

# sea & i

FOR CONNOISSEURS OF

LUXURY TRAVEL AUTUMN 2006

## TIME & TIDE

The latest in horology

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Chartering through the charming island chain

## TRIPLE SEVEN

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# LAUREN



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# Get set for winter fun

With that 'summer feeling' drifting away all too soon, it is time to look ahead – both in time and space – and start planning autumn and winter trips to distant sun-hit islands. After all, what is travel if not an excuse to escape the bad weather and head for sunnier horizons? This issue, *sea&i* goes Caribbean crazy – and with good reason. Following our features you could head off on a cruise of the Grenadines, take a winter charter in the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas or the Leeward Islands, play a round of golf on one of the top links courses – several of which curve around Caribbean shores – or, if you have the time, cover a whole host of islands with a charter that coincides with the ICC Cricket World Cup in the West Indies.

Speaking of time, *sea&i* once again takes an in-depth look at the world of luxury watches, and transports you to some amazing spas where the food and treatments are so tempting you'll forget about time completely. On top of that there are ideas for weekend-away accessories, advice on installing high-tech comforts on board your yacht, and land-based adventures in Las Vegas and Italy.

If all that is not enough to inspire you, the CNI Charter Annual will be on its way to you soon and, more prestigious than ever, it cannot fail to get you back on the high seas! ■



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# sea&i

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Please call Richard Dusome - Soneva's General Manager for the Maldives for more information and bookings, on +960-6600338 or e-mail: [thereserves@sonevaresorts.com](mailto:thereserves@sonevaresorts.com)



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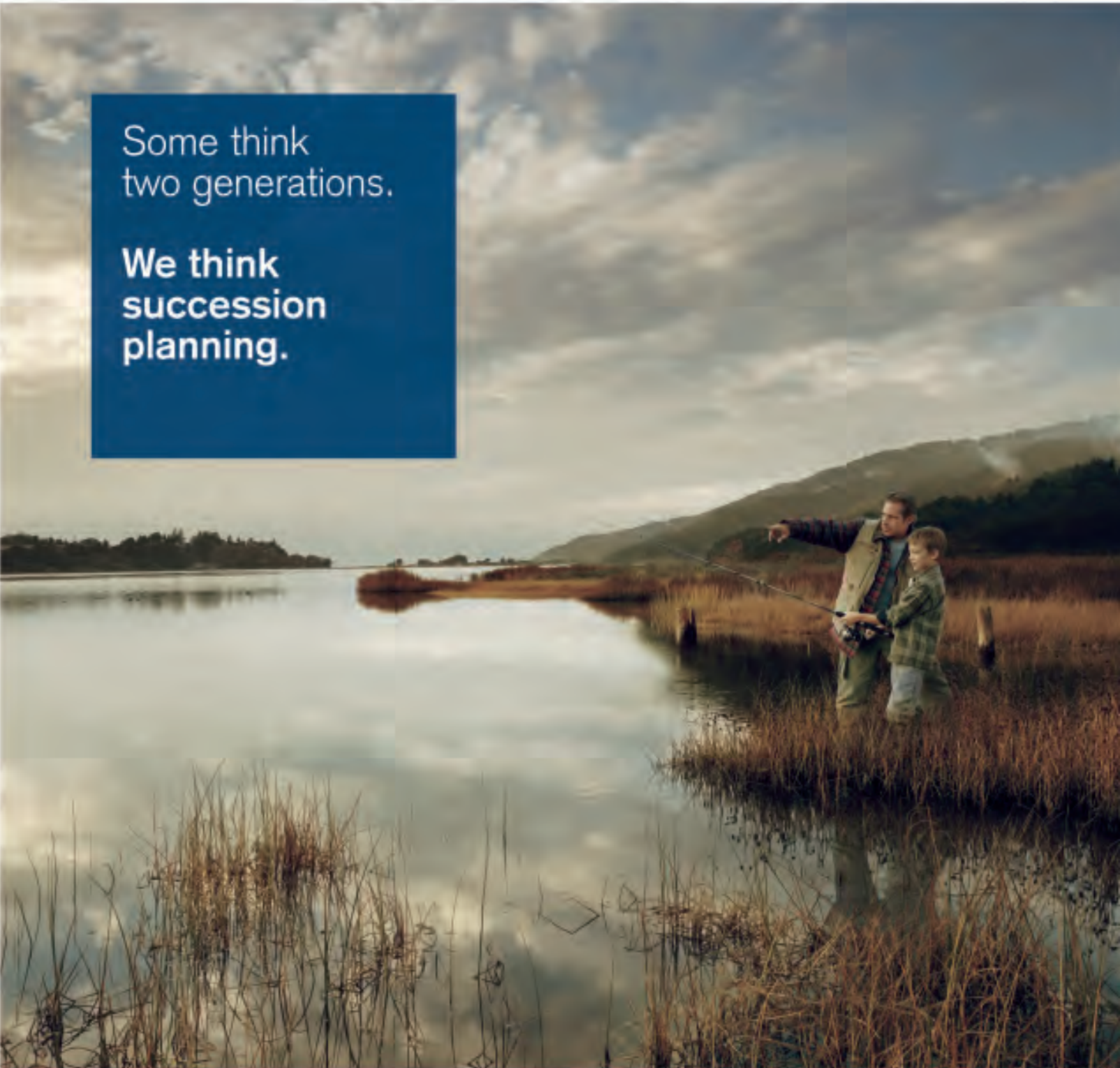


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**PAUL ROSE** is the Sales and Marketing Director of IconConnect – leaders in the design, supply and installation of Smart Entertainment and Control Systems in both Super yachts and houses. IconConnect have produced outstanding systems for a wide range of superyachts, including Kijo, White Rose of Drachs, SKAT, Adix, Lady Dahlia, Golden Odyssey, and Radiant. In this issue of *sea&i* Paul recommends the latest and best multimedia equipment available for kitting out your yacht.

**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.



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## ANTIBES AWASH WITH CLASSIC YACHTS

From 31 May to 4 June, the 11th edition of Les Voiles d'Antibes – Trophée Panerai launched the Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge. A series of five stages that will culminate in Cannes towards the end of September, having graced the shores of Argentario and Imperia in Italy, and Port Mahon in Minorca. This year's edition of Les Voiles d'Antibes gathered an impressive array of more than 50 vintage yachts (built before 1950), classic yachts (before 1976), metric classes (6-Metre, 8-Metre and the Twelves, competitors of the America's Cup from 1958 to 1987) as well as modern Spirit of Tradition yachts. The yachting personalities participating included Dennis Conner, of America's Cup fame. Conner was racing his superb Cotton Blossom II, which was not only awarded the much-coveted Trophée de l'Esprit Classique (Classic Spirit Trophy) but also won every regatta in her class. She also came a very close second for CNI's Trophée d'Elégance, an award that was finally bestowed to the magnificent Cambria (pictured above), a splendid 40m sloop designed by Fife and built in 1928.

## F1 THRILLS FOR CNI GUESTS

On the 20 – 21 May and 27 – 28 May 2006, CNI celebrated the fifth Classic Grand Prix and 64th Monaco F1 Grand Prix in style from the 12th floor of the Panorama building. Overlooking the yacht-packed harbour, CNI guests enjoyed an exclusive view of the track, right by the first corner, and were thrilled by the stunning sight and rousing sound of F1 engines. But in contrast to the



adrenalin-fired action taking place on the track, the CNI spectators were more than relaxed savouring champagne and snacks provided by luxury yacht and jet caterer Private Catering ([www.private-catering.com](http://www.private-catering.com)).

Following the F1 qualifying race on Saturday 27 May, which provided almost more suspense and excitement than the final race itself, some of CNI's guests also enjoyed partying at the exclusive Amber Lounge club, held for the first time at the Sea Club in the Meridien Hotel, amid a flurry of celebrities and models. Monaco rocked throughout the weekend, and the action was just as much on board the yachts in Port Hercule as it was on the racetrack.

## BOAT INTERNATIONAL WINNERS

*Boat International* magazine extended its portfolio on 28 April with the launch of the World Superyacht Awards – held at Venice's Fondazione Giorgio Cini on San Giorgio Maggiore Island. The inaugural awards (which will become an annual event) have been created as a means of recognising the extraordinary talent and innovation that goes into designing, engineering and constructing the world's most exceptional yachts. The awards (many of which featured CNI yachts among the nominations) focus on a range of categories, including: quality; innovation; ease of operation; fulfilment of purpose; and ecological impact. There was also a special Environmental Award for which CNI was nominated in light of its cooperation with the CarbonNeutral Company. Although CNI did not win this year, the company hopes that this first initiative will



inspire similar efforts within the brokerage industry. The main winners of the evening included ICE, the 90m motor yacht launched by Lürssen, as well as Perini Navi's 54m ultra-modern ketch Parsifal III. The latter is available for charter via CNI's charter management team based in Monaco.



### CNI TRIUMPHS IN *SHOWBOATS AWARDS*

Now in its 16th year, *ShowBoats* magazine's esteemed annual awards took place in Monaco in late June and listed CNI among the winners. The 56m Benetti motor yacht *Galaxy*, built in collaboration with Neil Cheston from CNI's Monaco office, was awarded winner for the category of Best Full Displacement Yacht Under 56m. Another yacht developed in collaboration with CNI's Alex Lees Buckley, the 56m Perini Navi ketch *Parsifal III*, was awarded Best Overall Sailing Yacht. Both yachts are managed by CNI's charter management division based in Monaco.



### RODRIGUEZ ST-TROPEZ BASH

The 12th edition of the famed RODRIGUEZ RENDEZ-VOUS once again saw flocks of Leopards and Mangustas gather in the Old Port of Saint-Tropez for a fun weekend, on 29 July. Over 600 privileged guests were welcomed on the piers in front of the Café de Paris before moving to the outer quay for a succulent dinner. The traditional fireworks, shot by renowned specialists Groupe F, set the bay ablaze around midnight, after which the party moved on to Jean Roch's VIP Room.



### NEWPORT RAINS BUCKETS 2006

Held on July 21-23, this year's Newport Bucket regatta showcased 17 quality sailing yachts racing in the fabulous setting of Newport Harbor and Narrangsett Bay. After a wet and windy start, thanks to Tropical Storm Beryl, the Newport Bucket took off in high spirits. Every crew member wore one of the Bucket's coveted white caps provided by CNI – along with foul weather gear. Jeff Beneville from CNI's New York office brought up his 7m *Intrepid*, and was seen dashing around as he carried members of the Race Committee, New York Yacht Club, photographers, and owners, from ship to shore. Some of the world's most renowned designers and builders were well-represented, including the Camper & Nicholsons' *Endeavour* (40m); the new *Ranger* (38.7m); Ron Holland's *Volare* (Sensation Yachts); *Avalon* (33m); and Nautor Swan's German Frers' designed vessels – *Chippewa* (21m) and *Highland Breeze* (34m).

### REMY MARTIN CRUISE COLLECTION 2006

CNI was pleased to showcase a selection of its fleet among a bevy of luxury brands at the recent Top Of The Rock event in the Rockefeller Center's Rooftop Garden in New York. Seventy five leading reporters from lifestyle media were among the guests who enjoyed a panoramic view of the city while sipping cocktails created by renowned mixologist Alex Ott from Rémy Martin.

#### MIX YOUR OWN RÉMY DRAGON

Mix two parts of Rémy Martin VSOP with one part mango juice, mashed fresh ginger and a splash each of grenadine and tonic water. Shake and strain over ice. Garnish with a curl of ginger.

## LARGEST NEW BUILD

Fincantieri has signed a contract for the construction of a seven-deck motor yacht of over 130m in length, making it the second largest privately owned modern yacht in the world. The order has been placed through a senior broker at CNI's London office, which makes it the largest new build project ever handled by a CNI broker. Hull # 6154 has been developed from a revolutionary new design by Espen Oeino, and details remain confidential at this stage. This outstanding build is scheduled for delivery in 2010. The yacht will be designed and built according to the rules and regulations of SOLAS.



## TAKING TO THE HIGH SEAS

Broadening their horizons, and naturally, therefore, those that charter them, many of the yachts in the CNI fleet are taking to the high seas and venturing further afield. The 48.5m sailing yacht **GEORGIA** is heading to Central America and the Galapagos; whilst the 52m **LATITUDE** is planning to be in Costa Rica or Chile for the winter followed by Brazil in the Spring. The 62.5m four-deck **APOGEE** is venturing on an around-the-world cruise; and the 27.4m world cruising yacht **BOO TOO** will be in the Maldives until April 2007, after which she plans to head to the Seychelles till August, then on to Madagascar and South Africa, visiting Durban then Cape Town. *All of the above yachts are available for charter. Please contact your nearest CNI charter broker for further details.*



## ART OF SUPERYACHT

Setting the scene for the glamorous Monaco Yacht Show, CNI is hosting a cocktail party in the grounds of the Yacht Club de Monaco for the opening of the Art of Superyacht exhibition, on 19 September.

In collaboration with The Yacht Report, The Yacht Club of Monaco, watchmaker Hublot and car manufacturer Mercedes, CNI is showcasing a stunning exhibition of selected photographs from top yacht photographers from across the world. The overall winner will be awarded with a limited edition YCM-Hublot timepiece as well as a test drive on the brand new Mercedes CL-Class, the firm's latest flagship and another world premiere in collaboration with CNI.

Watch out for the next issue *sea&i* for a full report and a showcase of select photographs prior to their release in the 2007 edition of The Yacht Report's *Art Of Superyacht*.



## MONACO SHOW PREVIEW

Straight after the Cannes Festival International de la Plaisance comes the 16th Monaco Yacht Show. Held between 20 – 23 September, it promises to be a stunning show for all at CNI and is a wonderful opportunity for the world premiere of **777** (berth Eo2; see article on page 98). CNI's stand is located in its usual spot on the Quai des Etats-Unis (stand QE27), close to the Chicane entrance. CNI are once again taking over the Miramar Hotel terrace for private hospitality overlooking the harbour. The other CNI yachts on display are:

### QUAI DES ETATS-UNIS

**THUNDERGULCH** – the legendary 50m Amels built in 1999 (ex-Louise), and one of the award-winning yachts of the Tigre d'Or series (berth Eo3)

**NETANYA VII** – another well-known yacht, built by Oceanco/CMN Cherbourg, the 49.2m ex-Bermie built in 2001 is in impeccable condition (berth Eo3)

### ON THE CENTRAL T JETTY

**TUSCAN SUN** – a brand new 45m Izar motor yacht premiering at the show (berth T10)

**KANALOA** – the 48.3m CRN motor yacht built in 1996 and now a successful charter yacht (berth T11)

**HELIOS** – a beautiful and good-as-new Fitzroy 37.5m sailing yacht built in 2005 (berth T15)

**HAPPY HOUR** – a 2005 ISA 120 (36m) premiering at the show (berth TBC)

*For further information on the show and any of the yachts on display contact your nearest CNI broker*



777



Thunder Gulch



Netanya 7



Kanaloa



Helios

## CANNES DO BROKERAGE

From the 13 – 18 September the Cannes Salon de la Plaisance opens its doors to brokerage yachts at Port Canto. This new development of the ever-expanding yacht show is fully supported by CNI, and the company will have 13 yachts on display along the main pier – the largest selection of any brokerage house. Tender shuttles escort visitors between the new and old ports, and CNI welcomes all to view the following yachts:

**MARI CHA III** – a 45m, 1997 Sensation

Yachts' build, and a star racer

**CD TWO** – a 43m Nicolini built in 1995

**MANA** – a 35.8m Akdeniz yacht

built in 1997 and refitted in 2005

**FOREVER ONE** – a splendid 30m Mangusta from 2005

**TEMPEST** – an original and beautifully converted 1963 29m Chantier de l'Estérel (refitted 2004)

*For more information on the Cannes Salon de la Plaisance contact your nearest CNI broker*





### SUPERYACHT CUP IN PALMA

From October 11-14 2006 Palma celebrates the tenth anniversary of the Superyacht Cup, once again held at Marina Port de Mallorca, in the centre of the main Paseo Marítimo. CNI are pleased to be involved in the event, and will have a visible CNI presence around the race course.

Returning again are the Alloy Yacht built yachts Victoria of Strathearn (Langan 39m); Windrose of Amsterdam (Dijkstra & Partners 46m); Sojana (Farr 35m); and Unfurled (Frers 34m); while new yachts such as the Briand 35m Hamilton II will also be joining the fun.

The Superyacht Cup has grown from its early days as a gathering of yachts waiting to cross the Atlantic, into the biggest superyacht event in the Mediterranean. Started in 1996 by Patrick Whetter and Spike Thompson, the event has attracted bigger yachts year on year, but the atmosphere has remained a unique mix of informal social functions and competitive sailing - thanks to the pursuit racing format adopted by the organisers. Following the success of The Superyacht Cup, the organisers have also decided to cross the Atlantic and create the Caribbean version of the same event. The Superyacht Cup Antigua will be held December 13-16 in Nelson's Dockyard.

## FORT LAUDERDALE YACHT SHOW

As there is no reason to change a winning concept, CNI are once again present in a variety of locations at the next Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. Three of CNI's larger yachts will be on display by the traditional stand near the Bahia Mar, while another seven will join the berths of the expanding Las Olas area.

Located at Bahia Mar you will find the

Bloesma & Van Breemen designed Flying Eagle (48m); Kanaloa (48m) and Azzurra (47.5m), both from CRN; and Martha Ann (43.5m) from Westship.

