FOR CONNOISSEURS OF LUXURY TRAVEL

AUTUMN 2007

TIME HONOURED

A 16-page tribute to the latest, finest watches

> JEWEL BENEFIT The new way to wear diamonds, pearls and gold

VINTAGE APPEAL Savouring Les Grands Crus wines

ULTIMATE PROPERTIES Villas, châteaux & monasteries COASTING AROUND IN... Monaco, the Leeward Islands & the Maldives





PROFESSION: PILOT CAREER: ACTOR

People are acquainted with the star, the multi-faceted actor. But John Travolta is also a seasoned pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours under his belt, and is certified on eight different aircraft, including the Boeing 747-400 Jumbo Jet. He nurtures a passion for everything that embodies the authentic spirit of aviation. Like Breitling wrist instruments. Founded in 1884, Breitling has shared all the finest hours in aeronautical history. Its chronographs meet the highest standards of precision, sturdiness and functionality, and are all equipped with movements that are chronometer-certified by the COSC (Swiss Official Chronometer Testing Institute). One simply does not become an aviation supplier by chance.





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Chopard

High-tech tradition

LU.C Tech Regulator. The name "regulator" applies to the master clocks that watchmaking manufacturers used as a reference to set their timepieces. To facilitate accurate and immediate read-off, the hours, minutes and seconds were displayed along different axes. With the LU.C Quattro Regulator, Chopard has recently distinguished itself by miniaturising this traditional mechanism to wristwatch size.

The LU.C Tech Regulator is a daring new interpretation of this model. Clearly confident in its technical assets, it comes in a steel version that accentuates its pure lines. The four-barrel LU.C movement, chronometer-certified by the COSC, is endowed with a 9-day power reserve appearing at 12 o'clock. The regulator displays – central minutes, hour subdial at 3 o'clock and seconds subdial at 6 o'clock – form an astonishing geometrical whole enlivened by a subtle play of colours and by hollowed blued steel "Dauphine" hands. The harmoniously balanced overall effect is completed at 9 o'clock by a 24-hour dual time-zone display with day/night zones.



L.U.C Manufacture de Haute Horlogerie Louis-Ulysse Chopard



LU.C Tech Regulator: available in a limited, numbered edition of 250 in steel (ref. 168449-3001).

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All things exclusive

t server we always focus on the unique, the original and the best in life but this issue, more than ever, we take a look at those truly exclusive products and experiences that you really can't afford to miss out on.

Our annual watch supplement highlights the latest, finest collections from leading watch manufacturers, profiling those exclusive editions that might well be limited in number but have truly limitless style and desirability.

Our yacht focus this issue takes you aboard the indisputably unique 99.13m Christina O. Currently available to cruise aboard, she is truly one of a kind and is probablythe only yacht in the world to have welcomed the likes of Winston Churchill, Frank Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe and Jackie Onassis over her many years in service. Maintaining the theme of all things exclusive, our beauty feature this issue reports on products containing gold, amber, diamonds and pearls – nature's most prized gems which are increasingly being utilised for their beauty benefits.

Finally, one of the great collectables nowadays is wine, and in our feature on the *Grands Crus*, secal explores the reason for this and highlights the services of Ficofi, an industry-leading company that can help you create a cellar full of remarkable vintage wines, and enable you to savour them in the most remarkable destinations.

Speaking of incredible destinations, this issue takes you on unique and unforgettable cruises in the Maldive Islands and Leeward Islands. Enjoy the coming charter season and all the great experiences it brings!

Wind force 12, whenever you want it.

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Combined fuel consumption: 14.5 1/100 km, urban: 20.9 1/100 km, extra urban: 10.8 1/100 km, combined CO₂ emissions: 348 g/km.* *The figures do not express any description of the emissions or fuel consumption of a car, are not part of any offer and are intended to compare types of vehicles only

Contributors

In her role as sea&i's regular interior design contributor **ALISON HENRY** has been giving her inside knowledge on design to CNI's clients for over a year. An internationally renowned designer, Alison's 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 talks about the trend for combining styles to create both contemporary and classic interiors. THOMAS GRANT is a university scholar who has spent a large part of his life visiting museums and art galleries for research purposes. Specialising in Western Baroque and modern art, he currently resides in the UK, but travels extensively to galleries and museums around the world. In this issue of Sea&i, Thomas talks about Rubens and Klimt.





OSVALDO PATRIZZI initially trained as a watchmaker in Italy, and is now the Chairman and Founder of Antiquorum Auctioneers. With his energy and passion, he has positioned Antiquorum Auctioneers as the world's leading auctioneer in the field of horology, conducting 10 sales per year in Geneva, New York and Hong Kong. Osvaldo has written numerous articles and books on horology that are references for collectors and museums.



CNI charter broker NICK HEMING has been in the yachting industry for 12 years, ten of which have been spent as a charter broker for CNI. His younger years were spent sailing around the Solent, followed by a two-year stint crewing superyachts in the Caribbean. In this issue of Sea&I, Nick gives an insider's knowledge into how to make your charter a real adventure.



DANIEL MONROE has crewed on superyachts in both the Caribbean and Mediterranean, from deck hand to first mate. In past issues Daniel has provided insights into the leading marinas around the world; in this issue of sea&i he goes in search of some of the world's finest waterfront retreats.



SECI&I

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

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Produced & printed by Camper & Nicholsons International

Front cover: Monica Bellucci for Cartier. Jewellery & accessories by Cartier; dress by Celine. Photography Azim Haidaryan ©Cartier 200

Publisher Camper & Nicholsons International

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Seaki scenes News from around the world of luxury yachting

EILEAN RESTORATION

As part of Panerai's involvement in classic yachting, Oficine Panerai's CEO Angelo Bonati announced in lune that the company had acquired Eilean, a 22-meter ketch designed by William Fife III in 1936, in order to restore the yacht entirely and bring her to the regattas in 2008. Bonati discovered the deteriorating hull of Eilean - which means 'Little Island' in Gaelic – in English Harbour, Antigua, while participating in the Antigua Classic Week. The decision to save her was quickly made, and Eilean has now been transported to Viareggio, where meticulous restoration is being undertaken under the supervision of Enrico Zaccagni.

Below: Eilean in the 6os; Eilean's hull today



Below: Orion, Mariquita & Lulworth in Voiles d'Antibes





VOILES D'ANTIBES – PANERAI CLASSIC CHALLENGE

The 12th edition of the Voiles d'Antibes, the opening series of the Panerai Classic Challenge, met ever-increasing success this year, with fifty yachts participating, including historical figures such as Lulworth, Orion, Cambria, Mariquita and Sunshine. With excellent weather conditions, especially on Friday 1st June when winds blew up to 25 knots, the regattas were an amazing treat for both the participants and visitors. Racing was highly competitive; even Dennis Conner, the four-time winner of the America's Cup, had to battle hard onboard Cotton Blossom II (pictured above) to retain top position. Not incidentally, Cotton Blossom II, Conner's vintage wooden sloop built in 1925, won this year's much coveted Camper & Nicholsons International Trophée d'Elegance. Re-launched at the San Diego Yacht Club in October 2004, following a complete restoration, Cotton Blossom II was designed by Johan Anker and built near Oslo, in Norway. Conner first sailed on Cotton Blossom II in 1963 and bought her in 2003. It took seven craftsmen eighteen months to restore her, at a cost of more than \$1 million US. Winners of this year's Voiles d'Antibes were: Orion (Big Boats), Bona Fide (Aurique), Amorita (Marconi B), Sirius (Marconi C), Saggitarius (Classics) and Blue of Methylene II (Spirit of Tradition).

regatta galore

SUPERYACHT CUP PALMA

The Superyacht Cup held in June in Palma saw probably the greatest gathering of large modern sailing yachts ever. From Alfa Romeo to Maltese Falcon, it seems that every outstanding sailing yacht in the region had agreed to converge to Palma on course for the America's Cup Final in Valencia to enjoy three days of great sailing and fun. The 53 participating yachts berthed along the quay of the Dig del Oeste, near Palma's historic castle, were an impressive sight on land; yet nothing could compare to the beauty, refinement and might they displayed out at sea.

Though the wind conditions were light the first two days, the last regatta was an extraordinary feast. The majestic 88-meter Maltese Falcon rocketed past Ilona of Kylesku on the start line, at over 25 knots; there was a fierce match-race held between the two J-Class yachts Velsheda and Ranger, as well as between the Maxis Wild Oats and Alfa Romeo. There was something for every sailing fan, and the large smiles that adorned the faces of both racing crews and yacht owners, every day for three days, highlighted the success of the event.

CNI played host in the VIP lounge with Perini Navi providing a comfortable area to rest while overlooking the yachts from the terrace. CNI staff and brokers were also highly visible on the water, with no less than three boats provided courtesy of CNI for VIPs and the press, and, thanks to her owner, the magnificent Ilona of Kylesku supplied as committee boat.

As the Palma event showed, if needed be, both modern and classic regattas have had renewed appeal over recent years. Certainly a trend everyone at CNI strongly supports.





NEWPORT BUCKET

A smaller than normal fleet gathered in Newport between 20 - 22 July for the annual Newport Bucket - a somewhat irreverent but much-loved regatta for large sailing yachts. Beautiful summer weather with light breezes and warm evenings allowed for long, fast reaches and fun gatherings. CNI's fast Intrepid zoomed about ferrying photographers and Bucket committee members, or taking guests out for an enjoyable picnic while waiting for the fleet to come home. CNI was invited to join the W-Class 23m WILD HORSES for the weekend's sailing (pictured above). Although the yacht performed well, it was her sistership, WHITE WINGS, that won the regatta with the best time overall.

a spirit of innovation

STEPPING BACK TO GO FORWARD

NI has begun working with a child-oriented organisation in the US. Partly funded by the Laureus Sports Foundation, CampInteractive is a non-profit group providing year-round programs combining adventure and technology to inspire at-risk youths. By stepping back into nature and forward into technology, the teens gain invaluable skills, such as improving academic standing and realising more of life's possibilities. The combination of adventure sports and technology training is a very unique and effective mix. Together with CampInteractive, CNI is eager to establish a CampInteractive Miami that will be designed around water activities. From swimming to yachting to jet-ski maintenance or even fishing, there will be something for everyone. To launch this project, with many thanks to the Rodriguez Group for the loan of its 32m Mangusta VISA, CNI and CampInteractive spent a week entertaining clients in New England (NYC, Sag Harbour, Nantucket and Newport), bringing together the beauty of luxury and the power of philanthropy.



THINK GREEN

CNI continues to lead the way within the yacht brokerage industry with regards to sustainable development. In 2005 CNI teamed up with The CarbonNeutral Company, committing not only to offset its existing carbon emissions but also to improve its work practices. Over the last two years CNI's offices have implemented specific recycling and reducing programmes into their daily activities. There will always be a degree of unavoidable emissions, but by working on a CarbonNeutral programme, CNI is now offsetting or 'neutralising' these emissions by supporting a number of renewable energy and sustainable forestry projects around the world, helping to save and absorb the equivalent amount of emissions that CNI produces. For more information on these projects, please visit www.cnconnect.com/news

NOMINATIONS

Recent additions to the growing CNI teams worldwide include Matt Emerson, in charge of the US Charter Management Division; Andrew Wyatt, who replaces Andrew Williams to second Peter McCarthy in the Yacht Management Division in Antibes; and Richard Boggs, as technical superintendent for the Yacht Management Division in Fort Lauderdale.



YOUNG DESIGNER AWARD

CNI, together with the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA) and the Boat International Group, recently announced a competition to identify the world's most promising Young Supervacht Designers. The competition is to provide a showcase for the next generation of designers to demonstrate their ability and talents, and to the most promising among them to engage with the superyacht industry. 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. RINA has already had an amazingly positive response.

The World Superyacht Award's Young Designer of the Year prize 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 2008 World Superyacht Awards ceremony on 18th April in Venice. The entries will be judged by a group of leading world-class designers. For more information, www.superyachtawards.com.



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Yacht Club de Monace



FESTIVAL DE LA PLAISANCE

From the 12 to 17 September the Festival de la Plaisance in Cannes welcomes 14 yachts for sale through CNI. The everexpanding show has developed phenomenally in size and, following last year's successful initiative, the number of CNI yachts on display is once again spectacular. CNI welcomes all to view the following yachts along the main pier of Port Canto:

48.5m M/Y KANALOA from CRN 43m M/Y MAGNIFICA from CRN 39.6m M/Y CENTIUM from Astilleros 33m M/Y ABELY WHEELER from OCEA 33m M/Y BALOO from CBI Navi 31.5m M/Y BALOO from CBI Navi 31.4m M/Y FANCY ONE from Mangusta 30.7m M/Y BOJANGLES from Falcon 30m M/Y JACK BLU from Benetti 28.95m M/Y PHOENICIA from Astondoa 26.1m M/Y ALCINA from Falcon 26.1m M/Y NATORI from Falcon 26m M/Y 4-FIVE from Riva

Above & below: KANALOA & MAGNIFICA – the largest yachts on display at the Cannes show



show case

THE 17TH MONACO YACHT SHOW

urther along the Riviera, following straight on from the Cannes Festival International de la Plaisance, the 17th Monaco Yacht Show will be hosted between the 19 – 22 September. CNI's presence takes a new form this year with single and double-tiered stands, both of which will be located, as usual, on the Quai des Etats-Unis, close to the Chicane entrance. CNI will have eight yachts on display along both the Quai des Etats Unis and the Central T Jetty. Once again CNI will be hosting guests on the Miramar Hotel terrace throughout the day and making it into a private hospitality venue overlooking the harbour. CNI welcomes all to view the following yachts during the show:

M/Y Salvaje, the brand new 49.85m Mangusta/Overmarine displayed in collaboration with Rodriguez Group (pictured below); M/Y Andale, a 50m Codecasa built in 2004 – T-jetty, berth T32; M/Y Ocean Victory, a 47m ISA bult in 2005 – Quai des Etats-Unis, berth E07; S/Y Georgia, a 48.5m Alloy Yachts built in 2000 – T-jetty, berth T14; M/Y No Escape, a 45.86m Heesen built in 1999 – T-jetty, berth E08; M/Y Streamline, a 41m brand new Mondomarine built in 2007 – T-jetty, berth T23; S/Y Surama, a 40.68m Royal Huisman built in 1997 – T-jetty, berth T24; M/Y Allura, a 34.1m Ferretti built in 2002 – T-jetty, berth T22



CNI MAKES MYS CARBON NEUTRAL

For the third consecutive year CNI, in partnership with the Monaco Yacht Show, has made the show CarbonNeutral. The organisers are measuring the source and levels of greenhouse gases produced from the travel, electricity and waste of the exhibiting companies – as well as the electricity and waste of the yachts and stands – and are offsetting them with dedicated programmes to raise awareness among participants and visitors to the show. In the process, they hope to encourage others to reduce their own emissions wherever possible. For further information on CNI's CarbonNeutral Programme visit www.cnconnect.com/news



SILVESTRIS LAUNCHES SPORTS CABRIOLET TENDER WITH CNI

The 23' Sports Cabriolet tender introduced in the Spring 2007 issue of SeCa i signalled the beginning of a collaboration between CNI and Silvestris Aquamotive, the Dutch company behind the project. The sports cabriolet will be at the Cannes show, where it will be used by CNI brokers to shuttle guests from the old Port to Port Canto. Thanks to its effective hull design and the range of powerful engines up to 320 bhp, the boat has sports car like performance, with a top speed of 50 knots. The 23' Silvestris will also be under the CNI banner at the Monaco Yacht Show, taking guests on yachts moored outside Port Hercule to the show. For further information go to www.silvestris.nl.

A GLIMPSE AT CNI EVENTS DURING 17TH MYS

The social scene at the show sees CNI hosting several events including the CNI Gala Dinner at the Monte-Carlo Beach Hotel, in collaboration with KSF, Mercedes, Cartier, Ficofi and the Gstaadt Yacht Club. There is also a CNI cocktail evening at the Monaco Yacht Club in collaboration with Mercedes and Sotheby's Realty, as well as an evening onboard a CNI yacht at the show, in collaboration with Sotheby's Realty, One&Only Resorts, Leviev Jewellers and Elite Traveler Magazine. News and pictures from all CNI events during the show will be in our next issue.

MERCEDES - AUTHENTIC ENJOYMENT

Yachts and open sports cars have a number of things in common, the most significant being the fact that they allow us to experience our surroundings in a direct, intense way that appeals to all the senses. In order to underline this connection, this year's Monaco Yacht Show features not only the traditional line-up of superb vessels, but also an outstanding vehicle whose cruising ground is to be found on terra



firma – the new Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren Roadster. This exclusive sports car combines the legendary heritage of the successful SLR racing models of the 1950s with the innovative technology of today's Team Vodafone-McLaren-Mercedes Formula 1 vehicles. A dream car with the heart of a top-level sports star, it represents a unique symbiosis of exceptional dynamism, supreme performance and superb comfort. And, just like the magnificent yachts it shares the stage with in Monaco, it offers outstanding pleasure and exclusive open-air enjoyment on every trip.



FORT LAUDERDALES FLIBS07

Every October the largest boat show in the world comes to Fort Lauderdale. Florida, without fail (even in a hurricane). CNI's Fort Lauderdale office, at the Bahia Mar Marina, is based at the centre of the show where megayachts rub shoulders with fast production boats, suppliers and vendors, and the impressive Superyacht Designers' tent. This year, CNI has two areas - one on the Face Dock of the show; the other at the Las Olas Marina where, to date, ten yachts from CNI have been allocated space. At the time of going to press, confirmed yachts from the CNI fleet include the 48m M/Y KANALOA from CRN, the 35m M/Y AZURE LEISURE from Palmer Johnson, and a 35m Benetti Classic M/Y GRAND COROTO.

CNI will once again be transforming the outdoor restaurant of the resort into the CNI Café. Open throughout the day, this private area is exclusively for CNI clients. Another CNI event worthy of note is the third crew party held on the Friday before the show at the Cordova Road Quarterdeck, with co-hosts Dockwalk and GMT (Global Marine Travel).

Above: Azure Leisure Below: Grand Coroto's Master Cabin;





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Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander is a newly formed full service integrated bank born out of Kaupthing Bank's acquisition of Singer & Friedlander Group Plc in July 2005. The integration of the two organisations is now complete and the combined company, Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander, has moved to new offices in London's West End. Kaupthing Bank is a northern European bank operating in ten countries, including all the Nordic countries, the UK, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the US. Headquartered in Reykjavik, Kaupthing is listed on both the Icelandic and Swedish stock exchanges with total assets of €47.7 billion (as of 31 March 2007)*.

I:

KAUPTHING SINGER & FRIEDLANDER

Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. *These figures have been taken from the Kaupthing Bank Consolidated Interim Financial Statement Q1 2007.

