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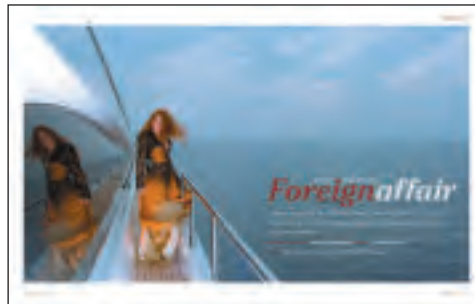


BREITLING *for* BENTLEY

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Sweet dreaming...

Winter is traditionally a time to retire from the world and prepare for the new season. We're certainly not suggesting you do the first – there's far too much out there to explore – but it's exactly for that reason that this issue is all about preparing and planning for great things to come in 2008.

With that in mind we have a five-page profile on some incredible new yachts that have joined the CNI charter fleet – or are preparing to join it the minute they are launched.

Once you have your yacht decided, you then need an equally inspiring destination, so read up on the highlights of New Zealand or plan a fantastic

Caribbean charter with our dedicated focus on nine of the finest islands.

For those who simply can't stay away from the water, heli-fishing is an inspiring alternative holiday where you can take off in a helicopter then cast off in the most remote and spectacular mountain rivers of Canada, New Zealand and Africa.

And finally, as a nod to all-things winter, we've gathered a collection of the most luxurious ski chalets across Europe, and delved into the delicious world of 'haute chocolatiers' to capture your imagination with some unbelievable creations – because if you can't have sunshine there's always chocolate to boost your mood! Look forward to seeing you in 2008.





Chopard

HAPPY SPORT COLLECTION

Contributors



Clockwise from top left:
Thomas Grant, Alison Henry,
Dominique Alder, Sophie Reeves

sea&i's regular interior design contributor **ALISON HENRY** is an internationally renowned designer whose portfolio is as extraordinary for its breadth of projects as it is for its level of design achievement. In this issue of sea&i, Alison looks at art on board.

A regular contributor to sea&i, **THOMAS GRANT** is a university scholar who specialises in Western baroque and modern art, travelling extensively to galleries and museums around the world. In this issue of sea&i, Thomas looks at collections from three of Russia's most prominent art collectors coming to the Royal Academy in London this winter.

DOMINIQUE ALDER is a passionate traveller. Having travelled extensively around the West Indies as a freelance photographer and travel writer, Dominique has contributed to numerous publications on the area. In this issue of sea&i, Dominique discovers the most exclusive island idylls of the Caribbean, all perfectly accessible by yacht.

SOPHIE REEVES has been a beauty journalist for many years. Having provided tips on how to prepare your body and skin for winter and summer charters in previous issues of sea&i, this issue Sophie talks to the experts about caring for stressed hair.

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NEW TO THE TEAM

CNI is delighted to announce that Richard Boggs has joined its Yacht Management Division in Fort Lauderdale as technical superintendent. Boggs will handle all aspects of safety operations and vessel ISM and ISPS requirements; manage vessel repair and maintenance programs including shipyard projects and major refits; coordinate annual surveys to maintain yacht classification; and provide logistical support. Boggs returns to Fort Lauderdale following a period spent developing new courses for the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and teaching advanced classes in marine engineering and shipboard operations. Prior to that he was an instructor at Seattle Maritime Academy and a Merchant Marine chief engineer. CNI is also delighted to welcome Craig Erickson to its brokerage sales team in Miami. Erickson comes to CNI directly from Allied Richard Bertram. Before his successful yachting career began he was a professional American football player having played in seven NFL seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Indianapolis Colts, Miami Dolphins and Chicago Bears.



YOUNG DESIGNER AWARD

As announced in the autumn issue of *sea&i*, the Young Designer Award competition is now well under way. Together with the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA), the competition aims to identify the world's most promising young superyacht designers and provide a platform for them to demonstrate their ability and talent. Young naval architects and yacht designers from all over the world have been called upon to enter the competition via the extensive RINA global network. The World Superyacht Award's Young Designer of the Year prize for 2008 will be presented to the designer who produces the best concept design for a superyacht, and the winner will be invited to receive the award at the World Superyacht Awards ceremony in Venice on 18 April 2008. The entries will be judged by an esteemed group of world-class designers and industry leaders including Trevor Blakely from the Royal Institution of Naval Architects, Ed Dubois from Dubois Naval Architects, Martin Francis from Francis Design, Paolo Scanu from Studio Scanu, Tim Heywood from Tim Heywood Designs, Terence Disdale from Terence Disdale Design, Jonathan Quinn Barnett from JQB, and Roger Lean-Vercoe, editor of *The Superyachts*, chairing the event. The judges will meet in London early next year to examine the entries and they will be keeping a keen eye out for innovation, technical feasibility, style and presentation.

corporate news

CLASSIC YACHTING

On 18 August 2007 the Real Fundación Hispania gathered numerous celebrities and guests in a remarkable celebration to praise the long-awaited re-launch of the fully restored Hispania. As an opera session of Carmina Burana rose to a crescendo, Hispania made her glamorous entrance into the Muelle de Golondrinas.

Distinguished personalities and devoted seamen came to share Hispania's return to the sea after several years of costly reconstruction. The world-renowned 30-meter yacht, an International 15-Meter Class, was designed by William Fife and built in 1909 upon order of the Spanish King H M Alfonso XIII, participating in international regattas and celebrating many a triumph while promoting Spanish waters as a centre stage for sailing and water sports. Her glorious days as a racer and the memory of her royal background slowly vanished as she was cast into oblivion and used as a floating home in England over the last 30 years. When Dr William Collier, a classic yacht historian, and Jonathan Syrett of CNI Palma, patron founder and member in charge of international relations at the Real Fundación Hispania, sought and found the yacht, she was in a deplorable state, with a missing keel and her hull buried in mud. Both men brought on board Emilio Espinosa and José R Bono, also from the Real Fundación Hispania, and they set about buying, restoring and returning her to Spain for a re-launch on the regatta scene. She was also assigned the noble duty of training young navigators.

After 11 years and more than three-million euros, Hispania's recovery and revival have now been realised and she is a valuable addition to the yachting world. Hispania is the sistership of the equally illustrious Tuiga, flagship of the Yacht Club de Monaco. The philosophy behind the Club's foundation is to promote vintage and classic yachting in order to instruct and inspire future generations in the preservation of exceptional period vessels, the observance and respect of naval etiquette and their role in the conservation of the maritime environment, a concept the Real Fundación Hispania shares with the Yacht Club de Monaco.



ANTIGUA'S SUPERYACHT CUP

CNI is one of the latest sponsors to sign up for The Superyacht Cup Antigua, which will be held in Antigua in Nelson's Dockyard from the 12 to 15 December 2007. Entries currently stand at eight yachts, including the 35m (115') Sojana from CNI, with another four promising to confirm imminently. Following on from the Antigua Yacht Charter Meeting, the Superyacht Cup is the perfect way to kick off the Caribbean season, giving owners and crew an opportunity for some great sailing before they head off around the Caribbean for the winter season.

MONTENEGRO

Montenegro's stunning coastline, and its proximity to the cruising grounds of Croatia and the Ionian islands of Greece, have certified its place as an upcoming yachting hot spot. Recognising it as such, George Nicholson is advising on a major development for the yachting industry, turning the former Serbian naval base at Tivat into a major full-service marina. Situated in the well protected Gulf of Kotor, the development of the site has been welcomed by the Montenegrin government, which has implemented yacht-friendly regulations in order to encourage superyachts to discover their coastline. Look out for more news on the Porto Montenegro marina development, and Montenegro as an alternative cruising ground, in future issues of *sea&i*.

the monaco show

MEMORIES OF MONACO

CNI's presence was as strong as ever during the 17th Monaco Yacht Show, and for the third consecutive year CNI, in partnership with the show's organisers, made the show CarbonNeutral® by measuring the source and



levels of greenhouse gases produced from the travel, electricity and waste of the exhibiting companies — as well as those of the yachts and stands — and offsetting them with dedicated programmes. The social scene at the show saw CNI hosting several events including a gala dinner, a cocktail evening at the Monaco Yacht Club, a crew party at the Miramar, as well as an evening on board the 50m (164') Andale.



COCKTAILS AND CANAPÉS

On the eve of the opening of the show, CNI started its long series of social events with a splendid evening at the Yacht Club de Monaco, in association with Mercedes and Sotheby's Realty. Mercedes had its latest model on show, while Sotheby's representatives from the US, Aspen, the UK, Palma and, of course, Monaco, showcased their finest properties.

On 21 September, CNI concluded a busy week of sales activities and stunning events with a cocktail party on board the tri-deck 50m (164') Andale. The party was held in collaboration with *Elite Traveler* magazine and One&Only Resorts, as well as Sotheby's Realty. Guests were entertained with various styles of music and fine canapés on the three packed decks.



GALA DINNER

The annual CNI gala evening, in association with Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander, and in collaboration with Cartier and Mercedes, took place at the Monte Carlo Beach Hotel on 19 September, in the company of 220 select clients and friends. Guests were invited to view the new Mercedes SLR Cabriolet, and to race America's Cup replica models from the Gstaad Yacht Club on the pool, while enjoying wine tastings supplied by Ficofi. Following a gourmet dinner by the pool, there was a stunning jewellery and fashion show by Cartier and entertainment by magicians.



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FORT LAUDERDALE

CNI's presence at the Fort Lauderdale Show was its most successful to date with some stunning yachts on display. These included the 48m (157') Kanaloa from CRN, the 35m (115') Azure Leisure from Palmer Johnson, and a 25m (82') Benetti Classic Grand Coroto, among many others on display at CNI's two locations at the Face Dock and the Las Olas Marina where the new CA Griff was shown. CNI had an extremely successful show with some of its brokers announcing numerous offers by the second day. Some CNI brokers said that it was their busiest show to date, even with the rainfall that dominated the final few days.



Azure Leisure



The Captain's Dinner



CNI's Crewed Affair party



CNI'S VIP TREATMENT

Reflecting the social scene, CNI hosted a couple of fun events during the show, including the annual Captain's Dinner, held once again at Chima on Las Olas Blvd, in association with Bank of America. Global Marine Travel (GMT) graciously donated an air ticket for a raffle that was won by Captain Andre Peens of Princess Mariana. CNI's Crewed Affair crew party, now in its third year, was held on the Friday preceding the show. This year CNI partnered with *Dockwalk* magazine and GMT in hosting what has become a really fun pre-show party. Over 400 crew, captains and friends attended.

This year CNI brought a Carbon Neutral dimension to its participation with a fleet of hybrid cars to chauffeur clients around the show. The distinctive green pennants could be seen from quite some distance, which was useful considering the inordinate amount of traffic. Those who came to CNI's VIP outdoor lounge were ushered into the indoor café due to the weather. The food was superb and ensured that a crowd of guests (and CNI staff) packed it out every day of the show. On the opening day CNI was pleased to assist Yacht Accent, the yacht furnishings company, in hosting a small private reception to meet the designer Giovanna Locatelli.

George Nicholson, Chairman of CNI, was recognised for his many achievements and involvement in the yachting industry with the International Superyacht Society's coveted Award for Leadership. The ISS held its annual gala dinner on 25 October at the Marriott Harbour Drive, opting for a Polynesian theme. In Mr Nicholson's absence the award was received by CNI's CEO Jillian Montgomery. For further information on the award, see page 98.

ANTIGUA YACHT CHARTER MEETING

Starting off the winter season in the Caribbean, the Antigua Yacht Charter Meeting, from the 5 to 11 December, welcomes 15 yachts, including a recent offering from the Proteksan-Turquoise yards, the newly launched 50m (164') Odessa; and the new 33.5m (110') Turkish güller Shanti. Other yachts on display include motor yachts Lazy Z from Oceanco (51.4m/168'), High Chaparral (50m/164'), Jo (50m/164'), Chantal Ma Vie (46.5m/152.5'), Monte Carlo (40.2m/132'), Parvati (39.7m/130'), Java (36.9m/121'), Lady Rita (34.8m/114'), Symphony II (34m/111.5'), and four spectacular sailing yachts: Sea Shuttle (28.35m/93'), Sojana (35m/115'), Magdalus Terzo (35m/115'), and Carl Linné (32m/105').



Carl Linné



Jo



High Chaparral



Lazy Z



THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO CHARTERING

The early launch of CNI's Charter Collection for 2008 has proven to be a great success. Inspired with ideas and a stunning portfolio of yachts for the coming seasons, clients are reserving yachts earlier than ever. Thanks to a new design and concept, the hardback book is CNI's most stylish edition to date. The Charter collection features more yachts than ever before, along with a guide to the world's most stunning cruising grounds, giving clients a real feel for the lifestyle and activities in each destination. It also includes features on different styles of charter, from gourmet charters along the Côte d'Azur to wellbeing charters anywhere in the world.



DIRECTORY

NEW TO THE CNI CHARTER FLEET...



Turkish gullet Shanti. Launched earlier in October, Shanti will be debuting at the Antigua Yacht Charter Meeting and will be available for charter throughout the Caribbean. A unique vessel on the charter market, she accommodates eight guests in two master cabins, one double guest cabin and one twin guest cabin. Finally, the 32m (75.5') sailing yacht Carl Linné from Rodrigo Olson joins the CNI charter fleet, with her debut coming during the Antigua Yacht Charter Show in December followed by a winter season in the Caribbean.

CHARTER NEWS

Expect to see some fresh names among existing favourites as the CNI charter division welcomes seven yachts to its fleet. Listed in size order, these include the return of the 51.4m (168') Lazy Z from Oceanco, available in the Caribbean this winter. The fleet also welcomes back the 39.7m (130') Parvati from CRN Ancona. Previously known as Elisabeth F, she has been given an extensive interior and exterior refit to lend her a more comfortable and elegant feel throughout. This classic yacht can accommodate up to ten guests in five cabins and is available in the Caribbean this winter and in the Mediterranean during summer 2008.

Based in Miami, the 36.6m (120') Oceanfast Never Say Never is ideal for cruising the Bahamas as her captain Rubin Smith has an extensive knowledge of the area. The 36m (118') Sea Jewel from Trinity is also available in the Bahamas. The 34.8m (114') Lady Rita by Northcoast Yachts, launched in 1998, has been refitted to immaculate condition and is available in the Caribbean this winter and then for summer in the Bahamas. Her new interior boasts sand-coloured tones throughout. CNI has also been appointed as central agent for the new 33.5m (110')



FRESH FROM THE YARD

The past 12 months have been an incredible year in the new-build market for CNI, with many exciting projects and deliveries now making their way onto the charter market. Turn to page 90 for more information on the 60m (196.8') Amnesia due for launch in March 2008; the 54m (177') Maraya, due for delivery in January 2008, and the recent offering from the renowned Proteksan-Turquoise yard, the 50m (164') Odessa, launched at the end of 2007.



ALTERNATIVE CHARTERS...



Among existing favourites in the CNI charter division, three spectacular yachts have recently announced that they will be heading further afield. The 65m (213') Callisto is going to the Maldives for Christmas, New Year and January, before cruising on to Thailand and then back to the Seychelles, via the Maldives, for April. Providing a truly inspired selection of alternative cruising grounds, the slender coral-island chain of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean is a haven for divers and water sports enthusiasts. Cruise from resort to resort and discover sophisticated simplicity. Alternatively, the cruising grounds of Thailand offer a hauntingly beautiful fusion of sleepy villages, sacred cities, golden pagodas and mist-shrouded jungles. The Seychelles, meanwhile, is a veritable Garden of Eden, and island-hopping the 115 outcrops on board a yacht provides the perfect opportunity to experience the subtle changes between the various pristine landscapes, each with its own unique ecology.

The 54m (177') Parsifal III will be heading to the Baltic for the summer season of 2008. The deep waters surrounding the Baltic are regarded as some of the most pristine in Europe. Suspended above northern Germany and Poland, their remote location makes

them an ideal destination for unique and tranquil charters and Captain Barry de Kokke knows the waters well and can steer a scenic course across these uncluttered grounds. Based out of Copenhagen, Parsifal III will be available for charters along the spectacular fjords of Norway and Iceland, through the archipelagos and inland waterways of Denmark and Sweden and across the Baltic Sea to the fairytale towns and villages of Finland. Although these cruising grounds are bathed in sun throughout the summer, charterers can also take advantage of the yacht's recently installed broadband with Wi-Fi and Kaleidescape DVD on-demand system with over 1,300 titles for on-board entertainment.

The luxury exploration vessel VvS1 34m (111.5') is heading down under to New Zealand for the winter season. Versatile enough to access small bays, cruise the rugged coastlines and anchor near the stunning beaches of North and South Islands, VvS1 is a great choice for charters in this region. Eight guests can enjoy all the usual superyacht comforts, including a fully equipped gym. For further information see [sea&i's New Zealand feature on page 66](#). ■

For further information on chartering, please contact your nearest charter broker, see page 8 for details.



The Snapper

spotlight on...

Following her successful debut charter season, the highly lauded tri-deck 37 Sunseeker The Snapper has grand plans for the year ahead



Photography: courtesy of Sunseeker



SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH	37m (120')
BEAM	8m (26.3')
DRAUGHT	2.4m (7.10')
SPEED	24 knots
BUILT	2007
STATEROOMS	4/5
GUESTS	10
CREW	7/8



With her three decks, 37m (120') length and capacity for 10 guests, The Snapper easily cruises into place as the largest and most ambitious build in Sunseeker history. At 37 metres she is also the largest semi-custom production motoryacht ever to be built in the UK. But it's not just her size that has caused such a stir, The Snapper is equipped akin to any luxury ocean-going superyacht with an ingenious layout and space for up to eight crew to deliver a discreet and dedicated service.

Launched almost a year ago (she celebrates her first birthday in January), The Snapper has made her home in the South of France during the past summer, offering charters in the Côte d'Azur and the Italian Riviera and gliding into port at the Monaco Grand Prix. She will be heading to Cannes for the Film Festival in May 2008, and has plans to return to Monaco for

the next Grand Prix – the perfect base from which to view the spectacular event while hosting guests aboard.

The Snapper's deep-V hull design reinforces her sea-keeping qualities and 1,500nm range, making her a pleasure for crew to handle and guests to charter. The deck configuration sees large sunbathing areas on her sun deck, both around her Jacuzzi and aft, as well as a bar and dining area. Her sky-lounge on the upper deck has a large saloon and bar with state-of-the-art entertainment facilities, and on the same deck she boasts a large area for alfresco dining. Below, the main deck makes space for another lounge and a full-beam dining area with a 12-seater table and lounging areas aft. Accommodation comprises a king-sized full-beam master stateroom with office area, dressing room and spa bath, and a further two twins and two doubles, giving guests alternative choices to suit their party. ■



WATER WORLD

Set amid the mangroves and palms of the Maldives, Coco Palm Bodu Hithi has always been an idyllic private-island resort, but now it has come up with the ultimate secluded and exclusive accommodation with its new Escape Water Residences. Set in their own cluster far from the mainland, and accessed by over-water walkways, the 24 new villas each come with their own private butler, over-the-water restaurant and bar, private pool, deck and pavilion, indoor and outdoor showers and four-poster beds – and if you ever tire of the ocean view, there's a full entertainment system to absorb your attention. Wonderfully secluded, the new villas nevertheless have full access to all the water sports and entertainment facilities of the main Coco Palm Bodu Hithi resort, which is just a 40-minute speedboat ride from Malé.

For more information visit www.cocopalm.com/boduhithi/index.html

HOTEL OF THE (HALF) CENTURY

Perfectly located between Miami and Fort Lauderdale, Bal Harbour Village is preparing for the grand opening of its first major hotel in 50 years with the arrival of The Regent Bal Harbour in January. Leather upholstered walls, mahogany parquet floors, freestanding bathtubs and exclusively commissioned artwork set the tone for the rooms and suites of this oceanfront residence.