Located along Las Olas you will find Tuscan Sun (45m) from Izar; Curt C (44m) from NQEA; Blacksheep (42m) from Oceanco; the Cheoy Lee built Janet (38m); Broward's Free Spirit (28m); Aqua Regia (23m) from Northstar; and Vamoose (23m) from Fleming.

Following the successful attempt at last year's show, guests will be invited to enjoy hospitality services in a relaxed environment, while CNI's calendar of events before and during the show is sure to keep everyone busy. *For more information contact your nearest CNI broker.*

### CARBON NEUTRAL

Every aspect of life has an impact on the planet, and travel is no exception. The fuel that is used, the environments that are visited and the communities that live there have long been prime concerns for governments but, encouragingly, travellers themselves are now taking responsibility to ensure their journeys have minimal negative impacts. And, fortunately, salvaging your eco-travel conscience has never been easier. In 2005 CNI teamed up with the CarbonNeutral Company to make its activities carbon neutral, and the initiative continued throughout 2006. In 2005, together with the organisers of the Monaco Yacht Show, CNI offset the emissions from the show's energy



use, waste production and all exhibitors' travel.

To date the total offset is +13,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Over 50,000 saplings have been planted in Nairnside Wood in Scotland, UK, with the aim of nurturing 17,500 mature trees. Both CNI and the Monaco Yacht Show have committed once again to offset the event for 2006 and the estimated 2,629 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> will be offset via three projects: a wind farm in New Zealand, a forestry project in Brittany, France, and a Coal Mine Methane Capture project in the USA. Visitors and exhibitors at the show will also be encouraged to use the online flight calculator, bringing the environment to the forefront of their mind.

*For further information visit [www.cnconnect.com](http://www.cnconnect.com)*

# yachtingdiary

Key dates for your yachting diary to take you to the end of 2006

## FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE LA PLAISANCE

13 - 18 September

Originally dedicated to production yachts in the 20 - 35 metre range, this boat show has developed impressively over the past couple of years, and this year has added a specific yacht brokerage component to its displays. See many CNI yachts lining the docks.

[www.salonnavitquecannes.com](http://www.salonnavitquecannes.com)

## 16TH MONACO YACHT SHOW

19 - 23 SEPTEMBER

The 16th edition of the Monaco Yacht Show will see a flurry of events from CNI, with parties, exhibitions, and most importantly, some of the newest yachts on CNI's books on their first outing.

[www.monacoyachtshow.com](http://www.monacoyachtshow.com)

## LES VOILES DE SAINT TROPEZ

30 SEPTEMBER - 8 OCTOBER

Both a classic yacht race and a modern regatta, Les Voiles de Saint Tropez is one of the greatest events of the Mediterranean season. Best viewed from the decks of your yacht.

[www.snst83.nuxit.net](http://www.snst83.nuxit.net)



## THE SUPERYACHT CUP PALMA

11 - 14 OCTOBER

Up to 20 of the world's finest Superyachts are expected in Palma, Spain for the Superyacht Cup. The event welcomes the return of competitors and sponsors for the tenth edition of this popular three-day event.

[www.thesuperyachtcup.com](http://www.thesuperyachtcup.com)

## GENOA BOAT SHOW

7 - 15 OCTOBER

[www.fiera.ge.it](http://www.fiera.ge.it)

## FORT LAUDERDALE INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

26 - 30 OCTOBER

Each year the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show attracts people from around the world to catch up on the latest, largest, and most luxurious yachts and products from the yachting world. For 2006, Fort Lauderdale is already limbering up in preparation for the fleet of CNI yachts that will descend on its piers and harbours.

[www.showmanagement.com](http://www.showmanagement.com)

## BARCELONA INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

4 - 12 NOVEMBER

Like the Cannes Show, the Barcelona Boat Show has significantly increased in size and this year will have several custom made superyachts on display.

[www.salonnavitico.com](http://www.salonnavitico.com)

## ATHENS BOAT SHOW

11 - 19 NOVEMBER

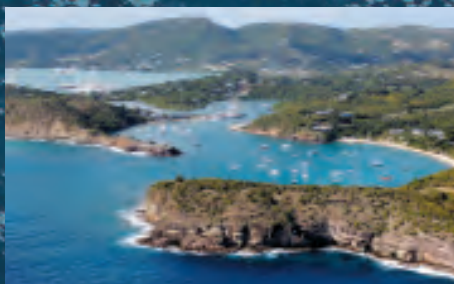
[www.athensboatshow.gr](http://www.athensboatshow.gr)

## SALON NAUTIQUE DE PARIS

2 - 11 DECEMBER

From 2nd to 11th December 2006, the 46th Salon Nautique de Paris will preview new models in the nautical world due for launch in 2007.

[www.salonnavitqueparis.com](http://www.salonnavitqueparis.com)



## ANTIGUA CHARTER SHOW

6 - 11 DECEMBER

Celebrating its 45th birthday, the Antigua Yacht

Charter Meeting will showcase some of the world's finest charter yachts, many from CNI's fleet which have not yet made their debut in the Mediterranean.

[www.antigua-charter-yacht-meeting.com](http://www.antigua-charter-yacht-meeting.com)

## PHUKET INTERNATIONAL MARINE EXPO

7 - 10 DECEMBER

The Phuket Boat Show will be held at the Phuket Boat Lagoon marina from 7th - 10th December. The opening day of the show will coincide with the rest day of the annual Phuket Kings Cup Regatta and is sure to be an exciting few days of events.

[www.phuketboatshow.com](http://www.phuketboatshow.com)



## ART BASEL MIAMI

7-10 DECEMBER

The hottest new destination for the international art world, Miami plays host to more than 195 galleries from the US, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. Exhibitors present works by over 2000 artists dating from the 20th and 21st centuries at this favourite winter meeting place - best viewed from the decks of your yacht.

[www.artbasel.com](http://www.artbasel.com)

## THE SUPERYACHT CUP ANTIGUA

13 - 16 DECEMBER

A new event for this year, The Superyacht Cup Antigua will be held December 13th - 16th in Nelson's Dockyard.

[www.thesuperyachtcup.com](http://www.thesuperyachtcup.com)



# Travel tomes best books

Planning a trip? Then swat up in style with one of these indispensable, pictorial guides that are as inspiring as they are informative

## **CARIBBEAN: THE ISLANDS**

Donald Nausbaum (Macmillan Caribbean)

A photographic journey, by sea and sky, Caribbean: The Islands gives a vibrant reflection of the unique character of each of the islands - inspiration aplenty for those planning a visit.

[www.macmillan-caribbean.com](http://www.macmillan-caribbean.com)

## **ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

Mike Toy; Kathy Martin (Macmillan Caribbean)

There are few good books to be found on this area, so this is a welcome and informative read, heavy on stunning photography and with ecological, historical and cultural insights along with an insider's recommendation on what to do where.

[www.macmillan-caribbean.com](http://www.macmillan-caribbean.com)

## **FROMMER'S PORTABLE LAS VEGAS FOR NON-GAMBLERS**

(Frommer's)

See the other face of Vegas with this authoritative, portable guide that proves the neon city is not all gambling and kitsch living. Covering nightlife, shows and celebrity restaurants, it is full of ideas for those who want the city experience minus the casinos.

[www.frommers.com](http://www.frommers.com)

## **CARIBBEAN CRICKET**

(Wisden)

Introduced with a foreword by Viv Richards, and displaying 'Images of 70 years of the West Indian Game' this profiles 30 of the leading West Indian cricketers, from the early greats through to Brian Lara. Including many previously unpublished photographs, it's essential pre-World Cup reading.

[www.barbadosbooks.com](http://www.barbadosbooks.com)

## **GALAPAGOS: ISLANDS BORN OF FIRE**

Tui De Roy (David Bateman Ltd)

A collection of photo-essays compiled by Galapagos native Tui De Roy, this is a truly stunning companion to these unique islands. De Roy grew up among the giant tortoises, birds and iguanas and has a flair for capturing them on film and in words.

[www.bateman.co.nz](http://www.bateman.co.nz)

## **THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES AND THE VOYAGE OF THE BEAGLE**

Charles Darwin (Random House)

One of the most influential books ever written, it profiles Darwin's revolutionary theory of evolution and his 1839 account of his travels to South America and the Pacific Islands - including, famously, his exploration of the Galapagos islands.

[www.randomhouse.com](http://www.randomhouse.com)

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David Smith

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# Southern comforts

The summer may have come and gone quicker than it should but don't despair, there are still months of sunshine ahead. All you have to do is hop on a yacht in the Caribbean, or further afield in the southern hemisphere

## BAHAMAS

The 700 islands of the Bahamas trickle from alongside the tip of Florida 800 kilometres down through the glorious blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Grand Bahama, the most northerly of the main islands has an airport for ease of access, but from there the only way to see the islands is by yacht. Travelling south there are hundreds of opportunities to step ashore and sample island life – and each isle has a distinct personality and appeal all of its own. The prominent islands provide wonderful shopping, restaurants and sports and the smaller isles are wonderfully remote and unspoilt. City types will love Nassau on New Providence island with its plush hotels and casinos; and nature lovers will be intrigued by the world's largest breeding colony of West Indian flamingos (all 60,000 of them!) on Inagua, as well as the impressive variety of whales, dolphins and giant iguanas that make these islands and waters their home. Speaking of water, this is a wonderful part of the world for watersports, sailing, swimming and diving. Basically, the Bahamas has it all, and being located so close to Florida and the shipping channels, it even has history and culture in aplenty to charm every visitor that cruises its shores.

### sea&i RECOMMENDS

#### THE YACHTS:

*Charisma (46.4m/153')*

*From US\$135,000 per week  
for 12 guests*

*Soulmates (32m/105')* From

*US\$45,000 per week for 8 guests*



Charisma

#### THE BAR:

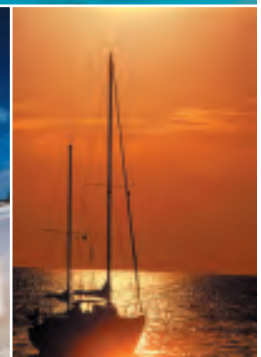
*Enjoy a Mojito at the Angler on Bimini, where there is a room devoted to Ernest Hemingway*

#### THE BEACH:

*Build pink sandcastles on Harbour Island's Pink Sands*

#### THE ACTIVITY:

*Cast your line for blue marlin in the hot fishing spot east of Abaco*







## LEEWARD ISLANDS

The Leeward Islands are an intriguing mix of West Indian, French, Dutch and British influences – and the nationality varies depending on which island you visit. To experience the French Riviera of the Caribbean, look no further than St Barthélemy. As you cruise towards the islands its lush vegetation and bright red-roofed houses catch your breath; once you step ashore the superb restaurants, glamorous beach scene, designer boutiques and chic island charm will steal your heart. For a hit of Dutch/French culture, the twin-nation island of St Martin (aka St Maarten) is nearby, or a trip south could deliver you to the diving hotspot Saba, or further still to St Kitts and Nevis – remember your golf clubs for the former! Further to the east, and surely one of the most famous of Caribbean islands is Antigua – redolent with maritime history, renowned for its yachting heritage and a wonderful place for fun, socialising and complete relaxation on its miles of gorgeous sandy beaches.



## sea&i RECOMMENDS

### THE YACHTS:

*Galaxy (56m/184')* From Euros 195,000 per week for 12 guests

*Allures (30.3m/100')* From Euros 55,000 per week for 10 guests,

*Mustang (25.3m/83')* From US\$25,000 per week for 6 guests,

### THE RESTAURANT:

*Savour sophisticated cuisine with a Caribbean flair at Blanchard's on Anguilla*

### THE BEACH:

*Indulge in an afternoon of blissful swimming at the secluded beach at Anse du Gouverneur*

### THE ACTIVITY:

*Horseback ride along the cliffs of St Barths*





## VIRGIN ISLANDS

Sprinkled to the east of Puerto Rico, the must-visit spots of the Virgin Islands include Anegada – a fabulous place for diving with hundreds of wrecks wallowing beneath the waves; Tortola – a mountainous island and the largest in the chain; St John – white sandy beaches galore; St Thomas – rich with historic 18th century charm and exclusive hotels and boutiques; and Jost Van Dyke – there’s no better place to party on the beach into the wee hours in true island style. But in between these lie many more compelling isles: Norman Island, Virgin Gorda and Peter Island to name but a few. On each one you will encounter an enticing mix of old-world charm, modern facilities to lure luxury travellers, and abundant natural beauty to keep them coming back for more.



*Sea Jewel*

### sea&i RECOMMENDS

#### THE YACHTS:

*Sea Jewel* (46m/150') From US\$150,000 per week for 12 guests

*Northern Spirit* (37m/121') From US\$73,080 per week for 6 guests

#### THE BAR:

*Swim ashore to Jost Van Dyke's Soggy Dollar Bar for a famous Painkiller cocktail*

#### THE BEACH:

*Anchor off Norman Island and swim ashore to the original 'Treasure Island'*

#### THE ACTIVITY:

*For true underwater exploration head to the Royal Mail Steamer Rhone – the most celebrated dive site in the BVI*

**sea&i RECOMMENDS****THE YACHT:***Darling (25m/82') From US\$35,000 per week for 7 guests***THE BOUTIQUE:***Shop till you drop in the chic boutiques of Southbank in Melbourne***THE PAMPER:***Pamper yourself with a day at the Silky Oats Lodge and Healing Waters Spa near Cairns***THE ACTIVITY:***End the day with a private sunset ascent of Sydney Harbour Bridge***AUSTRALIA**

It may be a long way to travel but once you get there Australia promises every mile of your journey was worth it. This extraordinary land marooned in the Pacific Ocean is a law unto itself. So vast is its landmass it embraces every environment, from golden beaches to parched deserts to lush rainforests to fertile winelands to snow-capped mountains. To top all this, its waters are dotted with glorious islands (the Whitsundays off the northeast coast are truly idyllic) and are also home to the spectacular Great Barrier Reef. Yet, although Australia is abundant in natural wonders, she is equally famous for her bright cities, peerless sports and fine entertainment. A cruise ensures you encounter the best of all. You can visit the remote islands, then drop in at one of the famous cities as Cairns, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne all lie right on the eastern seaboard. You can explore inland and absorb a culture spiced with Aboriginal intrigue, spend an evening at the opera in the city, take a wine-tour through fabulous vineyards or simply relax and let the charm of Australia find its way to you. And rest assured, it will!





## SOUTH PACIFIC

Charter the waters of the South Pacific and truly escape to exotica, cocooned from the modern world by white sand beaches and psychedelic coral reefs. A paradise of turquoise lagoons, lush scenery and deserted beaches, the islands of French Polynesia are marooned in an idyllic ocean, forgotten by the 21st century. More than 130 islands are scattered over five archipelagos in three main island groups – all of which are ideal for sailing. Think Tahiti and picture seemingly endless beaches, sense a perfect sanctuary where time stands still on the islands of Moorea and Huahine, and conjure up an image of Bora Bora's turquoise lagoons. Peace and solitude, together with rich cultures and a unique environment of extreme natural beauty make the vividly green South Sea Islands a true paradise marooned in the South Pacific Ocean.

### sea&i RECOMMENDS

#### THE YACHT:

*Darling (25m/82')* From US\$35,000 per week for 7 guests

#### THE BOUTIQUE:

*Treat yourself to a few of the thousands of pearls produced at the pearl farms of Tahaa*

#### THE ACTIVITY:

*Take a hike up the mountains of Raiatea for panoramic views over the surrounding islands*

#### THE BAR:

*Sip a cool beer and soak up the French colonial charm of Papeete Harbour on Tahiti*



## THE MALDIVES

Sea, sand and solitude... the islands of the Maldives are idyllic hideaways lying just four degrees south of the Equator. Surrounded by white sand, coral reef and crystal clear turquoise waters, the Maldives are made up of just over a thousand miniature gems sprinkled like tear drops over the Indian Ocean. Among the thousand sand spits and uninhabited islets of the Maldives, about two hundred lush but tiny islands are home to human life. Scuba divers, snorkellers and watersports enthusiasts are in their element here – the surrounding coral reefs are teeming with butterfly, angel, parrot and trumpet fish, whilst for the more adventurous diver, turtle, moray eels and sharks can be found in the depths of the Indian Ocean.

### sea&i RECOMMENDS

#### THE YACHT:

*Boo Too (27.4m/90')* From Euros 24,000 per week for 4 guests

#### THE ACTIVITY:

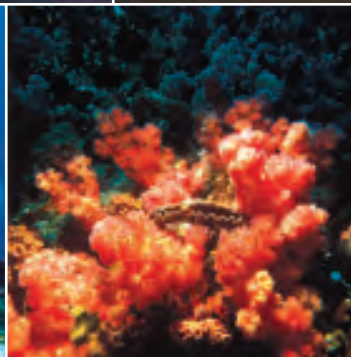
*Snorkel the reefs of Ari Atoll – your own real-life aquarium*

#### THE THERAPY:

*Indulge in yoga therapy on the virgin sands of the uninhabited Dhiffushi Island*

#### THE BOUTIQUE:

*Shop in the capital Malé for local crafts in lacquered wood*





# Art scene: Velázquez

Diego Velázquez earned himself the title 'painter of painters'. Four centuries later, he is still delighting artists and collectors alike

By Thomas Grant

**Exhibition:** *Velázquez*

**Venue:** *National Gallery, London*

**Dates:** *18th October 2006 – 21 January 2007*

Did the patrons of the first half of the 17th century know just how rich an artistic period they were living in? Between 1600 and 1650 a shrewd collector could have commissioned paintings from Caravaggio and Rubens, Hals and Rembrandt, Van Dyck and Vermeer, Poussin and Claude, not to mention a bust from Bernini.