NEW TO THE CNI CHARTER FLEET...

ODESSA

A recent offering from the renowned Proteksan-Turquoise yards, the 50m (164') Odessa is the ultimate in modern luxury. The yacht's sundeck is a highlight of her design with its spacious sunning area, Jacuzzi and sun-loungers. Odessa is available for charters in the Caribbean this winter and in the West Mediterranean next summer.

DIANE

This new, smooth-lined 43m (141') Benetti has massive interior guest areas and exceptional deck space. Her Zuretti-designed interior is inviting with a warm blend of colours. She has all the latest communications and a wide range of watersports equipment. Diane is available in the Caribbean this winter and the Mediterranean next summer.



SYMPHONY II

This Westport 112 (pictured above) offers comfortable elegance throughout, Y PLAcomplemented by a wide variety of amenities ensuring guests have the optimum cruising experience. She is available in the Caribbean this coming winter and the West Mediterranean in the summer of 2008.

C'EST LA VIE

The 29.7m (97') C'est La Vie (pictured right) has been entirely gutted and refitted from stern to bow and is now available for charter. She features three en suite



staterooms, two of which can be converted from doubles to singles. Sail through the islands of Croatia, the Cyclades and Ionian, or the coastline of Southern Turkey aboard this stunning sailing yacht.

PRINCESS MARIANA

Having recently completed a \$12 million refit, this stylish 78.6m (257.87') six-deck yacht is packed with innovative features. She is cruising in the Bahamas and Caribbean during the winter season.



ILLUSION 120

Just delivered, the sleek Illusion 120 (pictured above) is a highly customised fast cruising yacht from the ISA yard. Inside you will find leather sofas and elegant Lalique crystal, outside the decks are made for charters in the sunny West Mediterranean – there is even underwater lighting for evenings on board. This stylish yacht accommodates eight guests.

TJ ESPERANZA

The 50m (164') TJ Esperanza (ex ThunderGulch which was renowned for her luxurious comfort) is now under new ownership and available for charter. Her Disdale interior, crafted in limed oak, features new artwork and her generous deck areas play host to a range of activities from sunbathing to relaxing in the Jacuzzi.

SEA JEWEL

The latest 36m (118') Sea Jewel is available in the Caribbean this winter. She offers four en suite staterooms and all the latest watertoys and electronics. At the helm is Captain Leon Potgieter, formerly first mate of the Feadship Sea Jewel and Carolinian.

ALTERNATIVE CHARTERS...



PARSIFAL III GOES GLOBAL

The striking 54m (177') Perini Navi Parsifal III (pictured above) is considering an around-the-world trip. Welcoming up to 12 guests at any one time, she has excellent entertainment facilities and great deck areas so charterers can make the very most of the destinations she visits.

THE MAINE PRIORITY

The 35.97m (118') Savannah will be cruising the waters of Maine in New England this September. With its rocky coastline, mountains, forests, white-sand beaches and quaint cities, Maine is a great destination for late-summer charters.



ANNE VIKING IN SCANDINAVIA

The 25.72m (84.38') Anne Viking (pictured above) is heading to Scandinavia for charters around the fjords and islands of Norway. An unusual, hauntingly beautiful cruising destination, Scandinavia is a place for those who want to escape the usual yachting hot spots.

For more information on any of the yachts or destinations mentioned above, as well as alternative charter options, please call your CNI charter broker (see page 11).

BOO TOO IN MADAGASCAR

The 27.45m (90.06) Boo Too (pictured below) will be cruising the stunning Indian Ocean island of Madagascar and surrounding areas from mid August to mid November. Boo Too can accommodate five guests on charter.



VvS1 IN NEW ZEALAND

The luxury exploration vessel VvS1 is available in the far-flung South Pacific islands of Tonga and Fiji before she makes her way down under to New Zealand (pictured below) for the winter season. Versatile enough to access small bays and anchor near coral atolls and white beaches, VvS1 is a great choice for the shallow coral waters of the South Pacific islands as well as the rugged coastlines of New Zealand. Eight guests can enjoy all the usual superyacht comforts, including a fully-equipped gym.



Christing (

Christina O is the *grande dame* of the sea and a legend that lives on among superyachts. Now, more than 50 years since she first saw service as a luxury yacht, she continues to invite guests to step on board uch more than a yacht, Christina O is a piece of cruising history, sweeping through the years as gracefully as she glides through the ocean. Her elaborate decks and walls have been a platform, a spectacular stage, if you will, on which the most celebrated figures of recent history have set themselves. On some cruises, the greatest love stories of their time played out, on others a musical fiesta rang out across the decks, and on many great drama and high comedy took their turn. At the time, famous politicians, singers, actresses and statesmen sought her decks for the unrivalled luxury and unheard-of discretion she offered. While her guests were those who generally sought the limelight, when they wished to escape the press and public they sought to escape them completely. No hotel could offer such privacy and precious few superyachts were then in existence, so Christina O (then named Christina) was a godsend – and one that came with the benefit of unabashed luxury.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

When she was purchased by Greek magnate Aristotle Onassis in 1954, the 99.13m (325') Christina already had a history as a World War II surplus Canadian frigate. Onassis promptly lavished \$4 million on her (equivalent to around \$45 million today) and transformed her into the legend she rapidly became.

Half a century later in 2001, Christina underwent another dramatic facelift that advanced her engineering, craftsmanship and facilities to 21st-century standards, while still preserving her unique essence and history. Those who step on board today can well envisage Marilyn Monroe dancing on deck, or Frank Sinatra holding court in the music lounge – everywhere you turn there's a story of a silver-screen legend or glamorous king or queen who added a link to the chain of events that made this yacht what she is. Today, you can add the next chapter to her story.

Christina O is now available for cruises around the Greek islands and the Mediterranean in the spring, summer and autumn, while during the winter months she welcomes guests in the Caribbean.

LIFE ON BOARD

Up to 36 guests can step on board at any one time and have the run of five decks and 18 staterooms, along with the diligent attentions of 35 crew



members. Among ways to spend your days you may choose to indulge in the Six Senses Spa, dine on Michelin-starred cuisine in the vast and elaborate dining room, luxuriate in the Onassis Suite, sip a cocktail in the famous Ari's bar or follow in the fingerprints of Maria Callas as you play the piano in the lounge that takes her name. Then there's the bronze-edged swimming pool cum dance floor, the games room/gym, the library, music lounge, famous Lapis Lounge and a glut of watertoys, including mahogany tenders, windsurfers, jet skis and snorkelling equipment. Other attractions include the Jacuzzi deck and children's playroom. Every room and deck boasts some splendour; you can take your fill of original Renoir paintings, Baccarat crystal light fittings and onyx pillars, the latter most spectacularly displayed in the remarkable atrium that spans three decks of the yacht.

The sleeping accommodations are set over three of the five decks. The Onassis Suite is on the bridge deck, 10 guest staterooms can be found on the main deck and there are eight rooms on the cabin deck. In all, Christina O has a great deal more than a gilded history to impress her guests.

For more details on Christina O, speak to your CNI charter broker.



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DEEP RELAXATION

'Deeply' satisfying massages take on a whole new meaning at Huvafen Fushi in the Maldives as the resort has two new treatment areas - underwater. As well as the treatment rooms, there is a separate relaxation pod where guests can stretch out on an oversized day bed and absorb the sun-dappled aquamarine seascape with kaleidoscopic views of exotic marine life. It is undoubtedly one of the world's most unique spa experiences and Jane Quinn, Managing Director of Per Aquum Spa Collection, which manages the Huvafen Fushi spa, says "Guests who want to experience one-on-one quality time with our therapists, in a super-sexy underwater cave that instantly connects them with the Indian Ocean and its inhabitants, should experience this iconic journey. It is a visual feast and a truly authentic experience." For more information visit www.huvafenfushi.com

TAN WHILE YOU TONE

Yoga fans can quit the studio for a more scenic workout this autumn. The Montpelier Plantation in Nevis is hosting two-week-long yoga retreats led by yoga guru Jim Kulackoski from 13 to 20 October and 10 to 18 November. The programme includes yoga classes on the hotel's private beach and at the poolside. Kulackoski will teach the more rigorous Vinyasa tradition as well as gentler forms of yoga, including Lyengar and Ashtanga.

For more information visit www.montpeliernevis.com

CRUISING INLAND CROATIA

If you fancy swapping a few days of ocean cruising for an alternative waterborne adventure, consider cruising the scenic inland rivers and lakes of Croatia. Welcoming up to eight guests on board each yacht, Sail Croatia can escort you in style as you drift across striking waterscapes. For more information visit www.sailcroatia.net



TIME FOR TIDES

The Tides South Beach, located on prime real estate on Ocean Drive, is fresh from a complete re-design. The new look makes it a sexy, chic, one-of-akind coastal retreat and those who can't get enough of it will be delighted by the Founders Program.

For more information visit www.tidessouthbeach.com

LONDON'S DUKES REVAMPED

The Dukes Hotel in the heart of St James's, London, has been given a touch of 21st century chic by the design team responsible for the award-winning One Aldwych, London, and Carlisle Bay, Antigua. Mary Fox Linton, in collaboration with Gordon Campbell Gray (Campbell Gray Hotels recently took over Dukes), has re-designed Dukes' 90 suites and rooms, as well as its public areas. However, the property retains its much-loved character and the charming Dukes Bar is still the ideal place for what many consider to be the best martinis in the world. For more information visit www.dukeshotel.com





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SAILING TO

Two years in the making, *Superyacht* is a much-anticipated collectors' tome and is heralded as the most complete book ever created on yachts and yacht culture. Drawing on the expertise of yacht clubs, designers, historians and industry experts, and illustrated with 1,500 photographs — including fashion shoots by David Bailey, Norman Parkinson and Helmut Newton — *Superyacht* includes interviews with industry icons the likes of George Nicholson, Ed Dubois and Paolo Vitelli, and covers the history, glamour and fashion of superyachts. Senior editorial consultants on the project were Jim Gilbert, founder of *Showboats International* magazine, and Geordie Greig, editor of *Tatler* magazine. One thousand copies are now available in a limited-edition 'big book' format bound in silver Italian silk and presented in a crystal Lucite case. With over 600 full-colour, silver gilt-edged pages, it is a collectors' item and a must for any self-respecting superyacht enthusiast.

www.superyachtbook.com

THE MALTESE FALCON: ART OF

INNOVATION Martin Redmayne (*The Yacht Report*) This book celebrates the evolution, vision and creation of the Maltese Falcon with

fascinating copy and unseen pictures. Those lucky enough to own one of the 5,000 limited-edition copies will enjoy this book for decades to come. www.theyachtreport.com

LUXURY HOUSES SEASIDE

Cristina Paredes (teNeues)

Oceanside living spaces can offer all the beauty and relaxation of the beach as well as all the sophistication of the city. This 220-page book has 350 colour photographs to inspire you on the architecture and design of your own beach property – or simply to provoke daydreams. www.teneues.de

WINE & DESIGN

Christian Datz & Christof Kullmann (teNeues)

This beautifully illustrated and informative volume details the innovative ways in which design can enhance your appreciation of wine, along with its storage, production, tasting and presentation. A stylish companion for today's wine connoisseur.

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Kim Kavin (iUniverse)

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www.charterwave.com

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Art scene: Rubens & Klimt

Europe offers a fine showcase of exhibitions over the coming months, with the works of Rubens and Klimt, among others, making their way to Brussels, Vienna and London

By Thomas Grant

Exhibition: Rubens: A Genius At Work *Venue:* Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium

Dates: 14 September 2007 – 27 January 2008

This autumn, the Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique mounts a major exhibition of the greatest of all Flemish painters, Peter Paul Rubens.

Rubens' reputation is rightly that of a painter who was in demand throughout his life by most of the major courts of Europe. He worked, both as painter and diplomat in Italy, Spain, England, Holland and France. Nevertheless he spent much of his working life in Antwerp in Belgium. It was there that he was originally apprenticed, and to there that he returned as an established figure. So it is no surprise that for *Rubens: A Genius At Work*, the national museum can call on its own collection of about 50 works.

Many of these are the sole work of Rubens, but some were initiated by the artist and finished in the studio which he developed as his fame spread. Others were collaborations with artists like Jan Breughel the Elder and Cornelis de Vos.



The Brussels conservators have subjected these paintings to minute analysis over the past four years in preparation for this exhibition, with results which they claim are sometimes surprising. The paintings will be shown in the context of their artistic genesis, with six sections, each devoted to a different aspect of the Rubens' studio.

In addition, 60 more paintings and drawings will be on loan from, among other collections, the Prado, the Louvre and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The resulting exhibition of almost 120 works will cover the period 1614 to 1640, the years of Rubens' maturity. It will therefore nicely complement the last major Rubens exhibition that was held at the National Gallery in London in 2005.



That dealt with the years 1609 to 1614 in which Rubens was learning his trade in Antwerp and Italy, and then establishing himself on his return to Flanders. It was the years from 1614 on, however, which saw the emergence of the man whom many consider to be the greatest of all baroque painters, and this opportunity to see so much of his work from that period will enable visitors to assess that judgement for themselves.

While in Brussels, visitors may also wish to look in at the Palais Stoclet, for which nearly three centuries later the Viennese artist Gustav Klimt painted a mural frieze around the dining room walls, a frieze which, like so much of Klimt's work, lies somewhere between symbolism and Art Nouveau.

Exhibition: Gustav Klimt and the Painter Company *Venue:* Belvedere, Vienna *Dates:* Current time – 2 October 2007

Those who only know Klimt through *The Kiss* and his later portraits and landscapes will be surprised by an exhibition in Vienna, *Gustav Klimt and the Painter Company*, currently at the Belvedere. Visitors will find that, like Rubens, Klimt was the creator of a number of large decorative schemes, including ceiling paintings, murals and curtains for palaces and theatres. He was, as the Stoclet mural shows, a designer as well as a painter, a description which fits a number of Art Nouveau artists.

The Belvedere exhibition does include the famous and much reproduced *Kiss*, and some very fine portraits, but new to virtually all visitors will be a number of privately owned ceiling paintings and curtains created by Gustav along with his brother Ernst and Franz Matsch, with whom he formed the Künstler-Compagnie (The Artists' Company) in 1880.

Exhibition: The Changing Face of Childhood Venue: Dulwich Gallery, London Dates: 1 August – 4 November 2007

London, meanwhile, retains its reputation for interesting and imaginative exhibitions with, among others, *The Changing Face of Childhood* at the Dulwich Gallery. With paintings from Van Dyck onwards, the exhibition seeks to show how artists demonstrate a change in the concept of childhood during the 18-century, first in Britain and then throughout Europe.

Reflecting Locke and later Enlightenment philosophers, 18thcentury British portraits of children stop presenting them as small adults, and emphasise instead themes of innocence and playfulness. Both are nicely exemplified in Henry Raeburn's portrait of *The Allen Brothers*, painted in the 1790s, in which a wholly original pose is used to show fraternal affection, but it is an affection complicated by the distinction made between the younger boy's rather passive innocence and the elder's playful but destructive attempt to spear his hat.



Opposite page, far left: Rubens' Vièrge à la Pervenche (Musées rovaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique) **Opposite page, right:** Henry Raeburn's The Allen Brothers This page, left: Friedrich von Amerling, A Fisherboy (Joseph von Amerling), 1830. canvas (Dulwich Gallery) This page, above: Thomas Lawrence. The Angerstein Children, 1799-1800, canvas (Dulwich gallery) This page, below left: Rubens' Le Christ et la Femme Adultère (Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique)

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PRADA

Below: Keep reminders of loved ones to hand with this triple travel frame, www.smythson.com **Bottom:** Style and scent come as one with the Twilight candles, presented as a collection of three in a beautiful travel case, www.elemis.com





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Left: Slip on these brocade slippers with removable magnetic insoles to aid circulation and give you a soothing foot massage, www.holisticsilk.co.uk Right: Scent your room with Tocca's Isabella candle, www.tocca.com

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HISTORIC HOLIDAYS

From medieval monasteries to charming châteaux, many vintage properties are being converted into hotels and villas – some of which you can reserve for a few days, some of which you can buy a share. sea&i uncovers five such historic properties By Victoria Davies


CHÂTEAU D'ALLAMAN, LAKE GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Originally built by the Count of Vaud in 1253, Château d'Allaman is ideally situated between Geneva and Lausanne and offers stunning views of the estate's vineyards, Lake Léman and the Mont Blanc range. Situated on 30 hectares of land, the château is one of the most important historic monuments in Switzerland. It witnessed the creation of the Society of Peace in 1820 (the harbinger for the United Nations), and has welcomed many historical figures over the years. Now fully renovated and converted into a luxurious, serviced private residence of over 6,000 square meters of usable space, for just eight exclusive apartments, it allows its residents to enjoy the full extent of its highly luxurious business and leisure amenities, including the yachts berthed on the lake. Memberships for Château d'Allaman are available from 600,000 to 4 million for 10 to 25 years.

FIT FOR A KING: Be sure to sample the fine wines that are produced in the grounds of the castle.

For further information visit www.allaman.ch/presentation.asp

PALAZZO TORNABUONI, FLORENCE, ITALY

Located in the heart of Florence, this Renaissance property is the former home of Pope Leo XI and the powerful Medici family. Opening in early 2008 it will be Italy's first city-centre fractional ownership property, comprising 36 elegant studios and one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments.

The central courtyard dates back to the 15th century, and the surrounding palazzo has been developed over the last three centuries during its ownership by some of Italy's most influential families. This remarkable property is filled with original Florentine art and architecture, including 16th-century frescoes by Ciampelli, an original Raffaelli fireplace, and a baroque statue of Diana the Huntress. Fully restored to reflect a sympathetic balance of historic splendour and modern five-star luxury, each residence is furnished with Tuscan antiques in keeping with the surroundings.

With ownership of the residence comes a concierge service, offering a range of special-interest activities – from entry to some of Italy's top wine estates to VIP access to private art collections, galleries and museums. Florence – the city that inspired the Renaissance – has turned shopping into an art form, with small boutiques selling everything from bespoke perfumes to handcrafted paper. The concierge can arrange a personal shopper and, as a resident, you are regularly invited to private viewings in the many designer stores that line the exquisite via Tornabuoni.

FIT FOR A KING: Take a tour of the climate-controlled wine cellars with the palazzo's in-house sommelier.

For further information visit www.palazzotornabuoni.com



Opposite page: The stately stairwell of Palazzo Tornabuoni **This page, above left:** Tasteful, modern décor compliments the historic features of Palazzo Tornabuoni **Above:** Château d'Allaman is surrounded by hectares of scenic vineyards

ABBAYE DE LA BUSSIÈRE, BURGUNDY, FRANCE

Cistercian Orders have a long tradition of humility, peace and hospitality and, although the monks have long since left, the Abbaye de la Bussière retains its tranquillity.