For more information visit www.balharbourflorida.com/hotels/regent.html



ONE FOR THE BOYS

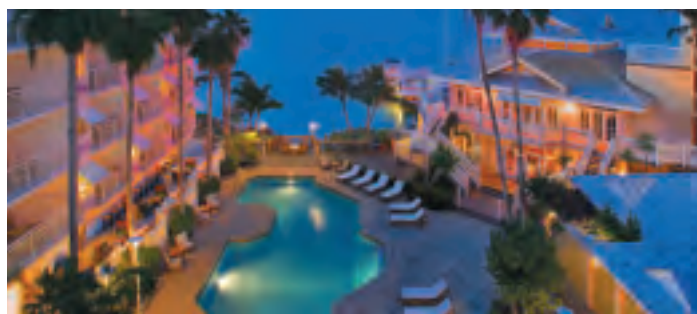
Take one Caribbean island, six luxurious new spa cottages, Sonya Dakar products and a flat-screen TV to watch while you're being pampered, and you'll have one happy – and very relaxed – man. As part of its new overhaul, the Regent Palms in Turks and Caicos – now called The Regent Spa – has a dedicated male treatment room with sumptuous pampering, such as traditional hot-towel shaves with a straightedge razor. The girls get a great treat too with six new treatment cottages and a refreshed spa menu to browse over.

For more information visit www.regenthotels.com

ECO-GLAM

Look great and help protect the environment at the new Jala Spa at Hyatt Key West Resort and Marina. The tiny, exclusive spa has two treatment rooms and three poolside spa cabanas and is dedicated to preserving the region's coral reefs, giving a donation to the Reef Relief Organization whenever anyone books one of its signature Jala Blue treatments.

For more information visit www.keywest.hyatt.com



KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Amanresorts has added another new lodge to its four existing Amankora properties in Bhutan. The new lodge lies in Jakar in the Choekhor Valley and shares the grounds of the 1857 Wangdicholing Palace in this land-locked kingdom deep in the Himalayas. Guests have use of the dining room with its soaring 5.4 metre (18 foot) ceiling, outdoor dining with a view of the palace, warmed by an outdoor fireplace in winter, and a spa. The 16 guest suites have wood-panelled interiors, traditional wood-burning 'bukhari' stoves and all Amanresorts' customary luxurious touches. Bhutan is one of the world's last frontiers and the new Amanresorts property offers a wonderful opportunity for adventurous travellers to explore this intriguing part of the world in assured luxury.

For more information visit www.amanresorts.com

THOMPSON'S TOP SIX

The streets of Manhattan have a stylish new urban retreat in the form of Six Columbus – the latest addition to the hip Thompson Hotel portfolio. Six Columbus is designed with business travellers in mind, and each of the sleek 90 rooms has a Plasma-screen TV, preloaded, wall-wired iPod and the works of iconic fashion photographer Guy Bourdain gracing the walls. The hotel will have two flamboyant penthouses, a sushi restaurant, a salon and a greenhouse cocktail lounge on the rooftop, exclusively for guests and offering incredible views of the Manhattan skyline.

For more information visit www.thompsonhotels.com



THE CRANE GETS ANOTHER LIFT

The oldest continuously operating hotel in Barbados has celebrated its 120th anniversary with a grand facelift. The Crane added cliff-top cascading pools in 2007, and 2008 will see it open its 'village', complete with boutiques, a jazz bar, art gallery, restaurants and ocean-view fitness centre – all designed with period fretwork and cobbled streets in keeping with the traditional style of the property. Adding a modern touch, a glass elevator is also on the cards to transport guests from the cliff-top hotel down to The Crane Beach.

For more information visit www.thecrane.com

SPICING UP THE ISLAND

A new US\$150 million resort in Zanzibar, due to open in 2009, is set to be one of the most beautiful and luxurious resorts in the world with 150 rooms and a 50-room residence and spa retreat on Muyuni Beach, which overlooks a coral reef with some of Africa's most spectacular dive sites. A joint venture of Dubai World and the award-winning One&Only Resorts, the property is set to put Zanzibar – traditionally known for its thriving spice industry – on the map for the discerning traveller.

For more information visit www.oneandonlyresorts.com

MICHELIN STARS AGAIN IN MAURITIUS

One&Only Le Saint Géran in Mauritius is no stranger to culinary excellence and already has one Michelin-starred chef, but with the arrival of Vineet Bhatia it will earn another and become a true gourmet epicentre. Bhatia's London restaurant was named Indian Restaurant of the Year just a year after it opened, and now the multi-award winning chef is bringing his contemporary cuisine to a new tropical waterside restaurant overlooking sugarcane-clad mountains and a private lagoon. "We're very excited about Vineet coming to One&Only Le Saint Géran," said Andrew Milton, General Manager at the resort. "His exciting ideas will make the restaurant different to anything else on the island."

For more information visit www.oneandonlyresorts.com



INCA KEEPING WITH TRADITION

Cusco in Peru is about to celebrate the opening of a new boutique hotel. The 11-suite Inkaterra La Casona hotel is pure exclusivity, from its heritage – it is set in an authentic 16th century Colonial mansion originally built on the site of the Palace of Inca Manco Capca, founder of the Inca Empire, and then used by the first Spanish Conquistadors – to its modern-day iPods, Plasma TVs and in-room massage treatments. The original frescoes have been preserved, and open-fireplaces, cosy sitting rooms and terraces add to the charm of the property.

For more information visit www.inkaterra.com



ANCIENT ISLAND; NEW APPEAL

Easter Island is one of the most isolated places on earth, with an intriguing ancient culture shrouded in mystery. Until now visitors came to explore its hidden caves, volcanic craters, ceremonial burial platforms and famous volcanic ash sculptures – but now they have a new reason to visit: Posada de Mike Rapu. This is the latest property to grace Easter Island and it neatly fills the gap for five-star accommodation. A wonderful fusion of futuristic design and local natural materials, the hotel rises majestically from a lofty perch of volcanic rock. Inside, the 30 rooms (including four suites) boast an ingenious design with pinewood floors, traditional Pizarra stone walls and bespoke furniture. An indoor swimming pool and Jacuzzi add a touch of relaxing luxury while expert bilingual guides are on hand to escort guests on exploratory tours around the island.

For more information visit www.explora.com

INARIA CREATES A FIRST WITH NEW BRAND EXTENSION

Since launching five years ago, Original Travel and its design team at Inaria have won many travel, design and marketing awards, and it looks like they are set to do so again. Together with Inaria, the team at Original Travel has created and produced the company's first published book *The Big Short Break*. The book's title continues the theme of Original Travel's brand essence, getting the maximum experience from the minimum time required off work. The 372-page case-bound book has been written by Ron Asprey and is full of inspirational short breaks with stunning photography, sample itineraries and insider travel tips.

The book is available to buy directly from Original Travel at www.originaltravel.co.uk, or at major book stores





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MARCUS



Art scene: From Russia

Four exceptional collections from three of Russia's most prominent art collectors are delivering the likes of Matisse and Malevich to the walls of the Royal Academy in London

By Thomas Grant

Exhibition: *From Russia – French and Russian master paintings, 1870-1925, from Moscow and St Petersburg*

Venue: *The Royal Academy, London, UK*

Dates: *26 January to 18 April 2008*

Four major Russian museums are the sources of an exhibition which opens in January 2008 at the Royal Academy in London, UK. From Russia, which is currently in Düsseldorf, will show more than 120 paintings by Russian and French artists from the period 1870 to 1925, the years during which modernism grew from experiment to maturity. Russian merchant collectors were foremost among the collectors and patrons of the new movements which emanated from Paris, but Russian artists were also experimenting by taking painting in exciting new directions of their own during the years before Stalinism stifled any such decadent avant-gardism.

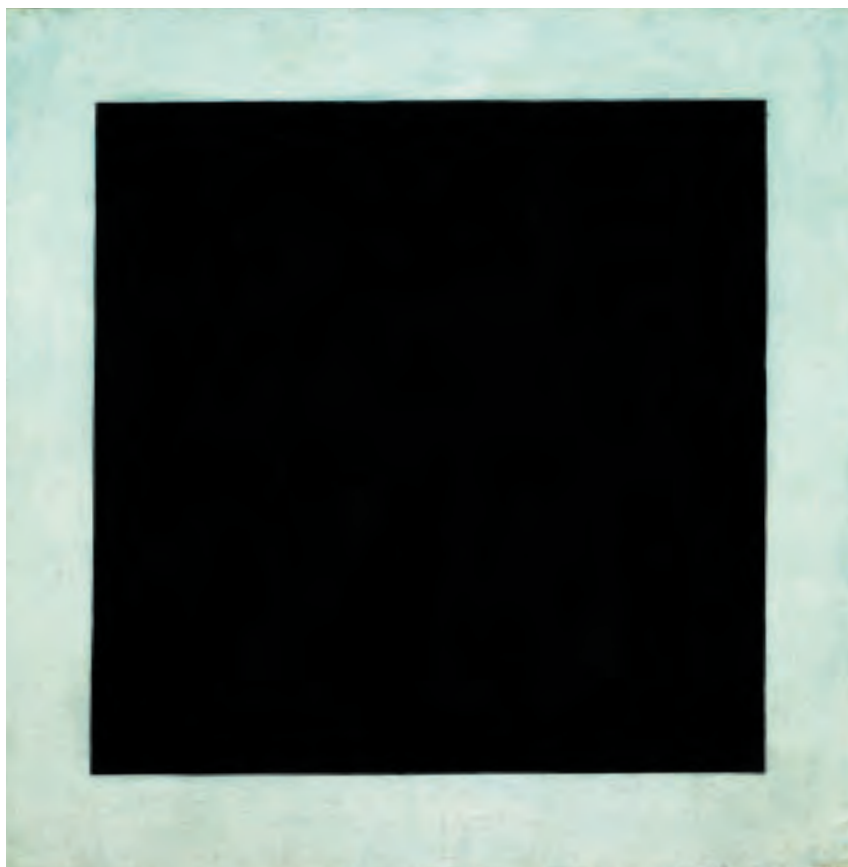
The three great Russian collectors of this period outdid almost anything since seen in Western Europe or America in

their dedication and discernment, as well as in the sheer scale of their collecting. It will be interesting to see how close the new generation of Russian billionaires come to their achievements.

First of them was the textile magnate Pavel Tretyakov, who collected mainly Russian art, though he was to inherit a large collection of western painting. Tretyakov bought the work of the group that are featured first in this exhibition, the Russian realist school called The Wanderers. Best known of these painters in the West are Ilya Repin, whose familiar portrait of the barefoot Tolstoy is in the exhibition, and Ivan Kramskoy. Their realism focused on Russian landscapes and Russian peasantry, but both Repin and Kramskoy were also fine portrait painters. As often with realism, there is a strong element of nationalism in their work that distances them from the French Barbizon school with whom they are bracketed in this exhibition.

Tretyakov donated his huge collection of Russian art to the city of Moscow in 1892. Five years later another, slightly younger, Moscow textile merchant, Sergei Shchukin, bought his first Monet on a trip to Paris. The Impressionists were then largely unknown in Russia, and they and their successors were struggling for recognition in France; but Shchukin's willingness to back his own judgement meant that by the time of the 1917 revolution he had 12 more Monets, together with eight Cezannes, 16 Gauguins, 39 Matisse's, and, remarkably, 51 works by Picasso. Unlike Tretyakov, Shchukin bought no Russian paintings, and unlike him he only transferred his collection to the state under duress, followed by his exile to the West. Shchukin became particularly close to Matisse from 1909 onwards, and the result of his perceptive patronage is that the Hermitage and the Pushkin Museums have the finest collection of Matisse's paintings in the world, including the 1910 version of *The Dance*, said to have been commissioned by Shchukin for the staircase of his Moscow house (though it is also said that it is too big to have hung there). It was Matisse who introduced Shchukin to the young Picasso, a meeting which was to lead to him buying 51 works by the outbreak of the First World War. Ivan Morozov, the youngest in this triumvirate of patrons, was a less impulsive and comprehensive collector than Shchukin, in some ways more discriminating, but like him he concentrated on avant-guard French art, so that between them they accumulated collections of astonishing range and depth of the new, cutting-edge art of the period. Throughout Stalin's rule their collections were largely relegated to store, but they began to emerge through the 60s and 70s and are now increasingly in demand from western galleries. As this exhibition shows, however, part of their importance was to offer young Russian artists a superb view of what was happening in contemporary Paris.

The Russian at the centre of the third section of the exhibition was a patron on a much smaller scale, but hardly less influential



in bringing French art of the late 1890s and early 20th century to Russia. Serge Diaghilev founded the avowedly modernist *World of Art* magazine in 1898, a Russian Yellow Book whose agenda was to bring the various art for art's sake movements of western Europe to Russia, where the rebellious realists of the previous generation were now the artistic establishment. Diaghilev worked with such younger Russian painters as Alexander Benois and Leon Bakst, both of whom were to go on to collaborate with him on designs for the Ballets Russes, designs which influenced the Fauvist movement in Paris. Apart from Benois and Bakst, artists featured in this section of the exhibition include Kandinsky and Chagall.

The final section takes the examination of French influences on Russian art a stage further chronologically, to the various closely related Russian movements which lead through the 'Rayonism' of Larionov and Goncharova via 'Cubo-Futurism' and 'Constructivism' to Kazimir Malevich's 'Suprematism', represented here by the famous 'Black Square' of 1923. Though in these strictly abstract, austere images with their limited range of colours Malevich believed he had moved beyond the limits of figurative art, it is worth noting, especially in the context of this exhibition, that he had discovered the route to Suprematism through the Matisse's and Picassos he had seen in the house of Sergei Shchukin. ■

Opposite page: Matisse's *The Dance* from 1910
Above: Malevich's *Black Square* of 1923

Time & place watches

The latest news from the world of luxury horology



A VINTAGE CLASSIC

For more than 10 years the retro shapes of Girard-Perregaux's 1945 Art Deco collections have been inspiring designs at both GP and other houses. Vintage style has dominated watch trends for the last decade, and this year, courtesy of recent technological developments at Girard-Perregaux, they have reinvented the Vintage 1945 Carée (above) with new movements and aesthetics. Rather than simply being nostalgic replicas, the new timepiece is a modern day interpretation of the unique rectangular shaped model with a new square case. The combination results in an elegant new timepiece, equipped with the GP4500 mechanical movement with automatic winding and is one of the latest to emerge from Girard-Perregaux, with a number of innovative characteristics including an improved winding system and a movement made up of 190 elements, which can be seen through the transparent case back.

BOODLES ON BOND STREET

Further along Bond Street is the stunning contemporary Boodles boutique. Designed by modernist Czech architect Eva Jiricna, who also designed the Marcus boutique, the shop is mainly devoted to Boodles' core business of jewellery, and in particular diamonds, but it also has a strong relationship with Patek Philippe, which is the only other brand in store. Some of the most sought after Patek Philippe models are to be found here, including the Nautilus Chronograph and Platinum, and so the brand is a great compliment to Boodles' own collections of fine jewellery.

MOVEMENTS AT MARCUS

There are a plethora of specialist watch boutiques in London but Marcus on Bond Street is where you will find one of the largest ranges of styles. Spread over four floors, the boutique shop includes a vault that houses specially designed watch-winding cases containing some of the world's most extraordinary watches. The boutique services, at any one time, over 1,000 time pieces, which includes up to 50 Tourbillion watches (a remarkable amount when you consider that most boutiques carry around three or four), as well as some vintage timepieces. Having such a varied and vast collection under one roof is unique, but this can be attributed to Marcus' eponymous owner Marcus Margulies, whose formidable and intimate knowledge of the very best in horology has led to the creation of this treasure cave in the midst of the hustle and bustle of Bond Street.

The roll call of watches include some unique to Marcus, such as the Hublot Marcus Big Bang with mirror dial, the Hublot Marcus Big Bang with mirror dial and black pavé diamond bezel, the Franck Muller Marcus Conquistador with mirror dial, and the Franck Muller Marcus Long Island with mirror dial. Other limited timepieces include the Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Offshore Rubens Barichello Chronograph (below right), the Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Offshore Arnold's All-Stars Chronograph, the Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Offshore Shaquille O'Neal Chronograph, Hublot Big Bang All Black Senna (below left), and the Piaget Tourbillon Relatif (left).





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Left to right: Donna Karan Gold Eau de Toilette, 50ml; Narciso Rodriguez For Him Eau de Toilette, 100ml (for men); Pierre Bourdon for Frederic Malle French Lover Editions de Parfums, 50ml (for men)

Photography: Natalia Mladzikowska



Above, clockwise from top: Creed Virgin Island Water, 75ml; Jo Malone White Jasmine & Mint Cologne, 100ml; Cleopatra Tocca Eau de Parfum, 50ml; Prada Infusion D'Iris Eau de Parfum, 50ml



Above left: Bvlgari Omnia Amethyste Eau de Toilette, 65ml
Above right: La Prairie Midnight Rain Eau de Parfum Vaporisateur, 50ml



Above, clockwise from top: Esperys Eau de Toilette by E Coudray, 100ml; Montaigne Eau de Parfum by Caron, 50ml; Serpentine Eau de Parfum by Roberto Cavalli, 50ml; Gardénia Eau de Parfum by Isabey, 50ml; Very Michael Kors Eau de Parfum, 50ml



Shiseido Zen Eau de Parfum, 50ml



Lalique de Lalique Amethyst Eau de Parfum, 50ml



Marc Jacobs Daisy Eau de Toilette, 30ml



Lalique Sheherazade, 30ml



Jean-Charles Brosseau Ombre Rose Parfum, 180ml (world exclusive to Roja Dove)



Lalique Pour Homme Buddha Eau de Parfum, 30ml (for men)



Your own caribbean escapes private island

If you desire as much privacy ashore as you have on your yacht, consider one of these offshore Caribbean idylls that can be reserved exclusively for you and your party

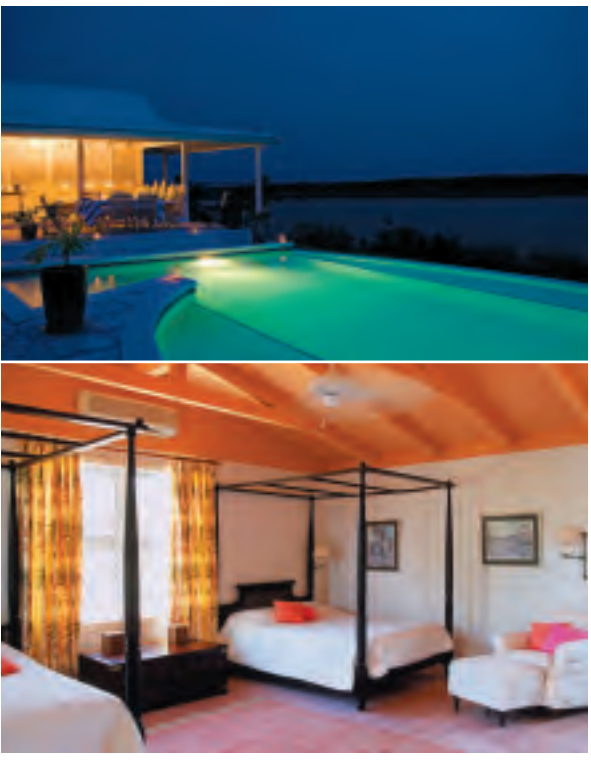
By Dominique Alder

LITTLE WHALE CAY, BAHAMAS

Lying amid The Bahamas' Berry Islands chain, Little Whale Cay is a 93-acre private island available for exclusive hire. Built in the 1930s by Wallace Groves, the island is home to a colonial-style main house, two guesthouses, a small village for staff, a harbour, a lighthouse and a 610m (2,000ft) landing strip. Facilities include an infinity pool and pool house, gymnasium, and all manner of watersports equipment. The main house, Little Whale House, stands above a long stretch of white-sand beach on the eastern side of the island, while Flamingo House is set back from the beach in the gardens and Peacock House overlooks the ocean. The island even has its own church and schoolhouse, where the current owners were wed. The island was developed as a home rather than a resort and the owners have only opened it to guests in the last few years. Little Whale Cay therefore has a wonderfully personal identity, and the guesthouses retain a feel of 1930s' style with the looks of a Bahamian pastel beach house. There is no pristine landscaping, but rather a sense of home comforts; hermit crabs and foliage lie on the island's outer walkways, while peacocks strut the manicured lawns. The surrounding Berry Islands provide endless chances to explore with 30 islands and close to 100 cays stretching out around you. Set on the eastern edge of the Great Bahama Bank, the waters are popular for bone fishing and sailing, but their main appeal is their seclusion and privacy. Set among largely uninhabited cays, Little Whale Cay is the perfect retreat

for families looking for home comforts in a desert island idyll. Flights from Miami to the Berry Islands are only an hour and customs can be cleared at neighbouring Chub Cay.