Some shrewd judges at the time considered that the most accomplished painter in this Golden Age of painting was not one of these, but Diego Velázquez, court painter to the Hapsburg

kings of Spain. Later admirers were to include a significant number of fellow painters, from Reynolds to Bacon. Goya was, inevitably, deeply influenced, while Picasso and Bacon both paid him the telling compliment of using his paintings as starting points for their own; Picasso in a series of imitations culminating in his version of Velázquez's most famous masterpiece, *Las Meninas*, Bacon in almost 30 variations on what he saw as one of the greatest of all portraits, that of Pope Innocent X. Earlier, Sargent was a great admirer, as were the impressionists. Renoir, who began his career copying Velázquez images on to Limoges porcelain, felt that naturalism could go no further, while Manet famously regarded him as "le peintre des peintres". The debt of Manet and other French artists was, indeed, the subject of an exhibition at the Met, 'Manet/Velázquez', three years ago.

One aspect of Velázquez's work that drew the respect of so many later masters was his apparently detached technical virtuosity. He was 'the painter's painter' partly in the sense that he seemed to be devoid of any desire for self-expression, coolly interested in solving the problems of presenting a three-dimensional world on two-dimensional canvas, but not otherwise engaged

**Above left:**  
Diego Velázquez,  
*An Old Woman Cooking  
Eggs*, 1618, The National  
Gallery of Scotland,  
Edinburgh  
**Above right:**  
Diego Velázquez,  
*The Waterseller  
of Seville*, about 1617-23,  
The Wellington  
Collection, Apsley House,  
London

with his subject. As Bacon's series of screaming popes showed, the idea that Velázquez was an unemotional observer was quite mistaken, a confusion of restraint with indifference, but it was a predictable product of the enormous skill with which Velázquez presented his subjects. "What we all do with labour" wrote Joshua Reynolds "he does with ease".

The Velázquez exhibition at the National Gallery, London, promises to be a major event in showing for the first time a retrospective of Velázquez's career. It will include 45 paintings, a substantial proportion of those that survive (the total oeuvre is disputed, but is probably between 100 and 130). The gallery's own nine paintings, the largest collection outside the Prado, will form the nucleus of the exhibition. The British began buying Velázquez in the 18th century, and this exhibition marks the centenary of the year when one of the most famous early acquisitions, the Rokeby Venus, came to the National Gallery. Eight paintings will come from the Prado, including the large Apollo at the Forge of Vulcan and a portrait of the court dwarf, Francisco Lezcano, while three magnificent late portraits of the royal children are to be loaned by the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna. To accommodate the large number of paintings, and the predicted numbers of visitors, the gallery will move part of its permanent collection into the basement of the Sainsbury Wing, the normal site for exhibitions, but one which has always been too small and dark to be satisfactory.

All periods of Velázquez's career will be well covered, beginning with the arrestingly naturalistic bodegones such as the Old Woman Cooking Eggs and The Water Seller, in which the young painter (around 19 or 20) has already completely absorbed the naturalistic lessons of Caravaggio, and gone beyond him in the use of colour and form to create a harmony of figures and objects that is utterly unprecedented. Even at this stage the extraordinary naturalism is not a matter of precise, detailed brushwork, whether it is applied to the film of water on the waterseller's urn, or the wrinkles on his face. One is drawn towards saying these details are "meticulously painted", but that is an illusion. The gentle, fluid brushwork is broader and more relaxed than that would suggest. As he came into contact with Titian and Rubens (whom he met in 1628) Velázquez developed a still more sure, economical technique with which to represent the natural world. His ability to render form and texture through broad brushwork and the subtlest combinations of hues reaches a kind of perfection in the portraits of the three royal children from the Kunsthistorisches Museum. The Infanta Margarita, which has apparently been damaged and restored, and has grown darker over the years, nevertheless still portrays its subject with great insight and sympathy through a series of gradations of tone and hue that make it easy to understand why Whistler was yet another admirer of this great painter. ■

# Auctions

## SOTHEBY'S

### NEW BOND STREET, LONDON

- ☐ Fine & Rare Wines, Spirits & Vintage Port 20 September
- ☐ Fine Clocks, Watches, Barometers,  
Mechanical Music & Scientific Instruments 28 September

### NEW YORK

- ☐ American Paintings, Drawings & Sculpture 12 September
- ☐ Indian Paintings 19 September
- ☐ The Arts of the Buddha 22 September

## CHRISTIE'S

### SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON

- ☐ Football Memorabilia 13 September
- ☐ Sporting Guns 14 September
- ☐ Old Master Paintings 20 September
- ☐ Maritime Pictures 15 November
- ☐ Maritime Models 15 November

### KING STREET, LONDON

- ☐ 40th Anniversary Finest & Rare Wine Sale 5 October
- ☐ 20th Century British Art 17 October
- ☐ Jewellery 6 December

### ROCKERFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK

- ☐ Sporting Art 1 December
- ☐ Fine Books & Manuscripts 15 December

## BONHAMS

### NEW BOND STREET, LONDON

- ☐ Marine Pictures 12 September
- ☐ India in Books, Photographs & Maps 13 October
- ☐ Antiquities 13 October
- ☐ Russian Sale 27 November
- ☐ Old Master Paintings 6 December

### KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON

- ☐ Furniture, Works of Art, Carpets & Rugs 5 September
- ☐ Japanese Pictures & Prints & other Asian Works of Art 19 September
- ☐ Jewellery 1 November
- ☐ Rock and Roll & Film Memorabilia 22 November

### SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES

- ☐ Fine & Rare Wines 23 September
- ☐ An Important Sale of Fine Automobilia & Toys 5 October
- ☐ Fine Jewellery 11 December

### NEW YORK

- ☐ Fine American Paintings 28 November

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5. & 8. Keep lips supple with Guerlain's Kiss Kiss lipstick & lip gloss. [www.guerlain.com](http://www.guerlain.com)
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# Golf links resorts par excellence

Some of the most acclaimed golf courses are those that wind along the coastlines of North America and Europe and the islands of the Caribbean. sea&i profiles five fantastic links courses for a mid-charter round of golf

By **Miriam Cain**

### BOCA RATON RESORT & CLUB, FLORIDA, USA

In addition to its beaches and leisure attractions, Florida is also home to some of the most beautiful and challenging golf courses in the world. Situated on 356 acres, the Boca Raton Resort & Club features two 18-hole championship golf courses. The Resort Course is located directly on the resort's grounds and was originally designed by William Flynn in 1926. In 1997 the course underwent a complete redesign and reconstruction by acclaimed architect Gene Bates. Players can now enjoy a par 71 course with a total play of 6,253 yards from the back tees, a variety of elevation changes and 12 acres of water to challenge even the most accomplished golfer. The Country Club Course is located at the Boca Country Club. Designed by Joe Lee, it underwent a major renovation in 1999 and the par 72 course now plays 6,585 yards from the back tees. The signature hole of this course is the scenic 19th island green.

*For further information, visit [www.bocaresort.com](http://www.bocaresort.com)*



### RAFFLES RESORT CANOUAN ISLAND, GRENADINES

Raffles Resort Canouan Island is located in the heart of the Grenadines in the southeastern Caribbean. The recently created Trump International Golf Club at the resort features an 18-hole, par 72 championship golf course designed by Jim Fazio. The course stretches 60 acres along the seafront; the front nine holes being situated in a semicircular crater on the flat coastal plain, while the back nine are carved out of the hillside above the bay and resort. Perched 250 metres above sea level, the signature hole, number 13, offers 360-degree views over nearly eight square kilometres of lush rolling hills, surrounded by one of the world's largest coral reefs. The Raffles Resort Canouan Island recently hosted the first Trump Million Dollar Invitation Golf Tournament where pros and amateurs competed for US\$1.6 million in cash prizes from the Trump International Golf Club, marking the course on the international golfing circuit. →

*For further information, visit [www.raffles-canouanisland.com](http://www.raffles-canouanisland.com)*

**Main picture and above:** Boca Raton Resort & Club  
**Above left:** Raffles Resort Canouan Island  
**Left:** The view from the 13th hole of the Raffles Resort Canouan Island over the Grenadine island chain



**Above and right:** The Abaco Club, Abaco, in the Bahamas



**Above and right:** Excellent golfing and relaxation can be enjoyed at the Four Seasons Resort at Terre Blanche  
**Below right:** Sardinia's Pevero Golf Club



### ABACO CLUB, ABACO, BAHAMAS

Golf came to the Bahamas at the end of the 20s when Nassau's Cable Beach Golf Club was built for the first American tourists arriving by yacht. The tourism trickle became a torrent during the 50s and 60s, but the Abacos archipelago has remained unspoilt and is where you will find the real Bahamas. The Abaco Club on Great Abaco, the largest of the Abaco islands, has been designed in keeping with its surrounding environment. With its two miles of white sandy beach and Bahamian-style oceanfront cottages overlooking Winding Bay, the Scottish-style championship golf course dominates the landscape. Designed by Donald Steel and Tom Mackenzie, the 7,183 yard, par 72 course is the true definition of a links course as 14 holes twist along the sand dunes and bluffs of Winding Bay. The first seven holes play out, with the fifth hole seated squarely on the beach. The course then steers back with the eighth hole affording stunning views over Winding Bay. You can spot your yacht at anchor at every hole until the 18th, and here play begins with a drive into a valley and finishes on a windy elevated green with views over the Atlantic.

*For further information, visit [www.theabacoclub.com](http://www.theabacoclub.com)*

### FOUR SEASONS RESORT, PROVENCE, TERRE BLANCHE, FRANCE

The Four Seasons Resort at Terre Blanche is unique in France – offering a choice between two world-class, 18-hole public courses: Le Château and Le Riou. Enveloped by olive groves, vineyards and the towering limestone hills of the Var region, the resort sits in perfect harmony with its surroundings and the courses meld seamlessly with the countryside. Designed by professional golfer Dave Thomas, the 18-hole courses afford sweeping views of surrounding Provence and the southern Alps and wind through spectacular pine and oak-lined hills. Both courses are arranged in four loops of nine holes; the first two loops comprise Le Château – a 7,088-yard, par 72 course designed to host professional tournaments – while the final loops from Le Riou course (6,567 yards, also par 72) throw up challenges for all abilities. Between rounds, players can hone their skills on the greens and fairways with private lessons at the on-site David Leadbetter Golf Academy.

*For further information, visit [www.fourseasonshotel.com/provence](http://www.fourseasonshotel.com/provence)*

### PEVERO GOLF CLUB, COSTA SMERALDA, SARDINIA

The Pevero Golf Club Costa Smeralda stretches from the white beaches of the bay of Pevero to the bay of Cala di Volpe in Sardinia. The greens and fairways wind through the Sardinian hills, wind-sculpted rocks and natural lakes and ponds. Designed by Robert Trent Jones, the course is 6,744 yards, 18 holes and par 72. The Pevero site is one of the most spectacular locations for sea-going golfers. Lying between tree-covered hills and a rocky coastline broken only by splendid coves, the layout will challenge even the most seasoned player.

*For further information, visit [www.golfclubpevero.com](http://www.golfclubpevero.com)*



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# The natural selection galapagos

The Galapagos may not seem an obvious choice for a luxurious getaway but if you're keen to explore these extraordinary islands, [sea&i](#) can escort you in style

by Kate Rigby

Life on the Galapagos islands is unlike anywhere else – firstly because it is home to a bizarre and prolific variety of unique species; secondly, due to the need to preserve these species, the islands are very carefully protected. That means there are no swanky restaurants, hotels or beach resorts; here island life revolves around trekking, snorkelling, kayaking, cruising and mingling with the most unbelievable land, marine and bird species imaginable. However, as access to the islands is only permitted during the day, each evening you will return to your superyacht (anchored at one of the inhabited isles), for gourmet meals, fine wines and a sound night's sleep – the perfect base at which to relax in between exploring the wonders of the aptly named Enchanted Isles.

The 61 islands and islets were first made famous 170 years ago when they inspired Charles Darwin to write *The Origin Of Species*. Today, 13 are considered major islands but only five are inhabited. As you fly the 1,000km from the Ecuadorian mainland, a primitive landscape unfolds below you: moonscapes of solidified lava formations merge with slabs of rock and rainbows of white, red and green sand swirling between pockets of blue water and misty cloud. When you land on Baltra, there's a tempting choice of islands to choose from.

[Santa Cruz](#) supports some 4,000 residents and has plenty to offer. At the Charles Darwin Research Station you can meet the vast lumbering land tortoises (los galápagos) and then trek your way through giant lava tubes or to the Tortoise Reserve to observe them in their natural habitat. A great way to see the island is to hop on a bus to Los Gemelos in the highlands where the Scalesia forest ripples with bird life. Save time for a boat trip to Black Turtle Cove on the north shore. A tranquil mangrove lagoon, it is a great viewing spot for turtles, fish, rays and small sharks.

[Santa Fe](#) (Barrington) is a beautiful island with an Opuntia [prickly pear] forest filled with towering cacti. Keep your eyes peeled for the large land iguanas, endemic to the island, which

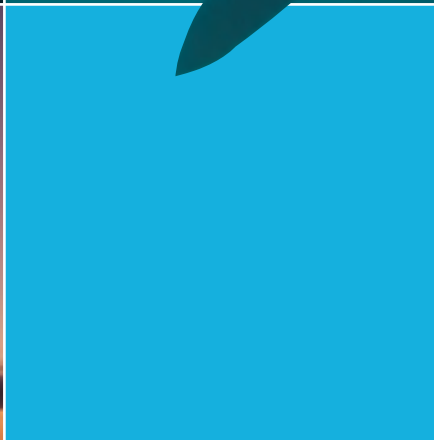
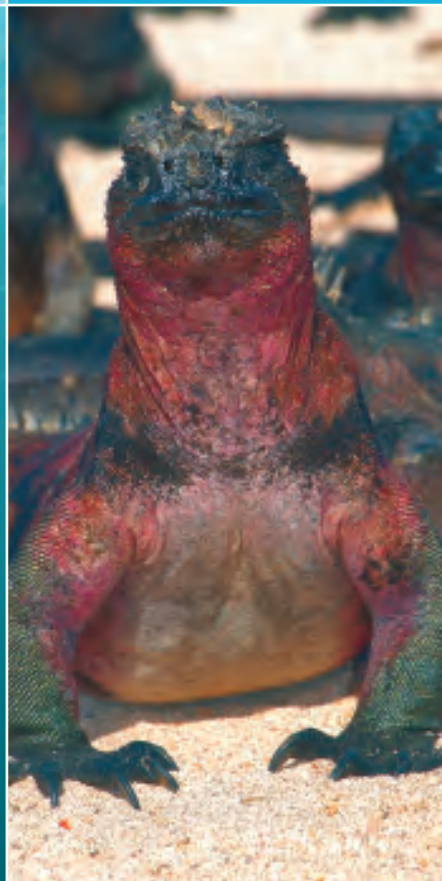
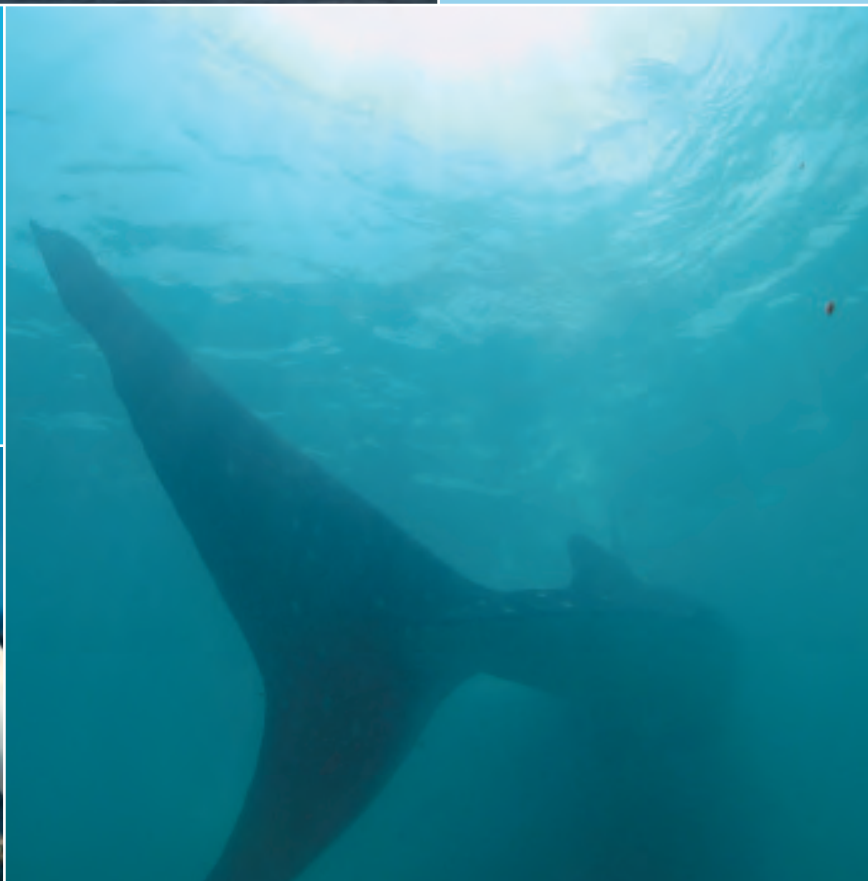
love to bask here, and set aside a few hours for the fantastic snorkelling opportunities.