The estate was founded in 1131 by the third Abbot of Citeaux, but unlike the monks that lived here you don't have to sacrifice anything to stay here today. A luxury monastic cell may seem like an oxymoron, but the old buildings have been transformed into a stunning hotel set in acres of parkland. Deep in wine country between Dijon and Beaune, the location guarantees superlative food and wine and is the perfect base for exploring the region's famous vineyards.

FIT FOR A KING: Enjoy the gastronomic delights of the hotel's restaurant. Chef de Cuisine Olivier Elzer was awarded his first Michelin star earlier this year.

For more information visit www.abbaye-dela-bussiere.com



Top: A deluxe suite at the Castello del Nero Above: A reminder of Abbaye de la Bussière's monastic past, and a view of the Abbaye **Right:** Capella Castlemartyr

CAPELLA CASTLEMARTYR, COUNTY CORK, IRELAND

Formerly owned by the Knights Templar, Sir Walter Raleigh and the First Earl of Cork, the recently restored 17th-century manor house Capella Castlemartyr is set in 90 hectares that include the ruins of a castle from 1210. The charming interior has been restored with modern details, creating a stunning retreat in unique surroundings. Checking in you will be greeted by the estate's two dogs – Earl and Countess – who will escort you around the expansive grounds, which are home to the ruins of the castle, an ancient chapel, formal gardens and a private swan lake. The grounds also boast a huge wellness spa, a paddock and an 18-hole links-style golf course. You can even take a carriage tour of the estate to see the chapel, the tomb of the Fourth Earl of Shannon and Mitchell's Woods.

FIT FOR A KING: The vast Presidential Suite truly lives up to its name with its private dining room, sitting room, sauna and rainforest shower.

For more information visit www.capellacastlemartyr.com



CASTELLO DEL NERO HOTEL & SPA, TUSCANY, ITALY

Beautifully positioned in the heart of the Chianti wine region between Florence and Siena, the Castello del Nero is surrounded by the estate's olive groves and vineyards. Originally the country residence of the noble Florentine Del Nero family, the fully restored castle is a monument to XII century architecture and has retained the original frescoes, vaulted ceilings and family crests. The grounds also boast a private chapel and stunning Italian gardens with an abundance of Florentine roses. There is a gym located in the old wine cellar, two tennis courts surrounded by cypress trees and olive groves, and a pool overlooking the valley and lakes below. The Castello offers exquisite suites and rooms adorned with frescoes, ancient fireplaces, flatscreen televisions, goose-down duvets, cashmere blankets and standalone baths in the en suites. Cooking classes, vineyard visits and artistic tours can all be arranged for guests.

FIT FOR A KING: Signature treatments at the spa use E'spa products as well as the natural anti-oxidant benefits of the Extra Virgin Olive Oil that is grown and harvested on the estate. For further information visit www.castello-del-nero.com





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CHAIN REACTION

If you crave a Caribbean idyll with empty beaches, lush rainforests and laid-back charm, cruise the Leeward Islands. From Antigua to St Martin, the islands link together in an enticing chain, each one inspiring you to discover the next

By Miriam Cain

uisine and service has not traditionally been associated with travel in the Caribbean, but the Leeward Island chain has raised off its laurels and is now in the running as a luxury holiday destination. Resorts have been renovated, spas have been built and most hotels and restaurants are making an impressive effort to provide top-notch cuisine. But despite its current flirtation with gourmet restaurants, designer boutiques and award-winning spas, the Leewards still keep things wonderfully relaxed and unpretentious.

These Caribbean islands have long been a haven for travellers and today's yachtsmen consider the sheltered waters to be some of the finest bluewater cruising grounds in the world. With a colourful mosaic of culture, cuisine and language, every island has its own unique character and charm.

EXPLORING ANTIGUA

Luxury in the Leeward Islands comes in all shapes and sizes, ranging from plantation houses high in the hills to resorts on palm-strewn beaches. One hotel in particular has perfected the balance between hyper-style and relaxed friendliness. Carlisle Bay in Antigua is fabulously cool but completely un-intimidating. Accommodation is in split-level villas all designed and positioned to give stunning views over the ocean. With all the usual facilities including tennis courts, a gym, a zen-like spa and fine cuisine, Carlisle Bay is the perfect place to acclimatise to the unhurried pace of life and an ideal base from which to explore one of the most prominent islands in the Caribbean.

Antigua's white-sand beaches are the island's primary attraction (there are 365 - 0 one for every day of the year) but its appeal is far more diverse. The island's ambience is \rightarrow



















distinctly West Indian yet it remains touchingly protective of its colonial past, even though only last year Antigua celebrated 25 years of independence from Britain.

By Caribbean standards Antigua is considerably sophisticated and boasts many attractions for visitors, including Nelson's Dockyard, Shirley Heights and Half Moon Bay. It is also blessed with some of the finest coral reefs in the Caribbean. Aboard Carlisle Bay's speedboat you can discover the best of the reef just off Hell's Gate: a small eroded, limestone-island. Swim out to the island and climb through caves to a whirlpool and across a natural bridge to gaze down on blue parrot-fish and rays. Donning your flippers and facemask, you can then snorkel into the insanely clear turquoise water where huge coral clusters rise on either side of you and schools of coloured fish surround you. Finally, step ashore on Great Bird Island where you will find one of the world's leading ornithological research stations, teeming with pelicans, ospreys, gulls, herons and many tropical birds. The island's Jumby Bay is also a breeding ground for endangered hawksbill turtles.

But it is Antigua's maritime history that has secured its reputation – even though a naval posting to Antigua was once considered a consignment to hell. Some sailors would be 'stuck' in English Harbour for months every summer, and even Nelson, who landed here in 1784, proclaimed English Harbour to be vile. Times have changed and today one of the world's most atmospheric port areas is Nelson's Dockyard in English Harbour. The spectacular inlet in southern Antigua has been a crucial maritime shelter since before the Napoleonic wars and it remains one of the best hurricane-holes in the Caribbean. Georgian warehouses have been converted into accommodation, restaurants and boutiques, and it still has a working marina. You can stroll from Nelson's Dockyard to Fort Berkeley and discover an antique water cistern covered with 18th-century sailors' graffiti. Along with the old forts that litter the land, there are more than 100 windmills – grim reminders of the island's slave-plantation past.

For modern-day cheer, you can't do better than heading up to Shirley Heights for the Sunday 'jump-up' in the crumbling ruins of Fort Shirley. Live steel bands give way to reggae, dancing and as much rum punch as you can handle. It is one of the few places on the island where tourists and locals mix. Another venue that shouldn't be missed is Harmony Hall in Browns Bay — here you can browse the art gallery, sip a rum punch in the converted sugar mill and enjoy the views from the open-air restaurant.

STEPPING ABOARD

You could be forgiven for thinking that there is little more to the Caribbean than beaches and turquoise waters, but a cruise through the Leeward-island chain aboard the 69.95m Sherakhan will provide ample opportunities to discover a different side.

Previously a Dutch Navy training vessel, Sherakhan was transformed by her owner and manager Jan Verkerk. Broad in beam, she is a welcoming, comfortable yacht with plentiful deck areas and an enormous interior, which includes a vast, double-height saloon and a large spa and gym below deck. She has ample space on her sun deck, where there is another spa pool, barbecue, and sunbathing areas, and her aft deck has a spectacular dining area.

You can join Sherakhan in Antigua's English Harbour, and take your first cruise past Fort Berkley to reach a secluded anchorage in Nonesuch Bay, just off the uninhabited Green Island. Directly to the north, the low-lying coral island of Barbuda is well known for its tranquillity and pink coral beaches. The island is surrounded by reefs and historically has been avoided by seafarers; only in recent years has it attracted the attention of yachts cruising the Leeward Island chain. Completely flat and edged with pink coral beaches, Barbuda is totally undeveloped and the heavily wooded interior abounds with wildlife, including wild boar, deer and some 170 species of bird. You can take the tender to Man of











War Island, the mangrove-rich home of the Caribbean's largest breeding ground for Frigate birds, then travel on to the laidback Martello Beach Bar for grilled lobster, fresh from the adjacent Codrington lagoon.

LIFE SHERAKHAN-STYLE

Back on board you can laze on the sundeck, cool off in the glass-bottomed Jacuzzi or step inside the beauty salon for a massage or manicure — Sherakhan's crew includes a trained masseuse as well as a beautician. All the while, Sherakhan will cruise to the twin islands of Nevis and St Kitts.

Anchored off St Kitts, and fully refreshed and dressed for the evening, you'll find the crew awaiting you on the aft deck — all attired in Chinese-inspired silk evening jackets. The crew aboard Sherakhan have a different outfit for every occasion: quirky (Minnie mouse), chic, casual and formal. Matching the mood, Sherakhan's chef, Spanish born José Polonio, is also always fully prepared to customise dishes to satisfy your tastes and daily whims.

Once you have settled on board Sherakhan, Polonio will run through your likes and dislikes and plan menus with you. He will also catch up with you on a daily basis, refining meal plans and adapting menus to include the best and freshest ingredients available. He has been known to conjure up a banquet with a few hours' notice, and with his gourmet menus and











Sherakhan's stunning dining table, black tie dinners aboard are an unforgettable experience.

You'll awake to find yourself anchored off the island of Nevis where your crew have set up a breakfast picnic on the beach, followed by a morning of watersports to work it off. Sherakhan's crew are both skilled and eager to teach all manner of watersports including waterskiing, mono-skiing, sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and surfing when conditions allow. Alternatively, you could spend a leisurely morning at the Four Seasons' 18-hole golf course, before crossing the Narrows to the twin island of St Kitts.

Kicking back on St Kitts

A small ex-British colony, St Kitts is the island from which the French and British colonised the West Indies, so there is plenty of history to soak up.

In the days of slavery, the island generated enormous wealth from sugar cane, but today it is investing heavily in tourism. There's still plenty of green cane swaying in the breeze on the slopes, but rather than the wagons being full of cut cane, the tracks are now used for a tourist train that trundles through villages, rolling sugarcane fields and the ruins of some of the 300 private estates that used to thrive before the abolition of slavery. Some of the ruined plantations and merchant houses from centuries ago have been transformed into boutique hotels, the most beautiful of which is Rawlins, set in the greener northeastern part of the island.

Once Sherakhan has made anchor, you can take the tender ashore and browse artwork by Kate Spencer, who sells her work in a studio in the grounds of the Rawlins plantation. Local batik shirts and dresses are also good souvenirs and you'll find plenty at Caribelle Batik in the grounds of another converted sugar estate, Romney Manor.

The capital of the island, Basse Terre, is a scuffily pretty place where all the buildings are colonial clapboard. If you're there on a Friday night, visit the Ocean Terrace Inn where a steel band plays on the terrace and the barman is famous for his mean daiquiris. It's a place to take it easy, or, as they say in St Kitts, to 'lime'. For loud music and rum punch, try Dolce Cabana.

ISLAND SKIPPING

Back on board after a peaceful night's anchorage, you can cruise northwest to the tiny island of Eustatius, which is surrounded by underwater volcanic fissures and canyons offering a multitude of diving opportunities. Further west, neighbouring Saba has dramatic inland and underwater scenery. Girdled by a sheer wall of rock, it is the perfect hideaway for a peaceful night's anchorage before heading to St Barths.

Probably one of the Leeward Island chain's most exclusive and elegant islands, St Barths is the place to go if you are after pristine beaches, calm waters and gourmet restaurants. With a distinctly French flavour it is a haven for the rich and famous, with prices to match. Its capital, Gustavia, is one of the prettiest in this part of the world, and the port is the perfect place for Sherakhan to berth while you step ashore and browse the Hermès, Prada, Miu Miu and Valentino boutiques before exploring the gourmet restaurants.

Start the evening watching the sun set at Do Brazil on Gustavia's Shell Beach with a Caipirinha: the traditional Brazilian brandy cocktail. Later, dine at one of the most popular restaurants on St Barths, Maya's, and finish the evening at the waterfront bar of Bete a Z'Ailes with a chocolate martini and live jazz.

Back on board the next day you can watch the cosmopolitan stretch of land change to stunning beaches as Sherakhan cruises around the island to anchor inside the Baie de St Jean on the north coast, where the trendy beach bar Nikki Beach, and the sublime Eden Rock Hotel are located. Like a mini Côte d'Azur, this hip strip of sand is ideal for windsurfing and, the most popular island sport, people watching.

LAST PORTS OF CALL

One of the classiest islands in the Caribbean, Anguilla is the most northerly of the Leewards. Only 20 years ago it had no electricity and only dirt tracks for roads, but today it has excellent restaurants with wine lists to please a French sommelier. Step ashore to the Altamer Restaurant and dine on fresh fish with your toes in the sand just yards from the lapping waves. Alternatively, Blanchard's offers panoramic views over Meads Bay and has an extensive wine list and a sophisticated menu. The following morning, rise early for a round of golf at the new Greg Norman-designed 18-hole course, followed by lunch at Gwen's Reggae Grill on Shoal Bay East. Spend the afternoon snorkelling the reef-protected shallows of Shoal Bay East before crossing to St Martin.

This island enjoys a dual personality — part Dutch, part French — and has exuberant night spots, duty-free shops and exciting casinos promising an upbeat, cosmopolitan experience — the final link in your cruise of the Leewards Islands' chain.

CNI can create a unique charter around the Leeward Islands. For information on Sherakhan, and other yachts in the CNI fleet, contact your charter broker (see page 11) or visit www.cnconnect.com. For further information on Carlisle Bay visit www.carlisle-bay.com











Action & sports charters adventure

Fancy diving with turtles in the Caribbean, clay-pigeon shooting from the decks of your yacht, quad-biking in the South of France or fishing in Alaska? Action-adventure charters are the perfect blend of luxury and fun

By Nick Heming



azy mornings on the beach... an afternoon snooze in the hammock... a light nap before cocktails... the perfect charter! Wait a minute. Rewind. Replace that with heart-punching adrenalin, wild exploration and endless rounds of golf on the world's finest courses. Now you're talking.

If holidays, for you, are about discovering new experiences as well as new places, you might like to indulge in an actionadventure charter. From watersports on board* to a spin around a Grand-Prix racetrack to a lofty chukka atop an elephant, your CNI charter broker can arrange every experience – and even suggest which activities you may like to consider.

CNI has long-standing contacts with experts in their field across the world, and can keep you on, or off, your toes all charter long. Choose your yacht wisely and you may even be able to take advantage of a floating tennis court on board, an on-deck golf driving range, or clay-pigeon shooting from the aft deck. Here, sea&i looks at some of the classic cruising grounds and what they have to offer. →

The South of France

The Côte d'Azur's reputation as a playground of the rich and famous is not without merit – there is some serious fun to be had here. Along with the usual compliment of watersports activities – such as waterskiing, windsurfing, diving, snorkelling, wakeboarding and jet-skiing – ground action takes in tennis, mountain treks, climbing, cycling, quad-biking through forests and any of the following activities...

Grand Prix racing Circuit Paul Ricard in the Var is the world's most advanced race track for private use. It is just 40 minutes from Monaco by helicopter so a day of VIP Formula 1 action is easily organised early in the season. You'll most likely hear the action before you see it, with engines spinning at more than 18,000 revs per minute – a great taste of what's to come when you step behind the wheel yourself, guided by experts who will instruct you whether you're new to the sport or are a seasoned speedster.

Polo When you visit St Tropez, as most charterers in the Côte d'Azur tend to at some point, a limousine can pick you up and escort you to the prestigious Haras de Gassin Saint-Tropez Polo Club. Here you can either watch the experts at play, or saddle up yourself for a lesson in mastering the mallet. Alternatively, try your hand at a jumping or dressage lesson.

Golf Great golf courses present themselves at every turn in the South of France. Beauvallon and the Gassin Golf & Country Club (where the course was designed by Thierry Sprecher, Gery Watine and Gary Player) await you in the Saint-Tropez area; the par 72 Claux Amic Golf Club dominates the upper hills of Grasse, 20 minutes outside of Cannes; and Saint-Endréol and the Golf Mandelieu Old Course are favourites in Cannes. Your broker can arrange convenient tee times for you and organise limousine or helicopter transfers to and from each course.







The Pacific Northwest

The west coast of North America is an extraordinary place to charter – a perfect balance of city life and restaurants giving way to an expanse of wilderness. And this wilderness — comprising an awful lot of land, water and sky — invites you to explore in numerous different ways. Along with trekking and mountain biking along woodland and mountain trails, you could take to the water on a board, skis or a canoe, fish from its depths, or float above it all in a hot-air balloon or paraglider.

Kayaking There are two main types of kayaking: whitewater (for the very adventurous only) and flatwater. The latter involves either ocean or lake settings, and many yachts have their own kayaks for this type of waterbourne fun. You can spend hours paddling out and exploring the shores, remote islands and inland waterways of Vancouver Island, Seattle and Alaska. The latter is a particularly inspiring place to kayak as you may even drift across seals playing in the water around you.

Trekking In Alaska you can hike up to hot springs where

glacial waters flow alongside winding paths weaving up through forests and mountains. It's a wonderful opportunity to soak up the scenery, absorb the incredible wilderness and wildlife around you and get some vigorous exercise – and of course a dip in the hot springs at the end of your climb is a wonderfully relaxing reward. Alternatively, you may dare to go bear tracking with expert guides ensuring your safety and informing you on the habits of these remarkable creatures.

Rock climbing If your charter takes you as far as Alaska, and you're super fit, why not add a few days to your charter and move inland to climb the awesome Mount McKinley?

Fishing Alaska is a great spot in which to cast a line for salmon, but if your Pacific Northwest charter steers past Vancouver you can catch Coho salmon near the Campbell River. Flyfishing is also a popular option in both areas.

Heliskiing Fancy a day heliskiing? If you're chartering in an appropriate area, CNI can arrange a guide and helicopter to take you to the top of a mountain to ski off-piste for the day.



WHAT AND WHERE TO DARE...

Pearl diving - Tahiti Hang-gliding - off Kitty Hawk in North Carolina, USA Kite surfing - South Florida **Elephant polo** – Barbados Horse racing (as a spectator) – Hong Kong **Diving with sharks** – Tahiti and the Bahamas Climbing – Sydney Harbour Bridge **Volcano watching** – (not strictly sport, but certainly adrenalin-boosting) from Stromboli in the Aeolian Islands off Sicily Alligator wrestling - South Florida

The Caribbean

Any charter in the Caribbean is likely to involve as much time in the sea as on land. That said, you can enjoy every type of watersport here, from waterskiing in the White Bay of Peter Island in the Virgin Islands to WaveRunner explorations in the cavs of Eleuthera. Hikes are a great way to explore, and the Grenadines has some amazing options for extended hikes across the gorgeous tropical interiors of the islands.

