO 53M 53m/174', Baglietto, 2009

Built of steel and aluminium to the highest standard. Fully equipped with lift with access to all decks. She has a terrace, a balcony off the master cabin, Zero speed stabilizers, Jacuzzi, MCA. A stunning opportunity to have a new yacht ready for Spring 2009.



PERFECT PERSUASION 45.7m/150', Oceanfast, 1997/2006

PERFECT PERSUASION is a superb example of a world-cruising yacht from the renowned Oceanfast yard. With a mix of expansive deck areas and volume of space in her five staterooms, she is a well-known charter yacht with excellent history. Cruising speed of 18 knots. In first class condition.



VITA 45.7m/150', Trinity, 2003

Representing the ultimate in luxury cruising, Vita is just now coming into her own in terms of being ready for her next owner. She is beautifully appointed and lavishly equipped with all the best amenities and toys. Accommodations for eight guests, including a master suite on deck beyond compare.



IDYLLWILD 43.6m/143', Benetti, 2005

This popular Righini design with a contemporary interior by François Zuretti accommodates 10 guests in five comfortable cabins. Her main deck owner's suite includes a private deck area. Her spacious sky lounge with indoor/outdoor dining room is another appealing feature. She is stabilized and MCA compliant.



EXUBERANCE 43m/143', CRN, New Build

A rare opportunity to acquire a brand-new vessel from a most reputable shipyard. This all GRP Zuccon design provides optimum interior and exterior space. The contemporary interior can still be adapted to the buyer's personal taste. Built to a high specification including zero speed stabilizers and MCA certification.



PRINCESS MILEN 42m/137', Mangi Yay, 2010

Due for completion in 2010, Princess Milen is a displacement yacht designed by Georgio Vafiadis for an experienced owner. Intended for extensive cruising, with a master cabin on the main deck, a VIP on the upper deck and four further guest cabins. Opportunity for a new owner to style her interior.



TAMSEN 40M 40m/131' Tamsen Yachts, 2008

Brand new semi-custom motor yacht built to a very high specification featuring many new ideas and concepts. Despite the sleek design she still offers three decks and a good performance with a cruising speed of 23 knots. Accommodation for 10 guests in five contemporary-styled cabins.



BETTY 38.1m/125' Royal Denship, 2001

High quality composite fiberglass construction with classic design and state-of-the-art technology in all systems. Trans-Oceanic capability, Det Norske Veritas classification. This yacht has been superbly maintained, and is extremely well-equipped. Unique offering and an excellent value.



MADHURI 37m/121.4' Eurocraft, 2008

Built by Eurocraft Italy in Aluminium and delivered in March 2008. This elegant yacht offers four large guest cabins + TV room + crew. Powered by twin MTU engines, she reached 31 knots during her first test trials. The yacht is new, will not be used by owner and is seriously for sale. Full yard warranty and ready to go.



BENALEX 35m/115' Benetti, 2003

From a very successful series of boats, this particular vessel has been built to the highest specification including an Awlgrip paint finish. She has been continually maintained regardless of cost. Considered by many as the best classic Benetti currently on the market her five cabin layout and big owners' bathroom all add to her appeal.



MANGUSTA 108 32m/108' Overmarine, 2006

Four staterooms with full beam owner's suite midship, children's cabin, and two VIP's forward. Low hours on her MTU 2730hp engines, which are in pristine condition. Built for the US market with ability to cruise anywhere in the world.



BLUE SKY 31.4m/103' Cheoy Lee, 2002

A fiberglass yacht with a maximum interior. A model that has just reached her full potential with low hours on her engines. Cruising at 15 knots and capable of 19 – 20 knots. Northern Lights generators for a complete package including Naiad stabilizers, a bow thruster, and big radars.



POWDERMONKEY 30.7m/100', Falcon, 2004
 Luxurious accommodation in five cabins, including master, VIP, double and two twin cabins. A beautifully finished interior with bright colours and cherry wood panelling. The main saloon has a large comfortable seating area, a spacious aft deck and a great flybridge, all ideal for entertaining or just relaxing. Commercially registered.