Nearby, [South Plaza](#) is the only place in the archipelago where land and marine iguanas mate, so try and spot the hybrids. Wandering along the island trails you can absorb the colourful landscapes and spot swallow-tailed gulls, Audubon's shearwaters and boobies. Snorkelling off Gordon Rocks is a hammerhead heaven, while the island's rocks bear the weight of around 1,000 sea lions basking in the sun.

[Floreana](#) has a colourful history of whaling, pirates and buccaneers. Between the 17th and 18th centuries the English whaling fleet set up a postal system and today visitors can still leave postcards in the 200-year-old barrel as the service is still in operation. Kayaking between the islets is a great way to spot green turtles, and you can take a dinghy ride to the eroded volcanic crater Devil's Crown, spot pelicans and sea lions as you snorkel, and be dazzled by the flamingos of Punta Cormorant. The oldest of the islands, [Española](#) is a real jewel. Gardner Bay has an electric-white beach dotted with dark sea lions and vibrant blue waters. You can snorkel with schools of tropical fish, spot white-tip sharks or go kayaking. The northwest coast inspires a cliff-top walk to see doves, hawks, blue-footed boobies and the reddish marine iguanas. And watch out for the Punta Suarez blowhole that propels water 12 metres into the air.

At the north point of [Fernandina](#) the shoreline teems with flightless cormorants, marine iguanas and Galapagos penguins. Snorkelling at Punta Espinosa can be an extraordinary experience, with marine iguanas swimming out to feed and a seabed carpeted with turtles. Cruising over to Isabela you may be lucky enough to spot whales before you set to exploring the wonders of the largest island in the Galapagos. ■

*There are many more islands that can be visited on a cruise of the Galapagos. For details, and to find out which yachts charter in the Galapagos, please contact your nearest CNI charter broker (see page 10).*



Clockwise from top left:  
the islands in profile;  
a curious marine  
iguana; a sleepy  
sea lion; a seemingly  
'headless' boobie; the  
male frigate in flight;  
albatrosses on the  
beach; a whale shark  
heading home





the windward islands

# Grenadines dream

After a week you can tire of even the most picture-perfect setting, so spontaneously flitting from idyll to idyll along a string of over 100 islands ensures the stimulation of ever-changing scenery. All you need is your own private yacht

By Miriam Cain



The Windward Islands stretch down the eastern Caribbean from Martinique, St Lucia and St Vincent to the Grenadines – a chain of islands abundant with lush rainforests, dramatic mountains and sheltered bays fringed with white sandy beaches. Combine a few days ashore on the French island of Martinique with a ten-day charter aboard the 36.9m Broward motor yacht Java, cruising the islands and experiencing a part of the Caribbean that has remained remarkably unchanged over the centuries.

The French have long kept the tropical treat of Martinique to themselves, and until recently the island was used as a base for preparing yachts for charters starting further south in the Grenadines. But today Martinique is booming with yachting enthusiasts who are drawn by its combination of French flair and Caribbean warmth. The international airport is located close to the island's well-dressed capital, Fort-de-France, which looks like a French provincial city given a tropical makeover. Around the bay from Fort-de-France is Pointe du Bout, the island's tourism hub, but the opposite and most exclusive side of the island is home to the Hôtel Cap Est Lagoon Resort & Spa. Far and away the hippest, classiest place to stay, the hotel is a new enclave of luxury in Martinique's 'Beverly Hills' area and is the perfect choice if you want total pampering after a long flight. A Relais & Châteaux property, it is nestled in a tropical garden overlooking a lagoon. In the hotel spa, Guerlain treatments combine with signature therapies using local island ingredients, while the resort's gastro restaurant, Le Belém, is perfect for delicious French fusion cuisine marrying local ingredients with the culinary expertise of Gilles Trouillot.

#### BEACH LIFE

Eighty kilometres from tip to toe, Martinique has countless seductive sandy beaches and quiet moorings stretching from Fort-de-France to the south of the island. Here Le Rocher du Diamant – the Diamond Rock – is a strategic site that saw the French and British fighting against one another in the early 1800s. It makes for a fascinating trip and is blessed with the island's best beach – Grande Anse des Salines – located on its undeveloped southern tip. An enormous, perfect curve of palm-shaded sand, the beach is wonderfully empty and is an ideal place to chill out.

Martinique offers a whole range of amazing diving spots for all capabilities, including Pointe de la Baleine, Les Jardins de Salomon and Pointe Burgos – all alive with turtles, crayfish, rays and multicolored sponges. For certified divers, the wreck of Nahoon – a three-mast lighthouse boat lying 36 metres underwater and inhabited by barracudas – lies just offshore, and Les Grandes Jorasses, also lying close to Martinique's shores, is a wonderful coral staircase. The local dive guide, Walter Wargnier, is the perfect companion to show you every nook and cranny of these sites.

For amateurs of big-game fishing, Martinique provides several opportunities, and local sports-fisherman Yves Péliçon can show you the best unexplored spots in the currents of nearby St Lucia where he's well acquainted with the marlin, tuna, dolphin fish, wahoo and barracuda.

Those who want to explore ashore can stroll around the beautiful gardens that surround the 18th century house on the Musée de la Pagerie. A former colonial sugar estate, the plantation was home to Marie-Rose Joséphe Tascher de La Pagerie, better known as Napoleon's Empress Joséphine. For those in search of the heart of the island, follow in the footsteps of the early Jesuit settlers along the Route de la Trace. The trail winds from coast to coast through the island's volcanic, forested interior and brings you to the Jardin de Balata, one of its finest gardens and a magical place for a private party. Also inland, located close to the capital Fort-de-France, Les Trois-Ilets' Robert Trent Jones golf course is laid out on a magnificent site where the Empress Joséphine was born. Banks, trees, lakes and bunkers are skillfully distributed over 63 hectares, demanding maximum concentration to complete the 18-hole course.

Martinique makes a great launch pad for a charter through to St Lucia and on to the Grenadines, so after your few days ashore, prepare to step aboard Java at Le Marin. The marina here is one →



**Previous pages:** Canouan Island

**Above:** Quaint local signs mean you will never lose your way around the islands

**Opposite page, clockwise from top left:** The 12th hole of Trois-Ilets, Martinique, is the signature hole of the course; Martinique is famous for its rum distilleries; The stunning 37m Java exudes space and style; the Hotel Cap Est's private pontoon







of the most professional in the south Caribbean, all thanks to the foresight of Eric and Glenn Jean-Joseph, two brothers who saw to it that Le Marin was furnished with more than 600 berths, round-the-clock security and high-quality services for yachts (including provisioning, sail-makers, mechanical repairs etc). Set in a large protected bay, it is conveniently located halfway between the airport and the beautiful moorings and diving spots of southern Martinique. Before you head off, sample some French Creole cuisine at the Ti Toques restaurant just across the road from the marina and, for a fun night out, try and catch the live bands and Sunday-night beach parties organised at The Zanzibar.

### SETTING SAIL

Sailing off from Martinique, head for the tropical mountain scenery of St Lucia. The island reflects a combination of Creole, French and English influences, ensuring a colourful ambience. The lush coastline is dominated by the duelling Piton peaks, a titanic pair of jungle-covered spires rising 800 metres high in sheer walls from the sea. Cruising gently towards St Lucia, the Pitons serve as an inspiring landmark. Your first day is a gentle introduction to life on board Java. Anchor beneath the dramatic peaks and take the tender ashore for a beach barbecue on Anse Chastanet, St Lucia's most picturesque beach. An arc of volcanic sand at the very base of the Pitons, it is cooled by the breeze from the surrounding rainforest. Carrying scents of mango and frangipani, it will whet your appetite for an authentic Caribbean barbecue of spicy fish, grilled plantain, rice, beans and green-fig salad. St Lucia's thriving marine park lies just yards from Anse Chastanet. Here snorkellers can pursue squid as they speed in military formation through clumps of giant brain coral. The surrounding waters also offer opportunities for scuba diving, deep-sea fishing, kayaking and windsurfing.

After a relaxing night aboard Java at the new marina, Marigot Bay, described by novelist James Michener as *'the most beautiful bay in the Caribbean'*, breakfast at The Coffee Dock or on freshly baked pastries from The Bakery in the Marina Village. Venture inland and discover the network of hiking trails running through the rainforest from Fond Saint Jacques. You can hike across the island's mountainous spine in a single day, scale Gros Piton, or tackle Petit Piton (you will need to be accompanied by a local guide for this).

The less adventurous among your party can be escorted by the crew to Soufriere, a miniature New Orleans with balconied clapboard buildings and rutted streets. The surrounding area is still volcanic with springs and hot-mud pools for bathing. Those looking for some history will be charmed by the Fond Doux Estate in the hills behind Soufriere. It is a 250-year-old cocoa plantation where you can wander among the cocoa, banana, mango, avocado and papaya trees and watch hummingbirds among the waxy tropical flowers. That night, as you sleep, your yacht will cruise on to St Vincent. The island is dominated in the north by Soufrier, a 1,220-metre volcano, and the best way to view its volcanic origins is from the decks of a yacht. Spend the day relaxing in the secluded Cumberland Bay on the island's west side, or step ashore to visit the Falls of Baleine, a breathtaking waterfall that spills from a mass of foliage into a rock-bound pool. If you happen to be around the island on a Saturday, join the walking tour of the capital, Kingstown, which takes you from the docks to the farmers' market, where you can pick up some of the local delicacies, such as mango, banana, avocado and papaya, to accompany your dinner on board.

Sprinkled in the crystal-clear waters between the volcanic peaks of St Vincent and Grenada is a 96-kilometre trail of palm-studded sandbars, coral reefs and tiny islets, known as the Grenadines, that haven't changed much since Columbus first sailed these crystalline waters.

A hop across the sea from St Vincent, Bequia is one the most civilised islands in the Grenadines. Cruise to the southwestern tip, past Petit Nevis and windward to the flat waters of Admiralty Bay and soak up the friendly, bustling atmosphere ashore in Port Elizabeth, where shops and restaurants line the water's edge. Further inland, explore the old forts and Bequia's summit, →



**Opposite page, clockwise from top left:** A Grenadine sunset; the flora on the islands adds a flush of colour to the landscape; Tobago Cays National Park; the spa at Raffles Resort Canouan  
**This page top:** Java's recently updated cool and airy interior has a contemporary design  
**Above:** The Marina at Marigot Bay, St Lucia, is situated in a protected double bay

Mount Pleasant, or take the tender and snorkel the reef off Princess Margaret beach. The divers in your party will love the wall at Devil's Table and the deep waters of Moonhole. Later on, keep an eye out for whales on the short cruise to the inherently glamorous and sophisticated island of Mustique – a private retreat of barefoot luxury surrounded by beaches of pure, white sand. The island's popularity with royalty and the jet set has endowed it with a prestigious reputation. Anchor off Britannia Bay and enjoy some Caribbean revelry with an exotic cocktail at Basil's Bar, or step back a century with afternoon tea at The Cotton House. If you are in Mustique on a Tuesday evening, join the locals, many of whom are of the rich and famous set, for cocktails at a relaxed and informal get-together, also at The Cotton House.

**Below:** Java has several spacious deck areas. Relax on the secluded sun deck, or dine in idyllic surroundings on the shaded aft deck.



### A-LIST LIFE ABOARD AND ASHORE

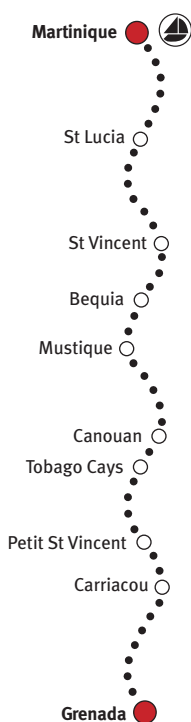
Wake early enough the following day and you can take the tender ashore to the Raffles Resort Canouan Island to watch the sun rise from the 13th hole of the Trump International Golf Course (see page 34) which offers panoramic views over the neighbouring Grenadines. Breakfast at the island's poolside restaurant, Jambu's, or back on board before a leisurely game of golf on the 18-hole Jim Fazio designed championship course. For those wishing to give golf a miss, the resort's Amrita Spa has hillside treatment villas where you can listen to the waves lapping the coral below during one of the luxury treatments. That afternoon your captain will set a course for the short cruise to the Tobago Cays; four uninhabited, palm-fringed islets ringed by pristine, white sand beaches and clear azure waters, which provided some of the backdrops for the Hollywood blockbuster *Pirates Of The Caribbean*. Anchor between Petit Rameau and Petite Bateau and swim and snorkel with sea turtles in the kaleidoscope of gold, blue, turquoise and green waters that are protected by the famous horseshoe reef. Dine aboard Java safe in the knowledge that you are in one of the most spectacular anchorages on earth.

As the sun rises once again, the peaceful Tobago Cays are exchanged for the cosmopolitan Clifton Harbour on the mountainous Union Island – a sailor's delight offering pretty anchorages and a couple of bars and restaurants. More importantly, it is where your captain can complete check-in formalities for St Vincent territory. A stone's throw from Union Island, Petit St Vincent is your own desert island offering total privacy and seclusion along three kilometres of white beaches. Dine ashore at the secluded Petit St Vincent Resort, or anchor between Petit St Vincent and Petite Martinique for the night and enjoy a barbecue of freshly caught fish.

After a peaceful night's anchorage, breakfast on the aft deck while you gently cruise across to Carriacou. Known as the 'Island of Reefs', its varied coastline has many offshore islets which are perfect for diving and snorkelling. Visit the oyster beds around Tyrrel Bay, where you can also watch local men building schooners by hand, or step ashore and explore the French and English ruins of Belair National Park. Swim at Sandy Island, a flawless sandy spit, and watch the pelicans performing 'aquabatics' around the yacht as you enjoy a leisurely afternoon on deck. That night, as you sleep, Java will cruise on to Grenada.

Known as the Spice Island, the mountainous island of Grenada is covered with fragrant spice trees and scenic waterfalls and ringed with miles of white sands. As you draw near Grenada, the fresh ocean breeze mingles with the aroma of spices carried on the trade winds and will permeate your senses. If that doesn't sate you, venture ashore and visit the spice factory, a rum distillery, or a nutmeg and chocolate factory, after which you might need to spend the afternoon swimming around the gentle bay of Grand Anse Beach. For your final night aboard, spend the evening in the horseshoe-shaped harbour of St George surrounded by a pastel rainbow of dockside warehouses. Raise a local rum punch into the small hours and dance the night away on deck to the sounds of a local steelpan band. ■

*CNI can create a unique charter around the Windward Islands. For further information about Java, and other yachts in the CNI fleet, contact your nearest charter broker (see page 10) or visit [www.cnconnect.com](http://www.cnconnect.com). For further information on travel to the Caribbean, contact *Aspire*, [www.aspireholidays.co.uk](http://www.aspireholidays.co.uk)*





watches

# Time & Tide

sea&i's annual

glance at the world of horology

**Clockwise from top left:** Royal Oak Offshore Lady Alinghi from Audemars Piguet; 1972 model in white gold from Vacheron Constantin; Long Island in white gold from Franck Muller; Royal Oak Offshore from Audemars Piguet; Limited edition Kronometry 1999 from Franck Muller; Big Bang from Hublot.

Admiral's Cup name approved by the Royal Ocean Racing Club, London.

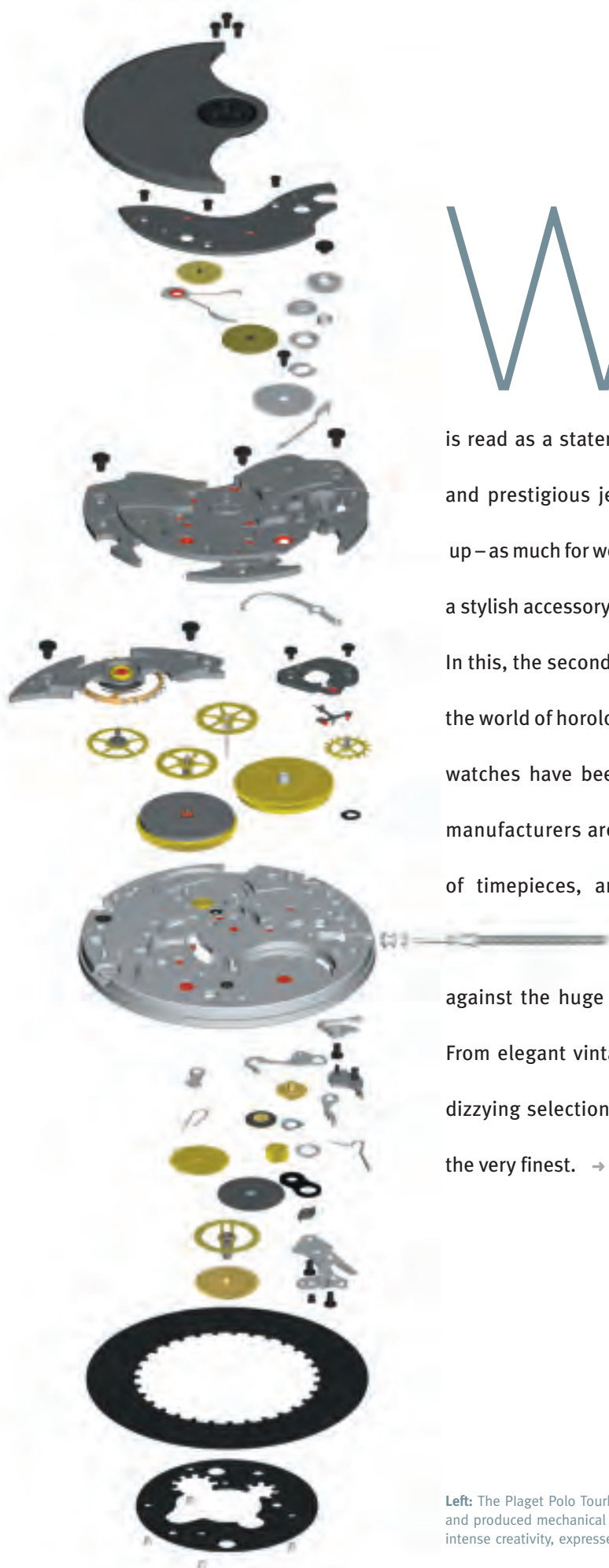
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With the hour of the day blinking out at you from almost every appliance, the 21st century watch is not so much about timekeeping as the semiotics of status. A watch is personal to the wearer but through its visibility it

is read as a statement about its owner. Watches remain the most popular and prestigious jewellery available for men, and as men are smartening up – as much for weekend wear as for work – the watch has once again become a stylish accessory.