Golf Exemplary golf courses abound in the Caribbean. Try Green Monkey and Royal Westmoreland in Barbados; Boca Raton Resort & Club in Florida; Raffles Resort on Canouan Island in the Grenadines; Abaco Club in the Bahamas; the Par 72, 18-hole Tom Weiskopf-designed Ocean Club in Atlantis; the par 70 Mahogany Run Golf Course on St Thomas; and the new Temenos course in Anguilla, which many rate as being the best they've ever played.

Diving If you're a certified diver, you'll love the waters of the Caribbean for their great drop-offs, famous wrecks and fascinating marine life. Among spots to plunge headfirst towards are the wreck of the Royal Mail Steamer HMS Rhone near Cooper Island in the Virgin Islands and the islands of Saba in the Leeward Islands. There are great drop offs here, along with great snorkelling opportunities. Arriving by plane is also fun as the short runways make it a heart-skipping experience.

As far as the Bahamas goes, Highbourne Cay is renowned for world-class diving and surface coral wrecks, and Staniel Cay and Sampson Cay have wonderful underwater parks. The Bahamas also offers good opportunities to dive with dolphins. If in Barbados, don't miss the chance to dive with turtles; and while in Antigua, swap stingrays into the experience. In the south of Antigua, Stingray Park is a fun place where you can dive in and paddle your way through waters teeming with these giant floating creatures.

Sportfishing Miami, Cuba and the Bahamas are three prime areas to head out to sea, drop a line and try your luck landing tuna, billfish and sharks.

*Only certified divers may dive when on a CNI charter



Watches Hublot Big Bang Aspen, 41m steel, 114 diamonds, white bezel, rubber strap; Leviev GMT Chrono 18K white gold on alligator strap Photo Jérome Kelagopian



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DE LA HAUTE HORLOGERIE

No limit



ong gone are the days when the function of a watch was simply to measure time. Gone too are the days when traditional Swiss watchmaking feared its downfall in the wake of Japanese quartz movements and battery-operated timepieces. And gone are the days when a five-figure price tag signified a luxury piece.

Today a €100,000 watch is far from uncommon; some manufacturers have even reached the seven-figure pinnacle. Today the Swiss watchmaking industry is reporting record sales, with a vast CHF13.7 billion export turnover and over 10% annual growth. Money is pouring in, which in turn helps them to develop new concepts that make a real statement. Today, without doubt, is a time for lifestyle statements.

Nowadays a fine watch – or a collection of fine watches – epitomises luxury living as much as a fine yacht. Many people have a watch for every lifestyle occasion. Why so? Probably because, in a century when our lives are calculated down to the millisecond, the talented creators behind today's luxury watches understand that taking one's time remains the ultimate luxury – ideally while taking your time to relax on board a yacht, of course. If money can't buy more time, at least it allows one to appreciate to the fullest the human attempts at controlling it, from its most artistic to its most ingenious expression.

Photo: Double-Split Spring, courtesy A. Lange & Sohne. All photos in Time&Tide rights reserved brands and manufactures. All ways, all the way

With over 100 examples of the finest watches released last April at both Baselword and Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie (SIHH in Geneva), including a large number of never-seen-before, patent-pending, technological evolutions, the watchmaking industry appears to be in great creative shape



Transparency

The more complicated the watch, the more visible its components. In order to showcase the technological and artistic prowess of their creations, the finest watchmakers make many of their watches transparent, not just on the back of the case but also on the bezel and the sides - a fine example being the latest Hour Vision from Omega's De Ville collection. A trend that first started with tourbillons, it has become a new avenue for many other components that are now proudly exposed - from the movement to the barrels, to a precious stone to the escapement or detail of the watch. The device is evidence of the genuine quality of the watch. Clients expect to see the fine workmanship, even more so as they become more learned about the mechanical qualities of their timepieces. Some of the leading propagators of this trend include Richard Mille, and more recently, Greubel Forsey with the upcoming Quadruple Tourbillon, Zenith and its Baby Star Sea Open, and Harry Winston's Glissière. As transparency reveals the heart of the watch, it somehow brings it to life, as is exemplified by Frederique Constant's new HeartBeat, which also incorporates a silicon escape-wheel to improve resistance to corrosion and make the watch entirely anti-magnetic. \rightarrow

Clockwise, from top left: Zenith Baby Star Sea Open, approx. \$24,000; Greubel & Forsey, Quadruple Tourbillon detail, price on request; Omega Vision Hour de Ville (detail of back case), approx. \$5,300; Frederique Constant, Heartbeat Manufacture Automatique, approx. \$5,000; Harry Winston Glissière, approx. \$268,000.

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New materials

Glorified by Hublot's Big Bang series of 'fusional' timepieces, new alloys have paved their way into the market, appearing on watches that marry innovation and tradition and incorporate metals like chrome, cobalt or titanium as well as a variety of ceramics and carbon-based materials. These allow for new designs, new engineering and, therefore, a broader range of watches for an existing model. At Hublot, the Bigger Bang All Black is made of ceramics, titanium and composite resin, while the Ice Bang combines ceramics with tantalium. At Panerai, the latest Radiomir features a black seal ceramic dial created using a new high-tech process called isostatic pressure and destined to improve the watches technically as well as aesthetically. Mention should also be made of Audemars-Piguet: not only did they sponsor the victorious Defender in this year's America's Cup, but their collaboration with Alinghi led to the development of a spectacular new forged carbon Royal Oak Offshore model. Last but not least, this trend has led some manufacturers to develop and brand their own alloys, such as Zenith and its Zenithium. A combination of titanium, aluminium and nobium, this new material is incorporated in the latest Defy Xtreme to produce a watch designed to resist impact, and to be water-resistant to 1,000 metres.

Larger than life

The evolution in materials and transparency is even more evident thanks to the wider cases that are also an increasing trend. As a watch is an accessory to be proud of, it is no surprise that men and women alike have come to appreciate large watches, to the point that women often now sport men's watches. A typical example of this trend is the Hublot Bigger Bang, which boasts a 44.5mm case in black polished ceramics, or the latest 46.5mm Zenith Defy Xtreme. Other favourites are Baume & Mercier's new XXL Magnum, whose name says it all, and IWC's Top Gun.



Top: Hublot Ice Bang, approx. \$12,500. **Below, left to right:** Panerai Radiomir Black Seal Ceramic, approx. \$12,000; Zenith DefyXtreme, approx. \$21,000; Baume & Mercier Rivera XXL Magnum, approx. \$4,000; IWC Pilots Double Chronograph Top Gun, price on request.



Technological first

Advances in research and development are also in evidence when it comes to the technical capabilities of mechanical watches. From Chopard, with its Quattro Power, to Panerai with its Luminor 1950 GMT 8 Days, or the exceptional Radiomir GMT 10 Days, to Blancpain's new Fifty Fathoms 8-Day, the power reserve is increasingly the key to success. Far better than the standard two days' power reserve, which may be a deterrent to purchasing a highly priced watch, these watchmakers have increased the number of barrels in such models from two to three or four; even better, F.P.Journe has increased the power reserve of its latest Octa Automatique Reserve 120 hours with just a single barrel. But the record is held by Lange & Söhne, which has come up with the Lange 31 and its power reserve of 31 days with just two barrels.

In the race to develop new devices, two brands have made a major stir this year. Following the breakthrough of its Freak concept in 2001, where the movement pivots to indicate time, and the watch bears no crown or hand, Ulysse Nardin released a new Freak model, the DIAMonSil. The new model is in platinum and is the first ever timepiece to sport a synthetic nanocrystal diamond escapement grown on a silicium part. An advance in technologicaly as it lasts forever and does not require lubricant. It also lends the watch a unique, highly artistic identity.



Clockwise, from top left: Ulysse Nardin, FreakDIAMondSIL, approx. \$44,800; Panerai Luminor 8 days GMT, approx. \$11,700; Panerai Radiomir 10 Days GMT White Gold, price on request; Blancpain new Fifty Fathoms Power Reserve, price on request; A. Lange & Sohne, Lange 31 Platinum, approx. \$180,000; F.P.Journe, Octa Automatique Power Reserve, from \$25,000 to \$65000;

Clockwise, from top: Piaget Torre dell'Oroligio, Polo Tourbillon, unique piece, \$320,000; Parmigiani Kalpagraph, approx. \$14,200; L.U.C Chopard Quattro, approx. \$24,500; Panerai for Ferrari, Perpetual Calendar, price on request; Parmigiani, elaboration of the Bugatti concept (detail).

A manufacture to stand out

When Karl-Friedrich Scheufele decided that Chopard was to see the rebirth of its own manufacture in 1996, many specialists were a little dubious of the potential success of such a costly enterprise. Ten years on, one not only has to admit that the decision has been instrumental to the development of the Chopard brand, but also recognise that being a manufacture, where a company creates its own movements, is nowadays a sign of distinction. This explains Omega's recent strategy, and also that of brands like Hublot, or Montblanc and the Richemont group taking over the Minerva manufacture in Villeret, France, to allow Montblanc to develop haute horlogerie timepieces. Other examples of such evolutions include Parmigiani, whose latest chronograph Kalpagraph is equipped with the first movement entirely built at the Parmigiani Fleurier manufacture, as well as the three new movements introduced this year by Oficine Panerai, who began development in 2003, and released their first movement last year.

Besides the independence that creating their own movements gives the watchmakers, being part the manufactures club aids the creation of exceptional watches. Not only are resources dedicated to developing a movement of one's choice, with investment worth a few million dollars over a few years, such a perspective also adds to the synergy required to bring all the separate components of a watch together. From engineering to design, each component in the process can adapt to the others, resulting in greater versatility, creativity and valued teamwork; as well as strikingly exceptional timepieces, often developed as a limited series. Piaget and the unique Polo, created to celebrate Piaget's renovation of the famous clock tower Torre dell'Orologio in St Mark's Square, is a fine example. Strikingly beautiful, the watch is an enamalled flying tourbillon decorated with the arms of the city.

The rise of the chronograph

Always on the edge of technology, F.P. Journe has released a new chronograph 'Centigraphe', which is precise up to 1/100th of a second. The trend for constantly improved chronographs is a result of partnerships between many watch brands and either Formula One or car manufacturers. For example TAG Heuer and McLaren – partnered since 1985 – celebrated this year with a fully redesigned version of their Formula One model. The trend has also been boosted by marketing campaigns of associations like Breitling for Bentley, or, more recently, Audemars Piguet for Maserati and the latest MC12 Millenary Tourbillon and Chronograph, Panerai for Ferrari with the GMT 8 days special edition, or Jaeger-Lecoultre for Aston Martin with the Amvox2. The latest in the series, and one that is certain to be a favourite, is the Flying B Chronograph designed by Breitling for Bentley. Following last year's introduction of a square watch for its car







partner, Breitling has now developed the model into a magnificent chronograph.

In total, no less than 12 new chronograph movements have been released in the past two years. Chopard released its L.U.C. Chrono One with the GT₃ Calibre to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the relaunch of its Fleurier manufacture. Other new chronographs worthy of note include Maurice Lacroix's Masterpiece Le Chronographe and the Double Split by A. Lange & Söhne.

Ulysse Nardin's Maxi Marine Chronometer and Breguet's Marine Tourbillon Chronographe will no doubt become favourites, as will Girard-Perregaux new WTC Financial, an ideal instrument for frequent business travellers, which ingeniously indicates the different times around the world as well as the hours when four markets – Hong Kong, New York, London, and Tokyo – open for business. Other favoured pieces include Carl F. Bucherer's Chronographe.

Interestingly, Patek Philippe went the other way last year and brought together the chronograph hands and dials on one axis, positioned at 6 o'clock and it will be interesting to see if this signals the launch of a new trend. De Bethune has gone a step further by challenging the established three dials that adorn chronographs to create a single large dial that combines all displays in one, resulting in the splendid De Bethune's Maxichrono and its five central hands, due for release in 2008.



Top to bottom, left to right: DeBethune, Maxichrono (2008). price on request; Patek Philippe Annual Calendar Chronograph Titanium, approx. \$63,500: Carl F. Bucherer Patravi Chronograde, approx. \$10,000; L.U.C Chopard Chrono One, Only Watch 2007 edition (1/2); Maurice Lacroix Masterpiece Le Chronographe, approx. \$12,500; Bretiling for Bentley, Flying B Chronograph, approx. \$12,500; Breguet Marine Tourbillon Chronographe, approx. \$125,000; Girard-Perregaux WTC Financial, approx. \$12,000; F.P. Journe Centigraphe, approx. \$44,000; A. Lange & Sohne Double Split, approx. \$116,500; and Ulysse Nardin new Maxi Marine Chronographe 43mm, approx. \$29,000.



From yachting.

Opposite: Girard-Perregaux BMW Oracle Laureato Tourbillon Below, clockwise from top left: Rolew Oyster Perpetual Yacht Master II; Panerai Luminor 1950 Regatta Rattrapante. special edition, price on request; Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Offshore, Alinghi team, limited editions: Corum Admirals Cup 48 Porto Cervo Marina limited edition; TAG Heuer Aquaracer Calibre S Regatta China Team limited edition; Marine Tourbillon Richard Mille RM015 Perini Navi Cup: Hublot Big Bang Luna Rossa special edition.

hen it comes to watches and sport, 2007 is of particular interest thanks to the Louis Vuitton Cup and America's Cup. In addition to Louis Vuitton and its limited edition Tambour LV Cup Régate Platine, there were no less than six syndicates sponsored by watchmakers, all of which had specific models.

Whereas Audemars Piguet introduced new materials for its Royal Oak for Alinghi, creating an extremely light and strong watch (like an America's Cup racing boat), Girard-Perregaux created a limited 32-piece edition of the Laureato Tourbillon for BMW Oracle Racing, with a specific regatta device that incorporates pre-start countdown timing, as did Omega for Team New Zealand with the Seamaster NZL-32. Hublot, the latest newcomer in this type of sponsorship, supported Luna Rossa – the last of the four 'big' teams. Corum also took part, with a special edition of its Admiral's Cup Competition 48, in support of Victory Challenge, the Swedish team.

From a purely marketing approach, the most interesting perspective is that of TAG Heuer. Rather than associating the brand with established teams, Jean-Christophe Babin, TAG Heuer's CEO, teamed up with the China Team, the last to enter and first out of the competition. There is obviously long-term planning in this association, with the Chinese market in mind. On this





occasion, TAG Heuer produced 500 pieces of the Aquaracer, Chrono Calibre S, a watch with a quartz movement that places all the hands in the centre for a new calibre that took five years to develop and will be the basis for TAG's new quartz chronograph watches.

However, the America's Cup is not the only nautical activity that has had a powerful effect on watchmakers. Panerai continues to support classic regatta events with the Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge, and has come up with a special edition of its Luminor 1950 Flyback Regatta.

A long-time supporter of nautical events, Rolex has released a new version of its Oyster Perpetual – the Yacht-Master II. Even Breitling has joined in the yachting fun, and released the Chrono Avenger M1, which combines the functions of a chronograph and dive watch with a regatta countdown timing device. Built in titanium, it dives to 1,000 meters.

There is now also a trend to bring together watch brands and specific events or yacht clubs that organise such events. Following Hublot's relationship with the Yacht Club de Monaco and the Tuiga Big Bang launched two years ago now, Corum has released a Porto Cervo Marina limited edition of the Admiral's Cup Competition 48, while Hublot again teams up with Wally yachts for another limited edition. Perhaps the most prolific this year, Richard Mille followed up on his partnership with Perini Navi to create a new version of the RM Perini Navi Cup Calibre o15 – the first tourbillon in watchmaking history equipped with a carbon nanofiber movement plate. In addition to its interest in regattas, Richard Mille continues to partner with Felipe Massa, Ferrari's F1 driver, and created the RM011, an extreme watch believed to be the only one able to bear the forces endured by F1 drivers during the race. Following the path of the legendary timepiece initiated by TAG Heuer with the Monaco, Graham (the only other British luxury watch brand besides Dunhill – although both have their timepieces made in Switzerland) this year introduced the Grand Silverstone Woodcote Red Gold. It is inspired by the Silverstone Circuit and is a limited collection with only 250 pieces produced. Jumping on the bandwagon initiated by Chopard with the Mille Miglia – like the latest GT XL Chronograph – the Grand Silverstone strap is made of vulcanised rubber and resembles the shape of a tyre.

Among other brands closely linked to elite sports, Jaeger Lecoultre this year introduced a new, highly complicated, version of its Master Compressor Extreme W-Alarm. Equipped with the 912 calibre, featuring a universal time and an unusual alarm system. There is even a special edition version paying tribute to Valentino Rossi, the world champion in moto racing, that bears his favourite number, 46, and favourite colour, yellow.





Above: L.U.C Chopard Mille Miglia GT XL 2007 pieces Limited Edition, approx. \$6,000. Opposite, clockwise left to right: laeger Lecoultre Master Conpressor Extreme W-Alarm, approx. \$13,000; the same one, in limited edition Valentino Rossi; Graham Grand Silverstone Woodcote, approx. \$9,300; Richard Mille RM011 Felipe Massa Tourbillon, price on request.

... to motor sports



From avant garde...



mid the flurry of new devices, models and complications, some brands have taken the art of watchmaking one step further with striking designs and/or materials. While Romain Jérôme has developed a watch using authentic materials from the Titanic for the Titanic DNA, Jean Dunand has created, with the Shabaka, a masterpiece of technology comprising 721 components, which offers a stunning perpetual calendar with auto-update displayed on rolling cylinders; for a watch that, like all of Jean Dunand's watches, can be personalised for each client. Other vanguard design pieces include Hautlence's HLSo4; award-winning Rodolphe's Instant Chrono 180°; with its three chronograph dials lined up horizontally on a watch larger than life, Frank Vila's FV4 Tourbillon Dual Side, DeBethune's Power; and, last but not least, fast-rising MB&F (Maximilien Busser & Friends) and its splendid Horological Machine nº1 a watch with a 'doubled' case for two main dials and of which only 30 pieces have been produced.



Above, clockwise from top left: Jean Dunand, Shabaka unique piece, \$416,000; Romain Jerome Titanic DNA, \$6,700; MB&F, Horological Machine n°1, approx. \$125,000. Framed, left to right: Rodolphe Instant Chronographe 180, price on request; Frank Vilas's FV4, approx. \$25,000; Hautlence 04, approx. \$55,000; DeBethune Power, price on request.