For more information visit www.littlewhalecay.com. Virgin Atlantic has daily flights from London to Miami, log on to www.virgin-atlantic.com →



Opposite page: Necker Island in the British Virgin Islands
This page, left: The infinity-edge pool at Little Whale Cay overlooks the ocean
Below: Four-poster beds add a touch of traditional charm at Little Whale Cay
Bottom: Little Whale Cay – your private island, as viewed from above





PETIT ST VINCENT, THE GRENADINES

In the 1960s, Haze Richardson — a former Air-Force pilot turned boat captain — first landed on the tiny island of Petit St Vincent in the Grenadines while handling sailing charters in the Caribbean. Haze and his friend Doug Terman had been sent on a mission by a Midwest entrepreneur to find an island to buy and turn into an exclusive resort. They decided Petit St Vincent was the place. The island belonged to an old lady on neighbouring Petit Martinique, and after two years of negotiations and development, a set of 22 cottages were ready to welcome their guests — no small feat considering the island had no electricity.

To this day this timeless paradise island has remained untouched, the only difference being that resident owner Haze Richardson and his wife Lynn have continually improved the comfort of the 22 cottages as well as the standard of the restaurant, amenities and activities. These include yoga classes, spa treatments and sailing Jambalaya — a locally-built schooner — to the nearby Tobago Cays. The only way to reach Petit St Vincent is by water, but you can fly to nearby Union Island where a private boat will meet you and then speed you across to your private retreat. As such, this out-of-this-world corner of the Caribbean is perfect for those who want to escape just about everything and experience the Caribbean as it was 20 years ago. The private island is its own self-contained world without

Above left: You won't have to worry about finding a free spot on the beach at PSV, it is reserved for you alone
Top: Island cottages overlooking the oceanfront at PSV
Centre: The cottages are beautifully furnished for when you want to escape the Caribbean sunshine on PSV
Above: The PSV resort offers yoga classes, spa treatments and schooner sailing

towns, roads or shops. It is effortlessly luxurious but minus any of the gizmos so beloved of most five-star resorts. The emphasis here is on escape. If you want room service, you raise the yellow banner on the bamboo pole outside your cottage; if you want privacy, you raise the red one. Petit St Vincent is proof that you can have luxury but in a sustainable manner. Visitors come back time and time again, many to the same cottage — the favourites being number 3 (the most secluded), 17 (with its own private beach) and 22 (for the best ocean view). It is also possible to privatise the whole island, which can accommodate up to 80-plus guests for special occasions.

For more information visit www.psvresort.com

NECKER ISLAND, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

After searching for a retreat on which to entertain the stars of his record label, Richard Branson came across Necker Island and turned this uninhabited 74-acre island into a remarkable, exclusive tropical hideaway. The Balinese-style properties include the stunning main house with accommodation for up to 20 guests in ten bedrooms, all with panoramic views. There are also five beach-hut-style cottages which offer an open-air lounge and dining areas, and afford a little more privacy than the main house. The style is very much Balinese combined with colonial Caribbean throughout. Life on the island is pure barefoot luxury: dining out under the stars and lounging on cushions on the beach, sailing, snorkelling and kite surfing, lazing in a hammock overlooking the ocean or jumping on your yacht to explore the surrounding British Virgin Islands — Necker is situated just north of Virgin Gorda — which are surrounded by some of the best sailing waters in the Caribbean. The nearest airport is on neighbouring Beef Island from where you can take a 30-minute ride on a private launch to Necker. Alternatively the island can be accessed by helicopter. Guests who have enjoyed this private island retreat include the late Princess Diana, Janet Jackson, Harrison Ford, Mariah Carey, Eddie Murphy and Oprah Winfrey.

For more information visit www.neckerisland.com



MUSTIQUE, GRENADINES

Neighbouring Petit St Vincent, Mustique is another exclusive private island along the Grenadines chain. Since the 1960s, this tiny island has been a place where the English aristocracy and rich and famous withdrew. The island, privately owned by a consortium, is only five kilometers (three miles) long and two kilometers (one mile) wide, and is home to only one main hotel, the Cotton House. This hillside, colonial-style hotel was originally a simple, eight-bedroom hotel but it was expanded and refurbished in 2004 and now boasts 19 rooms, cottages and houses which overlook Endeavour and L'Ansecoy Bays. The resort's name conjures up images of fresh white fabric billowing in the breeze, and the décor certainly reflects this — it is wonderfully clean and pure with the suites opening up to the sun and sea and world outside. Nearby Basil's Bar is set on a terrace built on stilts over the sea. It is the perfect place to sip delicious lime daiquiris and feast on fresh lobster.

Staying on this verdant island, it's easy to think that you've found an idyll, although for some it may be too much a caricature of tropical paradise. It is ideal for those looking for an easy, relaxing, chic retreat. Remote, as you'd expect, the nearest international airport is in Barbados, but there are domestic flights taking you over to Mustique, although the dinky island airport closes at sunset because there are no lights on the airstrip. Without doubt the best way to arrive is by yacht.

For more information visit www.cottonhouse.net

PARROT CAY, TURKS & CAICOS

Surrounded by the world's third-largest coral reef, the Turks & Caicos Islands are in the northern Caribbean. Lying on an isolated 988-acre island, Parrot Cay is a laid-back luxury resort complete with beach houses and villas, and the award winning COMO Shambhala spa, which has a menu of massages and therapies along with two Dr Perricone 'age-defying' facials. The spa also has a yoga studio, Pilates studio and an outdoor Jacuzzi garden.

For alternative relaxation, the resort's swimming pool is large, square and infinity-edged. Of the two restaurants, the poolside Lotus serves Oriental dishes, and the Terrace leans towards Italian. Parrot Cay's beach is ridiculously spoiling, with picturesque dunes and the whitest white sand, in which if you stick a little flag whilst lounging on your deckchair someone will come to take your drinks order.

The island has, understandably, become the destination of choice for film stars wishing to holiday incognito; just an hour's flight from Miami, it is a world away from everywhere.

For more information visit www.parrotcay.como.bz



Top & bottom left: Necker Island is Bali meets Caribbean in its style
Above: The Cotton House on Mustique
Below: Parrot Cay in the Turks & Caicos





Saints in us virgin islands paradise

The three US Virgin Islands of St John, St Thomas and St Croix are, at most, a four-hour flight from Miami and New York, making them ideal and versatile locations for a weekend escape

By Laurent Pérignon



More than 500 years ago, Columbus landed in the US Virgin Islands and discovered what he referred to as 'a lush garden'. The treasures he encountered – crystal-clear waters, white-sand shores and rolling, green hills – all remain today (particularly on St John and St Croix) but since Columbus' time, each of the three islands has developed its own unique identity thanks to the wide array of influences that have shaped their characters over the centuries.

ST CROIX

St Croix is an island of diverse landscapes with a somewhat mysterious and solitary beauty. The largest island in the archipelago, it is three times the size of St Thomas and four times larger than St John and is the only one of the three to be entirely surrounded by the Caribbean Sea, which may explain why it is also the only island with a 'rainforest'. This is a slightly loose interpretation – it does not technically classify as being a rainforest but it is how the locals refer to it.

This lush forest lies in the western mountains, while further inland the landscape gives way to hills and off to the east is desert vegetation and red cliffs. A large part of the island is also surrounded by a magnificent reef that has made it a favourite dive spot in the US Virgin Islands, especially near Buck Island, which boasts one of the most famous dive spots in the world: 'the wall', which starts out at nine metres (30 feet) plunges

down thousands of feet and is America's only underwater National Monument.

St Croix is also very interesting architecturally. Thanks to its ample water supply and fertile land, its original inhabitants – the Arawak Indians – made their home here much earlier than on the neighbouring islands. The cannibalistic Carib Indians then staked their claim on St Croix in the 14th century, before being driven out themselves by Christopher Columbus. This conflict between the Spaniards and the Caribs is recorded as being the first armed battle between Europeans and natives of the New World. The island was then colonised by the French – hence its French name, translated from the original Spanish Santa Cruz – until 1696 when King Louis XIV banished the 800 St Croix residents to Haiti, leaving St Croix deserted for 37 years until its purchase by Denmark.

Thanks to its prolific sugar production, there then followed an era of great prosperity for St Croix, and by 1796 more than half the island was given over to sugar cane crops. This saw the development of more than 300 sugar mills, a handful of which still exist as ruins today.

The island's prosperity, which lasted until the middle of the 19th century, also explains why a large number of great estates were built on St Croix, many of which remain to this day. In 1848, following an uprising, the Governor of the time, Peter von Scholten, abolished all slavery in the Virgin Islands. During the next 300 years, rule of the islands passed through many →



Previous page: The western shores of St Thomas are a snorkelling paradise
Above: 30.5m (100')
Insatiable is perfect for chartering in the USVI
Right: All four towns on the islands feature lovely patios and walkways



AT A GLANCE

Located 80 kilometres (50 miles) east of Puerto Rico and 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) from Miami, the US Virgin Islands are part of the Lesser Antilles in the Leeward Islands. Set

along the Anegada Passage, an essential shipping lane to the Panama Canal, the three islands boast lush hills and white-sand beaches, while offering natural deep harbours and magnificent coral reefs. The highest point, Crown Mountain on

St Thomas, at 474 metres (1,500 feet), has stunning views of St John and St Thomas as well as of the nearby British Virgin Islands. Today, the islands accommodate around 140,000 inhabitants.

YACHT HAVEN GRANDE

Opened in grand style on 17 March 2007 with a private concert headlined by the Beach Boys and a feast of fireworks, Yacht Haven Grande is the latest marina developed by the Island Global Yachting (IGY) group. Located on St Thomas, near the cruise terminal, it can accommodate up to 48 superyachts of up to 53m (175'), on docks that also allow alongside berthing for yachts up to 137m (450'). Recent visiting yachts have included Larry Ellison's *Rising Sun*, Lürssen's latest *Kismet*, as well as many famous charter yachts, including CNI's truly unique *Sherakhan*.

In addition to its incredible yacht amenities, which include high-speed in-slip fuelling, black-water fuel pump-out and waste oil removal, Yacht Haven Grande boasts prime retail space for the many high-end brands that have opened boutiques on the estate adjacent to the berths. From Louis Vuitton to Bvlgari, and from diamonds to timepieces to fashion, it is a shoppers' dream come true just a stone's throw from the pier. The property also comprises tennis courts, a lagoon-styled swimming pool, a putting green, and 12 waterside condominiums, as well as a Yacht Club and four restaurants: *W!kked*, for casual and fun food and

drink; *Fat Turtle*, a Caribbean roadhouse; *Grande Cru*, a more formal wine bistro offering Mediterranean fare; and *Three60*, a fine dining establishment with panoramic views overlooking the harbour.

At the opening, Andrew Farkas, CEO of IGY, commented, "Yacht Haven Grande offers unparalleled service to the owners and crews of the world's most luxurious megayachts, while also providing a new shopping and dining destination for the tourists and residents of St Thomas. As the jewel in the crown of the IGY network, YHG brings the latest technology and the glamour of the Riviera to the USVI."





hands. While St John and St Thomas were mostly under Danish rule, St Croix was successively taken over by the English, French, Spanish, Dutch, the Knights of Malta, the Danish and even renegade pirates, before being sold to the USA. Such a tormented history is represented by the seven stripes that are part of today's official US Virgin Islands' flag. A display of the seven national flags near an old sugar mill also serves as a powerful reminder of all the island has endured.

Today, St Croix is famous for its Cruzan rum, which comes in a variety of fruit flavours. It is exported worldwide and is said to be one of the finest ever produced. Last but not least, another sight to watch out for on St Croix is the Senepol: a special breed of cattle that originated on this island.

ST THOMAS

St Thomas is sometimes referred to as the New York City of the Caribbean because it is such a hive of activity. Its capital, Charlotte Amalie, (capital of all the USVIs) was named in honour of the wife of King Christian V in 1692 and with many huge cruise ships docking in its port, it easily ensures it has the most visitors of all three US Virgin Islands.

St Thomas hosted the first permanent settlement of Danes in 1672, and some 50 years later the island became an official port of entry for all nations, which accounts for its rich culture. Among the many refugees who sought a home on the island were French Huguenots and Spanish Jews. The St Thomas'

synagogue, built in 1833, is certainly worth a visit regardless of your faith.

But St Thomas' history has had its fair share of drama. In the late 1600s, two industries flourished on the island: slave trade and piracy, providing the economy with the boost it needed to evolve. The first African slaves arrived in 1673 and St Thomas gradually became the largest slave market in the world. However, by the 1700s legitimate trade had won over and prosperous merchants lined the streets of Charlotte Amalie; by 1800 it had become the central trading point of the West Indies.

Around 1837 an impressive 140 nationalities occupied the island, with newspapers printed in up to three languages. Today the island still reflects its international heritage with its Dutch-styled doorways, its grand English manor houses and French designwork. This wide range of cultures has been beautifully intertwined and has survived to this day. Most of the original buildings from a century ago are also still in use as they were built to withstand hurricanes, floods and earthquakes and so have also withstood the test of time.

By 1900, due in part to the end of slavery in 1848 and the advent of steamer ships capable of longer journeys, St Thomas' economy no longer enjoyed its prominence of a century before. Prosperity returned after the Second World War, and when Cuba was closed to US travellers St Thomas took over as a hot spot for tourists.

St Thomas remains a vital Caribbean port, enjoying a sheltered location protecting it from unfavourable weather and being →

Opposite page: The capital city, Charlotte Amalie, on St Thomas
Above left: Yacht Haven Grande is the USVI's new top-notch marina
Above: The 57.3m (188') Excellence III



Above: The 62.5m (205')
Codecasa Apogee
Opposite, left to right:
Trunk Bay on St John's is
a secluded spot in the
National Park; the Cruzan
Rum factory on St Croix;
one of the many former
sugar plantation
estates of St Croix

ideally situated on a direct route between Europe and the Panama Canal – the reason why the US purchased the islands in 1917.

Any cruise of the USVI should include at least a day spent wandering through Charlotte Amalie to soak up her fascinating architecture, buildings and museums. Fort Christian, located right on the waterfront in downtown Charlotte Amalie, is the oldest building still in use on the island and dates back to the 1670s. Having been used as a fort, a courthouse, a jail and a police station over the years, the building now houses the largest historical museum in the Virgin Islands. The Seven Arches Museum is also fun to visit to gain an insight into the past; once an 18th-century Danish artisan's home, its name was inspired by the arches that support its 'welcoming arms' staircase.

ST JOHN

St John, today, is known for its beautiful white-sand beaches, campgrounds and magnificent National Park, but the island was not always so peaceful. It was inhabited by Indians and buccaneers before the Danes arrived. Rendezvous Bay was, in fact, named for its role as a pirate meeting place, as was Privateer Bay.

With the Danes settling in, St John developed with a few white plantations, with mostly African slaves shipped in to work the sugar mills. But a series of tragic events gave it a different historical course to St Croix. In 1733, a slave revolt decimated the island. The slaves outnumbered the plantation owners five to one and succeeded in holding St John for six months until their

food and ammunition ran out; many then committed suicide by jumping off the precipice at Anna Berg rather than face capture.

The abolition of slavery crushed the next economic recovery, and the arrival of beet sugar put a definitive end to any other bright prospects for the future. By 1880 there were less than 1,000 people living on St John and 20 years later there was just one plantation still in use. It was only in 1956 that St John's future was to be shown a brighter path thanks to Laurance Rockefeller who, after visiting the island, decided to buy the 5,000 acres necessary to establish a National Park. Today, the Park encompasses two-thirds of the island and includes the remains of the Anna Berg Sugar Plantation, as well as an additional 5,600 acres of offshore marine areas.

There are dozens of ways to explore St John's unspoiled terrain but hiking is probably the best, with 22 trails snaking their way around the island. St John's charms also abound on water; with world-renowned beaches being a star attraction. Among them are Trunk Bay, the site of the famous underwater snorkel trail; Hawksnest Beach, close to Cruz Bay on the north shore; Cinnamon Bay, a National Park campground with a fabulous beach; and, on the north shore, Maho Bay, Francis Bay and Leinster Bay. And if you're fortunate enough to stay at the private and exclusive Caneel Bay resort founded by Laurance Rockefeller, the beach of the same name will be topping your list of beach hang-outs – surely the perfect way to end a relaxing cruise of the US Virgin Islands. ■



Left: The hilly island
of St John offers
spectacular views of
the Caribbean Sea
Below: Laurance
Rockefeller's resort at
Caneel Bay is a perfect
example of luxury with
an ecological twist





THINGS TO DO

St Croix: gambling, and an occasional game of golf at the Carambola (commissioned by Laurance Rockefeller) or the dramatic ocean-view Buccaneer course.

St John: trekking in the National Park and eating island lobster.

St Thomas: shopping in Charlotte Amalie, the odd game of golf on the Mahogany Run course, and diving at Buck Island (just off St Thomas) and beyond.

EVENTS

St Croix: The island's Crucian Christmas Festival – a month-long celebration of street parties, concerts and parades, including the Three Kings Day Parade – is one of the most popular and lively events.

St Thomas: The Rolex Regatta – organised by the St Thomas Yacht Club and held at the end of March – is considered to be the jewel of Caribbean yacht racing. The St Thomas Carnival in April, meanwhile, is a spectacular fiesta of parades, fireworks, calypso contests, dance competitions, Mocko Jumbies (stilt dancers) and non-stop eating, drinking and dancing in the streets, making it one of the best-known celebrations in the Caribbean.

WHERE TO SHOP

Remember, the US Virgin Islands are free ports, although US visitors may only purchase up to \$1,600 of tax-free products. Try Yacht Haven Grande for high-end items; downtown Charlotte Amalie for

a bargain; and the 18th and 19th century old town districts of Christiansted and Frederiksted on St Croix for local handcrafted jewellery and artefacts – and be sure to look out for Sonya, the local creator of the acclaimed 'hook' bracelet.

WHERE TO STAY

If you're not chartering on board a yacht, which is easily the best way to enjoy the islands, consider the following...

St Croix: The Buccaneer is nestled in lush surroundings and has a tropical, historical feel about it that makes it both charming and welcoming. Pluses include spa facilities and access from the sea, as well as a lovely fine-dining restaurant. Across the island, Carina Bay is not so spectacular in itself, but it boasts a great beachfront along the reef, wonderful service and the only casino on the Virgin Islands. Access from the sea, however, is fairly difficult due to the reef.

St John: Caneel Bay is an exclusive resort nestled within the Virgin Islands National Park. It has remained faithful to the vision of its founder Laurance Rockefeller and his reverence for the environment and is a truly luxurious, low-key escape. For families and fun, head for the Westin, which offers a luxurious, secluded setting and high-end amenities – the best way to arrive is by tender while your yacht is moored just a few metres away.