In this, the second edition of *Time & Tide*, sea&i brings you the latest from the world of horology. As always, design is key and many classic and familiar watches have been given a more contemporary styling this year. Watch manufacturers are becoming progressively more skilful in the cultivation of timepieces, and a trend for understatement is rife in a reaction

against the huge glitzy watches that have been popular in recent years. From elegant vintage classics to multi-purpose sports designs, there is a dizzying selection of timepieces on the market today. sea&i has sourced the very finest. →

Left: The Piaget Polo Tourbillon: since 1874 Piaget has designed, developed and produced mechanical movements, and the past decade has witnessed intense creativity, expressed through the launch of 11 'in-house' movements

# The season's most talked-about timepieces...



**Above:** Audemars Piguet's Royal Oak  
**Right:** Breitling's ChronoMatic 24h  
**Far right:** Piaget Polo  
**Below:** TAG Heuer Monaco Chronograph Special Edition

## Time remembered

The 1970s inspired many designs that have become the greatest watches of the latter part of the 20th century, predominantly thanks to the concept of case and bracelet as a total piece of design rather than two items conceived separately and then put together.

Launched in 1972, the Royal Oak from Audemars Piguet is now being discovered by a new generation. The Patek Philippe Nautilus (mentioned below) has also seen a revival of interest, as has Piaget's Polo, which is still the strongest selling watch worldwide for Piaget. For Breitling, the early 70s were about the introduction of automatic chronographs and the movement remains at the core of the brand today. This year, Breitling launches a 24-hour version of the 1969 ChronoMatic. The 2004 version was so well received that the 21st century ChronoMatic 24h is now available in a limited series of 1,000 pieces in steel and a further 250 in rose gold. The TAG Heuer Monaco (see below) is also, of course, an iconic timepiece from that era.



## Anniversary celebrations

This year marks a number of anniversaries for many timepieces and watchmakers celebrating classic status. TAG Heuer has released a special edition of its Monaco Chronograph to celebrate the 75th birthday of Steve McQueen who wore a Monaco in the 1970 film *Le Mans*. Having remained almost unaltered in design over the years, the Monaco Chronograph has survived several eras and the special edition, in racing red and blue, is a welcome addition to the collection. Also celebrating 75 years is the Reverso from Jaeger-LeCoultre. One of the watchmaker's most famous pieces, the design has been reworked over the years but its timeless character has ensured it remains an iconic timepiece. Patek Philippe's Nautilus turns 30 this year and to celebrate the design of one of the first water-resistant watches, the company will be adding limited editions to its collection. →



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## ...the season's most talked-about timepieces

### Ladies day

Until relatively recently there was a tendency for men to dominate the watch industry, but highlighting a new facet of time many brands have expanded their ladies collections with equal fervour. A fine example of this is Parmigiani. Every womanly whim is indulged with the Kalpa Grande, Donna and Piccola collections from Parmigiani Fleurier. Embellished with brilliant-cut diamonds, and available with a broad range of dials, straps and materials, the Kalpa Grande ladies' models are customised to the individual.

This year Chopard also created new variations on its Happy Diamond theme. Originally created in 1976, the Happy Diamonds collection became a legend. Playing with colours and drawing inspiration from the sun and sketched hearts, the new pieces are designed to 'sparkle with happiness.'



**Above:** Chopard's Happy Diamonds

**Left:** The Kalpa Grande from Parmigiani

**Below:** Vacheron Constantin's Overseas model complete with Maltese cross on the bezel

**Opposite page, above right:** Cartier's Pasha Seatimer complete with USB drive from the same range

**Right:** Chopard's Mille Miglia Grand Turismo XL

### Overseas Dual Time

Vacheron Constantin celebrates the tenth anniversary of its Overseas model with the new limited edition (250 watches) Dual Time piece in rose gold with a chocolate-coloured dial. The bezel's rim is adorned with stylized Maltese crosses and, as with all other Overseas models, an engraving of a sailing ship adorns the back casing.

### Easy Diver

With its latest model, the Easy Diver K10, Roger Dubuis has honoured its tradition of melding innovative design with exceptional technical quality. The piece is housed in a massive, classically designed 48mm steel case with a vertical carbon-type dial, emblazoned with the recognisable K10 symbol. Once again Roger Dubuis uses high-tech materials, self-winding movements and flyback chronographs.







## Pasha fashion

New from Cartier, the Pasha Seatimer echoes a nautical theme and is sold as a design that promises 'real-time adventures for a man who sails through the wide-open waters of life'. A reinterpretation of a classic, using rubber and ceramic for a modern twist, the model has a dark side and a bright side thanks to the option of a black or white dial. The Seatimer is complimented by a range of Pasha accessories, including a USB drive, a whisky flask and cufflinks.

## Mille Miglia

The house of Chopard has supported the legendary classic car race Mille Miglia since 1988 and as a result car-collecting Chopard boss Karl Friedrich Scheufele, who has close links with the world of historic motorsports, has spawned a virtual brand within a brand – Mille Miglia.

Introducing a special Mille Miglia wristwatch every year since 1988, each model has evolved into an avidly sought collectors' item. For its 2006 edition, Chopard is breaking tradition by presenting not a chronograph but a watch with three hands that is chronometer-certified, the Gran Turismo XL.



## Haute Couture

There are various stages in the world of luxury, and all purveyors of luxury accessories, including yacht manufacturers, identify with at least one of the various steps that bring a fashion designer from prêt-à-porter to haute couture.

Kronometry's founder, Walter Ronchetti, opened his first boutique in Cannes in 1999 and aimed for the top right from the start – to be with the haute-couture of watchmakers; the über-luxurious of the horological world.

Now with four boutiques across the Riviera and in Paris, Kronometry caters to the specific needs of connoisseurs and collectors. A majority of their collections are limited editions or unique pieces from the most famous Swiss manufacturers, and some models are exclusive to Kronometry's boutiques. In addition, the Saint-Tropez boutique at the Byblos Hotel proposes a very unique concept by showcasing different brands every year. In 2006, Kronometry exhibited Bell & Ross, and rumour has it that next year could be a brand closely associated with yachting...

For further information visit [www.kronometry1999.com](http://www.kronometry1999.com).





# The passage of time

From the romance of the J-Class to the hip status of the megayacht, to the adrenalin-fuelled adventure of the America's Cup, yachting has become the most prominent port of call for watchmakers in search of a prestigious association



Fine watchmaking is an art every bit as refined as the making of great wines, exquisite motor cars and prestigious yachts. Some of the best watchmakers have a reputation stretching back centuries and are synonymous with classic yachts.

To produce exemplary watches you have to be highly specialised in your art, creating something that can survive the test of time. Even in these high-tech times the most prized watches are those with mechanical or automatic movements, and the connoisseur will invariably select a handcrafted mechanical or self-winding watch. There is something about winding a watch by hand that is restful, like winding the winch of a classic sailing yacht.

Even 100 years ago owning the right kind of boat was a status symbol, much like owning the right kind of watch today. All the

wealth involved in yachting has caught the attention of prestigious watch companies, many of which have forged partnerships with yacht builders, designers, yacht clubs and other parties in the yachting industry.

Almost every sailing enthusiast has an interest in classic or vintage boats and the history and tradition associated with sailing. Classic yacht regattas have long attracted avid sailors but in recent years the romance of such exquisite works of craftsmanship has turned classic regattas into a glamorous sport whose allure has caught the attention of the more forward-looking watch companies. Long associated with the nautical industry through links with the Royal Navy, Officine Panerai believes that the common and persistent values of fine watchmaking and the →

**Opposite page:** The Alinghi team prepares for the America's Cup 2007  
**Above:** The special edition Luminor 1950 Flyback Regatta 2006 from Panerai



**Above:** Setting up for the Maxi Yacht Rolex  
**Above and above right:** Corum are associated with the Mumm Admiral's Cup race; Corum's Admirals Cup Chronograph 44  
**Opposite page clockwise from top left:** Audemars Piguet remain loyal to the Alinghi team for the America's Cup 2007; Hublot's Big Bang; the Breitling MedCup regatta is a newcomer to the yachting circuit

world of classic yachting are synonymous and has embarked on its second edition of the Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge circuit. The challenge involves five events in five legendary yachting venues (see *Les Voiles d'Antibes news page 16*), as well as three high-sea regattas designed to transfer the action from one location to the next. For the 2006 circuit, Panerai has launched the Special Edition Luminor 1950 Flyback Regatta 2006. Across the pond, Panerai was also a sponsor of the Antigua Classic Week 2006 and acted as official timekeeper for the event, which took place earlier this year. The brand will also be involved in two further regattas in Nantucket and Newport Rhode Island later this summer.

There has long been a tradition of horological involvement in yachting. Rolex has been associated with the world of yachting and competitive sailing since the early 1960s and has a line of watches called Yachtmaster. Throughout the year it is the main sponsor of some of the major events on the yachting circuit, including prestigious regattas such as the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup, as well as offshore classics, including the Rolex Fastnet and the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht race. Blancpain has, for the past six years, been associated with the Monaco Yacht Show. Each year Blancpain unveils a special limited edition for the Monaco Yacht Show, and pays homage to the best charter

captain with the Blancpain Charter Captain Award.

The close rapport between Corum and the world of yachting is represented not only by the dial design of the Admiral's Cup model but also through its long association with the renowned Mumm Admiral's Cup race. The original version of the Admiral's Cup was created in 1960 but it wasn't until 1983 that Corum actually became involved with the race, and in 1991 the French team's Corum yacht carried off the coveted Admiral's Cup trophy. The new model of the cult timepiece is the Admiral's Cup Chronograph 44, with a profile resembling a ship's railing protected by a sapphire crystal transparent window through which the oscillating weight of the movement, decorated with an engraved compass rose, can be admired.

Hublot has also set sail in sponsoring different nautical events thus confirming its connection with the sea. Synonymous with prestige and luxury as well as performance, the Yacht Club of Monaco has made Hublot its partner and official timekeeper for all the club's regattas. The Hublot Big Bang is a limited edition piece with the Yacht Club de Monaco in homage to the Monegasque cutter Tuiga. The Hublot watch was inspired by a ship's porthole (the name Hublot means 'porthole' in French) and



©Th. Martinez/Alinghi, ©Ivo Rovina/Alinghi, ©Steven Tee/Alinghi

the unusual materials used today in their pieces blend symbols and materials from the nautical world.

Breitling, in contrast, has long been associated with the aviation industry and over the last decade has forged alliances with upmarket car manufacturer Bentley. But in 2005 the Breitling MedCup set in motion the regatta series with big, fast and glamorous race boats competing on a grand prix circuit linking some of the most popular sailing grounds of the Mediterranean. The MedCup is expected to grow into an established event on the racing circuit.

Another new event on the racing circuit is the Perini Navi Cup. Supported by several renowned brands, including Richard Mille, the regatta involves a fleet of Perini Navis over 40 metres in length racing in Sardinia. Now in its second year, the rendezvous is set to become a regular event.

But perhaps the most prestigious event in the sailing world is the America's Cup – the world's oldest sporting trophy. A symbol of excellence embodying a blend of daring and technological innovation (values cherished by many watch brands), this traditional competition has always pushed the limits of accomplishment with the ultimate goal of conquering time. Nothing is too perfect or too sophisticated for this competition and

with the America's Cup looming and the interest in this area growing, many brands have linked themselves with the event via sponsorship of racing teams and vessels.

As the Alinghi team prepares in Valencia for the decisive phase of the America's Cup 2007, Audemars Piguet pays tribute to the current holders of the title with which it has remained loyal, through a collection of dedicated new timepieces for crew members and all their supporters. Audemars Piguet is not the only watchmaker to have been inspired by the America's Cup. The owner of Girard Perregaux, Luigi Macaluso, whose involvement with the automobile racing circuit led to the trend for allegiances with upscale car manufacturers, has also moved into the world of competitive yachting and is sponsoring one of the most serious contenders for the title, Larry Ellison's Oracle team. Meanwhile Omega has a strong partnership with Emirates' Team NewZealand, and TAG Heuer, which has long been associated with Ferrari and Formula 1, is a newcomer to the event. Realising the potential for branding with the America's Cup, TAG Heuer has announced that it will be the official chronographer, timekeeper and sunglasses partner of the China Team Challenge.

Building on allegiances with upscale car manufacturers, the racing circuit and air travel, it seems yachting is the current partnership *du jour*. ■



# KRONOMETRY

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[ Extraordinary  
Watches ]

# The spirit of yachting embodied

Classic yacht regattas have long attracted avid sailors but in recent years the romance of such events has turned these regattas into a glamorous sport whose allure has caught the attention of the more forward-looking watch companies. Long-associated with the nautical industry through links with the Panerai name and the Royal Navy, Officine Panerai has now embarked on its second edition of the Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge circuit (see Les Voiles d'Antibes page 14). *sea&i* talks to Angelo Bonati, Panerai's CEO – and an avid sailor – about the brand's involvement in classic yachting.

*sea&i* When did you take over the reins of Panerai?

**Bonati:** I've worked in the world of luxury products and watches for 25 years, mostly for the same group. Ten years ago I was offered a position heading Officine Panerai and I took on the challenge.

*sea&i* Are you enjoying it?

**Bonati:** I guess the fact that I'm still here ten years later is a positive sign – excellent watches, a prestigious brand, a wonderful team and steady and strong development worldwide have made me a happy man.

*sea&i* How did the idea of combining the identity of Panerai with classic yachting come about?

**Bonati:** So many luxury watchmakers are committed either to diving or modern races like the America's Cup but we felt Panerai had something different to offer. Classic yachting is not only about performance, it is also about craftsmanship, aesthetics and emotion, as well as the use of noble materials that last over time. That is a perfect combination for us. Whenever someone walks the docks and spots a classic yacht, the immediate reaction is "Che bella!". This doesn't happen with modern racers.

*sea&i* What about your involvement with the Classic Challenge?



**Bonati:** We have a long-term commitment to the sport, it is not just for the sake of image. Beyond the financial investment, Panerai has a real presence on the circuit, with all Panerai staff actively participating and developing strong bonds between the owners, organisers and ourselves. We are proud to be an active partner and we intend to show it.

*sea&i* You've communicated the Panerai image with a campaign featuring a picture of Charles E. Nicholson [CNI chairman George Nicholson's great uncle] racing Candida, a 23m J Class built by the Camper & Nicholson's shipyard in 1929, bearing the tagline "Io. Comandante del tiempo" [the leading yacht of its time]. What's the story behind that campaign?

**Bonati:** This picture was sent to me by my friend Leonardo Ferragamo, the owner of the Nautor group and C&N shipyard. It's a great photo and I realised it was the kind of image that would perfectly fit our values.

*sea&i* Do you plan any other yachting projects to compliment the Challenge?

**Bonati:** We're looking across the Atlantic. Panerai was sponsor of the Antigua Classic Week earlier this year and acted as official timekeeper. We are also involved in two further regattas in Nantucket and Newport Rhode Island this summer. ■

*For the 2006 circuit, Panerai has launched the Special Edition Luminor 1950 Flyback Regatta 2006*



# The allure of the limited edition

A watch made in a limited edition is designed to tempt a very elite clientele: those avid collectors who wish to wear, or in some cases just to covet, a very desirable possession. Osvaldo Patrizzi charts their rise

Released in limited quantities, often restricted to specialized distribution and presented in the most inspired of advertisements, limited edition watches are generally the preserve of connoisseurs of fine horology. Collections created in restricted quantities are done so in the hope of securing a client's fidelity to the brand. They offer the most valued clients the chance to forge a bond with the brand, and extend



to them the privilege of joining an elite 'owners' club' with all the kudos that bestows.

The concept of the limited edition, or, as it was called at the end of the 18th century by its inventor Abraham-Louis Breguet, the *souscription*, developed to allow a particular watch to be specially made for a client by means of an advance payment. The idea was brilliant – not just in terms of horology but also as a way of advancing product promotion. Breguet

had created a new way of selling watches and the method met with great success. It allowed him to construct small series of movements that were designed to meet the buyer's exact requirements (and thus avoid producing movements that might not sell), and the advance payment financed the costs of production.