At the other end of the spectrum, many 'classic' brands have rejuvenated their ever-appealing watches by incorporating new devices and materials into their timeless lines. Patek Philippe this year relaunched many variations of its celebrated Nautilus, yet the design remains faithful to its squarish, 1970s' TV-set style case. Along a similar path, Girard-Perregaux launches a new interpretation of its 1966 Full Calendar classic, as well as its 1945 Vintage collection launched in the early nineties (well before the vintage trend took off) which is now equipped with a new movement. Blancpain's Léman, Audemars Piguet's Automatique and Chopard's 1860 remain other strong contenders, joined by Harry Winston's new Excenter, and to a lesser extent Baume & Mercier, with its new Hampton XL.

And then there are the classical classics, those that do not require any revamping but follow their own course through history, untouched by time. Vacheron Constantin, with its Patrimony day-date birétrograde, which incorporates a new self-winding movement as well as a new alloy for the hands, have kept to the purity and sleek lines of the original collection. Other new 'classic' models worthy of note include IWC's renewed Da Vinci in both automatic and chronograph versions, as well as Ulysse Nardin's Quadrato Dual Time, which beats to the pulse of the new Calibre 160, designed to celebrate the 16oth anniversary of the manufacture. Clockwise, from top left: Ulysse Nardin Quadrato Dual Time, approx. \$43,000; L.U.C Chopard 1860, approx. \$8,100; Vacheron Constantin Patrimony Day-Date, Bi-Rétrograde, approx. \$30,500; IWC Da Vinci Perpetual Calendar Kurt Klaus special edition, approx. \$57,500; Audemars Piguet, Jules Audemars Automatique, approx. \$15,000; Girard-Perregaux Vintage 1945 Jackpot, aprox. \$500,000; Girard-Perregaux 1966 Full Calendar, price on request; Baume&Mercier Hampton XL Magnum, approx. \$3,600; Patek Philippe Nautilus Moon Phase, approx. \$33,000; Blancpain Leman Minute Repeater Aqualung Dial, Titanium, unique piece, price on request; Harry Winston Excenter Perpetual Calendar, approx. \$35,000.





... to renewed classics



Art of watchmaking & Haute Joaillerie

Fun, freedom and follies; watchmakers revive glamourous times and combine timepieces with more precious stones than ever, all for a lady's delight.

longside the current race for new designs and technological devices at higher prices, there is also a trend to incorporate a large number of high-quality precious stones into women's timepieces. Among traditional watch manufacturers, Patek Philippe, for example, has now revamped the Calatrava with a redesigned dial, for a model that is set with 48 diamonds around the bezel. The same principle applies to Ulysse Nardin's Caprice, the first series dedicated exclusively to women, with diamonds also available on the bracelet. Other noteworthy pieces include Blancpain's Women Lotus, set with 220 diamonds, and Audemars Piguet's Ciel Etoilé, a stunning tribute to the sky and stars set with 388 diamonds.

There are also a range of watchmakers that create elaborate designs that demonstrate how closely the watchmaking and jewellery industries are intertwined. Chopard is probably the best example of such an association, as exemplified by its latest Two O Ten, which features a chronograph and 28 baguette diamonds. DeGrisogono's Be Eight collection is also a fine example.

Many luxury brands originally involved in other sectors, such as couture, jewellery or accessories, have taken the path of Haute Horlogerie in recent years. While many would probably, and rightly, consider it a challenge to join the elite club, but a few brands have shown that it is not an impossible goal. Among these, Chanel stands out with the successful J12 model launched five years ago. This year, it has reached greater heights with the J12 Tourbillon, and the magnificent J12 Haute Joaillerie set with 568 baguette rubies. Although limited to 12 copies, it gives a strong indication of the route the Parisian house is heading for.

And then there is Cartier, which never ceases to surprise both its customers and the industry. The Cartier Ronde Folle fully embodies the name of the Libre collection, as the bezel is trapped below a wild cage paved with diamonds and the hours roam along the waves created by the undulating lines of the cage. In fact, freedom seems to be the keyword for many, as Piaget, with its latest



Left page, top picture: Piaget Limelight Party "Secret", mounted on diamonds necklace, limited edition. Below, clockwise from top left: Patek Philippe, Calatrava Travel Time; Richard Mille Ladies' Watch RMoo7 with Rubies; Blancpain Women ultra-thin; Cartier Ronde Folle; Chanel J12 Tourbillon Haute Horlogerie; Ulysse Nardin Caprice; Hublot Cappucino Gold. Above, left of page: Chopard 's new Two-O-Ten collection. Above, left to right: Montblanc Ministar White

Gold Lady; Audemars Piguet Millenary Skylit; De Grisogono Be Eight Gold; Van Cleef & Arpels Lady Opera.

Limelight Party "Secret", continues to develop further extra-flat movements and offer original ideas and designs. In fact, the freedom concept is so trendy that even Montblanc, usually rather sleek and conservative, has now come up with the Ministar, where the shape of the hours, all in diamonds, also appear to be roaming freely on the bezel.

Women also seem to be the main target for brands better known for their men's watches. Hublot's Big Bang sees new developments for various models, from the Big Bang Aspen that adorns the cover of this supplement to the Big Bang Cappuccino, whose name highlights the current colour trend for many models. Even high-tech Richard Mille is following through, having come up with a female version of its RMo7, set either with rubies or diamonds.

Standing apart is Van Cleef & Arpels and its Poetic Complications. Whether it is the Lady Arpels Opéra, where the seasons shift gradually to reveal four different ballerinas for each quarter, or the Lady Arpels Folie des Prés, disclosed as a world première during SIHH, with four gracious fairies for the same quarterly complication, a new world of poetry, complications and artistry unfolds before our eyes.



Vision and fusion

Jean-Claude Biver is known as the maverick genius who was responsible for the re-birth of Blancpain. Following its sale to the Swatch group, he decided to take up on a new challenge - Hublot. As two Hublot boutiques recently opened in Paris and Saint-Tropez, he gives Sea&I an insight about his strategy.

> sea&i How long has Hublot been in existence? JC Biver The brand was founded in 1980 by Mr. Crocco

Secal What's the story behind your taking over the brand? JC Biver The idea of Mr. Crocco when he founded Hublot was to make a watch for the "art of yachting". A watch adapted for the life on the boat and the sea. There come the name Hublot, which means porthole in French and the idea of the rubber. As rubber is a typical and modern material used in relation with rubber. The success of this watch was immediate and the rubber, which was considered as a kind of provocation by a certain number of people made the watch very unique and different. It was indeed the first rubber strap ever used in the entire industry. Since then, the rubber strap has become a standard in the watch making Art as well as in the jewellery world.

sea&i What was your career path before joining Hublot?
JC Biver I made my reputation mainly through the rebirth of

Blancpain which I bought in 1982 for 15'000\$. The brand had stopped all production since the early 60's and had no factory, no machines, no people, no contracts, no distribution, no collection, no nothing as I only bought the right to use the name. Ten years later the brand had established itself as a reference for traditional watch making Art and was doing 60'000'000\$ turnover.

sea&i When did you launch the Big Bang?

JC Biver After I sold Blancpain to Swatch Group I stayed on the Board of Directors with Swatch Group till end of 2003 and joined Hublot in summer 2004. The first Big Bang was invoiced in June 2005

sea&i What's the concept behind it and how long did it take to develop?

JC Biver The concept is the "fusion". To create a brand that would interpretate its tradition with the visions of the future.

Hublot represents both tradition and future. For instance we were the first to introduce the combination of Red Gold and Ceramic and Kevlar and Carbon. The first to introduce Kevlar and Magnesium. But the movement (which is an important part of the Art) is still a traditional automatic movement (even if we use also new materials in the movement). In fact the "fusion" concept was introduced already in 1980 by Mr. Crocco, because to combine Gold and Rubber is a fusion.

sea&i How much of the original Hublot spirit did you keep in creating the Big Bang?

JC Biver We kept as mentioned before the concept and the DNA of Hublot. The concept of "fusion" of 1980 has simply been more developed by us with the use of new materials which have given birth to a more actual and interesting fusion. And we have kept the look of the porthole and the DNA of the first design of 1980.

sea&i How many models have you developed since its inception?

JC Biver There have been some 40 references until now, but 18 references are doing 80 percent of our turnover

sea&i What's their range of prices and technical characteristics?

JC Biver The first price of a Big Bang starts at 10'000\$ and goes up to 1'000'000\$. The major characteristic of the Big Bang is the new combination of material and the use of new and unique materials which makes the watch totally different from any other existing watch and gives to the watch certain modernity and high tech look. But, as said before the movement is still a very traditional movement issued from the Swiss heritage and culture.

sea&i What are the links between Hublot and yachting? Originally, if any? And now?

JC Biver They are obvious. Already the name porthole suggests a relation. Already the rubber bracelet suggests a friendly approach to water and water sports. Therefore we have created a special relationship with the Monaco Yacht Club and the Real Club of Palma de Majorque. We are the official watch and timekeeper of those two prestigious Yacht Clubs. Same with Wally Boats, of which we are again the official watch and sponsor.

sea&i Are there plans for more limited editions?

JC Biver Yes, the limited edition is a particularity of our production strategy. The entire production is already limited and we cannot supply more than 60% at the best, of our demand. But we introduce on top of that two to four limited, exclusive editions every year. The limited editions are a strategy to give to certain customers the privilege to acquire a very unique and special watch.

sea&i How do you cope with the success of the watch? Are you surprised it took off so fast?

JC Biver Yes, of course. We knew that we would be successful, but did not expect such a success in such a short period of time. As the demand is double of the production capacities, we try to deliver our watches by giving priorities to the best stores and jewelers of the world. We also try to increase the production capacity every year and we will be building a new factory of 5'ooom2 next year.

sea&i How many watches do you produce yearly and which models are the most successful?

JC Biver We will produce 24'000 watches in 2007 for a demand of 39'000 watches. The most successful model is the Big Bang in 44mm diameter in Red Gold, Ceramic and Kevlar.

sea&i Do you deliberately limit production to keep the Big Bang highly exclusive?

JC Biver No, the exclusivity is already given by the small and high quality of our production, by the fact that we produce at the most 60% of the demand.

sea& What's in the pipeline, if anything, for other Hublot models/designs of watches?

JC Biver The BBKing is in the pipeline. It is a Big Bang King size (48mm) with a diving bezel. A typical watch for the sea and sea sports. For women who still like not too big watches we are going to introduce a smaller diameter of 38mm in spring 2008.

sea&i What are your views on the current booming situation of the luxury watch market? Here to stay?

JC Biver I believe that the luxury market will go on and will go up on the long term. Even if the increase will not be constant and steady. But it will go up! There are everyday new customers coming from emerging countries, there is everyday new wealth created. So I see no reason why this trend should not go on. As said before there will some ups and down, but for those who are doing their job right, there is a bright future for luxury.

seq&i And any limit to its expansion?

JC Biver Yes, we have a natural limit because our watches as heavily made by hand and therefore we have a limitation that comes from the number of watchmakers we can recruit. The limitation is not a barrier; it is a part of our concept. Today we produce 24'000 watches, probably the maximum might be around 50'000 pieces.



One of Hublot's latest fusion-creations, the Tantale Big -Bang boasts another new combination of materials that give it an extraordinary mat finish.

Beauties unlimited

he hows and whys of tourbillons was outlined in the previous issue of sea&i, so it was only logical that in this year's Time&Tide edition there should be a focus on pieces that remain favourites among connoisseurs and collectors, and epitomise the art of fine watchmaking: tourbillons of course, but also complications and, perhaps surprisingly, regulators. The choice could have been for the most expensive and complicated timepieces, but sea&i have instead made a selection that shows the right combination of innovative technology, inspired and inspiring design, and emotional appeal - in collaboration with London's famous high-end watch retailer Marcus Margulies. Most of the brands and watches displayed are available through Marcus's boutique, at 170 Bond Street, a temple for the appreciation of the finest timepieces.

JACQUET DROZ QUANTIÈME PERPÉTUEL

Collection Email Noir Absolu - absolute black enamel. Calibre Jaquet Droz 5863, double barrel, automatic. Limited edition 88 pieces.

FRANCK MULLER AETERNITAS MEGA 1

Each unit, from 1 to 4, features additional complications. Minute-repeater, Grande and Petite Sonnerie, Westrminster Carillon and Tourbillon. Most complicated is unit 4, with 1,000-year Perpetual Calendar.

GIRARD-PERREGAUX VINTAGE 1945 JACKPOT

A miniaturised automatic slot machine for 125 combinations and a Tourbillon. Unique piece

HUBLOT BIGGER BANG ALL BLACK

Brushed black ceramic bezel and case, calibre HUB1400CT, Flying Tourbillon with chronograph, 120 hours power reserve

CARTIER ROTONDE

Grande Complication, with Perpetual Calendar and chronograph function with single push-button. Cartier manufacture calibre.



Complications

Tourbillons



DEWITT TOURBILLON FORCE CONSTANTE

Showcases a device that provides the Tourbillon escapement with constant power as the spring winds down.

JEAN DUNAND TOURBILLON ORBITAL

One-minute Flying Tourbillon, 60-minute Orbit, Calibre IO200 by Christophe Claret, Moon Phases on the back. Unique piece.

VACHERON CONSTANTIN ANNIVERSAIRE

First Steel Tourbillon, 10 pieces only available in Geneva. Calibre VC1790 with 40-hour power reserve indicator and calendar

ROGER DUBUIS EXCALIBUR JFK

JFK for Just For Kings. Calibre RDo6 with 473 components; Chronograph, Flying Tourbillon, Large Date calendar.

BOVET FLEURIER RÉPÉTITION MINUTE

Collection Complications, with Jumping Hours, Triple time-zone. Calibre 12BM08

GREUBEL & FORSEY DOUBLE TOURBILLON 30° SECRET

The name says it all...

ONE HAND ON COURSE

Developed in the mid-18th century as a result of the quest for precise calculation of the longitude of a vessel in navigation, regulators were long used as the master reference for exact time. Today the origin of timekeeping is back in fashion.

The discovery of regulators was made by John Harrison in 1753, and first experimented on a transatlantic return voyage between Portsmouth and Jamaica in 1761. When back home, 147 days later, John Harrison's timepiece had only lost 1 minute and 54.5 seconds to the actual time – he was thus rewarded with the £20,000 prize (worth Euro 2 million today) promised by the British Parliament in 1714 to whom would solve the longitude puzzle.

At first sight they look a little strange, with their one hand indicating only the minutes. But then, looking closer, one realises that the hours and seconds are also displayed, within their own smaller dials usually set at 6 and 12 o' clock, or, rather, 60 and 30 minutes. As a result, sporting a regulator no doubt draws attention, and probably questions, but also conveys a strong sense of historical belonging for its bearer.

Regulators

JACQUET DROZ

Not (yet ?) available in the latest Email Noir Absolu collection, Jaquet Droz's regulator is equipped with the JD2663 self-winding mechanical movement, double barrel, with 68-hour power reserve. As usual with Jaquet Droz, limited series of 88 pieces.

IWC PORTUGAISE

Classic style for a regulator directly inspired by tradition, yet with discrete modern technology. 43mm case in platinum, calibre 9825 with 46-hour power reserve, 500 pieces.

CHOPARD

Now a classic, the L.U.C 4R Quattro Regulateur by Chopard is probably the model that renewed the trend when awarded the prize for Best Watch of the Year 2004 - and the reason why it deserved to appear in these pages. Calibre L.U.C Fleurier 1.98 with four barrels and a 9-day power reserve.



Watchmakers united

To have a group of famed master watchmakers join and celebrate the art of making the finest timepieces is a rare treat. Given the success of the first Only Watch auction in 2005, the organisers of the 17th Monaco Yacht Show have decided to aim even higher this year

> n 20th September, under the high patronage of his Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, the Parvis Piscine tent at the Monaco Yacht Show welcomes 35 exceptional watches to be auctioned once again by Antiquorum. Having raised €1.9 million back in 2005, with 34 watches auctioned, no doubt the 2007 objective is to aim over the €2million benchmark, which will again benefit the AMM (Association Monégasque contre les Myopathies), an association which helps funding research on Duchenne Muscular Distrophy, a grave genetic disease that affects 30 000 children in Europe alone.

The list of participating watchmakers, all coming together to offer their very best, is certainly impressive. From Audemars Piguet to Zenith, they cover the whole alphabet and spectrum of fine watchmaking. From Richemont to the Swatch group to Richard Mille, they examplify the work of all major watch groups as well as that of more maverick creators. And from men's sports watches to glamourous women's timepieces, they illustrate the artistry of their « time-makers » in all sorts of designs.

The principles behind the success of the first edition remain: each brand has come up with a unique watch or the first numbered model in a limited series. As all previous participants agreed to renew the experience, a sure sign of the buzz created with the first edition, one can expect even more astonishing timepieces this year. Prior to the auction in Monaco on the 20th of September, the « Only Watch » tour goes around the world, with previews in Tokyo, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singpaore, New York and Geneva. For more details, and to register for online bidding too, please long onto www.antiquorum.com and/or www.timezone.com

WHAT IS DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY?

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is a serious genetic disease that affects one out of every 3,500 boys born. It is progressive and is marked by a gradual deterioration of the muscles, resulting in life-threatening pulmonary and cardiac complications. Those who suffer from the disease become highly dependent and require constant assistance and an adaptation of their environment. Research has made great strides during the past ten years, due to genetic progress, as well as to the dedicated efforts of associations the families of affected children. However, much remains to be done in order that effective therapies may be found.

in same alphabetical order from 1 to 35): Audemars Piguet. Blancpain, Breguet, Chopard, Corum, Daniel Roth, de Bethune, deLaCour, De Witt, Eterna, Franck Muller, Frédérique Constant, Gerald Charles, Girard-Perregaux, Glashütte Original, Harry Winston, Hublot, IWC, Jaeger-Lecoultre, Jaquet Droz, Louis Vuitton, Mauboussin, Officine Panerai, Omega, Patek Philippe, Piaget, Pierre Kunz, Richard Mille & Philippe Starck, Rodolphe, Swatch, Ulysse Nardin, Vacheron Constantin, Van Cleef & Arpels, Zenith

Participating manufacturers (photos

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Can a fine wristwatch be considered a work of art?

Given the spectacular prices reached in recent auction sales of collectors' watches, international watch expert Osvaldo Patrizzi gives Sea&I his views on whether the art of watchmaking can turn timepieces into art pieces.

n a world where status is everything, precious vintage wristwatches have found a niche for collectors and amateurs who are prepared to pay simply to possess an exclusive timepiece. Rare pieces represent the luxury of a certain lifestyle – the search for excellence, and a cultural symbol of man's achievements. Design, technology, and "savoir faire" are the ingredients that have captured the interest of the elite who find, in exquisite details, the pleasure of wearing a piece of art.