St Thomas: The Marriott offers stunning views and a

similar atmosphere to the Westin, but the hotel does not lie by the beach. The Ritz-Carlton, meanwhile, is undoubtedly the best hotel on the island when it comes to ultimate luxury – it offers magnificent décor in a secluded environment and is the perfect place to be pampered away from the rest of the world.

CARIBBEAN CUISINE

Do not miss out on the pates (fried breads with meat fillings), fungi (a corn dumpling), Caribbean lobster, stewed mutton soup, conch (an island delicacy often served as fritters), plantains (like a banana but not sweet), Johnny cake (fried unleavened bread), green sweet potatoes, and some unusual island fruits, as well as the popular East Indian influenced curried roti, an Indian tortilla-like wrap filled with curried chicken, conch or tofu, and often vegetables.

WHERE TO EAT

St. Croix: Bacchus in Christiansted has the best wine list around, and some of the hotel restaurants are well worth a visit.

St. John: The Lime Inn (for the best lobster in a fun atmosphere), Paradiso, Château Bordeaux and Asolare for fine dining, as well as the hotel restaurants.

St. Thomas: Room with a view (the name says it all) at Bluebeard Castle's resort, Wikked, Grande Cru and Three60 at Yacht Haven Grande, Hervé on Government Hill and the restaurants in the top hotels.





Redolent ^{grenada} of richness

It has had its share of drama over the years but change is on the horizon for Grenada. With the current flurry of development that is taking place there, this stunning spice island is set to become the St Barth's of the Windwards

By Miriam Cain

The southernmost of the Windward Islands, lying south of the Grenadines, Grenada has always been one of the more sophisticated Caribbean islands thanks to its abundant production of spices at a time when they were a valuable commodity. Grenada was discovered by Columbus in 1498 and later colonised by the French in the mid 17th century, followed by the British in 1783. The verdant interior of the island today is much like it has always been: a magical landscape of mountains, rivers, waterfalls and rainforests where plantations of cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and cloves flourish in the island's fertile tropical soil — so much so that in the 19th century Grenada became known as the Spice Island of the Caribbean.

Grenada's physical beauty is complemented by its rich history and, still active, cultural heritage. Local festivals, fairs and markets remain an integral part of life on Grenada as they allow the islanders to honour the spirit of their forefathers — →



many of whom were slaves. Slavery was abolished in Grenada in 1834, at which time the freed slaves were given small plots of land. Their hard work continued to ensure that the island remained one of the world's major exporters of nutmeg and cocoa until the devastating Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Almost all the homes, historic monuments, boat yards and crops were damaged by the storm, yet only a few years on the resilience of the island is evident as most of the buildings have been rebuilt (bigger and better than before), trees and bougainvillea are in full bloom, and the only evidence of wreckage is to the churches. The hurricane did, however, impact on industry. Rather than relying so heavily on crops, the islanders have now started to look elsewhere for income, which has led them to welcome tourism.

Relatively undeveloped, Grenada has been spared the negative impact that mass-tourism has brought to some of its neighbouring islands, such as Barbados. Instead, Grenada has welcomed sustainable and sophisticated development. There

DATES FOR THE DIARY...

- 16, 17 & 19 January 2008 *Grenada Billfish Tournament*
- 25 – 29 January 2008 *Port Louis Grenada Sailing Festival*
- 21 – 24 February 2008 *Grenada Classic Yacht Regatta*
- 20 – 23 March 2008 *Grenada Round the Island Easter Regatta*
- October 2008 *Grenada Cricket Classics Festival*



Clockwise from top: The view from Port Louis Marina across to the capital of St George; fishermen and the red roofs of Grenada are a well-known site; Mount Edgecombe Estate has stunning views over the ocean below; the view from the Amalfi-style apartments; the verdant landscape of Grenada

is talk of a new Four Seasons resort opening in the near future, and rumour has it that the Ritz Carlton is looking into areas for development, but it is British entrepreneur Peter de Savary, renowned for his legendary hospitality developments, who is currently spearheading the island's future. De Savary (or PdeS as he likes to be known) is currently in the early stages of an ambitious project comprising a marina, two hotel and property developments and two outposts in the island's interior, all to provide the ultimate sophisticated yachting lifestyle while at the same time retaining the charm and spirit of the island.

De Savary is a consummate host, his name having been synonymous with some of the world's most exclusive properties such as Skibo Castle in Scotland and, more recently, The Abaco Club in The Bahamas. The flagship of his new development in Grenada is the grand marina project Port Louis, billed as the Caribbean's answer to St Tropez. Until recently the perfectly positioned lagoon and abandoned hillside was an over-filled junkyard where remnants of a US Black Hawk helicopter were found, along with abandoned boats, all of which have been dredged out of the perfect hurricane hole. Located on a headland, the marina and development area have stunning views over the heart of the island's capital St George with its rainbow of pastel-coloured dockside warehouses, red-tiled roofs and horseshoe-shaped harbour. The area was previously the site of the Grenada Yacht Club, and the original name of the capital, which was located on the Port Louis site during France's reign.

Port Louis is well on the way to becoming a lively marina village and waterfront development, offering up to 300 slips for yachts up to 92m (300'). The project, which is being developed in association with C&N Marinas, offers a wide range of options for investors, especially those looking to buy into the whole yachting lifestyle; one that de Savary knows well having led the British Team in its bid to win the America's Cup in 1983. To complement the Amalfi-style apartments and townhouses lining the marina, Port Louis will have duty-free boutiques, restaurants, bars, a spa, boutique hotels, and a white-sand beach, along with all the facilities required by yachts of all sizes. This is all thanks to de Savary who has negotiated financial concessions with the government for owners at Port Louis and its sister resort at Mount Cinnamon.

Overlooking Grand Anse, one of the island's best beaches, the Mount Cinnamon resort is set in tropical gardens beside three kilometres (two miles) of white sand and sheltered waters, just minutes from the marina at Port Louis. There are a number of pre-existing villas, a restaurant and a pool, all of which have been refurbished since the hurricane. All the properties on the 30-acre site have views over the sweeping beach below, where there are plans to build a Beach Cabana and boutique hotel with all the facilities expected of a five-star resort.



Above: The existing villas on the 30-acre site of the spectacularly positioned Mount Cinnamon resort

And for those looking for a more authentic island encounter, a visit to the centuries-old spice plantations is part of the cultural experience that de Savary offers guests. Mount Edgecombe Estate is a working plantation where guests can hike along trails and enjoy a swim looking out over the mountainous interior to the ocean below, before a plantation dining experience on the terrace.

Alternatively, the eco-spa at Tufton Hall is set in a colonial-style retreat at the heart of the tropical rainforest. And for those in search of the true beauty of the island, Annandale Falls, Seven Sisters Falls, and Mount Carmel Waterfall are all worth a visit, while the Grand Etang Forest Reserve in the heart of the island is one of the finest natural areas in the whole of the Caribbean. For those wishing to stay in the water, snorkelling around Moliniere Bay is a unique experience with an underwater gallery of sculptures, created by Jason Taylor, anchored 4.5 metres (15 feet) below the surface — an eerie experience should you not be forewarned of their presence. But the real action is to be had above the water.

Yachting in the Caribbean is regarded as a seasonal activity, but with perfect year-round temperatures the waters of Grenada are ideal for sailing. Prickly Bay, a marina development built around an old boatyard on the south of the island is a good place to berth, with its capacity for yachts of up to 40m (130'), but the lagoon at Port Louis is the location to prioritise. An almost perfect natural harbour, it has the advantage of being south of the hurricane belt but it is also the ideal gateway to the Grenadine Islands with their compelling dive sites and pristine reefs.

With the development of Port Louis, Grenada is set to become a year-round destination and the ideal base for mooring your yacht. The first 50 slips are now available and the entire project is due for completion by 2010, by which time Port Louis will surely be well on the way to earning a reputation as being the St Tropez of the Caribbean. ■

For further information on chartering around Grenada, contact your nearest CNI charter broker. For direct flights to Grenada go to www.virgin-atlantic.com



aboard Ti Voglio Tanto Bene

*Foreign*affair

Even when you're far out at sea there's always someone to impress, so make sure you come well prepared to turn heads, and hearts, on your next charter

Photography & styling Natalia Mlodzikowska **Make-up** Christel Ravarotto

Models Elisa, Anaïs and Guillaume / Enjoy Model Management





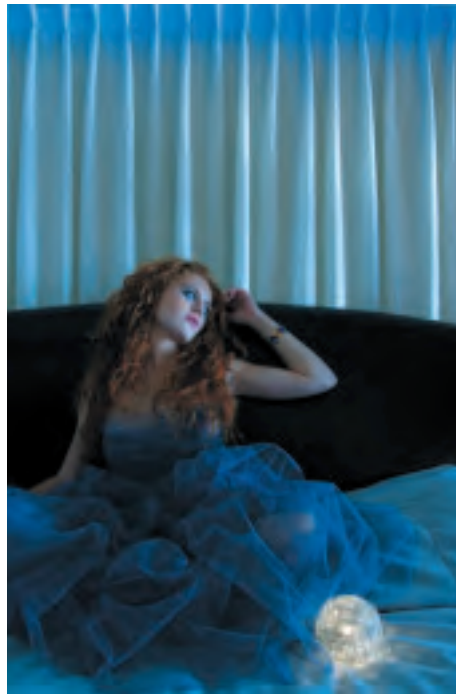
Left: Anaïs wears dress of silk and silk muslin and Swarovski crystals by Fabrizio Capriata

Top left: Guillaume wears tunic by Just Cavalli; jeans with leather and studs by Absolute Joy, available at www.authentic-collection.com.

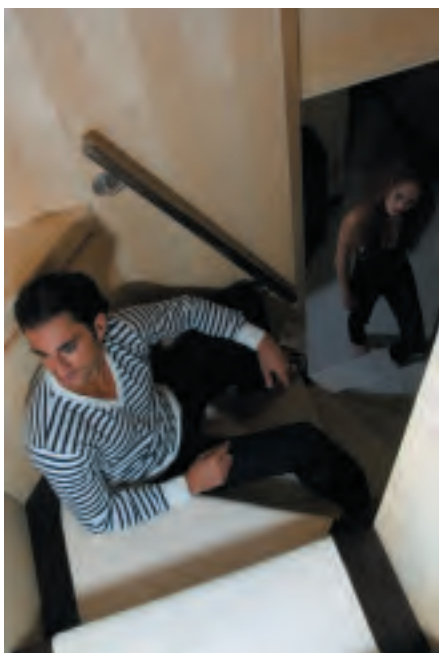
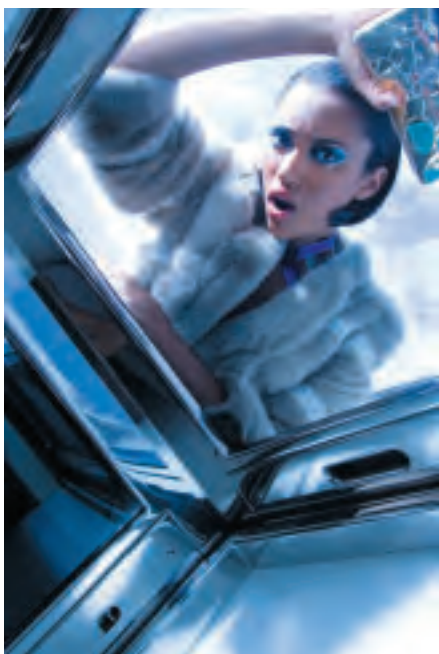
Anaïs wears denim dungarees by Gianmarco Venturi available at www.authentic-collection.com; steel jacket by Womn. Elisa wears trousers by Womn, denim zipped bustier by Dolce&Gabbana available at www.authentic-collection.com; dragon metal and crystalline necklace and bracelet by Tsumori Chisato available at Desert

Top right: Anaïs and Elisa wear dresses made of silk and silk muslin and Swarovski crystals by Fabrizio Capriata

Below from left to right: **Guillaume** wears trousers by Top Scotch, shirt by G Star Raw, woollen tweed gabardine by Scotch and Soda, all available at Cape Cod. Silk tie by Zarlini available at www.authentic-collection.com. **Elisa** wears tulle dress, stylist's own. Metal bracelet with cristal cabochons by Lalique. **Guillaume** wears trousers by Top Scotch, V-shaped jumper by Scotch and Soda, all available at Cape Cod. Silk tie by Zarlini, available at www.authentic-collection.com. **Anaïs** wears dress by Marc Jacobs available at Desert
Right: **Anaïs** wears tunic dress by Vanessa Bruo, available at Desert **Elisa** wears jersey dress by Fabrizio Capriata.







Top left: Anaïs wears jacket of mink and Swarovski crystals by Fabrizio Capriata; leather purse by Tsumori Chisato available at Desert
Below: Guillaume wears a nautical striped jumper by Jack and Jones, denim by G Star Raw, all available at Cape Cod. Elisa wears denim dungarees by Dolce and Gabbana available at www.authentic-collection.com
Main picture: Elisa wear jersey dress by Fabrizio Capriata





BOUTIQUES: *Desert:* 9, rue Alphonse Karr 06000 Nice, France; *Cape Cod:* 3, rue Alphonse Karr 06000 Nice, France;
Helios: 25, rue Gounod 06600 Nice, France; www.fabriziocapriata.com; www.authentic-collection.com; www.cristallalique.com



Main picture: Elisa wears dress & bolero made of silk, leather and silk muslin and Swarovski crystals by Fabrizio Capriata; wood suitcase available at Autour du Monde
Top: Anaïs wears tunic dress by Vanessa Bruno available at Desert. Guillaume wears a nautical striped jumper by Jack and Jones, velvet jacket by Scotch and Soda, all available at Cape Cod



Côte d'Azur *Beaulieu sur Mer*

Occupying an enviable position along the Côte d'Azur, Beaulieu has earned favour with statesmen and celebrities alike and is now one of the most popular destinations to visit during a cruise of the French Riviera

Beaulieu literally translates as 'beautiful place' and it is believed that this hilly coastal town was so christened by Napoleon on his arrival there in the 18th century. Just outside Nice it has, today, become one of the most exclusive coastal resorts in the world, ideally located between Monaco and Nice on the Côte d'Azur cruising route and suitably furnished with a large marina to welcome the impressive superyachts that ease along the coastline.

Its sheltered position, cocooned by lofty hills, affords it one of the warmest climates of all the surrounding towns and its refined style ashore has earned it favour with all its visitors. It is beautifully refined – many of the belle époque buildings still exist from the early 20th century – yet also charmingly quaint. The port area and seafront promenade is a wonderful place for a stroll, or you could wind your way up the Riviera escarpment

to the Sentier du Plateau St-Michel for wonderful views of the bay and Cap Ferrat. Freshly-caught fish are presented for sale each morning along the seafront (many of which end up in the excellent restaurants for which Beaulieu is acclaimed) making it as compelling a place to visit at night as it is by day.

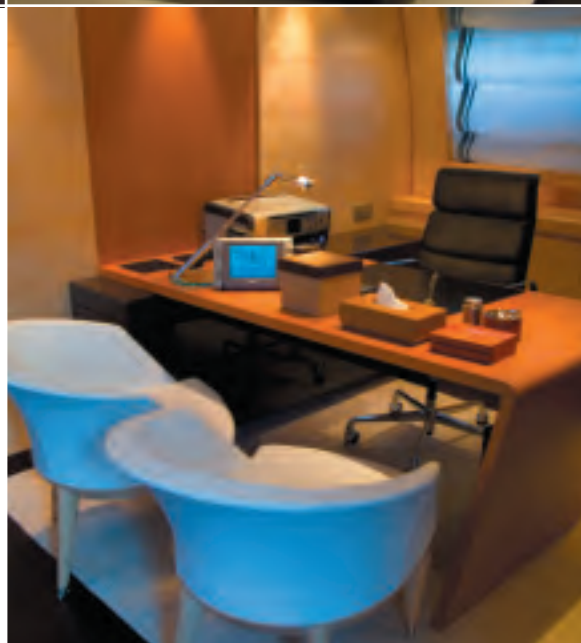
A must-visit building is the Villa Kérylos on the bay of Beaulieu-sur-Mer. It is an extraordinary early 1900s re-creation of an ancient Grecian villa, with sumptuous design, beautiful gardens with olives, vines and pomegranates and wonderful views along the coast. Les Agaves restaurant is also worthy of a visit, as is the Art Nouveau style Casino de Beaulieu and the 1880 La Reserve de Beaulieu hotel, the latter of which has attracted the likes of Orson Wells, Greta Garbo and Princess Grace of Monaco over the years. Drop by for lunch or cocktails at its wonderful sea-front terrace restaurant or garden terrace. ■



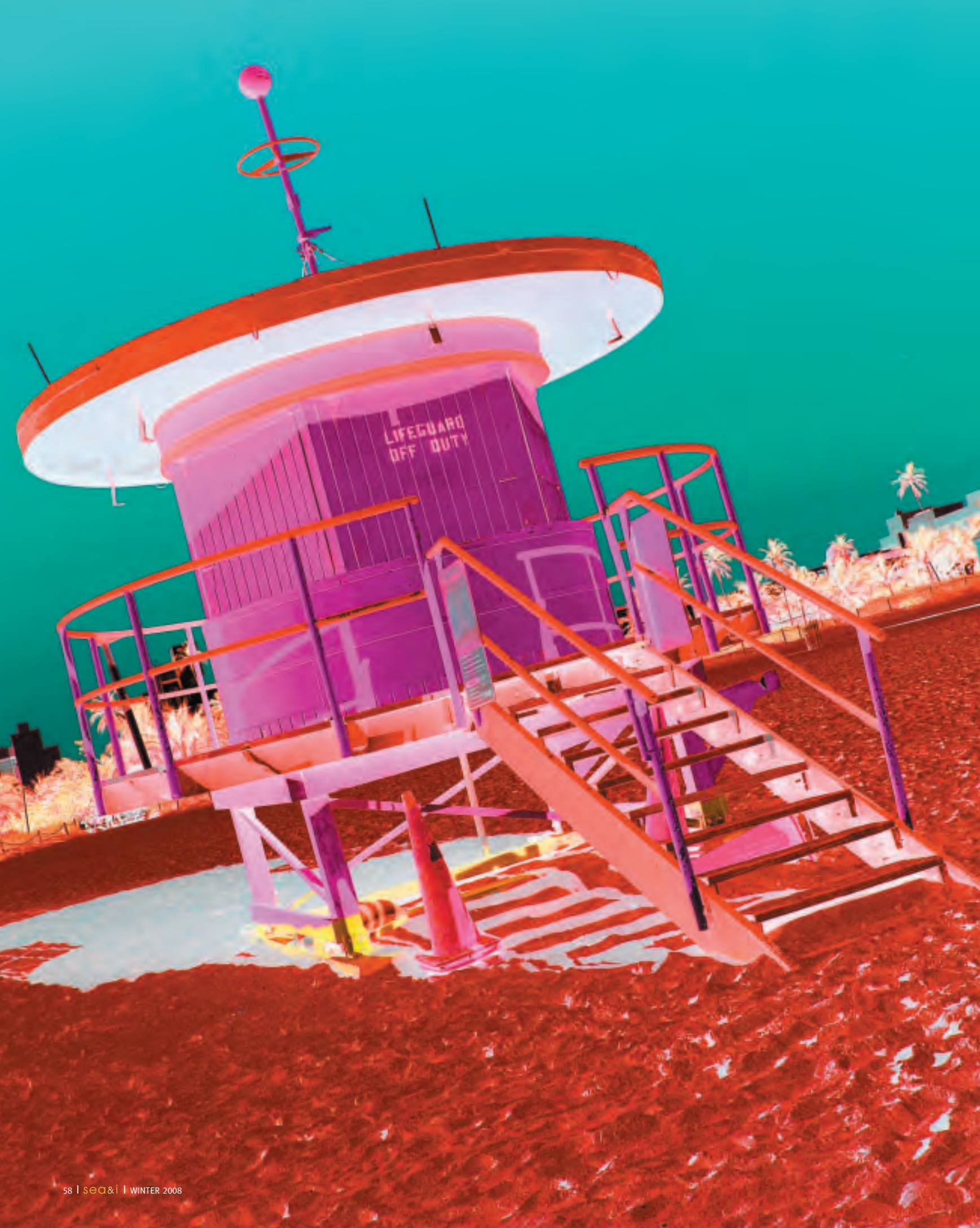
Launched in 2007, Ti Voglio Tanto Bene is the perfect yacht for a jaunt along the Côte d'Azur, being fast (34 knots max), very stylish and equipped for luxury living. She accommodates nine guests in four cabins, although the forward VIP cabin currently serves as an on-board gymnasium. The fourth and final launch of the ISA 133 series, Ti Voglio Tanto Bene is currently for sale. Please contact your CNI broker for more details.

SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH	41.6m (136.6')
BEAM	7.8m (25.7m)
DRAUGHT	1.75m (5.9')
SPEED	34 knots
BUILT	2007
BUILDER	ISA Yachts Ancona
STATEROOMS	4
GUESTS	9



Main picture: The 41.6m (136.6') Ti Voglio Tanto Bene
Above left: On-deck relaxation is a priority
Above right: Stylish décor defines the interior
Left: On-board technology lets you keep in touch with the outside world



south florida

HOT IN THE CITY

Miami has been loved for its beaches and Art Deco hotels since the 1930s, but the city has come a long way since then. Today it is a 24-hour party zone, icon of style and upcoming art capital

By Miriam Cain

Traditionally regarded as the place to be during the fall and winter months, Miami has now extended its season throughout the year. Temperatures hover around 25°C year round and the region enjoys a subtropical climate with a cooling sea breeze.

The city area is an urban sprawl so the main draw tends to be the beach scene, with Miami Beach and South Beach stretching out along an isthmus. Miami's Art Deco neighbourhood, South Beach, referred to by locals as SoBe, oozes glamour, which is why CNI chose it as the location for the Miami office. Every inch of it is home to a juice bar or gym, while the main strip — Ocean Drive — is a non-stop runway of ladies strutting the latest, skimpiest swimwear and fabulous jewellery. Your yacht is the perfect place to switch into the simmering Miami lifestyle, then step ashore to discover the scorching city.

PILLOW TALK

Miami's hotel scene is as hyper as its nightlife, with properties decked out more like cutting-edge art galleries than somewhere

to merely go and sleep. There may be some logic here, as there's so much going on in Miami the chances are you'll never want to go to sleep.

The sassy and hip Hotel Victor on South Beach is a prime example of Miami attitude. It has music pumping from its palm-fringed, second-floor infinity pool to its chill-out library and V Bar, which has an exclusive menu of just Champagne and vodka. The rooms (should you ever get around to retiring for the night) are as you would expect of Miami: bright and colourful with Art Deco style furnishings. This hotel is sexy, modern and pushes the boundaries of sensual styling.

Ian Schrager's renovated 1947 Delano Hotel, meanwhile, is a cool haven of relaxation. Its public spaces create the feeling of an interwoven 'village' with almost no separation between its interior and exterior spaces. Set amid almost 100 palm trees, the hotel's garden houses full-length mirrors leaning against palm trunks, lamps swinging from branches, and a marble kitchen table with mismatched chairs standing over a rug made of tiles. There are also curtained cabanas where you and your party can sprawl harem-style.

Created by Adrian Zecha (the inspiration behind the stylish Amanresorts), The Setai on South Beach is very much Shanghai meets Miami Art Deco. Mother-of-pearl counter tops grace the Champagne bar, and Zen-style bedrooms are decorated with Indonesian furniture, silk furnishings, black granite baths and authentic jade pieces from the antique markets of China. →

This page: The Miami lights at night
Left: South Beach has been the setting for countless films and fashion shoots



Three pools (all warmed to a slightly different temperature) wallow outside, and the city-sharp concierge can arrange all manner of treats for you — whether you wish to hire a plane, take Tai Chi classes, play golf or visit the Miami City ballet.

The Shore Club adds its own dose of chic glamour and luxury to South Beach. The setting is Garden of Eden calibre with avenues of palms, pools and water features and a boardwalk leading down to a private beach. For art lovers, The Sagamore is a hotel with the heart of a gallery, with original art works hanging in every room. Then there's the Ritz Carlton, which is housed in the 1950s' Morris Lapidus-designed hotel now restored to its original Art Deco style. Set on South Beach, it has an elevated pool with unobstructed views of the Atlantic, an impressive art collection, and a "tanning" butler who will spritz you with SPF and water whenever the sea breeze may not suffice to cool you down.

TOP TABLE

For a leisurely breakfast, head to The Raleigh for eggs over easy under the trees by a lotus-shaped pool. Later you can take a leisurely lunch at the Front Porch Café and watch the Miami scenes pass by from the fabulously positioned terrace of this restored, beachside MiMo building. Those looking for more peaceful chaos will love the buzzing terrace of the News Café — a South Beach institution since 1988. Here you can catch up on the international

news while basking in the sun. The oysters and Champagne at The Setai are an ideal apéritif before moving on to Casa Tua for gourmet Italian cuisine. Be careful you don't miss it though, the restaurant is so discreet it doesn't bother with any signage.

WHAT'S IN STORE?

Miami is all about colourful glamour, so be sure to dress the part. Gold and silver flats are the look during the day, while evenings are all about heels, labels and logos. Head to Lincoln Road for boutiques and vintage clothing, including the hip Los Angeles-based T-shirt company American Apparel for casual cool, or Martier for evening attire. Alternatively, Daszign on South Beach is filled with party wear and casual daytime pieces. Steam on Miami Beach and on Sunset, in South Miami, both stock hip labels such as Just Cavalli and Matthew Williamson. Finally, Intermix, the New York-based shop known for designer lines such as Chloé, has opened up an outpost at Bal Harbour Shops, where you will also find Tiffany & Co, Chanel and Saks Fifth Avenue among open-air malls, ponds and palm trees.

AFTER DARK

Perfect for a sundowner, Nicky's Beach Bar at 1 Ocean Drive is where the party starts. Meanwhile, Buck 15, upstairs from the Miss Yip Chinese Café is a funky lounge attracting the dim-sum crowd from downstairs. You could then graduate on to The Pawn

From top left: South Beach has an abundance of hip hotels and cafés; sun, sea and great hotels — Miami has it all; the Delano Hotel; minimalist elegance at The Setai; the Art Deco influence is evident everywhere; candy-coloured buildings are one of the many art forms on Miami's streets



Shop Lounge — an upscale spot housed in an authentic 1930s' pawnshop and still adorned with antiques and retro pieces, including a classic yellow school bus.

The most stylish place to finish the night (or to prepare for the club scene) is the Rose Bar and poolside bar at Ian Schrager's Delano Hotel, or the even cooler Sky Bar at the trendy Shores Club next door. For those wishing to dance the night away, spacious South Beach venues such as Privé, Myntlounge and Mansion attract a young and glamorous crowd, while Macondo is popular with the well-heeled Latino set. If you're in the mood to throw a party, Onda is a cool, New York style bar and lounge catering for locals and VIPs alike and open until dawn.

CULTURAL ACCLAIM

Miami is fast becoming one of the major art capitals of the world, largely thanks to the annual Art Basel Miami Beach which is held in early December. An excuse for great parties and high-calibre art shows, it is perfectly suited to the Miami scene.

Miami has more contemporary art than anywhere else in the world and its wealthy population has helped the art scene to flourish. Swathes of suburbs are home to the famous and wealthy, and the majority boast extensive art collections. A great deal of the art is to be found in the vast mansions of the rich and famous, but creative inspiration also spills onto the streets — Miami abounds with artwork, the entire city is, in fact,

one huge sculpture. Take a tour of the Art Deco district and discover the restored Art Deco hotels, visit the galleries in the design district and browse the art collection at The Sagamore Hotel — the sister hotel to New York's 60 Thompson.

Not so much culture-based but attracting crowds nevertheless, Casa Casuarina was the Versace mansion and is, today, a private members' club and exclusive hotel. Constructed in 1930, the sumptuous design is said to be a copy of a 16th-century Spanish house owned by Christopher Columbus' son.

Around half of Miami's population is Latin American, so a trip to the Museum of Hispanic & Latin American Art gives a good insight into this vibrant culture. If you're feeling energetic, you could also climb the 118 steps to the top of the 1820s' Cape Florida Lighthouse. The city environs are a great contrast to the metropolitan madness in the centre. For those in need of a brief respite, the road south links to the Florida Keys, while two hours' drive inland is the Everglades National Park, home to flamingos, alligators and some 360 bird species.

IT'S A CLICHÉ BUT...

Join the early-morning runners and soak up the view of South Beach's pastel-coloured hotels and still-empty pools as you sprint along the beach to the breakwater and back again. Alternatively take the cycle paths and boardwalks to the tip of Key Biscayne for the best view of Miami's sparkling coastline. ■

ski chalets
Peak of
perfection



Pack your ski boots and clothes but that's pretty much all you will need as these four villas come equipped with every luxury you could desire – from home cinemas to gyms, cellars and your own acclaimed personal chef

By Daniel Munroe



CHALET TIROL, MÉRIBEL, FRANCE

Where... will you find it? The chalet is located four kilometres (2.5 miles) outside Méribel, but comes with all-terrain vehicles plus a personal driver to whisk you to and from the slopes.

What... can you expect? Huge, homely and stylish, Chalet TiroI has a wonderful living room complete with welcoming leather armchairs, throw rugs, mellow lighting and a grand piano. The intriguing layout leads you into a spacious dining area, and there is an impressive cellar to accompany the fine cuisine provided. The chalet has 10 bedrooms, sleeping up to 24 guests in charming rooms with stylish en-suite bathrooms.

Who... loves it? Large parties who want to avoid the clamour of the resort yet still have chauffeur-driven access to the slopes and town. TiroI has been designed to provide a real feel of the French Alps with every home comfort assured.

Why... will you keep coming back? The huge 16-seater indoor home cinema, swimming pool, high-tech gym with climbing wall, sauna, Jacuzzi/hot tub, garden and games room are ample attractions, plus there's a children's playroom when they're not busy out on the slopes.

How... can you find out more? Visit www.indigolodges.com →



ZENITH, CHAMONIX, FRANCE

Where... will you find it? Facing the Moussoux area of Chamonix, the villa is just a few minutes' walk from the heart of the town centre and a 400-metre stroll from the cable car.

What... can you expect? A traditional Savoyard chalet with a Zen twist, Zenith promises indulgence, relaxation and an unbeatable location. The chalet has great panoramic views across to the Mont-Blanc Massif and Chamonix town, and there's no better place to enjoy the views than from the outdoor panoramic six-person Jacuzzi. There is also a large south-facing terrace with sun loungers, while inside you can stretch out in a living room with a fireplace, a cinema, sauna, study or one of the seven guest bedrooms.

Who... loves it? The chalet can sleep 14 so it's ideal for large family parties, particularly as it has a children's playroom. But the villa is also all about entertainment, with its 16-seater dining room and in-house chef.

Why... will you keep coming back? The chalet staff have great local knowledge and will make sure you enjoy the chalet to the utmost. One of the most appealing features of Zenith is its open-plan kitchen. At the end of an exhilarating day's skiing you can sit down to watch your acclaimed personal chef preparing your dinner as you sip a glass of wine – of which he can recommend the very best to accompany your dishes. Chauffeur-driven 4x4s are also a bonus, available any time to take you wherever you desire.

How... can you find out more? Visit www.pollenbrooks.com



CHALET OUREA, ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND

Where... will you find it? The chalet occupies a prime position just six minutes walk between the main lift (the Matterhorn Express) and the shops and nightlife in the village.

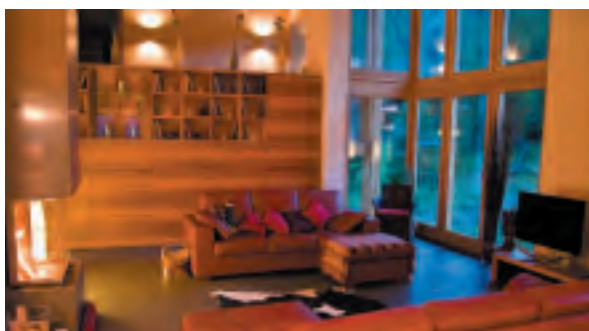
What... can you expect? In Greek mythology the Ourea were the gods of the mountains, and one look at this chalet explains why it has earned its name. Fresh from an interior overhaul, Ourea is a blend of traditional Alpine and leading-edge styling, with a sloping, beamed roof and bespoke pear-tree woodwork and fittings. It consists of four apartments, which can be reserved separately or as an entire unit. The highlight is The Zeus Penthouse – sleeping up to 12 guests. Just a handful of its attractions include a wood-burning fire, triple-height windows, a full-length wooden gallery, walk-in wardrobes and mezzanine suites. Zeus comes with a professional chef and chalet host.

Who... loves it? Parties of up to 20 people, all of whom can dine around one dinner table – making Ourea unique among Zermatt chalets. A quiet location in the heart of the action makes it popular with those wanting privacy in their chalet while still having access to all the action.

Why... will you keep coming back? There are sweeping views of the Matterhorn across wooded hills and snow-laden fields. Ourea also has its own spa area with sauna, steam bath, rain-showers and relaxation room. Rare wines and massage and beauty treatments can also be provided.

How... can you find out more?

Visit www.mountainexposure.co.uk



VILLAHOTEL JADE, COURCHEVEL, FRANCE

Where... will you find it? Right in the heart of Courchevel 1850.

What... can you expect? The villa has been designed in classic French chalet style with huge wraparound balconies offering wonderful views over the town and surrounding ski slopes. Inside, the style switches to contemporary elegance with a large, open floor plan incorporating a lounge, dining room and games room. Each of the three bedrooms has an en-suite bathroom and full entertainment system. The villa also has an office for keeping in touch with business, and a bar for homely après ski socialising.

Who... loves it? Couples in a group or families of up to six. Children and big kids alike will spend hours occupied by the impressive entertainment systems.

Why... will you keep coming back? Après ski relaxation is guaranteed with a steam-shower, sauna and Jacuzzi in the villa. There is also a library and a cinema in which to snuggle up with a good book or film and rest those weary muscles.

How... can you find out more? Visit www.villazzo.com



Poised between the Tasman Sea to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east, the two islands of New Zealand offer one of the world's longest coastlines spanning some 15,000 kilometres (9,300 miles) and offering perfect conditions for cruising aboard the superyacht VvS1

By Miriam Cain



The coastlines of both North and South Island are a wonderful canvas of bays, harbours, fjords and beaches. Generally speaking the North Island majors in beaches and the South Island is known for its mountains, but both islands have plenty of attractions and provide ample opportunities for exploring the great outdoors.

Known as the 'white-knuckle' capital of the world, the unmatched landscape of rainforests, glaciers, rivers, lakes, alpine mountains and spectacular coastlines lends itself to adrenalin-pumping activities such as white-water rafting, paragliding, kayaking, skydiving and bungee-jumping. But it's

not all about pushing things to the limit, there are many ways to be laid back and indulgent, including touring the vineyards, exploring the wealth of Polynesian and Maori cultures, and visiting the historic and architectural reminders of the country's colonial past. Whether your itinerary takes in the marine reserves and islands lying off North Island, or heads to South Island to glide along the Marlborough Sounds, New Zealand is all about taking to the water.

Auckland, nicknamed the City of Sails, has more boats per capita than any other metropolis in the world. The country's main international gateway, it is an ideal place from which →

Above: The Abel Tasman National Park, at the tip of South Island, is famed for its sculptured granite cliffs and beaches



Above: Awaroa Inlet
Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Reminders of Maori culture; VvS1 accommodates eight guests and is ideal for cruising small bays and the open sea; life in New Zealand is all about exploring the great outdoors; Abel Tasman National Park; Castlepoint Lighthouse in Wairarapa Coast on North Island

to begin exploring North Island, but before you step aboard VvS1, spend a few days exploring the city sights.

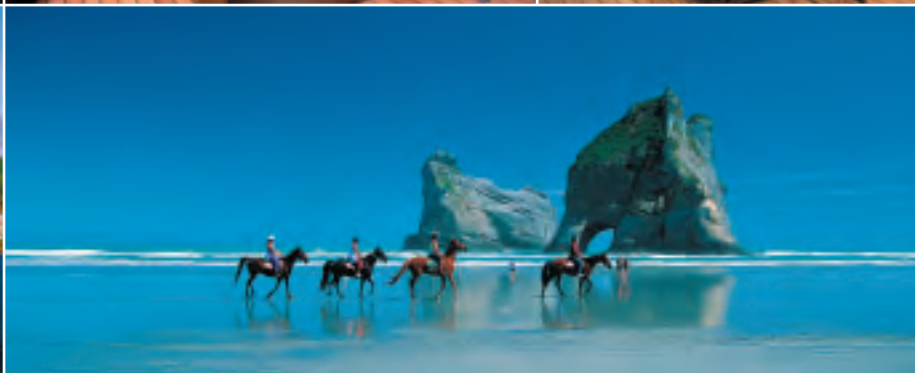
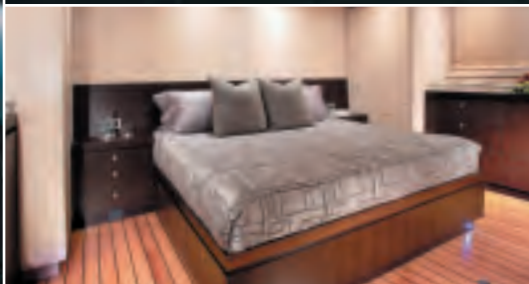
Built on and around several volcanoes, Auckland is set between two harbours: Manukau to the south and Waitemata to the north. For a spectacular view over the city, the Sky Tower at 328 metres (1,076 feet) is the tallest tower in the southern hemisphere. The more adventurous can climb the Harbour Bridge for views over the Hauraki Gulf and Viaduct Harbour.

For sailing enthusiasts, New Zealand's America's Cup racing yachts offer trips around the stunning Auckland harbour, and you can even sign up as crew. Auckland has a large Asian pop-

ulation, and with its proximity to the ocean it's the perfect place to enjoy sushi. Speaking of food, the Viaduct Harbour is not to be missed for its cafés, restaurants, bars and bustling nightlife.

Cruise from the harbour to the trendy island of Waiheke lying just off the main coastline. The island was once a sleepy hide-away for artists and those seeking an alternative lifestyle and it's a perfect introduction to the easy-going Kiwi lifestyle. Known as the Bordeaux of the South Pacific, its award-winning vineyards, such as Stonyridge and Mudbrick, are well worth a visit.

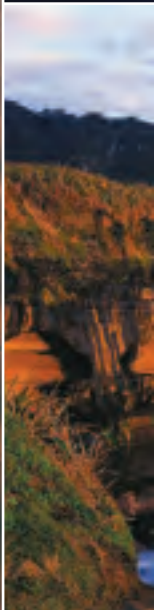
On mainland Auckland, anchor off the Coromandel Peninsula and discover secluded beaches surrounded by native bush —



this is the perfect anchorage for all manner of water sports activities including kayaking, snorkelling, wakeboarding or water-skiing, followed by a Teppanyaki dinner aboard.

The majority of New Zealand's land area is south of Auckland, but the northern parts should not be missed. The landscape is dotted with subtropical forests, beaches, Maori settlements and historic towns. Cruise for a couple of hours to the furthest reaches of the Hauraki Gulf where you will find Great Barrier Island. Visited by Captain Cook in 1769, the island was so named because it was believed to be sheltering the Hauraki Gulf from the worst storms of the Pacific. The Barrier is →





Above: Cannibal Bay
Opposite page, top:
Milford Sound is an
inspired place to cruise
Centre: The New Zealand
coastlines range from
bold and dramatic to
tranquil, scenic coves
Right: The Hills course
at Arrowtown

the largest island off the coast of New Zealand's North Island and it has grand sand dunes surrounded by wild vegetation.