Today, the 'limited edition' is a direct consequence of the tremendous rise in wristwatch collecting that began at the end of the 1970s. I myself consider it a direct consequence because it is linked to the success of the collectible watches sold at auction around this time and reflective of the way in which they were

described in the catalogues of specialized auction houses.

The descriptions were – and still are – written to help collectors learn about the technological and artistic features of each watch, and also highlight their rarity. Indeed, whenever possible, there is an indication of the quantity produced. The result is that the fewer the numbers, the more rare and desirable the watch becomes.

I do not recall ever having seen a limited edition before 1970, in the sense that a piece may be considered a limited edition only when its case bears the number of the watch and the quantity produced in the series; for example: 33/100, meaning that the watch is the 33rd in a series of 100 pieces. The first that I noted was the limited series of 999 watches of the Rolex Quartz model, Ref. 5100, fitted with the famous Beta 21 movement that grew out of the collaboration between Rolex, Patek Philippe, Piaget, Audemars Piguet and Omega. Designed to combat the invasion of the horological market by the Japanese quartz movement, which had already severely crippled the majority of the Swiss manufacturers, the model was unfortunately too large and heavy and turned out to be a commercial disaster.

The most important, if not the first, of the limited editions with mechanical movement, was created by Patek Philippe in 1989 for the company's 150th anniversary. It consisted of a numbered series of watches called 'Officer', produced in white gold, yellow gold, and platinum, and another series called 'Jumping Hour', in rose gold and platinum. Both series, replicas of the famous models from the 1920s and 30s, piqued the interest of collectors and started a veritable collecting trend.

After this first experiment, many other companies began successfully making limited-series watches, admittedly sometimes a bit too often. These were enthusiastically welcomed by eager aficionados, whose ardor may, on occasion, have been a touch naïve. But time will tell, and even the limited series watches that are somewhat too abundant will tend to disappear over the years, thus becoming rare and, therefore, more precious. ■



**Left:** With his energy and passion, Osvaldo Patrizzi has positioned Antiquorum as the world's leading auctioneer in the field of horology  
**Above:** Created in 1989 for Patek Philippe's 150th anniversary, the limited edition 'Officer' was one of the most important of the limited editions with mechanical movement

Translated by Alan Downing

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# GREAT TASTE

magic ingredients

# IN SPAS

Ever thought spa treatments smelt good enough to eat? Well in some places, that's not as far-fetched as it sounds. From Mexico to Italy you can visit spas that celebrate wonder beauty ingredients in their restaurants as well as their treatment rooms

By Miriam Cain

There's little point going to a spa and having treatments to look great if you don't compliment them with a healthy diet. The old adage that beauty comes from within is wise indeed and most spas nowadays offer healthy menus to enhance your treatments. A few, however, really go the extra mile by not only incorporating specific indigenous ingredients in their therapies but also in the culinary treats they serve up at dinner.

## MANGOES

### THE INGREDIENT...

Grown over many parts of the tropical and sub-tropical world, mangoes are loved for their exotic sweet taste and revered for the many health benefits they bestow. Rich in vitamins A, B

and C, potassium, calcium, iron, fibre and anti-oxidants, and low in calories and sodium, the mango is a wonder food indeed, and also sees service as a soothing digestive aid.

### THE PLACE...

Located on the Caribbean island of Nevis, the Four Seasons Resort Nevis enjoys spectacular views over Mount Nevis. In the 18th century, the healing powers of the island's volcanic spring drew visitors from across the Atlantic. This heritage inspired the design of the resort's spa which evokes a distinctly Caribbean ambiance, with an outdoor Jacuzzi designed to resemble a sugar-mill ruin, native architecture in the form of low-rise gingerbread cottages and, in the garden, an antique copper vat similar to those on the island that were once used for sugar production. →



**Above, from left:** Sohum Ripe Mango Hand & Body Milk, 200ml; Origins Never a Dull Moment Face Polisher with fruit enzymes, including mango, 125ml; California Mango's Mango Mudd masque, 59ml; California Mango's Natural Cleansing Gel, 250ml

**Above right:** The walled vegetable gardens of the Masseria Torre Coccaro; the Aveda spa at Masseria Torre Coccaro

**Opposite page, clockwise from top left:** This Works Really Rich Lotion with olive extract, 200ml; Wild Lavender Shower Gel, 250ml, & Liquid Radiance, 10ml, both with olive extract from Elemis; E'Spa's Essential Moisturising Body Lotion, 200ml; Origins Incredible Spreadable Scrub with hydrating olive oil to soften the skin, 250ml; REN's Guerande Salt Exfoliating Body Balm with olive fruit oil, 330ml; the Six Senses Earth Spa; Payot's Green Toner with green coffee extract, 200ml

### THE TREATMENT...

Take advantage of the island's glut of mangoes with one of the spa's zesty treatments, such as the Mango Sea Salt Glow or the Mango Hot Stone Therapy. The former exfoliates the skin leaving it feeling nourished, soothed and replenished, while the latter kneads out aches and pains with the soothing heat of stones and mango oils to relax and revitalise the body.

### THE DISH...

Set beneath a soaring, elaborately trussed ceiling, the restaurant at the resort's Pinney's Beach is decorated in a Caribbean interpretation of French Empirical design. The fusion cuisine, with lots of nouvelle touches, roams the world for inspiration but only fresh, quality ingredients are used and many dishes are particularly low in fat and calories. The menu changes daily but appearing frequently are dishes such as the lobster and pumpkin fritters with spicy mango dipping sauce, and lobster medallion on star-apple Carpaccio with diced mango and avocado.

For further information, visit [www.fourseasons.com/nevis](http://www.fourseasons.com/nevis)

## OIL

### THE INGREDIENT...

Olive oil has long been a treasured beauty secret in Italy. Olive trees grow throughout the country and Apulia is home to an

impressive one-third of Italy's olive trees. Olive oil contains vitamins E and A and helps protect against sun damage. Vitamin E is a powerful antioxidant with skin-moisturising systems that help protect against irritations and premature ageing. Vitamin A is also a powerful antioxidant with skin-regenerative properties. It helps the complexion remain soft, smooth and firm, increases elasticity and has anti-ageing benefits. Olive oil is also a wonderful ingredient for relaxing massages and is perfect for sensitive skin as it softens and hydrates without blocking the natural function of skin.

### THE PLACE...

Built in the 17th century, Masseria Torre Coccaro is surrounded by centuries-old olive trees and blends modern luxury with traditional Pugliese values. Rooms are situated in the Masseria's tower, courtyard area and old caves, surrounded by olive groves, vegetable gardens and a herbarium. The organic produce from the ancient olive trees and vegetable garden is used in the restaurant and the Aveda spa.

### THE TREATMENT...

Inspired by the setting of the property, the Aveda spa is built into a cave with an indoor pool, Jacuzzi, Turkish bath and treatment rooms. Unique to the spa, the *Treatment Torre Coccaro* combines



olive oil made locally from the Torre Coccaro's olive trees and capers that have been freshly picked from the vegetable garden. The head is massaged with the natural ingredients and the hair is wrapped in a hot towel to enhance the natural emollient conditioning process, leaving it soft and silky.

#### THE DISH...

Dining in the indoor restaurant, once the former stables, or on the covered terrace you can savour the most delicious regional dishes made with most of the Masseria's own produce. Olive oil, organic vegetables, home-cured hams and salamis and fresh fish caught by the hotel's fisherman make up the majority of dishes on the menu. Try the ravioli filled with tuna, nettles, olives and caper green sauce.

*For further information, visit [www.masseriatorrecoccaro.com](http://www.masseriatorrecoccaro.com)*

## COFFEE

#### THE INGREDIENT...

The caffeine-laden bean is making a welcome comeback as more and more scientific studies are proving that coffee can be beneficial. The latest research credits coffee with the ability to fight everything from heart disease to cancer. Caffeine has also been proven to have benefits from the outside in. As such, it is widely used in fat-busting beauty products as when it is absorbed

through the skin it speeds up cell metabolism, helping the body to break down fat. It also speeds up blood flow so that cellulite-inducing toxins can be removed. Some studies have found that coffee contains more anti-oxidants than some fruit and vegetables, surpassing even our favourite superfoods, blueberries and broccoli.

#### THE PLACE...

The Earth Spa by Six Senses is located beside the Evason Hideaway at Hua Hin, Thailand, and offers guests of the Hideaway a comprehensive menu of speciality treatments that focus on 'skin food' – the theory that nothing should be put onto the skin that cannot be eaten.

The Earth Spa comprises of a cluster of circular-domed mud and straw huts set over water, including treatment rooms with Jacuzzis, steam rooms, a meditation cave and relaxation area.

#### THE TREATMENT...

The Earth Spa uses traditional medical philosophies, such as Ayurveda and Chinese, to provide spa experiences that naturally enhance the skin-food treatments. Fresh from local Thai soil with medicinal and beautifying agents, all of the skin-food treatments are good enough to eat. If you love the smell of coffee, imagine the most fragrant of coffee blends mixed with clay and grated carrot smothered all over your body to exfoliate



and detoxify your skin. The Coffee Body Scrub is ideal for cleansing your skin to perfection.

#### THE DISH...

The spa treatments are reflected in the Living Room restaurant at the Evason Hideaway. Delicious dishes are prepared in a menu of balanced cuisine and in such a way as to enhance the benefits of the treatments you enjoyed earlier in the day. Treats featuring coffee include coffee crême brûlée with mocha ice cream and macadamia biscotti.

*For further information, visit [www.sixsenses.com/hideaway-huahin/spa](http://www.sixsenses.com/hideaway-huahin/spa)*

## COCONUT

#### THE INGREDIENT...

Whatever island you choose to visit in the Maldives, you will find a dense growth of Dhivehi Ruh (coconut palm). It is the national tree of the country and throughout history coconuts and coconut products have been an essential part of the Maldivian diet. Coconut oil is rich in lauric acid, which is known for its anti-viral, antibacterial and anti-fungal properties, and can be used to increase the body's metabolism. The ability of virgin coconut oil to nourish and heal the skin has been known in the tropics for hundreds of years, and today it is used in many beauty products.

#### THE PLACE...

Set on its own exclusive Maldivian island, the Soneva Fushi resort is regarded as one of the ultimate island experiences. Rustic villas are surrounded by a coral lagoon and the island hosts the stunningly situated Six Senses Spa, offering a menu of rejuvenating, pampering and holistic wellbeing treatments to calm the mind and body.

#### THE TREATMENT...

Unique to the Soneva Fushi Six Senses Spa and performed in the natural environment of the beach, the Maldivian Sand Massage uses cool wet sand to exfoliate the skin, followed by acupressure along the meridian channels (energy pathways in the body). Pure coconut oil from the local trees is then applied to soften the skin. Alternatively, the Kurubaa Kaashi Coconut Rub is a renewing and refreshing treatment beginning with a natural coconut body scrub and followed by a soothing wrap of honey and papaya. A coconut oil massage seals in the fresh ingredients and moisturises the skin.

#### THE DISH...

From beach picnics to black-tie dining, the Soneva Fushi Resort offers many varied dining experiences. Since fish and coconuts are the only items that do not have to be imported, they find their



**Opposite page, clockwise**

**from far left:** Elemis After Sun Soothing Milk with coconut extract, 200ml; This Works In the Zone Bath & Shower Oil with coconut oil, 55ml; Sohum's Coconut Sea Salt Body Scrub, 500g; Maldavian sand massage on the beach at the Soneva Fushi Six Senses Spa; Ikal del Mar's resort and spa is nestled in the primitive Mayan tropical forest

**This page:** Origins Cocoa therapy range, 250ml; Payot's Crème de Choc cream, 50ml, & Serum de Choc Wake-Up Glowing Syrum, 30ml; Celluli Choc Dimpled Skin Smoothing Gel, 200ml, & Massaging & Contouring Shower Gel, 150ml, both from Biotherm

way into most dishes, particularly the curries. Try the tuna curry with coconut and coriander with spicy lentils and roshi.

For further information, visit [www.sixsenses.com/soneva-fushi](http://www.sixsenses.com/soneva-fushi)

## CHOCOLATE

### THE INGREDIENT...

Raw or minimally processed cocoa contains flavonoids similar to those found in green tea. These antioxidants have been linked to a number of health benefits, including the prevention of heart disease, as well as boosting the immune system. Of course, eating large amounts of cocoa in chocolate is not advisable but, consumed in small quantities, it could prove to be very beneficial to health. It all depends on the quantity and the type of cocoa. Certain components in cocoa actually improve the appearance of skin – increasing hydration, decreasing roughness and helping to support the skin's defence system against UV damage.

### THE PLACE...

Located on the white sands of the Riviera Maya in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, the Ikal del Mar resort and spa is a coastal refuge nestled in the primitive Mayan tropical forest. The resort's palapa-roofed Mayan Spa offers natural marine treatments

rich in native Mexican herbs and local produce, all of which have been developed and authenticated in consultation with a shaman.

### THE TREATMENT...

Ikal's jungle spa suite lies adjacent to a 'cenote' – a sink hole filled with clear, tranquil water considered sacred by the Mayans – and a waterfall that feeds the suite's private outdoor shower. The Hammock Massage is the signature massage and, on entering the spa suite, a coloured hammock is chosen according to the guest's desired energy. The divine floating sensation of being in the hammock, combined with the aromas and sounds of the surrounding jungle and waterfall, ease the mind into a tranquil state while the body is massaged with cocoa and avocado oil followed by a warm floral-water rinse.

### THE DISH...

The Azul Restaurant at Ikal del Mar features Yucatecan and Mayan cuisine abundant in fresh seafood. An array of chef's recommendations are prepared daily, including such dishes as shrimp and avocado tacos rosarito style, and famous desserts, including frozen chocolate cake made with local cocoa.

For further information, visit [www.ikaldelmar.com](http://www.ikaldelmar.com)







# High tech on the high seas

technology on board

Interior designer Alison Henry casts an expert eye on high-tech home comforts for yachts, recommending the smartest ways to incorporate the best technology available without having to compromise your style

There are many parallels in the way interior design is approached when it comes to both a home and a yacht. For both environments it is a subtle balance of marrying technology with style while maximising functionality and space. In the past, while design concepts may have remained the same, the styles, systems and equipment chosen for each were quite distinct. However, increasingly yacht owners are choosing to mimic the equipment they have at home by installing it on their yacht.

Therefore, for this issue I am focusing on how to translate the latest technology (lighting, media systems and control systems) on board to give you the comforts and convenience you have at home, anywhere in the world.

## ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEMS: LIFE AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON

All too often when we switch off the television or radio before going to sleep, we inadvertently wake up our partner as we clamber across furniture or switch on lights in a valiant search for the 'off' button. There are, of course, those fortunate enough to have high-tech automated systems but even they may not feel so fortunate when, once again, they find themselves

dialling up their 24-hour service-provider for help with the most 'basic' (but in reality oh-so-complex) functions. Thank goodness, then, for the arrival of the centralised entertainment system. I'm now undertaking designs for homes and yachts alike where music, lighting, television and even cinemas are all controlled – simply! – at the touch of a single button.

Angus Gibson, managing director of Gibson Music, says, "Clients and their families are now part of the digital iPod age. Therefore, adapting to lifestyle preferences, technology has evolved to incorporate computer-style storage for music and films. We interpret these new technologies, including yacht audiovisual installations, and incorporate them into bespoke systems for our clients."

This concept may strike horror in the hearts of many who struggle to get to grips with the rapid advances in technology. There are some systems most of us will never really understand, nor will we need to, but there are many things in everyday life that everyone needs to get to grips with, such as turning on the television.

Luckily Crestron is helping to pioneer this technology with a portable state-of-the-art, touch-panel control system that transforms the complete on-board experience, all without →

**Opposite page:** Mood lighting can be incorporated on board and controlled at the touch of a button to dramatic effect



Andromeda la Dca / www.oceanweb.com

**This page**  
**Top:** Kaleidescape's media server stores and plays all your CDs and DVDs  
**Above left:** Today's touch panels are subtly small but have vast capabilities  
**Above right:** Fire alarms must be incorporated in every on-board security system  
**Opposite page:** Wherever in the world you cruise, your yacht can be equipped with every home comfort and convenience

the need for a degree in how to use it. The programmes allow you to listen to tunes from your personal music library, create any mood with the right lighting, choose from a selection of DVDs, keep an eye on security, access the internet, open and close blinds, run a bath at the desired temperature, and much more. Facilitating on-board entertainment is the innovative Kaleidescape System. At the touch of an icon you can play different movies and music in any room. The hard drive helps to simplify the way you collect, manage and enjoy your movies and music. What's more, thanks to one compact server, you can reclaim the valuable space you used to need to store all those CDs and DVDs. All such systems can be pre-programmed and installed by audiovisual companies such as IconConnect.com.

**LIGHTING: MAGICAL MOOD ENHANCERS**

The interior and exterior lighting of a yacht must be coordinated and managed with care. Imagine your luxurious interior causing guests a thumping headache thanks to a barrage of badly focused spotlights – not to mention all those late-night parties! It's essential to keep in mind the fact that feelings and emotions are triggered by light, hence the term mood-lighting. From sexy to dramatic, you can create any ambiance you want with the right illumination.

The choice of light sources, lighting bodies and electrical components is of fundamental importance. The musts are: energy saving, lowering and control of heat sources, resistance to vibrations, miniaturisation and compatibility of installation with relevant structures, compatibility with the standard voltages,

and minimisation of maintenance time. Once you've faced these challenges, you can then use a layered approach to 'paint a space' – looking at different and dramatic ways to introduce light to your environment.