When I started the first auctions dedicated to wristwatches in 1981, when figures reached Euro 15,000 – 20,000 for important pieces like Patek Philippe or Breguet, the prices seemed astronomical. Today, some of these pieces have fetched over 100 times these prices and they continue to rise. The world record for the most important wristwatch was sold by my company in April of 2002 for over Euro 4,000,000; it was a platinum, world time Patek Philippe made in 1946, and it was the only example known to exist today. The battle to acquire this unique piece was a tough fight for the passionate bidders, since there were four contenders bidding up to Euro 3,000,000, before it narrowed down. Another example of a magnificent timepiece

highly fought after was a Patek Philippe stainless steel chronograph, Ref. 530, which was sold by Sotheby's in the early '90s for approxiamately \$200,000, which I then sold at auction in 2004 for an impressive \$1,700,000. An example of another rare Patek Philippe is coming up for auction in October, in Geneva, and it is one of the most sought after and sophisticated examples of high technology; it is an 18K yellow gold, round button, split-second chronograph made in 1947 and is one of only three known to exist. The expectations are high and the watch will most likely reach seven figures. The reasons for such strong prices are that today, wristwatches are a status symbol recognised and appreciated around the world. Important businessmen, worldwide, compete when one of these rare, iconic pieces becomes available, sending a strong signal for the stability of collecting fine vintage wristwatches. A few weeks ago, I was having dinner with an important client in Beverly Hills and we sat discussing the difficulty of finding important wristwatches and how strong prices have become. He told me quite simply, "When I go to a restaurant, I have to leave my Ferrari with the valet outside, but my wristwatch is always on me".

Above: the Patek Philippe World Time made in 1946, probably a unique piece, that sold for Euro 4 million in 2002.


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Maxi Marine Chronometer 43 mm - 266-67/42 Self-winding chronometer certified movement. Water-resistant to 200m. 18 ct rose gold case. Available also on rubber strap or gold bracelet. For the truly hedonistic water baby seeking paradise, look no further than the Maldives – the perfect cruising grounds for those wishing to drift Robinson Crusoe style

Oream Weaving Bream

By Miriam Cain

pread like sparkling jewels across the turquoise skirt of the Indian Ocean, the 1,190 desert islands that make up the Maldives are as close to fantasy as you are ever likely to get.

The island chain encompasses 26 atolls with a combined landmass of 300 square kilometres; yet they span more than 90,500 square kilometres across the Indian Ocean. Each island is surrounded by crystal-clear lagoons encrusted with reefs, providing some of the most outstanding dive sites in the world.

Only one sixth of the islands are inhabited, while a further 90 have been — in the main judiciously — transformed into exclusive holiday retreats. A few of these resorts bring to mind a Robinson Crusoe lifestyle, with the added bonus of mod cons, fabulous chefs and a Man Friday as your personal butler.

KANUHURA

Lying north of Malé in the northeast part of the Lhaviyani atoll, One&Only Kanuhura is the perfect expression of the desert-island idyll. A stylish, unpretentious sanctuary, it is all about laidback glamour with pure white linens and yoga at sunrise, sunset and any time in between.

The island is tiny, less than two kilometres long and 200 metres wide. It takes 20 minutes to walk around its circumference yet it manages to squeeze in a plethora of luxurious settings, including four gourmet restaurants (even though Cove's restaurant is alfresco-style on the neighbouring private desert island Jehunuhura), a poolside beach bar, a freshwater swimming pool, spa, boutique, watersports centre and





kids club, along with 100 villas either sitting on stilts perched above the lagoon, or on the beach. Yet with so much on one tiny island, even at full capacity you rarely see another guest. The island exudes a magnificent illusion of space and is engulfed by an all-enveloping calm.

The laid-back yet carefree vibe lends the island its character and charm. An idyllic place for a romantic honeymoon, nobody need acknowledge anybody else, everyone is just too busy relaxing and enjoying their private beach or water villa. Those who do wish to be more sociable or less romantically inclined can stroll along the beach and dine by candlelight with likeminded guests in the Veli Café, or alone on the beach. Savouring fish that was swimming just a few hours earlier in the very ocean that washes your toes as you dine somehow makes the experience just that little bit more special.

Laze by the freshwater pool, speed a graceful catamaran across a flat, calm lagoon or paddle a kayak lazily around the island – there is plenty to do on this tiny island but little pressure to do any-thing at all if you simply choose to laze.

THE HIGHS ...

• Drift off on a musical sunset cruise aboard a traditional dhoni. You will be accompanied by native Maldivian music, boduberu, which is known to attract dolphins.

• Fall asleep under the stars on Kanuhura's neighbouring private island Jehunuhura, where you can snuggle up in a four-poster bed sunk into the sand.

• Take a garden shower in the spacious open-air bathrooms. They have rain showers and stone baths large enough for two.





REETHI RAH

Fabulously cool, chic and hip, One&Only at Reethi Rah is a beautiful island spread over eight kilometres of beach-fringed forest.

Reethi Rah means 'beautiful island' in Dhivehi, the native language, and it is just that. An hour's cruise from Malé, in the North Malé atoll, the island is a natural landform that has been expanded to an amoeba-shaped mass of lush landscape to create the perfect fantasy island. The coastline hugs 12 perfect crescent-shaped beaches fringing over 40 hectares of beautifully landscaped grounds, home to 130 villas, three restaurants, an E'spa spa, a gym, a watersports centre, and a kids club with a 'mini-me' spa.

The villas are the epitome of sophistication. Set either on the beach secluded by tropical greenery, or above the protected waters of the lagoon, they are among the largest resort villas in the world but are scattered generously around the property. Each is camouflaged by strategic planting and is surrounded by generous stretches of land.

Even when the resort is at full capacity the only

other person you are likely to encounter is your villa host, who'll treat you to a trance-inducing footbath and foot-massage on the terrace. The villas blend in with their natural environment, with bamboo arches, teak, mahogany, marble and thatch, complemented with silk and Egyptiancotton bed-linen.

Dining at Reethi Rah is an experience. Chef Daniel Smith heads up a team of over 50 at three restaurants, including three settings alone in the main Reethi Restaurant. The over-water Japanese restaurant Tapasake on the island's west →





beach serves light, modern Japanese cuisine, with fresh seafood flown in twice weekly from Tokyo. You can dine on a fabulous Indian-Asian mix of flavours, with sashimi, sushi, Kobe beef, tapas and teppanyaki. At the northern end of the island, the exotic Fanditha is probably the coolest and most decadent restaurant in the whole of the Maldives, serving up Middle Eastern cuisine in a laid-back setting.

By day the island provides numerous activities. You can ride your bicycle to the dive shop where instructors are brimming with enthusiasm to show you the sights. Or step aboard the island's dhoni, specially outfitted as a dive boat, and discover an underwater world where you will be completely mesmerised as ray after ray glides by.

For watersports enthusiasts the neighbouring watersports centre has everything from waterskis and wakeboards to windsurfs and kayaks, while daily volleyball and beach football sessions are organised by the ever-friendly staff. But for those wishing to chill by the villa by day, sunset yoga in the over-water Chi Pavillion is a must.

THE HIGHS ...

• Wander down to the One&Only Spa. It is set on the water's edge and has a blow-out menu which includes the 'Révérence de Bastien', a pedicure developed by world-famous podiatrist Bastien Gonzalez. The products in the spa hail from the acclaimed E'spa range.

• Join the French head sommelier for a private wine-tasting session, selecting from more than 9,000 bottles of the world's finest wines. A lucky few can even try their luck at the exclusive art of Champagne-sabering.





Cruising on...

The Maldives has a plethora of island resorts, and the numbers are rising. The following properties are worth stepping ashore for...

Baros

Baros is a new boutique-island resort near Malé in the North Malé atoll. The resort has 75 villas all made with materials that respect the environment. What makes Baros unique is its architecturally distinctive lighthouse lounge and restaurant where you get a 360 degree view of the surrounding islands and stunning sunset views across the sea.

Cocoa Island

Found in the South Malé atoll, Cocoa Island is the Indian Ocean outpost of COMO Hotels and Resorts, which also runs Parrot Cay in the Turks and Caicos. Stay in a spacious 'dhoni' suite which is shaped like a traditional wooden boat and built on a wooden jetty over the water. On one side of the island lies the Kandooma Channel, considered to be one of the best dive sites in the Maldives, while the other side has a quiet reef for snorkelling and a curl of sandy beach that tapers into a spit of sand.

Dhoni Mighili

Located in the Ari atoll, to the southwest of Malé, Dhoni Mighili is a tiny island with only six villas, each with access to its own dhoni.

HUVAFEN FUSHI

A contemporary retreat on a small island in the North Malé atoll, Huvafen Fushi is a minimalist resort where you can choose between over-water bungalows or ocean pavilions with your own fibre-optic-lit infinity pool. You can also lose yourself in the idyllic cutting-edge spa.

Kuda Huraa and Landaa Giraavaru

Four Seasons has two resorts in the Maldives. Kuda Huraa, a 25-minute speedboat ride from Malé International Airport, was one of the first luxury resorts to open in the Maldives. Following an extensive renovation, the resort reflects the country's indigenous culture. Landaa Giraavaru, the Four Seasons' second resort, is in the Baa atoll. Known for its cuisine, the island serves Asian, regional and authentic Arabian cuisine.

TRAVEL NOTES

Climate: Set just north of the Equator, the Maldives has a tropical climate with two seasons. The northeast monsoon, from December to May, is light and fairly dry. The southwest monsoon, from June to November, occasionally brings brief downpours followed by sunshine. Cruising: Large yachts move from atoll to atoll in the deep waters outside the reefs, but you will need a local skipper who knows the waters to thread you around the coral head. Getting there: Emirates Tours fly via Dubai to

the Maldives and have One&Only twin-centre packages available. For further information visit www.emiratestours.co.uk. For further information on One&Only Resorts visit www.oneandonlyresorts.com

MANAFARU

Set to open in November 2007, The Beach House at Manafaru is located in the Haa Alifu Atoll in the northern Maldives. As you head north from Malé the islands become larger and greener with bigger beaches. The 14-hectare private island of Manafaru has stunning natural beaches and boasts a wealth of vegetation.

W MALDIVES RETREAT & SPA

W Hotels has turned private island indulgence into a jet setter's luxury playground with its first retreat in the Maldives. Located on the private island of Fesdu in the North Ari Atoll, the resort features 78 exclusive villas, six gourmet eateries, and its own nightlife hotspot 'Below', situated 4.5 metres below sea level.

CNI can create a unique charter around the Maldives. For further information please contact your CNI charter broker (see page 11).

Beauty gems

It seems that beauty does indeed come from within. From within the core of the earth, that is. A growing trend to infuse beauty products with the most precious gems and elements of nature is resulting in the most exclusive skincare products imaginable

By Kate Rigby

hen we want to look our best, to catch the eye, turn heads and truly dazzle, we are wont to decorate our skin with sparkling diamonds, glowing amber, rich gold and luminous pearls. Their pure beauty, eternal quality and sheer presence never fail to uplift us, so it's not surprising that beauty companies are increasingly following suit and incorporating these treasured gems and elements in their skincare products. After all, why drape a gold pendant around your neck when you can have this most precious element flaked into miniscule particles, whipped into a luxurious cream and applied direct to your skin?

Likewise if you love the natural glow of pearls, don't limit yourself to a pair of subtle drop earrings, instead glide a smooth veil of crushed pearl powder across your complexion for a youthful luminosity.

No end of remarkable ingredients are now making their way into powders, creams and serums; here, we dazzle you with some of the most extraordinary riches of nature.

Diamonds forever

Lending a shimmering effect and exfoliating in one, diamonds really are a girl's best friend. Thanks to their beneficial qualities, they are a natural addition to many beauty products and are now appearing in a variety of moisturising creams, facials, scrubs and nail varnishes.

Expert nail technician Leighton Denny explains why he

revamped his manicure treatments to include this sparkling gem. "Over recent years my clients have been asking me to add something different to the traditional French manicure," he says. "My new Diamond Nail Colours have a subtle shimmer with a light-reflective finish. Newly reformulated, they include diamonds for their incomparable polishing qualities." Denny has also created a hand cream that contains minute diamond particles for improved exfoliation and hydration.

Another company investing in the beauty benefits of diamonds is La Prairie. "Microdermabrasion treatments usually contain aluminium oxide crystals," explains Jo Jackson, head of training for La Prairie. "But these are very unstable and can cause reactions. La Prairie is using diamonds, freshwater pearls and quartz crystals pureed together as they are all hard, natural inner substances that can't be changed, so they are less likely to cause known reactions. They are also more effective than normal

granulated exfoliators.' As such, diamonds will no doubt be sparkling on beauty shelves for a long time to come.

The Midas touch

Gold has a noble, eternal nature. The ancients believed it to be a source of immortality, and respect for it maintains to the present day with modern medicine still drawing on its healing benefits. However, this precious element is generally better known for its beauty than its health effects. When polished, it radiates with a glistening sparkle. It is this remarkable quality of reflecting light so enchantingly that we all seek when we wear it, and one that has beauty manufacturers endeavouring to capture in their products.

While there are shelves upon shelves of foundations and creams that promise to lend you that ultimate golden glow, it is the products with pure 24-carat gold particles that you want to steer your way towards. Leading names the likes of Carita, Guerlain and La Prairie are now infusing their products with powder-soft gold flakes that catch the light and give the skin a subtle, iridescent shimmer.

Guerlain, for example, has just launched its L'Or Radiance Concentrate with Pure Gold, a make-up base with 24-carat gold suspended in a gel that melts on contact with the skin; refreshing and moisturising skin instantly and lending a lasting golden glow to the complexion. Guerlain's Director of Education and Development, Richard Hawkins, explains, "Gold is excellent in skincare because the skin is able to accept and absorb it with great ease. It also has a strengthening property on the membrane of the cell, while in terms of immediate, cosmetic benefits it gives incredible radiance to the skin."

La Prairie's new Cellular Radiance Concentrate Pure Gold also contains 24-carat gold in a colloidal gel (inspired by Chinese healing treatments) that melts into the skin to slow down the breakdown of collagen and elastin, helping to maintain skin's youthful elasticity and firmness. "Gold does not just help you to look radiant, it is also biocompatible with skin and has amazing anti-inflammatory properties," elaborates Jo Jackson of La Prairie. "It also defends skin from environmental aggressors and helps prevent the breakdown of collagen and elastin."

Perhaps the days of heavy tans are numbered as more women embrace the natural beauty benefits of pure gold without resorting to exposure to harmful rays.

Earth's energy

Amber seems to glow from within, and that is, literally, what it does. Some 30 to 90 million years ago, trees on the earth's surface were drowned in water. Over the years they became fossilised, trapping inside them the rich, organic energy of the earth. The resin secreted by these trees became known as amber: a potent mixture of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen that has, since Greek times, been cherished for its energising, magnetic and mystical values. Admired for centuries as a form of gem, its deeper-reaching qualities are now being explored in beauty creams.

"Pure amber stimulates the production of tensotrophin (a natural polypeptide produced in the skin's epidermis)," explains Richard Hawkins, Director of Education and Development for Guerlain – a company that is heavily involved in amber research for beauty products. "This has a positive effect on the dermis and epidermis, helping to minimise wrinkles and firm the skin."

It is hardly surprising, then, that this glowing fossilised resin is finding its way into current beauty products.

Pearl power

Of all gems, pearls are the only one that are created by a living creature, which may go some way to explaining why they appear to be alive with an inner glow. They are also unique among gems in their natural perfection. They need no treatment to reveal their true essence; as they lie in their succulent bed in the heart of an oyster they radiate beauty and, when prised from their shell, their luminosity sustains.

Created by a grain of sand or shell that becomes lodged inside a saltwater oyster or freshwater mussel, pearls are a rich source of minerals, amino acids and calcium carbonate, and when broken down these are believed to have beneficial effects on the skin, helping to even out skin tone, rejuvenate and improve the complexion and, as an added benefit, lend the skin their unique luminous glow.

More and more beauty companies are now wisely adding this gem to their products. And if you succumb to the lure of their pearl-infused treatments, you're certainly in good company — the Chinese have been extolling the considerable beauty virtues of this shimmering gem for more than 3,000 years.

health&beauty



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Chilled-out fashion is all-important on a cruise along the Portofino coastline, where one minute you're relaxing in seclusion on the waves, and the next jumping ashore for a five-star social life

Photography Kristina Strobel Stylist Natalia Mlodzikowska Make-up Audrey Derambure Jewellery Leviev Models Graziella, Anaïs and Axel of Enjoy Model Management

Graziella wears cotton tunic by Zarwette from Lull; Hublot Big Bang Cappuccino Gold watch with pink-gold bezel and brown rubber strap; and sunglasses by Lanvin **Graziella** wears silk waistcoat with satin ribbon by Michi Lee, from Lull; diamond earrings with 26 pear-shaped diamonds of 10.42 carats and 22 radiant-cut diamonds of 2.82 carats by Leviev; and ring with 15 pear-shaped, two marquise and five brilliant-cut diamonds of 2.73 carats, by Leviev

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Graziella wears linen and cotton shorts with braces by Tara Jarmon; necklace with 40 round brilliant-cut diamonds of 6.87 carats, mounted with pavé-set diamonds of 3.95 carats, by Leviev; sun necklace and bracelet with 288 round brilliantcut, 5.88 carats by Leviev; silk scarf by Peter Zimmerman for Tara Jarmon; and round brilliant-cut diamond earrings by Leviev

Anaïs wears 'Etoile' ruby diamond necklace with 12 oval-cut rubies of 61.39 carats mounted with 120 round-cut rubies of 7.44 carats, and white pavé diamonds of 16.59 carats by Leviev; 'Etoile' ruby ring of 12.22 carats, mounted with 22 round-cut rubies of 2.33 carats, and white pavé diamonds of 3.27 carats by Leviev; and round brilliant-cut diamond earrings by Leviev

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fashionafloat



Axel wears Levi 501 Vintage Clothing 1947 jeans; cotton T-shirt by Limited Edition Velvet; silk cap by Insula, all from Lull; and a Limited Edition Hublot Big Bang Tuiga with tantalum case and bezel in ceramics

Graziella wears linen skirt by Tara Jarmon; 'Tassel' diamond earrings with 216 diamond beads and 12 briolette diamonds of 54.21 carats; and 'Tassel' diamond necklace with 147 diamond beads and seven briolette diamonds of 66.53 carats, mounted on a diamond pavé dome suspended from 128 round brilliant-cut diamonds of 11.82 carats, all by Lanvin

Graziella wears Lanvin raincoat a silk cap by Insula, from Lull; and Hublot Bigger Bang King pink-g watch with black rubber strap

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Graziella wears cotton dress by Tara Jarmon; earrings with 26 round brilliant-cut diamonds and six pear-shaped diamonds of 10.83 carats by Leviev; and Hublot steel Big Bang watch with white bezel



With her spacious decks and elegant interior, Perfect Persuasion is the ideal setting for fashion *la dolce vita* style on the Italian Riviera

ike a theatre stage nestling in a horseshoe of hills among tumbling olive terraces, Portofino is undoubtedly the most glamorous of all the pretty villages dotted along Italy's northern coast. Lying just south of Genoa, the town is only accessible via sea and one narrow, winding road. Today it is a must on any charter itinerary in this part of the West Mediterranean, but it was during the 1950s and 1960s that it transformed from a sleepy village to an über-chic destination.