FANFARON V 30m/98', Couach 3000 Fly, 2006
 Only 400 hours use by owner. Fantastic sea keeping/proven hull built of Kevlar. Powered by twin MTUs 16VM91 2000hp, top speeds in the region of 30 knots. Large fuel capacity allows for long range cruising. Accommodation for nine guests in four double cabins. Striking navy blue hull painted in Awlgrip.



IN EXCESS 29.6m/97', Lowland Yachts, 1990/2008
 De Vries Lentsch designed semi-displacement cruiser with 1500nm range. A major refit in 2005 included an overhaul of all the main equipment, with zero-houred engines, new paint, decks, adaptive stabilizers, and navigation equipment. 2008 refit included new fabrics. Commercially registered. Accommodation for 10 guests in



101 28m/94', Ferretti, 2003
 Spacious master cabin on her main deck. The wide beam of the yacht and the fact that the tenders are stored in aft and forward garages means that the upper deck is completely unobstructed for relaxing and sunbathing. She is powered by twin 1800hp MTU engines giving her a comfortable cruising speed of 24 knots. MCA compliant.



ASHA 27.4m/90', Maiora, 2006
 Asha has a generous saloon with a dining area forward. She accommodates nine guests in a master cabin, a VIP cabin, a double cabin, and a twin cabin with a Pullman berth. Asha has all the latest communication and entertainment equipment on board. She is MCA compliant and is fitted with stabilizers.



ALHENA 27.4m/90', Astondoa, 1994/2007
 Space, comfort and style best describe this beautiful Astondoa. Her most prominent features are her huge aft deck cockpit, enormous solarium with ample seats on her flybridge, large sunbathing areas, and very spacious interior with five staterooms en-suite for 12 guests. Fully equipped and well-maintained.



MALTESE FALCON 88m/288.8', Perini Navi, 2006
 Maltese Falcon represents a true breakthrough in yachting with her unstayed carbon fiber rotating "Falcon Rig" and unique fully retractable sails coming out of, and disappearing into, the carbon masts. She is the crème de la crème of superyachts and the finest contemporary sailing yacht built.



MIRABELLA V 75.2m/247', Vosper, 2004
 The largest single-masted sailing yacht in the world, Mirabella V is truly unique and remarkable with speeds exceeding 20 knots. A highly comfortable charter capable yacht, she accommodates 12 guests in six large double cabins, plus an enormous full-width master suite on deck. MCA compliant.



PARSIFAL III 54m/177', Perini Navi, 2004
 A unique opportunity to acquire what is commonly felt to be the most striking Perini Navi to date. Commissioned by a highly experienced owner, she has won multiple awards. From her one off exterior design with striking black hull to her extraordinary interior, she can only be described as "exceptional".



HELIOS 45.3m/148'6", Perini Navi, 2007
 With the hull lines of Ron Holland for performance, and centerboard draft to enhance access to intimate cruising, Helios represents a great opportunity for purchase. Still under warranty, with a saving of three years over a sistership. Loaded with the finest gear, and offering four/five staterooms.



PERINI NAVI 43M 43.3m/142', Perini Navi, 1989

A blue water sailing ketch from Perini Navi. She has outstanding sailing abilities and also 3300 nautical miles of range at 10 knots under power. Such a unique combination coupled with luxurious accommodation yields a yacht able to explore the globe in comfort. Extremely well-maintained and presented in first class condition.



RANGER 41.57m/136.4', Danish Yachts, 2004

Refined with several refits to the degree that Ranger now beats all the other J-Class boats. She has the richest mahogany interior and with fine attention to detail. With all the amenities that are required of the finest cruising yachts she also wins races and cruises in the company of the world's finest yachts.



BUSHIDO 37.5m/123', Cek-Lift A.F, 2004

Built of steel with teak deck and superstructure on a Paolo Scanu design, this yacht offers classic lines and an interior with modern underwater design permitting good sailing performances. Excellent accommodation for eight guests: large deck saloon with wheelhouse ensuite and four equal spacious double staterooms.



NGONI 29.7m/97', Baltic Yachts, 1999/2004

Ngoni offers four guest cabins and two crew cabins. Following an extensive refit in 2004, she shows like a new yacht inside and out. Four spreader carbon mast with in boom furling. Her 2008 refit included a new teak deck, new paintwork, interior refurbishment, and a technical upgrade. Fully equipped and ready to go.