Christopher Thompson, managing director of Studio Lux, believes, "The important lesson here is not to try to have just a few fittings doing all the work. Each function (art, general, task and accent lighting) should be the responsibility of one or multiple sources working in concert with each other."

Lighting designers such as Studio Lux are using LEDs (Light Emitting Diode) that represent a new era in 'painting' light aboard vessels. Until recently, this was achieved by using optical fibres and spots with low-voltage halogen sources. LEDs sidestep the functional requirements and have a working life of around 40,000 to 50,000 hours, so maintenance is considerably reduced. But the true revolution lies in their small size and their lighting technique features which permit new forms of hardware and revolutionary lighting concepts.

The Lutron product line enables you to control illumination and activate mood-lighting throughout your yacht at the touch of one button. Whether you need bright lighting in the kitchen to facilitate detailed food decoration, a romantic tone in the bedroom, a soothing tone in the bathroom, or perhaps you are having a party and need some quirky colours to enhance your theme – whatever you need, these unique devices offer it all.

**SECURITY: ROUND-THE-CLOCK REASSURANCE**

Over the years I have noticed a significant change in the way



technology is used on yachts. In a world of ever-increasing security, one of the most important ways it can be harnessed is in maximising personal safety.

A full range of internal and external surveillance systems can be installed on board your yacht, including cameras, alarms and access-control CCTV systems, allowing you to keep an eye on what's happening on board from the comfort of your own home or office. The system is even versatile enough to provide a babysitting/child-watching function – should there be any disturbances you will be alerted immediately through your audiovisual system. There are also advanced key fobs, similar to those used with cars, enabling you to remotely activate and deactivate your security system as you board your yacht.

#### MAXIMISING SPACE – MORE ROOM FOR SHOES!

As a designer I place a strong emphasis on saving space while maintaining style. Yachts have grown more and more lavish and complex, so it is essential to optimise the space with ingenious systems, allowing equipment to be concealed yet still effective. Some people like their audiovisual technology to be on display while others prefer it to be heard and not seen; for the latter there are a variety of options, including remote-control pop-up TV screens, motorised table configurations, and mechanics that allow speakers and other audio equipment to be remotely hidden should you so choose.

As well as concealing equipment within furniture, you could also choose a more striking option. Vision Art specialises in hiding flat-panel televisions behind a framed piece of art-

work tailored to the exact space you need to fill. Alternatively, Evolving Art offers LCD technology to display photographic images and artwork on a framed and matted 19-inch LCD screen that shows up to 500 images in a sequence chosen from over 10,000 of the world's finest museums' art and photographic collections. You can create your own custom presentations of the family photo album for everyone to enjoy or, of course, you could reproduce a copy of the Monet you have at home.

A particular favourite of mine is the 'privy light'. This clever glass partition uses white LED technology that turns clear glass opaque. Glass walls or ceilings, along with glass partitions between the bedroom and bathroom, can therefore be cleverly manipulated to help create the impression of more space.

Technology never stands still and I'm always thinking about my next dream concept. Wouldn't it be incredible to have an outdoor cinema? Picture yourself sitting on deck, sailing through the night and watching a movie projected onto the sails! Visually the most dramatic development over the last decade has been underwater lighting, but just imagine this combined with underwater music as you take a midnight swim.

Although these are just concepts for now, such dreams will surely become reality in the near future. For now, you can see some of the most advanced of on-board technologies first hand at the Monaco Yacht Show this September. Keep an eye out for the latest Bang & Olufsen on *Maltese Falcon*, *Zulu's* on-board cinema, and the aft deck cinema on board 777. ■

Please visit Alison Henry's UK showroom at 250 King's Road, London SW3 5UE, or log on to [www.alisonhenry.com](http://www.alisonhenry.com)

**Opposite page:**  
Mood lighting can be incorporated on board and controlled at the touch of a button to dramatic effect

#### AUDIO VISUAL SPECIALISTS:


- Paragon [www.paragonllc.com](http://www.paragonllc.com)
- Gibson Music [www.gibson-music.com](http://www.gibson-music.com)
- Icon Connect [www.iconconnect.com](http://www.iconconnect.com)
- ANT [www.a-n-t.net](http://www.a-n-t.net)

#### LIGHTING:

- Studio Lux [www.studiolux.com](http://www.studiolux.com)

#### OTHER:

- Vision Art [www.solarshadingsystems.com](http://www.solarshadingsystems.com)
- Evolving Art [www.evolving-art.com](http://www.evolving-art.com)
- Luca Brenta Yacht Design [www.lucabretna.com](http://www.lucabretna.com)
- Guido de Groot [www.guidodegroot.com](http://www.guidodegroot.com)

A photograph of a modern, high-end boutique interior. The space is bright and airy, featuring a large window with a black frame that looks out onto a brick building. The room is furnished with a white sofa, a dark armchair, and a white coffee table. In the foreground, a long table is covered with neatly folded white linens, including towels and sheets, with a pair of light-colored shoes placed on top. The ceiling is white with recessed lighting, and the walls are also white, creating a clean and sophisticated atmosphere.

# Indulge in life's finest

In the heart of London's Belgravia, Leonora Beaubois has created a sanctuary of style. With the launch of L&B, her flagship designer boutique, she now extends the same opportunity for those desiring their own haven afloat or ashore

You have the yacht, the penthouse and the château, but in a world full of products it's sometimes impossible to find just the right style and just the perfect touches to define your living space and, indeed, your life. With the launch of luxury boutique L&B in December 2005, Leonora Beaubois not only breathed reality into her lifelong dream, she also opened up a world of dreams for her exclusive clientele.

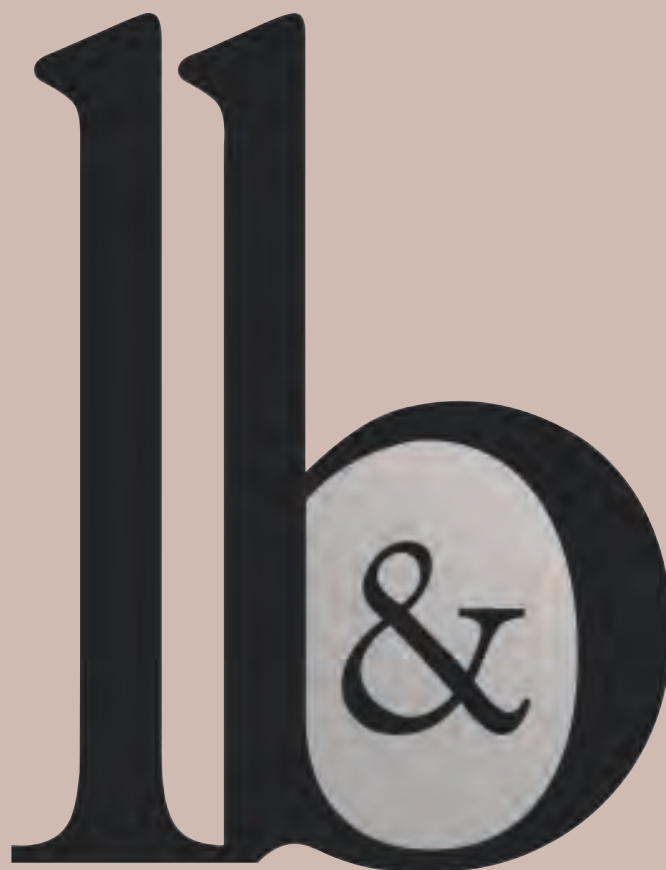
#### INSPIRE ALL YOUR SENSES

L&B is a sanctuary for bespoke bedroom and bathroom linens, silk and cashmere lingerie, cushions and throws, fine china and stylish design pieces from candles and oils to exclusive silk yoga kits. With its stunning range of glasses from Saint Louis, silverware from Christofle, tableware from Hermès and Bernardaud, and exquisite table linen, L&B is the perfect place to find an extravagant gift for those who deserve the very best or, of course, as a treat for yourself.

Boutique owner and interior designer Leonora Beaubois, from whose initials the store takes its name, spent many childhood hours lingering in her grandfather's linen stores in the Côte d'Azur. The family bond remains strong as her mother now designs many of the beautiful linens and products that highlight the L&B boutique.

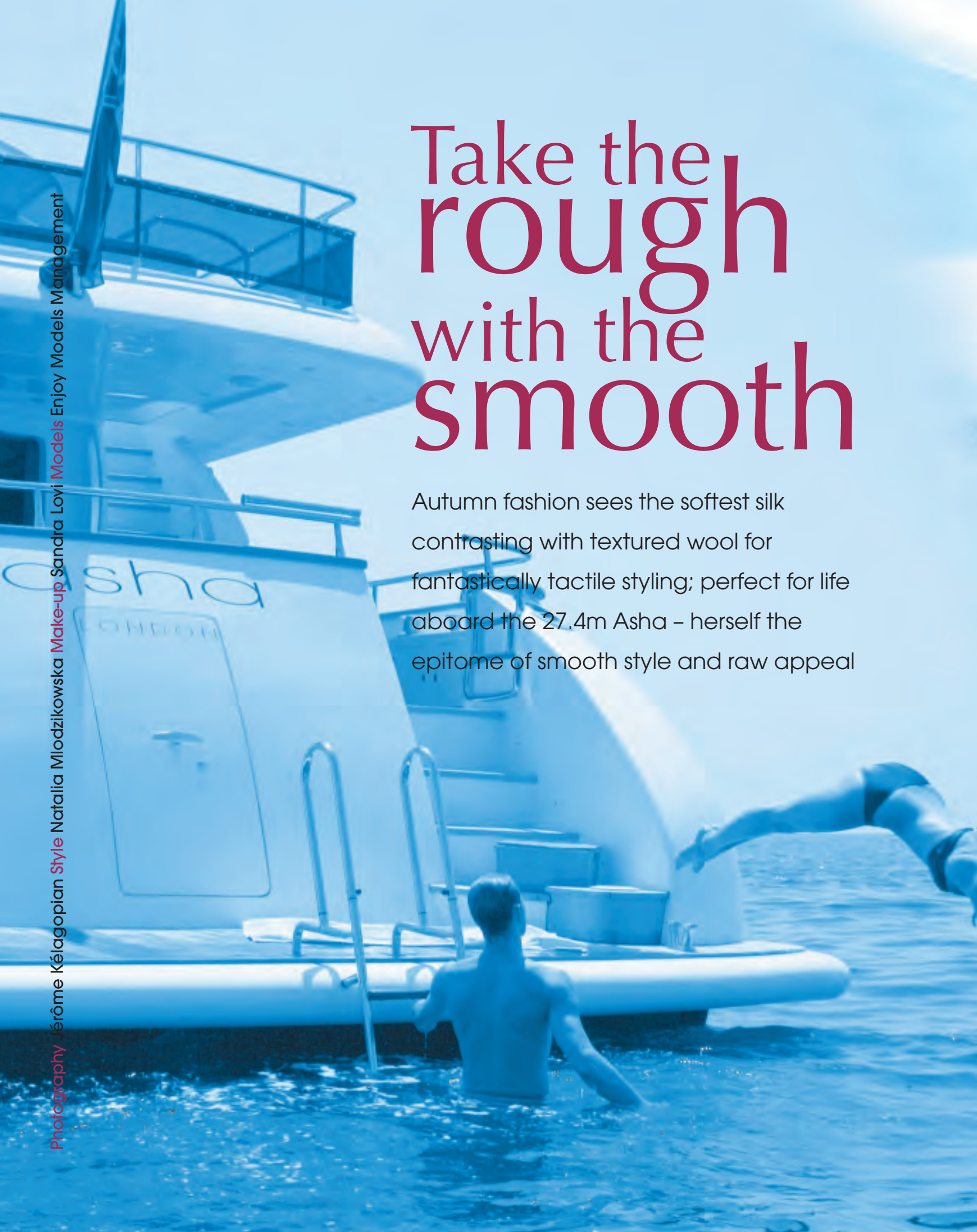
#### A PERSONAL INVITATION

Leonora is always delighted to extend a personal invitation to clients at her Belgravia boutique – a celebration in design itself. Discreet, distinctive and flooded with sunlight, the showroom is the inspiration of award-winning architect and designer Jean-Michel Wilmotte – critically acclaimed for his work for clients such as Cartier, John Galliano, the Louvre Museum and Château de Versailles. Here you can browse L&B's exceptional products and discuss the bespoke service which enables you to create your very own linens in your chosen colours and sizes. However, offering the ultimate personal service, Leonora would also be delighted to meet you at your residence or on your yacht to offer her design experience in choosing just the right items to compliment your living environment. For further information on L&B's exclusive bespoke products and services and unique wedding list facility, please visit [www.landblondon.com](http://www.landblondon.com), or visit the Belgravia store on your next visit to London. ■



L&B, 6/7 Motcomb Street, Belgravia, London SW1X 8JU, UK  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7838 9592; [www.landblondon.com](http://www.landblondon.com)





# Take the rough with the smooth

Autumn fashion sees the softest silk contrasting with textured wool for fantastically tactile styling; perfect for life aboard the 27.4m Asha – herself the epitome of smooth style and raw appeal

fashionafloat

Johanna wears chocolate brown  
silk muslin dress by Valentino





Johanna wears fushia silk muslin dress with lace embroidered with pearls, by Valentino









Johanna wears cream silk muslin dress by Valentino

Erwann wears chocolate brown woollen jacket, white and beige striped cotton shirt, and dark brown silk tie, all by Faconnable





Asha offers superior performance combined with the unmistakable style of Italian design. Perfect aesthetics, clean lines and luxurious exterior spaces are complemented by a stunning contemporary interior. Length 27.4m. Prices from Euro 40,000 per week for 9 guests. Cruising areas – Summer & Winter: West Mediterranean.

**BOUTIQUES: Valentino 55, bld de la Croisette 06400 CANNES - Façonnable [www.faconnable.com](http://www.faconnable.com)**





# Fever Las Vegas the desert city

Tranquil spas, celebrity chefs, cultural inspiration... yes this is Vegas we're talking about. Rest assured, the fantasy, fun and flair are still there but discerning travellers are now finding that the neon city has a lot more to offer than casinos and shotgun weddings

By Kate Rigby

Las Vegas has never done anything by halves, so when it took a gamble and decided to play its hand as a luxury travel destination it made sure it hit the jackpot. Vegas today is still big, bold and brash but beneath the bright lights, riotous nights and Elvis-themed drive-thru nuptials, the city has laid down its trump card and revealed itself to be a winning destination for stylish holidays.

An isolated neon wonder deep in the Nevada Desert, Vegas has always been a city of excess; a city of the extreme and the extraordinary. It currently has more than 1,000 restaurants and 133,000 hotel rooms, with some hotels topping 5,000 guest rooms each. Vast is not the word, in fact the word 'hotel' hardly does them justice. Each one is a mini empire, its own surreal, dream-themed world. Inside The Venetian is a recreated →



Venice complete with Grand Canal, gondola rides, St Mark's Square, and an impossibly plausible painted 'sky'; the Bellagio entices visitors with 1,200 ballet-dancing fountains pirouetting 140 metres out of a lake; the Mirage is fronted by a 15-metre Vesuvius erupting with 3,000 lights, 30 metres of fire and smoke and streams of molten lava; Treasure Island has a 1,600-seat theatre, Wynn Las Vegas has its own championship 18-hole golf course... you get the picture. When Vegas does something, it does it like nowhere else, so when it started adding luxury spas, celebrity chef restaurants, designer boutiques and some of the greatest shows on earth, it opened itself up to a whole new market – one that is seeing a phenomenal growth. Today, gambling accounts for only half of the city's tourist revenue, the remainder comes from discerning travellers looking for a luxurious, stimulating getaway.

Hotelwise, The Bellagio is still seen by many to be the grand dame of the Strip. An AAA Five Diamond Award winner for five consecutive years (2002 to 2006), it has been further gilded by its 2004, \$375 million Spa Tower expansion, which adds to its repertoire an additional 928 rooms and suites, convention facilities, retail outlets and a Jean-Philippe Pâtisserie for more than a soupçon of French chic. Also new is the Sensi restaurant, which indulges the senses with a soothingly tactile décor and a fusion of Asian, Italian, grilled and seafood flavours enhanced by suitably mouth-watering aromas. It also has two AAA Five Diamond restaurants – Picasso and Le Cirque – among many others. The Bellagio's rooms are a good size, the bathrooms are elegantly appointed and, while it may be a vast hotel, the service remains personal and friendly. Its five outdoor pools



edged with fragrant flowered walkways are a delight first thing in the morning but in the heat of the day the poolsides heave so it is imperative to hire one of the 52 private cabanas – not just to ensure privacy but also to actually secure a spot full stop. Culture and charm is also provided in abundance, from the hotel's Gallery of Fine Art to its botanical gardens and 1,800-seater 'O' Theater. The Cirque du Soleil show is theatrical genius at its most breathtaking.