It was the Duke and Duchess of Windsor who initiated Portofino's reputation as a ravishingly glamorous location. They signed the visitors' book of the Hotel Splendido in 1952, while calling on Rex Harrison and Lilli Palmer at their pink villa in the hills overlooking Portofino. Reports of movie stars and royalty in this Ligurian hideaway soon flooded across the globe.

Portofino's reputation was sealed in the 1960s when Richard Burton proposed to Elizabeth Taylor in a restaurant in the port, on a break from filming *Cleopatra In Rome*. At the time they were joined by local fishermen, butchers, bakers and pasta-makers, but today these traditional trades have been replaced by chic boutiques catering to the yachting crowd. But it is not just the boutiques that exist here, their designer owners also have villas in the stunning countryside that surrounds this small enclave. The fishermen remain, but the surrounding waters are a protected marine park with special permits.

Portofino has survived a mass of tourist interest simply because the town has been developed slowly and cautiously. Only 300 cars are allowed into the port at a time, and no helicopters or wetbikes are allowed. There is no swimming allowed in the port and no music is permitted outdoors after 10pm. No new buildings have been built in 40 years, and house prices here are some of the highest in the world. Such tight control has kept Portofino exclusive and remarkably unchanged over the years.

The 46m (150') Perfect Persuasion from the renowned Australian builder Oceanfast is the ultimate in world-cruising elegance. With accommodation for 10 guests and 11 crew, she is available for charter in the West Mediterranean this winter and in summer 2008. Prices from Euros 120,000 per week. For further information on chartering Perfect Persuasion, or any other CNI yacht, please contact your nearest charter broker.



Monte Carlo story

sea&i brings you the latest from the principality that occupies a prime spot in the Maritime Alps between the French and Italian Rivieras

By Miriam Cain

favourite haunt of Europe's jet-set, Monaco has long been associated with glamour and exclusivity. The state fell under the ruling of the Grimaldi family in 1297 and has been a hot spot for the rich and famous since 1863, when what is believed to be Europe's first casino opened. Today the setting is as dazzling as ever, with a small army of superyachts bobbing about the harbour against the backdrop of the Côte d'Azur cliffs.

From first impressions, though, the capital, Monte Carlo, is ugly and ill-conceived. Tower block after tower block stand piled on top of each other. But once you enter the city you glimpse the spectacular *belle époque* buildings – notably the casino and the stunningly ornate Hôtel de Paris.

Monaco measures less than three square kilometres and has fewer than 32,000 residents, but it packs a mighty punch. Being the second smallest independent state in the world, everything is within walking distance and the streets are some of the safest in the world.



Pillow talk

The tiny principality has just over 2,700 hotel rooms, many of which are considered to be among the best in the world. Founded over 150 years ago, the state-controlled leisure conglomerate Société des Bains de Mer (SBM) owns a major percentage of these rooms with five hotels in its portfolio, including the *grande dame* of the Monaco hotel scene: the 19th-century Hôtel de Paris. Constructed in 1864, this lavish hotel is traditionally where the rich and famous stayed, and to this day its authentic spirit makes it a living entity that still attracts the elite.

Its sister hotel, the Hermitage, is tucked away behind the Casino amid the many designer boutiques that can be found around Casino Square. Younger, and slightly less flashy, the Hermitage attracts those looking for luxury with a little discretion. Rooms have recently been refurbished in a gloriously traditional style, and with the recent extension the hotel is set to become a strong competitor to its older sister.

Both hotels are attached to Les Thermes Marins spa. The spa's setting is exceptional and offers views over the Mediterranean, a source from which it takes its holistic approach using the benefits of seawater, which is rich in iodine and trace elements. Tending to both physical and mental wellbeing, this is a place for the serious spa-goer. Lying to the east of Monaco, the Monte-Carlo Beach Hotel attracts those wanting to indulge in watersports. Created in the 1930s, the hotel was famous throughout its earlier years for its incredible parties. Today it retains its reputation as one of the most elegant hotels in Monaco, and one with mooring space – perfect for those wishing to get away from the busy port of Monte Carlo.

Appealing to the younger market and families is the 11-storey Art Deco-style Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort. Sitting on 10 acres of reclaimed land, the hotel is SBM's successful attempt to deliver Monaco's glamour to the next generation with an array of recreational and gastronomic choices. The resort drips with glitzy touches, such as a casino with 150 next-generation slot machines, Europe's first sand-bottomed swimming lagoon and a fountain choreographed to classical music.

Today, though, the SBM properties have found a rival in the spectacular Italianate *belle époque* Hôtel Métropole. If the entrance through the neo-Roman boxwood arch to the cypresslined path fails to impress you, the vast lobby, recently redesigned by Jacques Garcia, will take away your breath. Following her multimillion euro makeover, the Tuscan palazzostyle hotel has been transformed into a contemporary yet opulent hotel. Florentine Renaissance colours and →

Clockwise from top left:

The Monte-Carlo Beach Hotel; the Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo: Le Vistamar at Hôtel Hermitage; the Fairmont Monte-Carlo; Hôtel Hermitage: Café de Paris: dining Monte-Carlo style; Hôtel de Paris; the Monte-Carlo Casino; Hôtel de Paris; nightlife in Monaco: Opéra Monte-Carlo; Joël Robuchon's restaurant at the Hôtel Métropole: the port of Monaco: Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort; Bar Américain at the Hôtel de Paris: Hôtel Hermitage: Le Pistou Restaurant at the Fairmont Monte-Carlo



beautiful tapestries adorn the vast lobby, Egyptian and Greek statues greet you as you arrive, and the rooms themselves are decorated with tasteful opulence. As far as relaxation goes, the heated outdoor pool and ultra-modern E'spa health spa have ensured that this is one of the hottest addresses in Monaco for pampering.

With one of the most dramatic settings in the principality, the Fairmont Monte-Carlo is perched along a coveted stretch of the Mediterranean on one side and overlooking the famous hairpin bend of the Grand Prix on the other. Just this year the hotel – now the largest on the French Riviera – unveiled its makeover. Inspired by the glamour and elegance of the yachts that surround the property, the renovation is a modern reinterpretation of the hotel's trend-setting original design when it was opened by Grace Kelly in 1975. The new look of the hotel pays tribute to its past, combining the classic elegance associated with Monaco's golden era with modern and contemporary pieces. The sea-view rooms echo the interior of a superyacht and are some of the most spacious in the city – a true luxury in a principality that craves space.

Fans of modern chic should head for Monaco's boutique hotel, the Columbus. Located in the Fontvieille area, opposite the Princess Grace Rose Garden, the hotel is all about timeless glamour with a contemporary twist.

Top table

The home of the destination restaurant. Monaco set the Michelin three-star standards by which the finest cuisine is now judged. The Louis XV in the Hôtel de Paris was a launch-pad to gastronomic stardom for Alain Ducasse, and remains his grandest achievement. A Versailles-style confection with frescoed ceilings, gilt mirrors and Louis XV clocks, it has a terrace that overlooks Casino Square. The food, striking a balance between the traditional and the modern, is prepared by Ducasse's chef de cuisine Franck Cerruti. Ducasse also runs the Philippe Starck designed Bar & Boeuf in Monaco. Also at the Hôtel de Paris is Le Grill, with views over the Mediterranean and a retracting roof that enables diners to eat out under the stars. Sylvain Etiévant's arrival hails the beginning of a new era at Le Grill. Etiévant has introduced a younger, more incisive tempo to the restaurant with a menu that breathes creativity inspired by a classic yet enticingly updated repertoire.

Decorated in a nautical theme, the seafood restaurant Le Vistamar in Hôtel Hermitage also boasts a Michelin star thanks to its chef Joël Garault. The menu includes fresh fish sourced by Garault each morning. With fantastic panoramic views over the port below, you can dine on the terrace in the summer and in the atrium during the winter.



A relatively new rival for Alain Ducasse's Louis XV restaurant is the Hôtel Métropole, where Joël Robuchon and Christophe Cussac explore all the flavours of the Mediterranean. Tapas dishes are prepared in a dramatically designed open kitchen and served on an open-air terrace offering stunning views over Monte Carlo.

The Blue Bay gastronomic restaurant at the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort, meanwhile, serves up fusion cuisine from an open-plan kitchen. Be sure to try the Sunday brunch.

After dark

In the evening you can take up a favourable position in L'Hôtel de Paris' appropriately ritzy Bar Américain, where Ernest Hemingway was once a regular. Less formal are the Art Decostyle Le Café de Paris, the futuristic Le Sporting Monte-Carlo, and the American-style Le Sun Casino.

Lounge music and a live jazz band ensure there's always a relaxed chilled-out ambiance at La Note Bleue on lazy Sunday afternoons. Later, as dusk falls, young, glamorous crowds sip cocktails at Sea Lounge, where ambient music accompanies lounging and people-watching followed by melon Martinis in the Blue Gin bar. Late-night social life might take you to Jimmy'z or the Amber Lounge.

Cultural acclaim

The Palace is at the heart of Monaco in Monaco Ville and is mostly visited for its spectacular views, however those with an interest in Grimaldi history should make time to tour the state apartments. Also, take a hike through the narrow streets of the old town, from the Place du Palais through the passageways and grandiose façades to the Jardin Saint-Martins. Here you'll find the Japanese Garden on avenue Princess Grace, and the fragrant Princess Grace rose garden in Fontvieille, which is said to have over 4,000 rose trees.

You can also take advantage of entertainment courtesy of the state's own philharmonic orchestra, as well as its opera, ballet, recently launched winter jazz festival, open-air cinema and Formula One race track.

What's in store?

It's easier to buy a diamond than a baguette in Monte Carlo. With every fashion house you can think of represented here, you will never be short of a Valentino or Lanvin.

It's a cliché but

No visit to Monaco is complete without a turn at the world's most infamous gaming tables at the Monte-Carlo Casino.

Clockwise from top left:

The Hôtel Métropole; Monaco at night; Fontveille: the Louis XV restaurant at the Hôtel de Paris; chartering aboard Braveheart; Joël Robuchon at the Hôtel Métropole; the Hôtel Métropole; the Monaco Grand Prix; the Monte-Carlo Beach Hotel: Le Pistou Restaurant at the Fairmont Monte-Carlo; pre-dinner cocktails; Le Grill at L'Hôtel de Paris: the Monte-Carlo Casino; Opéra Monte-Carlo; Joël Robuchon's restaurant at the Hôtel Métropole: morning coffee in Monaco; Les Thermes Marins de Monte Carlo; the Monte-Carlo Casino

Docksice VIIA ITE hot properties

In the first of our new series profiling the world's finest rental villas, **sea&i** looks at waterfront retreats that have a private bay or mooring facility where your yacht can anchor while you step ashore

By Daniel Munroe





CASA CONTENTA, MIAMI BEACH, USA

Where... will you find it? Located on a prime acre of Palm Island land on Miami Beach in Florida, USA.

What... can you expect? A Spanish-style mansion surrounded by palm trees, with six bedrooms and grounds that feature a heated beach-style swimming pool, Jacuzzis and a wet bar. With views across Biscayne Bay towards South Beach, and your yacht anchored in the private dock, you can sit back and let the party come to you. Casa Contenta provides every possible concept in home entertainment – your concierge can organise for a pianist to bring to life the grand piano in the lounge, while some of your party may retire to the theatre room to socialise around its bar or have a game on the full-sized pool table.

Who... loves it? Those in search of a brief respite from the hectic nightlife and buzz of South Beach.

Why... will you keep coming back? The pool has its own waterfall and swim-in grotto, there's a regulation-sized sand volleyball court and, when you're all exercised out, there's a rooftop Jacuzzi for ultimate relaxation and views.

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



MOUNT HARTMAN BAY ESTATE, GRENADA

Where... will you find it? Set on the waterfront of St George on the Caribbean island of Grenada.

What... can you expect? A vast estate on its own private peninsula with sea views to the Mount Hartman Nature Reserve. There are 11 huge bedrooms, many with four-poster beds, some with outdoor showers, and some with 42" flat-screen televisions. Housekeeping, cook and butler services are available seven days a week, plus a motor cruiser and captain, watersports equipment, 27m swimming pool and PlayStation and entertainment systems. Inside, the décor mixes antique and modern furniture and is adorned with Indian and Chinese silk rugs. There is also a four-bedroomed beach house that can be rented separately, with its own pool, deck and home-cinema systems. *Who...* loves it? Thanks to its sheltered, scenic location, waterfront setting and great capacity, Mount Hartman Bay Estate lends itself to extended families and large groups of friends who love scenic space, tranquil isolation and watersports. The fanciful design of the property is a delight for kids and lovers of all things alternative.

Why... will you keep coming back? The main house is carved into the hillside with a grass-covered roof and waterfalls cascading down inside. A private jetty and helipad make it easily accessible, while its situation, encircled by coral reefs and with a backdrop of exotic coconut and lime trees and the scents of ginger, nutmeg, cloves and cinnamon, makes it a beautiful, private and sheltered spot.

How... can you find out more? Visit www.mounthartmanbay.com ->





Where... will you find it? Ten minutes' drive from St Tropez, walking distance from St Maxime and a 100m stroll from the Mediterranean Sea. *What...* can you expect? Sleeping up to 17 guests, it was designed in traditional style by architect Serge Roland to blend seamlessly with its surroundings. Orange and lemon trees dot the patios, giving way to a Provençale garden with fig and palm trees and the sea beyond. It also has a gym, swimming pool, internal patio with exotic plants, six bedrooms, terraces with sea views, a games room with a half-French, half-American pool table, home-cinema facilities, a spa and a petangue court.

Who... loves it? Those who are looking for an active, full-on holiday as this villa is right in the heart of things with the St Maxime casinos, restaurants and yachting club nearby, and the sea at the back door. *Why...* will you keep coming back? As well as being at the heart of Côte d'Azur social life, it's just a few minutes' drive from two 18-hole golf courses – Beauvallon and St Maxime. Mid-season visitors love the waterfront location as it allows them to nip back to their yacht or take the tender to Pampelonne beach to avoid the traffic. Children love the mini disco in the basement, while adults admire the stylish cream Natuzzi couches, Starck bathrooms and Chantel Peyrat chairs that luxuriate throughout the coolly spacious interior. *How...* can you find out more? Visit www.indigolodges.com







COVE SPRING HOUSE, BARBADOS

the west coast of Barbados, known locally as the platinum coast. *What... can you expect?* Steps lead from the cove to a palatial-style, coral-coloured, mock-Palladian villa with seven individually styled rooms (there are three more in the adjoining villa). The main villa also has a cinema seating 20 on sumptuous red velvet chairs, a fitness centre (essential for those wishing to work off the gastronomic delights whipped up by the villa's chef), a swimming pool and hot tub, a dining gazebo in the grounds and a patio with a backdrop that has to be seen to be believed.

Where... will you find it? Lying above a hidden cove and beach on

Who... loves it? Royalty, celebrities and romantic couples seeking sumptuous seclusion in a stunning setting.

Why... will you keep coming back? It may be sitting in the midst of the paparazzi-attracting resorts and villas that crowd this stretch of coastline, but once behind the gates of Cove Spring it's just you, the Caribbean surf and an awful lot of luxury. Balinese garden furniture, cabanas, massage tables and a teppanyaki barbecue grill make outdoor living bliss.

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



Just as there is a great art to producing fine wines, there is, likewise, a shrewd art to establishing your own cellar. **sea&i** guides you in the perfect way to collect, and savour, the *Grands Crus* wines

By Kate Rigby



hat are our *Grands Crus* classes today? A luxury product, or something to share with friends? Something to be drunk, or a speculative investment? Should we fear that wines will one day quit the cellar for the strong room, the table for the display case...?"

So spoke Baroness Philippine de Rothschild at a dinner at Château Mouton Rothschild last year.

Doubtless she gave voice to the private concern of many for, since they were first classified as such in 1855, the *Grands Crus* wines have become so esteemed, so treasured, that to own them is a veritable status symbol; a shrewd investment for the future. With a limited number of bottles produced each year, and an ideal drinking window for each vintage, the pressure to store rather than savour is an increasing trend, yet surely there is the risk that to buy such a commodity purely as an investment takes away the true pleasure of owning it – for if wine becomes less frequently enjoyed today, might we forget why we hold it in such regard, and therein forsake its value for tomorrow?

In 1990 a company was founded that seems to strike at the heart of this dilemma. While respecting the wisdom of laying down bottles and investing for the future, Ficofi is very much about celebrating wine for today.

The company was established by Philippe Capdouze (a graduate of the Bordeaux Wine Institute and one of Paris' top business schools), and soon after he was joined by Laurens Delpech (a graduate of the prestigious French Ecole Normale Supérieure and the writer of a number of wine books). The two men share an incredible passion for wine and a keen head for business and decided to merge the two together. In setting up Ficofi they began to establish partnerships with the leading châteaux and their owners; almost 20 years later Ficofi is the premier company operating worldwide supplying a unique range of advisory, purchasing and cellar-management services to serious collectors and connoisseurs of the world's most esteemed wines.

LEGENDS IN THE MAKING

There is no doubt that such a service is becoming increasingly valuable. The fine wine market is developing rapidly, with serious buyers spanning from London to New York, Shanghai, Tokyo and Moscow – and they are certainly spoilt for choice. Every year, 35 trillion bottles of wine are produced worldwide, but only 0.01% of world production is classed as belonging to →



the fine wine clique. This fine wines market is led by around 30 to 40 brands, the majority of which are French. Most hail from the Bordeaux region, but Burgundy and the Rhône Valley also produce some exceptional wines.

Bordeaux has a long tradition in winemaking and it was here that the four First Classified Growths in the Médoc were named in 1855 on the initiative of Napoléon III. The fifth was announced in 1973 when Mouton Rothschild was promoted from a Second Growth to a First Growth, joining the lofty company of Lafite Rothschild, Latour, Haut Brion, Margaux and Yquem (the latter of which was also classified in 1855 in the Sauternes region). Between them, these most sought-after wines produce an average of just 75,000 cases a year.

Yet such is their power, fine wines still exert an enormous influence on the market. If only 4% of the Bordeaux region is planted with fine wines, this will nevertheless represent 20% in value on the Bordeaux market. Yields are deliberately kept low. The Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, the world-famous Burgundy estate, produces an average of just 5,000 bottles each year of its Romanée-Conti wine and 25,000 of its Monopole La Tâche. It is its deliberately low yield and the superior quality of its wine that has earned this winemaker such an esteemed reputation; it is a fine example of how winemaking is a delicate art that demands control, sensitivity and longterm commitment.