BOO TOO 27.45m/90', Pendennis, 2002

A true performance world cruiser, beautifully designed by Ron Holland. Ample deck spaces with a raised saloon, offering full panoramic views and a fabulous lounging/dining area for 10. Air-conditioned throughout, fully equipped, beautifully maintained and now placed on the market by her first and only owner.



ALGOL IV 23m/75'4, CNB, 1994/2007

Built of aluminium, this CNB is a German Frers design. She has always been well-maintained – four guest cabins + crew. An extensive refit in 2007 included new paint, teak deck, hydraulics, engine, and tender. She can be inspected in the South of France and is the best CNB of her size available today.

Often yards are prepared to arrange for a performance bond and/or a letter of guarantee to be issued by a bank in favour of the owner when the building contract is concluded. Normally, such performance bonds and/or letters of guarantee provide protection to an owner when:

I. The yacht does not meet the contractual specification

II. The yard goes bankrupt during the construction period

III. There are delays in respect of the contractually agreed delivery date.

We always recommend that a client ensures that the performance bond and/or letter of guarantee is issued by a first-class bank and contains a contractual provision which states that the same is enforceable on a 'first demand' basis (this means that the bank undertakes to immediately pay the due amount to the beneficiary of the performance bond and/or letter of guarantee upon receiving a written request). In such circumstances, it is sufficient that the beneficiary of the performance bond and/or letter of guarantee states the reasons of the claim and indicates the precise amount demanded in the written request. The bank is legally bound to immediately make a payment to the owner within days. In addition, it is preferable that the performance bond and/or the letter of guarantee is subject to English law and jurisdiction, in order



rollandi international lawyers

Performance bonds and letters of guarantee

Are performance bonds and letters of guarantee easily enforceable and reliable? Ernesto Rollandi offers his expertise on both these documents

to make sure that the same is indeed enforceable without delays.

At Rollandi International Lawyers we have been involved in cases where Italian yards have granted performance bonds and/or letters of guarantee subject to Italian law and jurisdiction. As such we have had to deal with the following issues:

a. Pursuant to section 1957 of the Italian Civil Code, performance bonds and/or letters of guarantee are valid only for six months running from the date when the vessel is delivered. If the beneficiary fails to make a written claim by fax or Italian registered letter within such a given period of time, the performance bond and/or letter of guarantee is time-barred under Italian law. In order to prevent the six-month statutory time bar applying by force of law, it is necessary to incorporate a specific provision into the performance bond and/or letter of guarantee, stating that the beneficiary has one year running from the date when the vessel is delivered to the owner to enforce the same, and that the bank waives its right to claim a time-bar for the same period of time.

b. The duration of the performance bond and/or letter of guarantee must protect the owner, not only in respect of the whole building period, but should also cover the owner against latent building defects that are not apparent at the time of delivery and/or are discovered within a reasonable period of time. This is the reason why we normally recommend that the performance bond and/or letter of guarantee covers a period of one year from date of delivery.

c. On a few occasions, a peculiar condition precedent was incorporated into the performance bond and/or letter of guarantee. In the circumstances, it was impossible to satisfy such a condition precedent. Therefore, the bank argued that the performance bond and/or letter of guarantee was not valid and/or enforceable under Italian law

d. In some cases, wording of the performance bond and/or letter of guarantee was contradictory, leading to disputes in relation to the correct interpretation.

Finally, some Italian yards offer the owner a 'parent company' letter of guarantee and/or performance bond. Whilst such instruments do offer protection to the owner from a commercial point of view, letters of guarantee and/or performance bonds issued on a parent company letterhead are difficult to enforce under Italian law. It is likely that such performance bonds or letters of guarantee are not honoured by the parent company because a dispute against the yard has already commenced when the owner wishes to enforce the same.

Rollandi International Lawyers strongly recommends that the performance bond and/or letter of guarantee is carefully drafted with the assistance of lawyers when the same is subject to Italian law and jurisdiction. It is less likely that a dispute arises if the wording of the same is clear and meets the expectations of all the parties involved in the financial transaction. ■

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