Further north the subtropical reefs of Poor Knights Islands were rated one of the world's top ten dive sites by Jacques Cousteau. Fed by a warm current from Australia, the striking underwater cliffs, caves, tunnels and arches formed out of a chain of volcanoes that eroded millions of years ago are a haven for tropical fish rarely seen in New Zealand's largely temperate water. Here you will find sharks, moray, coral fish, dolphins, stingrays, migrating whales, orca and occasionally a tropical Hawksbill turtle.

Nearing the tip of the mainland lies the Bay of Islands, an idyllic spot for water sports and big-game fishing, and the birthplace of modern New Zealand, as it was here that Queen Victoria's government and Maori chiefs signed the document ceding the islands to the British Empire in 1840. Venture ashore and try out your fly-fishing skills on huge brown and rainbow trout in the vast rivers of Motu and Tongariro, or in Lake Taupo. The fun also extends to deeper and more remote waters. There have been an estimated 2,300 shipwrecks in the waters around New Zealand since the European settlers arrived in the 1790s, the most notorious being the Greenpeace anti-nuclear boat Rainbow



Warrior. She was sunk in Auckland Harbour but was towed to the Bay of Islands and re-sunk as a memorial. Now technicolour anemones cling to her rails, while seahorses, golden snapper, kingfish and John Dory circle around her.

After your stay in the Bay of Islands, you can disembark VvS1 and fly to South Island for a week of adrenalin-packed adventures (see right), or visit Abel Tasman National Park at the top of South Island for a great chance to explore the countryside and coastline by foot or sea kayak. Alternatively, cruise south to Auckland and on to the clear, clean waters, fjords and coves along the Marlborough Sounds coastline. ■

SOUTH ISLAND

The wild and wonderful South Island of New Zealand offers everything from remote trekking to whale watching. Below are just a few suggestions to get your heart pumping...

BLACK-WATER RAFTING IN THE WAITOMO GLOWWORM CAVES: these tiny creatures provide a galaxy of mellow lights as you sink underground to leap off waterfalls, slink through dark, damp, underground waterways, and abseil off Lost World rock faces.

WALKING THE GLACIERS: take a walk down Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers in the deep south or, for the more fainthearted, try the mountain landscapes along the Milford Track high above the shores of Milford Sound.

WILD IN QUEENSTOWN: New Zealand's adrenalin capital, if not the world's, Queenstown is an international skiing Mecca in winter, readily transforming into a hot spot in summer, too.

STALKING KIWIS AT NIGHT: deep in the south of the island, wild kiwis (birds!) forage for their supper amongst the seaweed.

JET BOATING: for a real adrenalin rush of speed, jet boating is available along most of the major rivers.

WHITE-WATER RAFTING: this is particularly challenging on the Shotover, Kawarau and Rangitata rivers.

THE ULTIMATE JUMP: tackle the original bungee package starting with the Kawarau Suspension Bridge, then on to The Ledge at Bob's Peak.

THE WINE-GROWING REGIONS: this is ideal cycling country. The terrain is not too steep, and vineyard tastings provide ample refreshment. Stage your own tour in the sun-drenched Marlborough region.

THE HILLS NEAR ARROWTOWN: one of New Zealand's premiere golf courses, and host of the forthcoming New Zealand Golf Open, this is a private course but CNI can organise a round of golf for clients chartering VvS1.

For further information on chartering VvS1 around New Zealand, contact your nearest CNI charter broker.



Tress in distress hair care

City or deck, beachside or condo, winter or summer, hair care is a year-round business, wherever in the world you may be. **sea&i** talks to the experts to find out the long and the short of de-stressing tresses

By Sophie Reeves

Stress, pollution, hormones, poor diet... modern-day life can certainly take its toll, but we usually associate its negative effects with the condition of our skin and general health: sunburn and hormones play havoc with the skin, pollution can impact on our lungs, and poor diet causes us to gain weight and can lead to diverse health conditions. While these concerns cannot be underestimated there is a further, often neglected, casualty of all these agents... our hair.

However careful we are, our hair is constantly affected by both internal (diet, hormones) and external (sun, pollution, salt water, chemicals, heat-damage) factors. Here we look at some of the common culprits in the city and on holiday, and suggest how you can help 'life-proof' your hair.

DAILY DAMAGE

In our everyday lives we tend to subject our hair to a great deal of stress. Direct heat, such as blow-drying, straighteners and curling tongs, can damage split ends, while air-conditioning and central heating can sap the moisture from hair, causing it to become dry, brittle and limp.

In addition to this we tend to apply a medley of styling products, residues of which can build-up over time, dulling hair and congesting the scalp. Fortunately, there are things we can do to counteract the damage.

The only way to combat split ends properly is to have a regular trim every six to eight weeks. In between times you can



help protect and disguise damaged ends from the worst effects of heat-styling with a good thermal protecting product, such as Paul Mitchell Heat Seal — a humidity resistant spray that helps prevent damage caused by heated appliances and which contains Panthenol to reduce the likelihood of split ends and help repair surface damage. →





Paul Mitchell also has a Super Strong Treatment that is well suited for city life. It is a weekly conditioning treatment containing Moringa Pterygosperma seed extract which is believed to help protect hair from environmental pollution and UV damage.

There are also good-care practises you can adopt, such as always using the nozzle on your hairdryer to minimise heat damage; gently wrapping your hair in a towel rather than vigorously towel-drying; and never brushing your hair when it is wet — instead, always use a wide-toothed comb.

Celebrity hair stylist Jonathan Gale also has these words of advice on the type of products you might think of using on your hair: “Conditioners are necessary but do not penetrate as well as oils. Oil nourishes and protects at the same time. It helps to decrease the porosity in the hair, making any colour less damaging.” Gale recommends Dr Hauschka Neem Hair Oil for coarse, thick hair in particular as it works well as a calming, styling serum.

Another stressed hair saver is Paul Yakomine’s ingenious Hair Repair Kit, which has been designed for badly damaged hair. It comprises a set of three bottles, and you simply combine a few drops from each, customising the amount to your particular needs and adapting the concentrations of each depending on seasonal and environmental changes. Protective and deeply conditioning, the set is ideally sized for travel.

It is also important to ‘detox’ your hair occasionally, especially if you wear it loose as it will be more exposed to pollution and environmental elements, as well as the residue of products that you might apply in the form of sprays, serums and gels. A decongesting shampoo such as the Bain Clarifiant Système Clarté-Tonic, from the Kérastase Spécifique collection, is ideal for refreshing the hair and scalp as it removes styling build-up and enhances shine. To give your hair a much-needed holiday from over-washing, a gentle cleanser such as Scalp Cleanser from Australian company Aesop can work wonders. This cleanses hair fibres and rids the scalp of oil-secretion build up, preventing the need for heavy conditioners as well as both enhancing the wellbeing and the appearance of your hair.

Finally, diet is a major component of healthy hair. It is important to include plenty of protein, calcium, iron and vitamins to nourish and strengthen your hair from the inside out, so incorporate chicken, fish, nuts, dairy products, green vegetables and red meat into your regular diet.

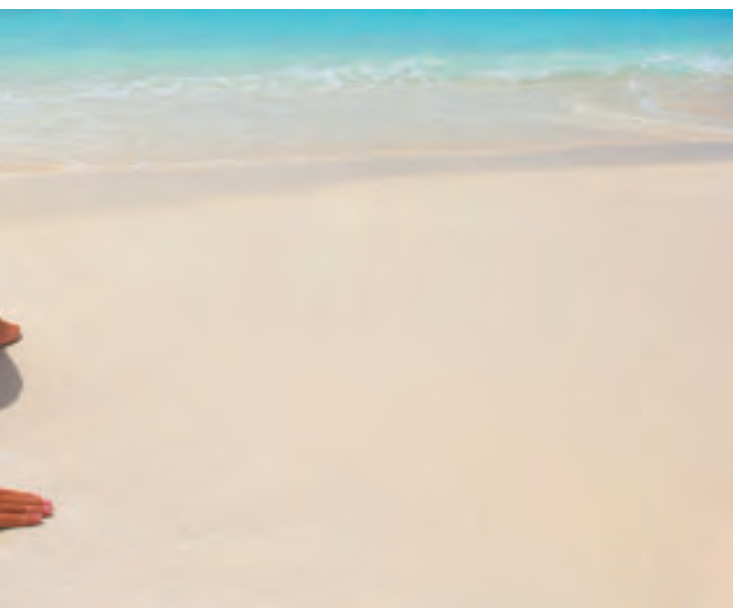
BRIGHT IDEAS

Heading for the sun may give our spirits a lift but it does the opposite for our hair. “More damage can be done to your hair during a two-week holiday in the sun than the combined environmental assaults through the rest of the year,” says Trevor Sorbie, multi-award-winning British Hairdresser of the Year, who



has created a Replenishing Thermal Wrap to help nurture stressed hair. “Ultra-violet rays that change the colour of your skin have an effect on your hair too, depleting its natural oils and sapping moisture,” he continues. “Strong winds whip unprotected hair into a tangle, causing breakage and split ends, chlorinated and salt water lead to colour fade and curl droop, and salt grains magnify the effect of the sun’s harmful rays while ripping away at the cuticles which leads to dry, lifeless hair.”

With hair constantly under attack, it’s vital to be on guard with specially formulated products and a good dose of sun sense.



Haircare expert Redken has been doing a lot of research into sun protection. Dr David Cannell, head of Redken research and development in New York says: “During sun exposure the hair and scalp experience many physical and chemical changes. The cuticle thins, the surface of each hair strand becomes rough and the melanin begins to disintegrate.” Redken’s UV Rescue range includes protective oils, to help prevent sun-parched hair and maintain moisture levels, and a dedicated range of UV Rescue products for after-sun exposure, such as its After-Sun Shampoo, Conditioner and Recovery Treat.



UV rays cause damage by penetrating the cuticle of the hair, sapping it of vital lipids and damaging the structure of hair, causing it to become dry and weak. What’s more, this loss of lipids means salt and chlorine have an easier job attacking the hair fibre and doing their damage, the consequences of which can be irreversible. “Just like your skin, hair needs protection from the harsh elements of summer sun,” reinforces Jane Barnett, Kérastase education manager. “Remember, if you protect your hair through the summer, you won’t have to spend time trying to repair it through to the next season”. There are many good products that can help you protect your hair, both before and during sun, sea and pool exposure. The Kérastase Soleil UV Défense collection has a Voile Protecteur spray and a new Crème UV Défense Active for pre-sun protection, as well as a new Bain Après Soleil and Masque UV Défense Active for after-sun exposure.

As well as UV-specific products, there are other measures you can take to promote the health of your hair. US haircare expert L’Anza recommends rinsing hair thoroughly with clean water immediately after swimming to minimise build-up. It is also a good idea to wear a hat in the sun and a swimming cap whenever you’re in the water. Arranging hair in an ‘up do’ will also help to minimise its exposure to the harmful rays of the sun. To counteract damage, L’Anza’s Daily Chelating Shampoo gently removes chlorine, product and pollution, its Daily Hydrating Conditioner can be left on during sunbathing to shield and soften hair, and its Daily UV Protector helps guard against three forms of damaging UV rays.

Many people are also concerned about whether it’s safe to colour their hair just before going on holiday. On this point, Gary Hooker and Michael Young, British Colour Technicians of the Year for Matrix, recommend you avoid having deep, rich hair colour treatments before sun exposure as they can end up looking washed out. Blonde highlights with multi-tonal shades, on the other hand, can be enhanced by sun exposure but it is vital you first apply a protective spray. It’s also important to invest in an appropriate after-sun shampoo and conditioner, such as Matrix Biolage Sun Sorials Sun Repair Treatment or the new KMS California Sol Perfection Shampoo or All Day Defense.

A regular in-salon conditioning treatment and trim is also a vital part of any hair-maintenance programme. Ultimately, it’s well worth remembering that our hair is up to a third more fragile and likely to break when it is wet. Holidays often involve a great deal of time spent in the sea or pool, as well as frequent washing to get rid of salt and sand and to keep it looking its best for the evening, so as well as using the right products and protecting your hair with hats, caps and serums, make sure you give it that extra bit of TLC when you handle it, too. ■



Main picture:

Rococo has been creating its chocolate delicacies since 1983

Top right: The line up from L'artisan du Chocolat



Box of delights

gourmet chocolate

Rising to one of its toughest challenges yet, *sea&i* samples some of the greatest masters in the world of gourmet chocolate, and suggests a prestigious selection to keep your taste buds reeling

By Kate Rigby

Forrest Gump hit the nail on the head when he uttered his memorable observation that: “Life is like a box of chocolates... you never know what you’re gonna get”. The delicacies we are invited to sink our teeth into today are a culinary masterpiece and an art form deliciously rolled into one, and their creators are becoming ever more daring in their mix of ingredients and presentation — there really is no telling where their innovation will take us next.

Chocolate is no new thing; it has been sought after, savoured and celebrated since the time of the Maya some 2,600 years ago, although some anthropologists believe it was enjoyed by civilisations previous even to this. However, the past few decades in →

Right: Amedei's chocolate hails from all over the world

Below: The bean-to-bar journey is a highly complex process, akin to the evolution of a great wine

particular have seen masters of chocolate exploding the boundaries of creativity and taking their devoted followers on a roller coaster of taste sensations of which Willy Wonka himself would have been proud. From balsamic to tobacco leaf to curry to wasabi, it seems there is no end of daring creations.

Chocolate has become a serious business, inspiring certain gourmet chefs to turn their back on the restaurant scene and dedicate their culinary expertise solely to producing the most exquisite truffles. This multibillion dollar industry drives ever-dedicated 'chocolatiers' to travel from South America to Madagascar in search of the ultimate bean, while companies celebrating more than 200 years of chocolate expertise are still dreaming up exquisite new creations that lure us with decadent design and more than treat the taste buds.

FROM BEAN TO BAR

Just as in winemaking the soil-to-barrel-to-bottle journey involves long, skilful and measured expertise, the soil-to-bean-to-bar evolution is a similarly calculated and delicate process. Alessio Tessieri, half of the brother and sister team of Pisa-based award-winning haute chocolatiers Amedei reflects: "In the beginning, my biggest surprise was to realise that cocoa can be compared to grapes. A good wine is born in the vineyard; a good chocolate originates in a plantation."

What's more, once the bean has been nurtured, tasted, transported, toasted, crushed, conched (the process of aromatic development) and tempered (a heating and cooling process to solidify the cacao butter), it can then be blended with a careful selection of choice ingredients, much like the blending of different grapes to achieve the perfect keynotes in



wine. The similarity doesn't end there. Once the tasting process begins, a whole vocabulary ripples up to describe the delicate subtleties of each individual masterpiece. As an expert sampler delicately nibbles the corner of a specimen, you may hear mention of raisin undertones, bitter, toasty sweetness, a hint of nut, woody and floral notes, and even "its exceptional length in mouth".

Cocoa beans can hail from as far away as Grenada, Santo Domingo, Ecuador, Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, Madagascar and São Tomé — each region, and indeed each plantation, celebrating its own distinct characteristics and undertones, much like vineyards.

Enthusing over the ongoing evolution in perfecting gourmet chocolate, Tessieri of Amedei says: "The culture of chocolate is the continuous search of pleasure in which technique is bound to creativity and experimentation derived from passion for our work. This is a passion that leads us to continuously move the balance among aromas, perfumes and tastes." The search for perfection has taken Amedei far afield. Its Chuao is an exclusive cacao grown in Venezuela on farmland accessible only by sea. In the past its production was reserved solely for the Spanish Royal Family, but Alessio rediscovered it and his sister Cecilia has transformed it into chocolate with an unforgettable flavour.

And then, of course, there are those who devote their talents purely to transforming chocolate into their own works of art.

TASTE SENSATIONS

Long gone are the days of the once-exotic, now humdrum rum truffle; today chocolates boast every ingredient from gin to green tea to flower essences, spices, herbs and fruit — many honouring nature with seasonal offerings such as peach or grapefruit-pink-peppercorn or rose-geranium leaves. Haute chocolatiers concur that one of the delights of chocolate is the pure pleasure of discovery; biting in and absorbing the subtle interplay of flavours and textures, carefully paired for their harmonious characters. To create such effects, some draw on local, organic ingredients while others look further afield for inspiration, with Moroccan mint tea, Indian tamarind, Thai lemongrass and Portuguese fig infusing their creations.

Geneviève Grandbois in eastern Canada offers a menu of chocolates that sounds as tempting as it tastes. Its Fruit de la Passion, for example, is a dark ganache flavoured with passion fruit purée and a dash of Thai coconut milk; its Chai is a delicate infusion of Indian black tea, ginger, black pepper, star anise and cardamom; and its Chuao collection, created with connoisseurs in mind, is made with the previously mentioned Amedei Chuao. Treats include Balsamico: a ganache flavoured with 12-year aged balsamic vinegar; Truffe Blanche: a ganache flavoured with white truffle oil; and Monte Cristo: a ganache infused with Monte Cristo cigar leaves.

US and Paris-based chef turned chocolate-artiste extraordinaire, Christopher Elbow also excels in the delicate designs of his creations. His Russian Tea is a dark chocolate ganache infused with black tea, scents of citrus, bergamot and spices. It is exquisitely presented as a square of dark chocolate topped with a band of contrasting cream enhanced by swirls in a soft, musky blue. His Strawberry-Balsamic Caramel, a strawberry purée cooked to a golden caramel and seasoned with balsamic vinegar from Modena, meanwhile, is a mini volcano of perfection, cased in yellow and red lava-like swirls.

US-based Knipschildt Chocolatier, headed by former celebrity chef Fritz Knipschildt is another haven of exoticism. Many of his chocolates take a woman's name. Francesca is a dark ganache infused with port wine and finished with a flame raisin; Hannah is a creamy caramel in dark chocolate sprinkled with pink Hawaiian sea salt. The London and US-based Rococo, meanwhile, will tempt you with its eclectically eccentric range. Chantal Coady, the founder, says, "Chocolate should never take itself too seriously". Thus you have exotic →



THE ART OF SAMPLING

FIRST, SELECT YOUR MOMENT: *tasting chocolate is an art and a pleasure that draws on all the senses. Take your time and allow all your senses to linger over the details for a complete experience.*

AROMA: *absorb the rich scent of the faraway country from which the chocolate derives and allow your imagination to wander to that exotic land.*

APPEARANCE: *revel in the detail, the colour, the delicate design; appreciate the surface texture and colour of the chocolate.*

TOUCH: *enjoy the sensually smooth casing, the finest dusting of powder on top, or the tingly sensation of tracing a fingertip over a rippled finish, or one clustered with a light grating of nuts.*

SOUND: *revel in the crisp snap of brittleness as a delicate casing gives way to the delights within.*

TASTE: *place the chocolate on the centre of your tongue, chew slowly and let the taste linger for several seconds as it melts and releases its rich profusion of flavours.*



EDUCATE YOUR TASTE BUDS

For a novel initiation in chocolate tasting, invest in La Maison du Chocolat's Initiation Gift Box (right).