"There are three determining factors: the *terroir*, the people who work there and the climate," explains Aubert de Villaine, co-manager of the domaine de la Romanée-Conti. "Our job is to help the grapes reflect the finesse and complexity of the land; to ensure they express the genius of the *terroir* without constraints. Every decision we take has to reflect our absolute dedication to quality," he concludes.

Christian Seely, a specialist recruited on behalf of AXA-Millésimes (which owns, among others, Château Pichon Longueville in Pauillac, Bordeaux) reinforces the view that quality must always prevail over quantity. "I don't think it's possible to manage a fine wine estate if there isn't a long-term view, a sense of history, and an absolute commitment to quality," he explains. "We invest regularly to make authentic wines that reflect their remarkable *terroirs*, and which sell for their quality and not thanks to media hype. This is reassuring for the consumer and the investor, and allows us to improve our performance year after year."

This policy of 'less but best' has advantages, making many wines virtual collectors' items. As



each vintage is sold and drunk, the value of the remaining bottles increases due to their limited numbers and their nature of maturing and improving over time. During their ideal 'drinking window', pressure on prices puts these rare wines at a premium. At the current time, the fine wine market is buoyant, with huge increases in prices, which has led to initiatives that may change the status of these fine wines from pleasure to investment assets.

EXPERT GUIDANCE

However, unless you are a wine professional yourself, it can be difficult to know which vintage to invest in, how long to keep it and, importantly, how best to enjoy it. This is the service Ficofi delivers with such élan.

For those willing to invest a minimum of 300,000 (\$411,000), Ficofi will advise you on building up a cellar of vintage wines and purchase them on your behalf at prices reserved only for professionals. It will also arrange all shipping, storage, traceability and full-replacement-value insurance, and can deliver the wines you want whenever you want them and wherever in the world you may choose to drink them. With partners the likes of Château Lafite, Margaux and Mouton, Yquem, Petrus, Romanée-Conti and Domaine Leflaive, and Champagne houses Krug and Roederer, to name but a few, this is no small feat. And it is not just the great French vineyards with which the company is associated; it also has a thriving network among the leading vineyards in the Napa Valley, Tuscany and Barolo in Italy.

Its unique service, known as the Ultimate Grands Crus Collection, has met with enormous success in Asia, Europe and the United States. Capdouze elaborates on Ficofi's philosophy, "We have a passion for fine wines and a passion for sharing this passion. We combine this with a deep knowledge and understanding of our clients' needs and motivations; be they corporate clients or private individuals."

RIGHT TIME, RIGHT WINE

The pleasure of drinking fine wines is one thing, to be able to do so in an incredible venue in the esteemed company of likeminded connoisseurs is another experience entirely. This is the concept into which Ficofi has tapped. Imagine sipping a Château d'Yquem 1875 with Alexandre de Lur Saluces in Raffles Hotel in Singapore; or sampling a Meursault Charmes et Beaune Grèves Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus 1865 from Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils, delivered directly from the private cellars of the domaine in the Château de Beaune. →



Excepting Christies, Ficofi is the only company to have been granted such a privilege.

You may prefer to enjoy the new vintage of Romanée-Conti at the Guggenheim Museum; an Yquem 1967 in the Galerie des Glaces in Château Versailles; an Angélus 1998 at the Taj Mahal in India; a bottle of La Tâche 1995 after a round of golf at St Andrews, or a Krug Grande Cuvée aboard your yacht in Monaco. Wherever you choose to travel and whomever you travel with, the most remarkable occasions can be arranged – and, above simply drinking the wines, it is a great opportunity to enrich your understanding and appreciation of them on the advice of leading connoisseurs; it is education and entertainment married together in the most appealing way.

For example, while on charter in Cannes you may decide to incorporate wine tasting in your itinerary. Taking the tender to shore, you can be escorted by limousine to Saint-Endréol golf
course. After a challenging 18 holes, what could be a finer way to complete the day than sitting down to a bottle of Château Lafite with friends? Not only do you have memories of a wonderful day, you have the pleasure, as you take a sip of wine, of casting your mind back through time to appreciate the phenomenal history of this label.

The estate of Château Lafite, the most elegant of the great Médoc wines, was bought in 1868 by Baron James de Rothschild. Since 1975 it has been managed by one of his descendents, Eric de Rothschild, along with Christophe Salin and Charles Chevalier.

Lafite is the largest of all the first growths with a surface area of 178 hectares. Wine has been produced there since the 13th century, but it became especially well known in 1755 when the Marquis de Ségur introduced Lafite to the court of Louis XV. It became the wine of kings, and a favourite of Madame de Pompadour and later Madame du Barry. It was classified as a first growth in 1855 and its finesse and ageing capacity are legendary. As a client of Ficofi, you not only have access to such remarkable wines, you are guided in their history, growth and production. You are afforded an invaluable insight into what makes each wine such a legend, and how best to optimise your experience of that.

What's more, as a member of the company's Ultimate Grands Crus Collection, you have access to its 200 or so annual wine-tasting events – from Paris to New York, London, Singapore, Hong Kong and Djakarta. There are also some 30 or more vineyard visits where clients meet the owners and winemakers of the best estates.

Ficofi's 'Palais des Grands Crus' has also earned acclaim. "It's a unique event featuring a collection of the most exceptional, rare vintages presented by the owners," says Capdouze. "We invite select clients to join us in sharing a bottle with its winemaker. It is always a remarkable occasion."

Thanks to the genuine passion of individuals the likes of Capdouze and Delpech, the concern of Baroness Philippine de Rothschild on the fate of fine wines may be stalled for some time to



come. For while fine wines will always be laid down and treasured as a rare and speculative investment, as long as we also keep alive the tradition of savouring, sharing and enjoying them today we will always be reminded of their worth and thus ensure their popularity, and their great value, maintains for generations to come. *For information on wine provision during a charter, speak to your CNI charter broker; for more information on Ficofi, visit www.ficofi.com*

STYLEFUSION combining trends

A marriage of styles is a popular trend. Whether you're planning to incorporate a traditional interior in a modern exterior or a cutting-edge interior in a period shell, respect for each style and a subtle touch in combining them is all-important

By Alison Henry





Opposite page: The 56m Galaxy This page, above: The 53m Atmosphere Above right: The clean lines of Atmosphere's interior complement her exterior profile Right: The 69.9m Sherakhan Below: The 54m Parsifal III



t's all in the mix' is a phrase I love and a concept I'm very fond of discussing. At its best, a combination of designs can be a classic, quixotic blend of old and new; at its worst it can result in an overt clash of tradition and modernism.

It is a well-accepted fact that contemporary design is an up-to-theminute take on simplicity, eclecticism and an all-round blending of styles where designers play with both historical references and the modern idiom. The area in which I am most fascinated, however, is the point at which genuine subtlety and sophistication meet, whether you are playing with the idea of a traditionally led interior for a modern exterior or vice versa, where a gloriously vintage exterior is lightened by a simple, minimal interior. That is not to say you can take a J-Class sailing yacht and strip its interior to the bones and expect it to feel right; nor does it mean you can choose to plant a country look inside a brand-new fibreglass superyacht.

With skill and great respect for the bones – the architecture – of a yacht (or house or hotel), you can find the correct balance. Above all else in design, there must be both comfort in the living and comfort in the seeing. Most crucially, in terms of how

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"My belief is that good design is that which has the true spirit of historical reference."

designdecor

a space feels, people must never be left with the uneasy sensation of having been 'cheated' without knowing why: most usually a result of there being no resonance; nothing to connect to.

In pursuing this idea, I am naturally led toward the romantic images of bygone times: the memory, the mood, the feeling. How were these achieved? What are the connections?

My belief is that good design is that which has the true spirit of historical reference: that is to say, the design has 'grown' from the society and culture of the day, not simply from contriving an aesthetic in order \rightarrow



Above: The awardwinning Galaxy Left: The fitness suite on board Sherakhan Below: On deck on Parsifal III

to be different or trendy. Good design is like art: it talks to you and has meaning because you react to it and are affected by it. There is pleasure in this and most crucially, real value and, therefore, timelessness.

So to achieve timelessness I would never allow the mix to crash head on. Simply taking an old yacht and 'modernising' its interior will not necessarily give you a living, functioning space that has its own mood and sense of comfort. You have to be clever about how you create the mix.

I personally do not like traditional interiors in a contemporary boat or a contemporary interior in a traditional boat. I have always believed that you should work within the shell you are given. If it is traditional there has to be a relationship with what you are designing internally. For instance, if you have an Art Deco building you would not put in a Georgian interior. However, you might achieve a stunning result by creating a, relatively speaking, minimal interior, as it would sit more comfortably (just think about those amazing ancient Italian museums with their mosaic marble floors in conjunction with subtle but absolutely modern internal glass partitioning. It works for the respect paid to both the old and the new).

However, to return to the refurbishment of an Art Deco project, I would prefer there to be some relationship between the Deco exterior and the subsequent treatment of the interior. The treatment would not be 'full blown' Art Deco, but there should be more than a hint of it in the use and treatment of wood, its patina and the detailing and carrying-through of this in all the spaces. There must be resonance; an honesty and purity in the design theme in order to achieve a great result. I often call this a nod to the past mixed with a smile for the present. It is not entirely one thing or the other but a whole new treatment that is successful in the way it works for you and how you work within it.

The danger zone is that there can be too many lightweight designs that are rolled out on the basis that they have been accepted before. I always look further afield and bear in mind that all clients want exclusivity. This is









Above right: The saloon on board Sherakhan Right and below right: The master suite on Sherakhan Below: Parsifal III a vital element in design for it must relate to the client on their terms and according to their taste and way of living. Where it is my way to relate all interiors to the exterior shell and to the people for whom it is for, there are the other pressures of budget, programme and location, and these directly bear on what is ultimately achievable. But this is also where good design comes into its own. Whatever solutions you arrive at, you must always ask yourself whether the solutions will stand the test of time and still look great in five and ten years' time.

Look at any number of ancient or celebrated buildings today – from a hotel lobby to a grand museum – and you will find it is as fantastic and rich today as it was when it was first crafted. This comes down to pure craftsmanship and attention to the details on one level and to history and memory on another.

This is why I search for the memory, the history and the reason why something will work and have meaning and value. By working within the essence of the external shell you can find your pointers and begin to relax into a design. I would always say, never be too clever or you may end up creating a soulless pastiche on the past or a sorry mimic of the modern. Pick out the details and elements that mean something to you and work with them. That is as much a part of the mix as any blending of styles, aesthetics or design genres. Today's best designs reflect all of these.

SH (yacht listings) // TI//E

Now that the summer charter season nears its end, autumn signals the start of another season of yacht shows. With close to 40 yachts displayed at three shows, and a flurry of new listings, CNI brokers bring you the best of what's available on the market.

> ollowing last year's initiative, CNI have brought 14 yachts to the 30th edition of the Cannes Festival de la Plaisance (12-17 September), for a show that only remains French in name. With over 550 yachts on display in the water, coming from 35 countries, and over 200 new models, Cannes' yacht show is now the largest in Europe. It has also grown in yacht size, and now features new yachts up to 40m, as well as brokerage yachts up to 50m. The brokerage area is located in Port Canto, all the way across the Croisette from the old port, which, whether by sea or land, is far from being an unpleasant ride or sight.

> The 17th edition of the Monaco Yacht show then opens (19-22 September), just one day after Cannes closes. At CNI, we believe the two shows complement each other perfectly. While Cannes focusses on production and semi-custom yachts of up to 40m, Monaco remains the territory of the higher end of the market, where the most emblematic Italian, German, Dutch, American and French shipyards feature their latest semi-custom to custom yachts, 35m and above, up to 80m. The Monaco yacht Show is therefore the best place to consider the acquisition of

yachts that are unique and exceptional, possibly among the eight vessels CNI are displaying, as well as providing a platform in which to meet with designers and yard representatives who could undertake the construction of your new fully customised yacht.

But then, should you wonder which way to go, given the close promixity of the two shows in time and space, why not simply take time off, come to Cannes over the week-end, enjoy a couple of sunny Riviera days at sea or inland, and then head for Monaco just a stone's throw away? And if this were not enough to help you decide, remember that FLIBS (Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show) is also right around the corner, from 25-29 October, with just enough time for many yachts to make an Atlantic crossing before the winter Caribbean season starts. With 16 yachts on display between three locations, at Bahia Mar, Las Olas and Pier 66, CNI are once again the largest brokerage house exhibitors, like in Cannes and Monaco – which is only expected since CNI sells and manages the largest fleet of yachts worldwide. Our brokers are looking forward to seeing you at all, of any, of the shows.



NO ESCAPE

46m/151', Heesen, 1999 This immaculate fast aluminium Heesen is powered by twin 16V MTU engines (2 x 2560hp), giving speeds in excess of 28 knots. Her luxurious interior accommodates 10 guests in five double cabins, including a large owner's suite on her main deck.

ABELY WHEELER 33m/108', Ocea, 2004

Launched in 2004 Abely Wheeler's circumnavigation has already taken her to exceptional destinations including the Cabo Verde Islands, Cuba, Galapagos, Tahiti, Vanuatu, Bali, and Phuket. She is now for sale and following her complete refit, she is in as new condition. Abely Wheeler is a charming yacht.





JACK BLU

30m/98' Benetti, 1981 New to the market, Jack Blu is a beautifully refitted, traditional displacement motor yacht. She offers versatile accommodation for up to 12 guests. With her transatlantic range she can reach far-flung destinations.



28,3m/93' Mangusta, 2003 Nakaimano has elegant and sleek lines, complemented by a contemporary four-cabin interior finished to an exceptionally high standard. Lightly used and immaculately maintained with several upgrades she is in

26,7m/88' San Lorenzo, 2005 Regine is the newest San Lorenzo 88 (hardtop) currently for sale. She was built under supervision to a very high specification. Her spacious contemporary four-cabin interior in light woods and fabrics offers a harmonious serene ambience throughout. She is in immaculate condition.







26.5m/87' Northcoast, 2006 With her power, 23 knots cruising speeds, and long range at 12 knots, Fortuna 2 is a fun yacht. Her exquisite cherry interior with Burl accents and granite countertops has four staterooms plus crew accommodation. With only 400 hours, she is in as new condition.



<u>4-FIVE</u> 26m/85' Riva, 2005

An outstanding example of the Riva model, 4-Five is in excellent condition and equipped with all the options. Her beautiful and elegant interior in light Elmwood has accommodation for eight in two double staterooms and two twin staterooms. Powered by two 2000hp MTU engines she has a cruising speeds of 33 knots.

PINK CHAMPAGNE 24.1m/79' Maiora, 2001

Pink Champagne has a contemporary mahogany four-cabin interior. Her tender garage is on the foredeck, allowing for a spacious sun-bathing area on her flybridge. She also boasts a huge swimming platform and ample storage room for watertoys. Fully equipped, she has been lightly used and well maintained.





FOUR ONDINES

23.5m/77' Grand Alaskan, 2002 Four Ondines is a superb long-range cruiser, with a traditionally styled high quality teak interior including four staterooms. She reaches speeds of up to 18 knots with CAT 800hp engines. Four Ondines has been well maintained.



HOT CHOCOLATE

22,8m/75' Yonca-Onuk J.V.Turkey, 2006

Hot Chocolate is a sensational, stylish and unique sports boat. Her composite, Kevlar hull, high-level of engineering and Dutch design, ensure comfort, safety and an incredible performance. She offers a comfortable Owner's cabin and two twin guest cabins.

AURASTEL

27,4m/90' Thackwray Yachts, 1986/2006

Aurastel is a unique, high quality motorsailor with a steel hull, high bow and low keel, offering optimum navigability in all conditions. Her quality interior provides excellent accommodation and ample fuel storage. She has been refitted, refurbished and upgraded throughout.





VOLADOR

25m/82' Royal Huisman, 1982/2005 Built by Royal Huisman and sister of a Whitbread winner, Volador has the highest possible pedigree. Since buying the yacht two years ago, her present owner has remodeled her interior layout, and has invested in a host of upgrades.

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Dreams, dates stinations



Les Voiles de St Tropez

Genoa Boat Show 6-14 October

MIPCOM (Audiovisual Market) Cannes, 8 – 12 October

Fort Lauderdale Boat Show

Athens Boat Show 27 October – 4 November

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Barcelona International Boat Show

MAPIC (International Retail Real Estate) Cannes, 14 – 16 November

 OV_{07}

St Petersburg Boat Show 29 November – 2 December



Salon Nautique De Paris

Antigua Charter Show

Phuket Marine Expo

Art Basel Miami 6-9 December

The Superyacht Cup Antigua, 12 – 15 December

New Year's Eve Happy New Year, wherever you celebrate!

YACHT FINANCE

Specialist banking group Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander elaborates on the evolution of yacht finance and its future for megayachts

en to 15 years ago the provision of yacht finance was the preserve of a few private banks, and even these treated with suspicion the yachts offered as security; they lent purely on the strength of their relationship with the owner.

Fortunately – in line with the explosion in size, demand and cost of yachts – other specialist banks began to recognise this type of asset for what it was: a secure one against which to lend in its own right.

The demand for yacht finance today is being fuelled by a new breed of global multimillionaire and billionaire. While there are no firm statistics to back the claim, anecdotal evidence suggests around 50% of all yachts have finance on them at purchase. The Superyacht Finance team at Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (KS&F) has been at the forefront of this explosion in yacht finance, with well over 1 billion in loans written to date at an average loan size of around 15 million.

Recognising rising prices for both new and second-hand yachts, KS&F introduced interest-only loans back in 2002, allowing clients to borrow 60% or less and only have to repay the principal on sale of the yacht if the term is five years or less.

In addition to inventive solutions, KS&F looked at the way loans were executed. Documentation was too lengthy and costly, a carry-over from the days when few transactions were undertaken, so KS&F reviewed and streamlined the process. The result is 70 pages of documentation rather than 170 – with legal fees reduced accordingly.

KS&F has also attempted to demystify the process of obtaining finance for yacht construction, purchase or refurbishment. The transaction now breaks down into three simple phases: the provision of financial information to the owner; the legal process for documenting the loan between the parties; and the taking of security over the asset being pledged.

The question now is how banks will respond to the current generation in build: the truly vast megayachts. How many will be built? Who will buy a second-hand one? How can you truly value a

400-million yacht? All these questions are being asked, but then five or six years ago we probably asked such things about 100m yachts.

There will certainly be a need for syndication of these truly large yacht loans. KS&F is already facing this question and forging strategic alliances with other, like-minded houses in order to ensure that it has the capacity to meet – or even exceed – its clients' expectations when the time comes.

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