It presents 20 of its most celebrated chocolates in the correct order of tasting, guiding you on a unique gourmet journey of chocolate appreciation. Or treat yourself to Vosges' Sensory Collection (below), which emphasises scent as a medium to enrich your tasting experience. Vials of aromas awaken and identify tastes on your palate — perfect for your own personal chocolate journey or to share at a party.



pairings the likes of saffron and cardamom in white chocolate, or gin and lemon. The Luxury Tea Collection is just one of the creative ideas from Christopher Norman Chocolates of New York. This unique collection of teas is blended with chocolate ganache and swathed in dark chocolate, allowing you to pour over a smoky Lapsang Souchong, fragrant China Rose, sensuous Green Tea, or tropical Mango.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

Along with the full complement of flavours, there is also a startling flow of inspiring designs that represents another whole dimension in chocolate artisanship. One of the most remarkable is the London-based L'artisan du Chocolat, which excels in harmonising gourmet innovation with bijou appeal. Its South Sea Pearls are tiny dark chocolate truffles, wrapped in a delicate layer of white chocolate and edible pearlescent pigments. They are the image of real South Sea pearls, presented in an Ecrin box — as tantalising a display as any gems in a prestigious jeweller's window. Pop these works of art in your mouth and you'll savour their intense smoky and earthy notes. Elaborating on their conception, Anne Weyns, owner of L'artisan du Chocolat, says: "South Sea pearls are the rarest, casting a glow like no other. It takes decades to match and assemble these gems as it takes decades to plant, harvest, blend and process the best cocoa beans to form the most exquisite chocolates. It is our tribute to the real pearls." The company also has Tahitian pearls, as well as infinite, exquisitely flavoured and crafted 'regular' chocolates — including its beautifully presented Couture Collection.

Across the channel in France (and also available in the US), award-winning Michel Cluizel's artistic creations have been delighting samplers since 1948. The Caramel Mushroom is one of the company's bestsellers, with its stem made of caramel and sweet butter, and its cap of crumbly almond nougatine. A more recent addition to the world of chocolate gastronomy is renowned pastry chef Oriol Balaguer, whose tasteful creations are inspired by design and architecture and presented in 30 different variations.



BOXING CLEVER

Though the frivolity of some designs may detract from the fact, packaging, like the product it envelops, is an equally serious business. A queen among them is the multi award-winning Debaube & Gallais, founded in 1800 and official chocolatier of Louis XVIII, Charles X and Louis Philippe, as well as garnering favour across Europe. History buffs will adore its Marie-Antoinette Special box featuring 12 pieces of chocolate for \$245. Originally introduced by company founder Sulpice Debaube, the French Royal Family chemist, these chocolate ‘coins’ were developed for Marie Antoinette to overcome her reluctance in taking medicine. For pure regal esteem, its Le Royale is presented in a trademark blue, grey and gold embossed box that was originally handmade exclusively for royalty before becoming available in 1913 to lesser mortals — albeit ones that can afford to splurge up to \$650 a box.

For exquisite novelty though, Le Livre is a gold-embossed leather box in the shape of a book. Each one is handmade in France and presents 35 creamy ganaches and crunchy pralinés along with a book on the history of the company. At \$550 it is small change compared to Le Grand Louis XVI collection at a cool \$900 a box.

Meanwhile, Godiva, founded in Brussels, Belgium, in 1926, and now with nearly 300 speciality boutiques in major US cities including New York, as well as representation in over 80 other countries, ensures its packaging is as world-famous as the chocolates inside it.

But among the highest of the current dream-theme chocolate charts is surely US-based Vosges’ Groove Collection. Each box includes a booklet tracing the historical significance of 12 musical eras, 12 chocolate truffles (each incorporating popular ingredients of the era), and a CD featuring 12 songs from African-American artists. The limited edition Luxe Groove Truffle Collection includes all the above encased in a hand-numbered, collectable Lucite box sparkling with Swarovski crystals.

Vosges has perhaps hit on something with this. The trend to stretch the boundaries of taste sensation sees chocolate celebrated like never before — music to the ears of many a chocoholic. You truly never can tell what you might get next. ■

From top left: Tahitian and South Sea Chocolate Pearls from L’artisan du Chocolat; Oriol Balaguer’s Gracias, Gracias, Thanks collection; Le Livre from Debaube & Gallais; the limited edition Luxe Groove Collection from Vosges

WHATEVER WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT?

Here are just a few of the weird and wonderful chocolates you can sample...

L’artisan du Chocolat (based in London, UK): Banana and thyme, black cardamom, lumi (sun-dried lime), chestnut tree honey, tonka beans, sea-salted caramel and tobacco. Sahagun (based in Portland, USA): Marion berries from Sauvie Island, rose geranium from a treasured private herb patch, and toasted pumpkinseeds and jalapeno.



heli-fishing

f. High fiers

Swoop down in your private helicopter to a remote mountain stream, cast a line, soak up the tranquil wilderness, and prepare to land the biggest catch you've ever set eyes on

By Kate Rigby



Have you ever traced the swift, graceful flight of an eagle as it soars into a wilderness of open sky and envied its ease as it turns on a dime? Have you watched with bated breath as it sweeps down to a remote clearing, skims the crystal-clear water, claws primed to hooks, to emerge with a plump, writhing, fresh salmon the likes of which only the most solitary waters can nurture?

This ability to soar effortlessly above the world, surveying

vast tracts of landscape and seeking out pristine, private hunting grounds has long been the preserve of birds of prey, but now, thanks to the emergence of heli-fishing, this incredible experience is being extended to fishers of the human variety.

Fly-fishing has been around a while, but things have changed somewhat since primitive man first honed a shard of bone into a fishing hook some 30,000 years ago. Nowadays there is an arsenal of high-tech equipment available to the keen →



fisher. But while the tools have improved immeasurably with time, the wiliness of fish has also increased; meanwhile their numbers have depleted so significantly that fly-fishing is, for many, no longer the sport it once was. That's where heli-fishing has come into its own – not only does it enable you to access earth's most remote, tranquil wildernesses but, due to the isolation they live in, the fish there are as ripe to catch as they are plentiful.

Heli-fishing is not, as many presume, a matter of dangling a line from the heady heights of a helicopter; it is, instead, the opportunity to be transported to otherwise inaccessible stretches of river: up mountains, deep amid forests, or literally in the middle of nowhere where the lack of roads makes alternative access virtually impossible – such as in areas of New Zealand.

It was here that heli-fishing found its roots in the 1980s, and the country still offers some of the finest heli-fishing opportunities in the world. Equally desirable destinations include the likes of Canada, Alaska, Patagonia and Africa.

Nimmo Bay in British Columbia, Canada, has earned particular acclaim for its excellent heli-fishing opportunities. The resort comprises six inter-tidal chalets and three stream-side chalets accommodating up to 18 guests in the pristine wilderness beneath Mount Stevens near Port McNeill. The entire resort can be exclusively reserved for one party, giving guests full access to its floating Main Lodge (with plump leather couches, cedar and pine interior and local artwork), floating bakery, cedar hot-tubs luxuriating beneath a cascading waterfall and a hot outdoor, rainforest shower, along with fantastic cuisine (cue plenty of fresh, local fish) home-made ice-cream, and massage treatments. And then, of course, there is the heli-fishing.

“The rivers out here are alive with fish and there are dozens of rivers to choose from,” enthuses Craig Murray of Nimmo Bay. “Your pilot-guide can sweep over some 30,000 square miles, from sea level up to 2,133 metres, (7,000 feet). Depending on

your skill, each day you may get to catch (and release) upwards of 20 fish. The helicopter is exclusively yours all day, so if the bite goes off you simply fly to another fishing paradise – generally more beautiful and productive than the one you just left.”

The ‘bite’ on offer in this part of the world belongs to trout, coho, Chinook, chum or pink salmon – all found in abundance and available to both novice and expert anglers alike between April and October. River gear, all-weather gear, fly-fishing gear, spinning gear and terminal tackle is all provided, or you can bring your own, but the fishery has a catch-and-release policy so permits only barbless hooks. Steelhead are a particular favourite here, and fly cast, spin or drift fishing can be employed to catch these mystical fish, weighing anything up to 30 pounds.

For fly-fishers, an eight-weight rod using reels lined with floating line/sink tip is recommended, and 250 to 300 yards of backing behind the fly line is necessary. A 12lb test spin line or drift line should be used for anglers using this style of gear.

Once kitted out, each A-Star helicopter can transport four anglers and two professional guides to six major classified waters of the British Columbian central coast, plus many remote rivers of northern Vancouver Island. A delicious lunch is included as part of your day, and spectacular scenery comes as standard. Misted forests, towering mountains, crystal-clear rivers and landscapes abounding with grizzly bears, wolf, cougar and eagles make this an ultimate wilderness adventure and, aside from your companions and guides, you only have the great outdoors to accompany you.

On the other side of the world, Poronui Ranch in the Taharua valley southeast of Taupo on New Zealand’s spectacular North Island is equally enticing. This 16,000-acre estate has been home to Maori hunters and English settlers over the course of its history, and now the dramatic beech forests, alpine meadows, and mountain creeks, rivers and streams welcome guests to angle for brown and rainbow trout. Around 40 kilometres (25 miles) of water is at your disposal, but helicopters with highly experienced pilot-guides are on hand to whisk you further afield to other fishing spots along the Ngaruroro and Rangitikei rivers and remote streams. Given the excellent waters in the area, heli-fishing is not always necessary, but it does give you that extra option, particularly if the early-season rains leave river levels too high in the lower waters. In such a case the mountain headwaters often still offer perfect fishing conditions, and the helicopters can get you to these spots quickly and easily. What’s more, the flight itself, whisking you deep into the heart of the mountains, is an unbelievable experience in itself.

The trophy waters deep in the mountains in this part of the world can be hugely challenging – fat trout drift in deep pools



and a catch requires experience, cunning, patience and accuracy, but the rewards are great – generally resulting in the largest catch of a lifetime.

Along with the testing alpine freestone streams, Poronui has shallow, gentle streams for more novice anglers, and for experts and beginners alike there are always guides on hand to impart extensive angling knowledge and advice. Back at the ranch, full luxury in the way of health club facilities, one of New Zealand’s finest underground cellars, and excellent accommodation and cuisine ensure it’s not all about the primitive wilderness.

Speaking of wilderness, another inspiring heli-fishing spot is Mount Kenya in Africa. Staying at Borana Lodge on the edge of the Samangua Valley, you can reside in complete luxury in the heart of the Kenyan bush, complete with wandering elephants, big cats, zebra and buffalo, and then jump into a helicopter to scale the heights of Mount Kenya to cast a line for some somewhat smaller, but nevertheless very compelling, game of your own. ■

Opening page: Nimmo Bay resort in British Columbia, Canada

Above left and right: Helicopters can transport you to the glacial rivers of British Columbia

Top, above and left: Heli-fishing provides a great opportunity to enjoy sweeping aerial views of spectacular landscapes



art on board

MAKING STATEMENTS

Selecting art for your yacht is no different from choosing art for your home. Go with your heart and always think outside the frame

By Alison Henry

Focus. Resonance. Mood. Attitude. These are the base points for choosing and using art in your home or on board your yacht. But what is art? I ask this not to open up some raging debate but to draw your mind to a few essential truths.

Art, like beauty is always in the eye of the beholder, and true art, to me, is that which causes a reaction. It can be how you react to a Monet or a Degas, a Chihuly chandelier, a piece of Lalique, a marquetry panel, an arrangement of photographs or simply a wall crafted of beautiful wood.

One of the most wonderful things about art is that it has so many levels. For example, when I look at a piece of art I always see the story behind it. A certain process has had to unfold to climax in the piece I am viewing, and appreciating this process and evolution can be as engaging as the finished product. Another truth about art is that it makes us feel something. It can be controversial, disturbing, enlightening or pleasurable – you may love it or hate it but you'll always respond to it.

'Art' is a very broad term; it can take many forms, typically as paintings, photography, objects, collections of objects and sculptures. For me, an installation of light can be art, just as a series of textiles can be creatively displayed with astonishingly beautiful results.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LAYERS

When I design any room or space, I know that it has to have 'direction' or a focal point. This is where your eye is drawn and everything else is pivotal around this focal point. Art is a truly wonderful medium for achieving this. To put this into context, think about boarding a boat from a stern deck that is lit with candles and decorated with flowers. The naked flames set the tone but the internal lighting will also flood out and attract your eye. Something as simple as this can be construed as a form of artwork. But, of course, there is also a much bigger picture to consider.

To my way of thinking, a yacht in its entirety is one giant piece of sculptural art; it is the first layer. The second layer is your appreciation and reaction to the yacht as a whole. The third layer is the detail. And this is where art really comes into play. My idea of art on board is not to fill every nook and cranny with pieces, it is about picking out the key areas and letting those pieces stand alone and stand out.

I always like art to have a theme. It is particularly important on a yacht, however, because you have to maximise space. I know of one boat, MY Monte Carlo, which has a theme based on a Texan artist. On another, MY Royal Eagle, there is a nautical theme that has been so beautifully conceived that it would →

Opposite page:

A Lalique eagle – one of only three in existence – makes a bold statement on board Excellence III



Left: The 40.25m (132') Monte Carlo has an eclectic collection of modern fine art on board

Below: Throughout the 42.7m (140') Royal Eagle is a wonderful selection of nautical artwork from Christies and Sotheby's



not look at all out of place as an exhibit at the National Maritime Museum.

Another important consideration is the fact that a yacht moves, so any artwork you select will need to be fixed. Bearing these points in mind, the first step is to consider what style of architecture you're working with on board: is it traditional or modern? Consider natural light. Are you in the northern or southern hemisphere? What look are you aiming for? I especially love art and sculpture on a grand scale. I am not taken by what I call miniatures; art needs to make a statement and needs to be positioned so as to command attention.

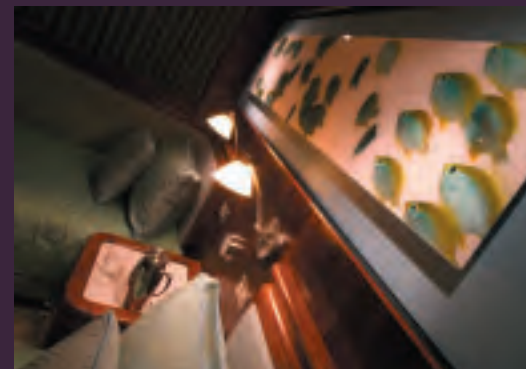
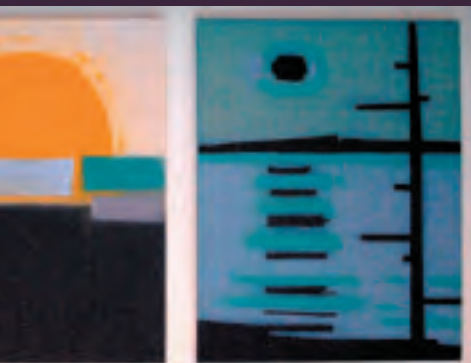
ART FORMS

If we look at the display of art in a straightforward way then the general rules to apply are: only buy what you love; light the piece appropriately, and position it so as to command attention within the space it occupies.

However, if we look at art and sculpture on board in a more extraordinary fashion, and take our lead from the idea that the yacht is art in itself, then a whole new world can open up. The bar can be a form of sculpture, so too the bath. Whole walls

of lit glass can give the impression of being beneath the sea; the furniture itself can be as sculptural as it is beautiful; even light installations can be a whole art form in their own right. In designing any area, or objects to highlight it, the key is to understand the nature and function of the space and so fill it with a sympathetic design. Remember, above all, that this is a private space. Let that be your overriding lead and first consideration as it is a reflection of you and your family and of what interests you.

I would argue that almost anything can become art. As mentioned earlier, a group of photographs can be a wonderful feature, whether in a mishmash Ralph Lauren manner that crowds a wall, or in a more contemporary, clean way, with matching frames and mounts. Taking this idea further, you could sandwich the prints within Perspex or glass and hang them to divide a space so that there is a story for one side of the room and a completely different tale on the other. This concept would also work with a display of beautiful textiles or precious documents. Taking this theme into a three-dimensional form, you could create cavities within a wall to house a collection of objects. In this instance, you could use glass that can be lit so



Above and all photographs to the right: So impressive is the artwork aboard Monte Carlo, a docent has been appointed to oversee the collection
Left: A sculpture of the Hindu goddess Parvati, aboard the yacht of the same name



as to be either opaque or clear to create different impressions and moods.

The lighting on board can also become its own art form, from light fixtures to whole walls of lit glass controlled to suit your mood. Chandeliers and dome lights (most notably by Chihuly and Anish Kapoor, respectively) are the way to create wow factor. I would even go so far as to say that a collection of wine can be displayed sculpturally and cleverly lit and be on display as a feature of the dining room.

KNOW YOUR SPACE

One of the key things to consider is where to place your art. The area to focus on as far as making an impact is concerned is the point of arrival, so as to establish the overall impression. The deck then flows through to the reception rooms where your eye can appreciate the space and then be drawn to look beyond to see the depth of thought, the attention to detail, the finer pieces and the collectibles, all of which together create this particular 'whole'.

Bedrooms are also a good place for art. There is a lot of scope to open up the space in bedrooms – perhaps a half divisional

art wall between the bed and bathroom. Speaking of bathrooms, these offer the perfect opportunity to use glass relief in a way that is totally sculptural, and the use of glass in steam rooms is just beginning to be experimented with which will no doubt lead to some exciting ideas. Ditto in a dressing room; wardrobe doors can be panelled with the most beautiful and extraordinary designs: marquetry springs to mind, as do hand-painted fabric panels, be they with a design of birds, coral, fish, flowers or leaves.

However, one of my favourite areas for innovative artistic effects is the cinema or entertainment room: here we are talking chess, cards, bridge, games and film. I might back-light a black and white onyx table – as fabulous and sculptural and pure as a bar and as inherently a part of the room.

Ultimately, whatever area or style you are working with, my rule is always to firstly throw out the rules and play with the ideas and story behind the ideas. Explore the various themes and interests that you find there, then rein yourself back in and focus on just one statement art piece per space; let it set the tone for the whole area that surrounds it, then sit back and enjoy. ■



hot off the press

On charter in 2008

They say the best things come to those who wait, and those who have a penchant for all that is new and remarkable will do well to remain patient and keep their eye on the yachts that are currently undergoing their all-important finishing touches before they launch onto the 2008 charter market. Flawlessly conceived and executed, each of the yachts profiled here are the culmination of years of work, thousands of inspired ideas and decades of experience



AMNESIA

Launching in March 2008, the latest Amnesia to kiss the water is the third in the line. Paying homage to the two Amnesia sisterships who came before her, she nevertheless has her own unique identity that will set her apart in the charter market.

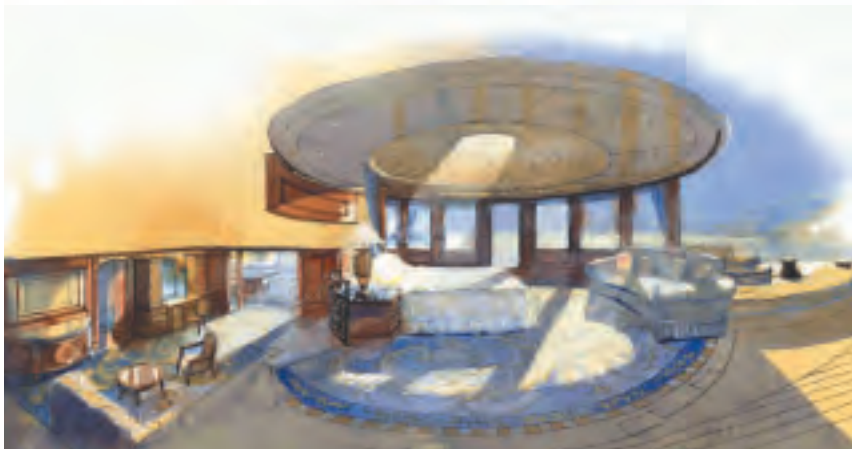
The new Amnesia is the combination of her owner's inspiration and the joint expertise of the Italian Benetti shipyard and Redman Whiteley Dixon. At 60m in length she comfortably accommodates her 12 guests and up to 16 crew members. The emphasis on space was a prime concern in her design; her owner was keen to maximise her potential for socialising so on every level there is great importance placed on stylish leisure, with an impressive collection of water toys, bar areas, silver-service dining, a sun deck Jacuzzi, gymnasium and massage rooms. But the rooms themselves are as conducive to relaxation as any of the leisure facilities, the pure elegance of the design invites you to relax, the Owner's suite being a prime example with its mix of natural daylight and subtle lighting, abundance of space and precise, modern design. Amnesia will be available for charter in the Mediterranean in summer 2008 and the Caribbean the following winter.

LENGTH	60m (196.8')
BEAM	10.4m (34')
DRAUGHT	3.2m (10.5')
BUILDER	Benetti
YEAR	2008
GUESTS	12
CREW	15/16





ANDREW WINCH DESIGNS LTD © PHOTOGRAPHY 133



XANADU

Making her debut in summer 2008, the 59.4m Xanadu is another Benetti project, this time in partnership with Andrew Winch designs, and again with considerable involvement from the owner. In conceiving her interior, Winch looked to the grand hotels of the Italian Riviera for his inspiration, creating an area that is flooded with natural light and that exudes a palatial-like artistic elegance and grandeur. A striking feature is the floating staircase that spirals from the lower to the upper deck at the heart of the yacht, linking the various delights of her sun deck Jacuzzi, bar, and Teppanyaki BBQ, dining areas and accommodation. Sleeping 12 guests, attended by 16 crew, Xanadu is a remarkable addition to the Mediterranean and Caribbean charter scene.

LENGTH59.4m (196.8')
BEAM10.4m (34')
DRAUGHT3.2m (10.5')
BUILDERBenetti
YEAR2008
GUESTS12
CREW16

ODESSA

Also adding her weight to the West Mediterranean and Caribbean waters is Odessa – the 50m (164') motor yacht recently launched from Proteksan-Turquoise Construction Inc. She can accommodate 12 guests in an owner's and VIP cabin on the main deck and four double and twin cabins on the lower deck. State-of-the-art entertainment systems include iPod docking stations and a cinema with surround sound. There is also plenty of scope for water sports with equipment ranging from snorkelling to towable toys and windsurfers. Flexibility of design means family groups can be easily accommodated and the relaxed feel throughout enhances her suitability for both family charters and couples requiring privacy and style.

LENGTH50m (164')
 BEAM9.3m (30.7')
 DRAUGHT2.95m (9.7')
 BUILDERProteksan-Turquoise Construction Inc
 YEAR2007
 GUESTS12
 CREW11





MARAYA

The word 'Maraya' translates as 'many mirrors' and it is an apt name for the new 54m (177.9') launch that is joining the CNI charter fleet, for the yacht is reflective of many things: elegance, sophistication and glamour among them.

Maraya achieves an equal balance between the very latest technological innovations and luxury comfort. Her contemporary styling and clean minimalist interior, reflecting an almost Zen-like tranquillity, are the work of Claude Misser. Sharp vertical lines meet sweeping curves with beautiful fabrics bringing together the finished look.

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 from the 13 crew.

LENGTH	54.2m (177' 9")
BEAM	10.2m (33' 5")
DRAUGHT	3.5m (11' 5")
BUILDER	CRN Ancona
YEAR	2007
GUESTS	12/14
CREW	13

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broker life face to face with...



Selling superyachts is second nature to Bill Sanderson. He has been a yacht broker since 1975, prior to which he was a boatbuilder in Florida and raced sailboats around the world. One way and another, you could say he knows a thing or two about boats

Bill Sanderson

Bill Sanderson has worked for CNI since 1992 when the 210-year-old company first established its presence in the US. Sanderson heads up CNI's Palm Beach office in Florida, though much of his time is spent on the road, in the air and on the water. *sea&i* catches up with him in one of his rare, spare moments.

How would you describe your typical day's work as a sales broker?

There is no such thing as a 'typical day' in this business. However, my day starts in the office at 5:30am unless I'm travelling. The early start means I can catch up with any emails and information from New Zealand or the Far East. Even during weekends and holidays I rarely miss stopping by the office for several hours if I'm in town, and I carry a Palm and Blackberry at all times to keep track of every development.

My day generally involves briefing brokers about my Centrals, dealing with inquiries generated through the advertising I do, and speaking with my project manager about new-construction projects that he is monitoring on my behalf. New-construction contracts absorb a lot of my time and are one of the most rewarding aspects of the job for me.

In recent years I have been involved in the design and project management of several very high-profile yachts, from 52m (170') Feadships to the largest sloop in the world in 2000, to a re-creation of Ranger – the J boat that successfully defended the America's Cup in 1937.

How much is being a broker an international role?

Travelling is a vital way to stay in touch with all the major yards and to see everyone, either at their place of work or at the three or four annual boat shows that take place around the world. I travel more than 322,000 kilometres (200,000 miles) a year. I am comfortable out of the office and I have a great assistant, however I do not like to be away for any longer than necessary. Just this past weekend I flew to and from New York City in a day for a meeting, I have to show a boat in Savannah next weekend, and I have been to Europe many times over the past couple of months.

As someone who has worked in the industry for more than 30 years what, in your opinion, makes CNI stand apart from all the other yacht brokerage agencies?

CNI offers fantastic support to its brokers. It is a full-service company with specialists in every field of yachting, so brokers have access to all the support we need when working with clients.

When I first started, I sold a 41m (136') Benetti in 1979 for \$2,250,000 and this was one of the biggest, if not the biggest, sales of the year in the industry worldwide. Today this would not even buy a mid-sized Hatteras. The boats are much, much larger, the business is more specialised and buyers demand more, so you need a foolproof infrastructure to support you so you can offer clients a truly comprehensive service.

Is your work as much about people as it is about yachts?

Certainly. Working with a client is generally a long process of defining the type of yacht that is wanted, refining the parameters and then going out and looking for the best match. Over that amount of time you do build up a very strong relationship with your client. In some cases the desire to have exactly the right boat can lead to designing and building in lieu of buying a brokerage yacht

and in such a case you really have to get into the mind of the client to interpret his ideas and shape them into reality. A lot of client-broker relationships develop over many years as clients progress to new yachts. I have a number of clients that have purchased multiple yachts from me, including Dubois sailing yachts, Perinis and Alloy Yachts. I also recently built a J-Class boat for a repeat client who I have worked with for years.

How many yachts might you have on your books at any one time?

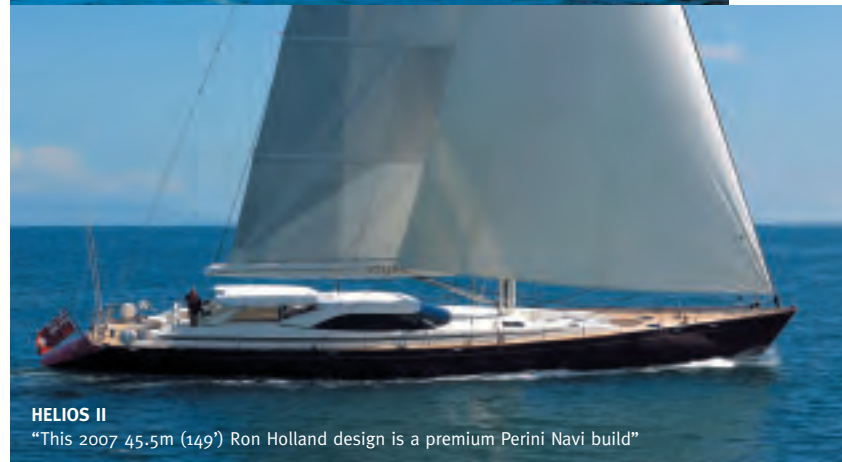
Anything from five to six big motor yachts and eight to ten sailing yachts. I am just in the final stages of selling a 56m (183') sailing yacht for a repeat client and helping him with a project to build a mega motor yacht on which he can keep his helicopter. There are always incredible projects on the cards; it is an extremely exciting time to be working in the superyacht industry. ■



RANGER, 2004
"This 41.57m (136.5') J Class racer from 1937 has been revived in spirit using her original lines and contemporary equipment: a true testament to the '30s"



SOLEMATES
"This 52m (171') Feadship (De Vries) motor yacht was launched in 1999"



HELIOS II
"This 2007 45.5m (149') Ron Holland design is a premium Perini Navi build"

LEADERS & LEA

yacht listings

As George Nicholson was being awarded the Leadership Award by the International Superyacht Society on 25 October 2007, numerous questions sprang to mind as the market is filled with major industry players calling themselves 'leaders' – including, of course, CNI

By Laurent Perignon

On the night of the International Superyacht Society awards, as Bill Curtis, Chairman of *Showboats International* and CurtCo Media, described George Nicholson's yachting path and career before presenting him the Award, anyone attending could not fail to realise that Mr Nicholson has indeed been THE leader in anything superyachting-related for the past 50 years.

From his involvement in the development of brokerage sales to his influence in the rise of charter activities and new construction projects, Mr Nicholson has spearheaded many industry 'firsts'. Among these he lists selling the first brokerage yacht to top one million dollars, in 1964; crossing the Atlantic on Eco using a gas turbine at an average of 25 knots, and refuelling in the middle of the Atlantic; building Kingdom together with late friend Jon Bannenberg and participating in many technological developments of many special yachts; and turning the South of France into the yachting hub that it is today.

CNI currently has more superyachts listed than any other brokerage house, the largest and most versatile charter and managed fleet for yachts above 24m (78') in length, the largest number of yachts sold throughout history and, in recent years, the strongest presence worldwide, as well as the largest number of new construction projects sold in history *and* in recent years. That certainly makes CNI a 'leader' of yacht brokerage. Yet does all that make CNI *the* leader? Is leadership only a question of volume and value of business? Can leadership be justified when looking only at certain segments of the markets, like some do, or does it have to be the bigger picture? Is leadership defined

by how much exposure one pays for via increasing marketing spend, or is it defined by the turnover and level of profit generated? Is leadership defined by a flamboyant image – though it may not be necessarily supported by relevant data – or by the constant search for innovation in services rendered? Or perhaps, in the end, should it be defined by the balance between all such aspects? There is probably no absolute answer; and yet, there could be.

The yacht brokerage industry is still a young and niche market, where a lot of 'confidential' information is not made publicly available. As such, there is a lack of official data that could otherwise be gathered and compiled in order to analyse precisely who the actual leaders are, in which segments, regions, for what volumes, values and so on. These would be useful tools for everyone to improve, perform better, and aim higher.

Unless, and until, that data is professionally collated and reported, no doubt there will remain a flurry of leaders around, the question for any yacht owner or charterer then remains: "Where is my investment or budget, in safe hands?"

As everyone knows, the perception of reality is not reality; and even if yachting is about having fun, it does involve large sums of money. Therefore, when it comes down to financial considerations, as it more than often does, there remains a saying that has reality in any circumstances, 'Above all costs invest in the black to avoid going into the red'.

And on such a note, CNI hopes that you will enjoy this issue's selection of recently listed CNI yachts. ■

DISCERSHIP



TJ Esperanza 50m(164') Amels, 1999

One of the most stylish yachts around, TJ Esperanza (ex ThunderGulch) boasts a stunning Disdale interior, crafted in limed oak and offers spacious areas for relaxing and entertaining. She is in excellent condition.



DAKOTA 49.9m (163'71) Codecasa, 2000

One of the 50m ocean-going series from the renowned Codecasa, this privately owned yacht is considered to be an excellent opportunity in today's market. She boasts accommodation for 12 guests and an elevator to all decks.



GRIFF 43.28m (141'99) Marinteknick, 1994

Ideally suited for corporate charter, Griff offers first-class conference facilities in her main deck boardroom. Combine business with pleasure in her relaxation areas, in particular the full-width saloon/dining area or top-deck Jacuzzi.



TI VOGLIO TANTO BENE 41.6m (136'48) ISA, 2007

TVTB is the fourth and final launch of the ISA 133 series. Her hull structure was modified to allow for more space, a lounge area on the foredeck and a custom garage. She offers accommodation for up to 11 guests in five cabins.



STREAMLINE 41m (135'51) Mondomarine, 2009

Sistership to the Streamline no.1 of the 'Pleasant Line' series, she will launch early in 2009 and still has the choice of two different superstructures and deck versions. She will be delivered MCA compliant and RINA Green Star certified.



NORWEGIAN QUEEN 40.24m (132'02) Westport, 2000

Accommodations include a full-beam master suite with spa, four guest state-rooms, one offering a premium fitness centre. She also has a sky lounge with skylight and hidden flat-screen television, and a six-person Jacuzzi and full bar.



ANTARES 40m (131'23) Royal Huisman, 2005
The largest Dixon design, Antares is a powerful ketch with a large number of automated functions for ease of handling under sail – all of which are subtly integrated in a modern interpretation of a 1930s interior design.



TUMBERRY 38m (124.67') Maiora, 2004
The fastest, newest and most unique Maiora of this size currently available. She accommodates 18 guests in 7 cabins. Extensively equipped, realistically priced and in top condition. VAT & Spanish Matriculation tax paid.



AA ABSOLUTE 36.58m (120') Heesen, 1995
AA Absolute is the ideal Greek cruising vessel. Her original interior design was executed by Art Line and has been updated by Claudette Bonville & Associates. She features ultra modern styling, spacious interior design.



BOJANGLES 30.7m (100.72') Falcon, 2004
A magnificent five-cabin example of this popular model featuring a multi-purpose cabin on the main deck. Maintained without compromise and for sale for the first time, this yacht is an outstanding opportunity. MCA classed.



SPIRIT OF ASHANTI 30.6m (100.39') Tecnomarine, 2006
This 100' Tecnomarine model has a good cruising speed of 27 knots. She was refitted in 2006 under excellent supervision, using superior technology. The yacht offers five spacious double cabins.



ALBAT 30.5m (100.07') Baglietto, 1993
ALBAT cruises at 28 knots in the utmost comfort. Commissioned by demanding owners, she has always been impeccably maintained and has recently passed all major surveys. She is currently lying in the South of France.



MAC BREW 30.5m (100.07') Falcon, 2000
 This Italian-built GRP motoryacht offers accommodation for 10 guests in two large suites and two twin-bedded cabins. She also has a large saloon and media room. She was refitted in 2006/2007 and is MCA compliant.



KATINA 30.48m (100') Hargrave, 2005
 From Hargrave Custom Yachts, Katina has a four-stateroom interior, large salon, sunken bar and country kitchen. The flybridge has a whirlpool spa and wetbar, and comfortable seating area.



CAVU 29.57m (97.01) Sparkman & Stephens, 1983
 Cavu is an exceptionally designed world exploration motor sailor built to accommodate up to eight guests plus crew. She has state-of-the-art electronics and navigation equipment, large fuel capacity and first-rate sails and rigging.



VANILLA 28.8m (94.49) Ferretti, 2002
 The 28.8m Vanilla is one of the few vessels of her size with the owner's cabin on the main deck. She is a substantial fast flybridge yacht with good sea-keeping qualities. She is well equipped and powered by twin MTU 2000 engines.



PICCOLO 26.6m (85.96') Amer, 2006
 An immaculate example of this exciting yard's quality and craftsmanship, she has a wealth of extras, is MCA compliant and has proven to be a fantastic charter yacht. She is in pristine condition throughout. Accommodations for 8.



DARIO ONE 24.2m (79.4) Falcon, 1993
 Well maintained and ready for cruising immediately, Dario One has a stunning, light interior in bird's eye maple, which was upgraded in 2000.

Dreams, & dates destinations



january 08

LONDON BOAT SHOW 11 – 20 JANUARY

ST BARTH'S MUSIC FESTIVAL 11 – 23 JANUARY

DÜSSELDORF BOAT SHOW 19 – 27 JANUARY

MIDEM (THE WORLD'S MUSIC MARKET) CANNES 27 – 31 JANUARY

february 08

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW 6 – 10 FEBRUARY

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW 14 – 18 FEBRUARY

GRENADA CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA 21 – 24 FEBRUARY

MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW 28 FEBRUARY – 2 MARCH

MIAMI FILM FESTIVAL 28 FEBRUARY – 9 MARCH

march 08

MIAMI GRAND PRIX 6 – 9 MARCH

MIPIM (PROPERTY) CANNES, 11 – 14 MARCH

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW 12 – 16 MARCH

PALM BEACH BOAT SHOW 27 – 30 MARCH

ST BARTH'S BUCKET 27 – 30 MARCH

INTERNATIONAL ROLEX REGATTA US VIRGIN ISLANDS 28 – 30 MARCH

april 08

CHINA INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW 1 – 4 APRIL

CROATIA BOAT SHOW 5 – 13 APRIL

MIPTV (AUDIOVISUAL & DIGITAL CONTENT MARKET) CANNES, 7 – 11 APRIL

ANTIGUA CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA 17 – 22 APRIL

BOAT ASIA, SINGAPORE 17 – 20 APRIL

ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK 27 APRIL – 3 MAY

Securing a bank loan on a superyacht

Ersnesto Rollandi, the founder of Studio Legale Rollandi gives **sea&i** an insight into the legal process involved in yacht purchase

The size and value of yacht construction projects and second hand vessels have soared during the last few years. The demand for bank loans in the superyacht and megayacht market has increased accordingly. Specialist banks are nowadays prepared to loan considerable amounts to potential owners. However, banks and/or lenders involved in the industry invariably demand security before processing the loan. Recently Rollandi International Lawyers has been involved in a number of financial operations involving superyachts and megayachts under construction and secondhand vessels.

What legal steps are banks and/or lenders taking in order to secure their loan?

Initially, the lender sends an application form to the owner and makes enquires in order to gain more information on the following:

I. the personal assets of the owner;

II. the superyacht or megayacht;

III. the financial objectives in respect of the proposed loan, should the vessel be chartered out for commercial purposes.

We are confident that such practices can be correctly construed as an activity of 'risk assessment' and, therefore, it is a necessary requirement for any lender in order to be able to process the application lodged by a potential owner.

As far as the personal assets of a potential owner are concerned, Rollandi International Lawyers have been instructed to carry out a Due Diligence on a number of occasions. We have developed considerable skills in this respect and are now able to process all the financial information in a swift and cost efficient manner.

Once a lender is satisfied with the information gained on the potential owner and the super or

mega yacht, a request to register a mortgage on the vessel follows in due course. In a lender's perspective, this is the strongest form of protection against risks of any kind.

Whilst normally such legal requirement can be easily satisfied as far as a second hand vessel is concerned, under Italian law it is possible to register a mortgage on a vessel under construction only when:

I. a formal declaration relating to the new build is lodged within the offices of the Italian Coastguard/Port Captain where the vessel is being built; and

II. the building contract provides that title and/or property on the vessel passes on to owner gradually upon payment of the agreed instalments to the yard.

In this respect, it is essential that we are instructed before the building contract is signed and/or finalised by owner if the vessel is being built in Italy. In addition, the lender normally asks for insurance protection for the amount of the loan, should an accident occur whilst the yacht is being built by the yard or at sea.

Rollandi International Lawyers have designed some specific insurance clauses that can be promptly incorporated into the insurance contract, so that the proceeds of the insurance contract will be assigned to the lender if an accident occurs. However, in order to considerably speed matters up, we need the prompt collaboration of the insurance broker of the yard and/or of the superyacht or megayacht.

Moreover, the lender will require additional protection when the application relates to yacht construction projects.

First of all, the lender will seek protection against building defects and/or the financial default of the yard. This can be easily arranged



nowadays, provided that the yard is prepared to grant a performance bond and/or a first class bank letter of guarantee. It is essential that such a form of protection is issued 'on first demand' basis. This means that owner and/or the lender can immediately enforce the performance bond or the letter of guarantee if the builder is not in a position to correctly fulfil its contractual obligations and/or goes financially bust.

Secondly, it is likely that the lender will seek to incorporate a provision into the building contract by which the agreement is assigned to the bank, should the owner fail to settle the instalments when they become due to the yard. In our experience the loan is approved and processed in due course as soon as the lender is satisfied with the legal requirements indicated above. ■

Based in Genoa, Italy, Rollandi International Lawyers offer legal advice and assistance in every area of international shipping, yachting, corporate/commercial and insurance law. For further information log onto www.rollandi.com

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