Adding to its elegant appeal is the Spa Bellagio – worthy of several visits. The Zen-influenced setting has 56 treatment rooms and draws on therapies from Egypt, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Bali and Native America. Highly recommended is the ancient Ashiatsu Oriental Bar Therapy. Gripping bars on the ceiling, a highly trained therapist manipulates your muscles with her bare feet. For those who like their massage intense, there is no beating this. The Watsu massage will also intrigue the adventurous. As you float in a warm mellow pool dappled with lights and music, the therapist twists and massages your

**Top from left:** The glorious pools of the Bellagio Hotel; Fin restaurant is a wonderful setting for Chinese cuisine; the bright lights of the Vegas Strip  
**Above right:** relax at Spa Bellagio





## FLASH VEGAS

*The bright lights, the spin of the dice, extreme themes, vows with a wow... new-found elegance aside, you've got to love Vegas for its more 'colourful' attractions*

**GAME FOR ANYTHING** Hit the tables with Michael Jackson, Cher or Ray Charles.

*At the Imperial Palace, lookalike 'dealertainers' shuffle the cards as they belt out one of their character's greatest hits.*

**DEALS ON WHEELS** Hundreds of chapels will wed you on the spot (if you fancy a theme – from Star Trek to Halloween – give them notice), or you can say 'I do' at a drive-thru. Alternatively the Little White Wedding Chapel promises vows with a wow factor – you tie the knot hurtling down the Strip in a shocking-pink Cadillac.

**THEME DREAM** Expect more from your hotel? The Palms has themed rooms, including a basketball room with hardwood floor for shooting hoops; the King Pin suite with bowling lanes; and the Erotic Suite with dancing pole, rotating bed and... well, check it out for yourself!

body with Zen Shiatsu stretches for an intense mind/body experience. Worthy of note for those who like a more intimate spa environment is The Bathhouse Spa at THEhotel Mandalay Bay. However, excellent spas feature in almost every hotel and they really are a serene world away from the bustling neon Strip outside. Vegas has also attracted its fair share of celebrity hairdressers. Before a night out, treat yourself to a top-to-toe makeover. Three-times Hairdresser of the Year Robert Cromeans has a salon at Mandalay Bay, or enjoy the pool and palms view as you're pampered at Christophe's salon at the MGM Grand. For therapy of a different sort, Vegas is the queen of designer shopping with every boutique you could hope for luxuriating in the hotel complexes. From Tiffany to Gucci to Prada, luxury labels flirt with you from every corner.

For a more young, fun brand of luxury, The Palms hotel is the current favourite with visiting A-listers (see *Flash Vegas*, above). Wynn's, meanwhile, opened to much acclaim in April 2005 and now carves up the skyline like a vast bronze wave sweeping 50 stories high. Its owner, Vegas king Steve Wynn, is currently working on an adjacent resort, Encore – a \$1.74 billion project due to open in 2008. The Venetian is also expanding with a new block that will make it the largest hotel in Vegas. Basically, development is evident everywhere; there is currently around \$30 billion worth of hotels under construction in the city.

The Vegas hotels have always been remarkable, each one outdoing the one before, but more recently the restaurants have been the icing on the city's cake; they have really added the exclusive edge Vegas needed. Wolfgang Puck was the first celebrity chef to venture here in the late 1980s with his Spago

restaurant. He has since been followed by Alain Ducasse, Nobu, Charlie Palmer and, last September, legendary French chef Joël Robuchon who opened two restaurants at the MGM Grand: L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon and Joël Robuchon At The Mansion. The latter is all plush velvet sofas, gilt trim and mellow candles beneath romantic crystal chandeliers. Highly recommended for gastronomes is the 16-course tasting menu with exquisitely presented dishes the likes of kobe beef, abalone with baby artichokes in a ginger bouillon, truffled langoustine ravioli, and poppy sorbet with caramelized popcorns and cachaça syrup.

Also a visual and culinary spectacle is the Fleur de Lys at Mandalay Bay. Three thousand pink roses stud the walls while the New French fare and fine wine list will more than impress. Discreet curtained dining areas are wonderfully private yet lose none of the restaurant's suave atmosphere – the perfect spot to revel in a kobe beefburger; at \$5,000 the most expensive burger in the world (admittedly a bottle of 1990 Château Petrus and crystal glasses accompany it). For eclectic Chinese food, reserve one of the private rooms at Fin at the Mirage, and for fantastic New American food and the height of great wines – literally – try Auréole. This high-tech dining experience allows you to choose your wine on a touch-screen, handheld computer. A 'wine angel' sexily kitted out in a black *Mission Impossible* bodysuit then catapults up the 13m wine tower on a harness to collect your chosen wine before gliding back to earth and delivering it to your table. It is really quite incredible. But then, this is Vegas. ■

*For more information on visiting Las Vegas, go to [www.visitlasvegas.co.uk](http://www.visitlasvegas.co.uk).*

*For information on British Airways Holidays Prestige Collection packages and fares, visit [baholidays.com](http://baholidays.com); for details on the Bellagio, visit [www.bellagio.com](http://www.bellagio.com)*



From left: the dream team: a Ferrari F40; a Ferrari F50; a Mosler MT900S

# Wheels of fortune

supercar run

For the past three years, 90 of the world's most prized cars have rolled up to take part in the Supercar Run – a remarkable drive across a scenic strip of Europe. In 2006, the route led from Lake Como through the heart of Italy. **Chris Kelly** tells the tale of his experience

**W**ith my hand on my heart I can honestly say that taking part in the 2006 Supercar Run proved to be one of the finest experiences of my life. It was a simple decision to take part in the first place (it's an easy sell, as you will discover) but when it comes to looking back and describing how remarkable it was, it's hard to do it justice. I will, however, do my best.

The Supercar Run was created in 2003 by The Supercar Club for owners of supercars – that elite breed of motor that sets every true enthusiast's heart aflutter at first sight. In my opinion, the Run is unlike any other event of its type in terms of exhilaration, fun and showmanship, but it has the added appeal of charitable virtue. Over the last three years it has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for the Children With AIDS Charity (CWAC).

Easily swayed, well prepared and full of anticipation, therefore, come early June my co-driver and I flew from London to Italy and made our way to the Villa d'Este on the shores of Lake Como. The first sleek touch of organisation meant my car was already there to meet me, having been collected from my home in England and shipped to the start by the Supercar Club. Pretty impressive when you consider that they did this with more than 40 other cars.

I had already received the official book of the event, which describes the itinerary and lists the names of the 180 entrants along with the 90 supercars they would be driving. Therefore,

I knew to expect anything and everything from a Ferrari Enzo to a Pagani Zonda and even an Ascari KZ1, but nothing could have prepared me for the astonishing sight that met me when I arrived at Villa d'Este. The driveway was lined with dream supercars parked one next to the other, nose to tail, starting with a Ferrari 275 GTB, then giving way to a Porsche Carrera GT, a Pagani Zonda F, a Ferrari F50, a Ferrari F40, a Mosler (not seen one of those before!), a Ferrari Superamerica, another Zonda, a Ferrari 750 Monza... the list just goes on, and to cap it all as I turned a corner there before me lay a Bugatti Veyron. Quite astonishing. There cannot be anywhere else on earth that a collection of cars like this could, or would, come together.

After a luxurious and comfortable night at Villa d'Este, we set off at eight thirty the next morning for our five-day tour of Italy. I say 'tour' as the Supercar Run is not a race, and Greg Hollamby who owns and runs the Supercar Club makes that clear from the outset. In fact, anyone that he or any of his team consider to be driving inappropriately is disqualified. As he explains, "This isn't that type of event. If people want to drive like idiots there are plenty of other events they can join."

Our first day took us to Rimini on the Adriatic coast, via empty roads and the motor-racing circuit at Imola, which is fascinating. Our arrival in Rimini, a sizeable coastal town, caused a major stir. Over the course of two hours, 90 of the →



A Lamborghini Gallardo

world's most exotic Supercars drove through the town to our designated parking area, which turned out to be a pretty tree-lined street that had been specially reserved for us. It was surrounded by crowd-control barriers which, as it turned out, was a good thing as there had to be well over 1,000 people watching the cars arrive and park. The crowd then stayed with us until the early morning and returned at first light. The Italians really do have a serious passion for supercars.

From Rimini we headed south, then west over the mountains, following some historic routes to Fiuggi where we spent a very comfortable night in another five-star hotel, this time a Palazzo. From Fiuggi we drove north through Tuscany into Florence. Quite how the Supercar Club managed to organise the Florentine administration is beyond me, but everywhere we went they had marshals waiting for us and had even managed to secure an entire floor of the station car park which had been modified with ramps to make driving in and out a breeze.

The drive through Tuscany was equally superb. En route we stopped off at Orvieto and Montepulciano, two of the most stunning hilltop towns where we found a lovely restaurant and enjoyed a very pleasant lunch accompanied by some of the other teams. The Supercar Run attracts fascinating people and what I found so refreshing was that everyone was open and friendly. There were no social barriers to speak of and the people I met were, without exception, amiable car enthusiasts enjoying a wonderful holiday with their beautiful cars.

We left Florence on the Wednesday morning and wound our way over the mountains to Maranello where we visited the Galleria Ferrari, which I'd recommend to anyone with any hint

of an interest in Ferrari. I thought it was quite amusing (and I think the general public did too) that the Supercar Run had probably brought a more interesting collection of cars to the Galleria than the Galleria had on display itself. This truth was made more obvious by the fact that the Supercar Club had reserved the whole car park in front of the museum.

From Maranello we drove back over the mountains on more fabulous, empty, twisting roads with ever-more breathtaking scenery, winding our way to the Portofino coast where we spent the night at Camogli, a very pretty little town right on the sea.

Our hotel that night was set on its own private beach with stunning views of the coast. As you can tell, there is a bit of a theme to the Supercar Run, and the non-stop round of great scenery, empty roads and fabulous hotels was all fine by me.

On our final morning I woke up feeling as refreshed as if I had been away for weeks, strangely rested and eager to get back in the Ferrari for more driving. I was really looking forward to another night at Villa d'Este, which, by anyone's standards, has to be one of the finest hotels in the world. My co-driver and I warmed up the car for its last day on the Run and headed back into the mountains for the final stage, which included two mountain passes and the emptiest roads we had seen all week.

We arrived at Villa d'Este with a mixture of exhilaration and regret to have finished our first Supercar Run. We were happy to have had such a wonderful week with all those exotic cars and their fascinating owners but we were very sad it was over. We could quite easily have turned around and done it all again. Instead, we made a beeline for the pool and a refreshing swim before the big gala dinner and prize giving, which meant more great food, fine wine and another inch to add to my rapidly expanding waistline!

Over the years I have taken part in many car events and rallies but none have come close to the Supercar Run. It has to be the best-organized and most professionally run event I have ever attended. The Supercar Club team, all 15 of them, followed us everywhere in their five Range Rovers, three vans and even a Pirelli tyre lorry just in case we needed any assistance, whether it was breakdowns (they bring spares for the cars), new tyres (they carry over 120), luggage transportation or just help with the route. Service like this on a car rally is unheard of.

There's no doubt that I'll be on the start line again in 2007. I wouldn't miss it for the world. Having spoken to the Supercar Club office today I know that they have already filled more than 70 of the places, so if I've managed to entice you to sign up, I suggest you do so quickly. ■

*If you are interested in applying for a place on the 2007 Supercar Run, which starts in London, UK, next June, visit [www.supercarrun.com](http://www.supercarrun.com).*

*The Supercar Club also arranges various other events during the year, for further information visit, [www.thesupercarclub.com](http://www.thesupercarclub.com)*



A Ferrari 275 GTB 4 cam



A Pagani Zonda F



A Pagani Zonda S Roadster



A Ferrari F40



Bugatti Veyron 16.4



A Porsche Carrera GT



An AC Cobra



# A match made in heaven

ICC Cricket World Cup 2007

In spring 2007, one of sport's greatest tournaments, the ICC Cricket World Cup, will draw 16 of the world's elite teams to the West Indies for a truly inspired pairing of spectacular sport and sensational destination

By Kate Rigby

The football pitches of Germany may be left empty after the frenzy of the World Cup but on the other side of the world pitches of a more scenic nature are only just beginning to warm up in anticipation of further World Cup action.

Come March 2007, cricketing fans in more than 200 countries will be turning on the television in their billions [an estimated 2.2 billion viewers are predicted] to watch the ICC Cricket World Cup. Not to be outdone, a truly devoted 100,000 will travel to the West Indies to watch it first hand.

With statistics like this it is easy to see that cricket is one of the most popular sports in the world and the pinnacle of its calendar is the World Cup, held every four years. Since the first Cricket World Cup in England gathered together just eight teams in 1975, the event has grown in popularity, prestige and power, has provoked some of the most significant changes in the way one-day cricket is played, has vastly increased the profile of the sport, and has opened it up to a wider international audience.

This time around, for the ninth World Cup, the West Indies plays host to the 16 teams that will dominate the islands for 47 days in their battle to be the best. These teams are the 10

Test cricket playing countries: Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe; plus Kenya and the five qualifiers from the ICC Trophy held in Ireland in 2005: Bermuda, Canada Ireland, The Netherlands and Scotland.

From the likes of England's Andrew Flintoff to Australia's Ricky Ponting to the West Indies' Brian Lara, the elite of cricket will flit between the islands in a series of one-day spectacles, playing in breathtaking stadiums circled by rainforests, tropical flowers, towering mountains, electric-blue seas and powder-soft beaches.

Armies of fans will follow their every over, but those in the know will avoid the heaving hotels and the mad rush for flights and boats and instead travel by superyacht. Moored in the stunning Caribbean harbours, you are a stone's throw from the stadiums and have the luxury of retiring to your yacht between innings. In the evenings, the decks make for a wonderful party venue, and in between matches you can simply cruise at your leisure sipping a cocktail in the Jacuzzi and arrive at the next destination fresh, relaxed and ready for play. Here, [sea&i](#) outlines the islands you can visit to watch your favourite teams. →

## THE FOUR GROUPS, AND INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS OF EACH COUNTRY

### Group A (St Kitts & Nevis):

*Australia (1), South Africa (5), Scotland (12), The Netherlands (16)*

### Group B

#### (Trinidad & Tobago):

*Sri Lanka (2), India (8), Bangladesh (11), Bermuda (15)*

### Group C (Saint Lucia):

*New Zealand (3), England (7), Kenya (10), Canada (14)*

### Group D (Jamaica):

*Pakistan (4), West Indies (6), Zimbabwe (9), Ireland (13)*



## ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

**ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS** The rainforest island of St Vincent, and its string of cays known as the Grenadines, abound with scenery, sailing and seclusion. Golden palms, banana trees, ginger lily, whitesands, perfect peace and wonderful restaurants give the ‘spice islands’ a sprinkling of everything. Add the relaxed pace of island life and the buzz of World Cup fever and this becomes a must-visit destination on your cricket-cruise itinerary.

**TEAM TALK** Arnos Vale stadium in St Vincent has undergone major renovation to provide 12,000 seats for the Warm-up matches it will host in early March.

## JAMAICA

**ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS** Jamaica may be famous for its laid-back attitude but with cricket being its most popular sport you can expect a carnival atmosphere during the World Cup. The third largest island in the Caribbean, Jamaica has excellent restaurants, great golf, palm-shaded beach bars, plenty of background reggae, and warm, friendly, charming locals.

**TEAM TALK** The site of play for the Warm-up matches and

Opening Ceremony is the vast Trelawny Stadium, newly built for the occasion just east of Falmouth on the North Coast. The Group Stage and one of the Semi Finals will be hosted at Sabina Park stadium in Kingston. The island also has the honour of hosting the Pakistan, West Indies, Zimbabwe and Ireland teams. Ranked fourth and sixth in the world respectively, Pakistan and the West Indies promise exciting play, particularly as the West Indies are playing on home turf.

## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

**ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS** Home of the steel pan, the largest Caribbean carnival, an intriguing culture, excellent restaurants, a colourful music scene, and Brian Lara – one of the greatest West Indian batsmen of all time – Trinidad will become the ultimate party island when the World Cup comes to town.

**TEAM TALK** Trinidad’s two stadiums will play host to Group B teams, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh and Bermuda. The oldest ground in the Caribbean, Queen’s Park Oval will seat 25,000 for the six Group Stage matches it is hosting. Warm-up matches will take place at the Brian Lara stadium, which is being built at Tarouba, South Trinidad.





## BARBADOS

**ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS** Barbados has a flair for the glam-beach scene, so make the most of the restaurants, leisure and sports at your fingertips. Talking of sport, cricket is life itself here so expect rousing enthusiasm in the stadiums. After all, the island is one of the international cricket capitals of the world and home to cricketing legend Sir Garfield Sobers.

**TEAM TALK** The Kensington Oval hosted the first international match in 1895 and its first Test in 1930, but its finest hour is surely yet to come. On 28 April, the newly redeveloped stadium will host the Final of the ICC Cricket World Cup. That day Fontabelle will ring to the sound of celebration as around 30,000 fans will gather together for the game that decides it all. The new 3W's Oval will host four of the Warm-up matches.

## ST KITTS & NEVIS

**ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS** North of the Leeward Islands and just eight by 29km, St Kitts is Caribbean charm personified. West Indian villages, quaint churches, romantic windmills and sporadic chimneys belonging to former sugar estates dot the island and will no doubt captivate the World Cup visitors as much as the cricket.

**TEAM TALK** Six of the Group Stage matches will pack the 10,000 seats of the Warner Park stadium in Basseterre, which has undergone major renovations and now has a new media centre and pavilion. Ranked first in the world, Australia is host team on the island. Skippered by Ricky Ponting (one of the most experienced players in world cricket) and enhanced by Shane Warne (one of the most talented and charismatic), dynamic play goes without saying.

## ST LUCIA

**ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS** With the dramatic peaks of the Piton mountains, lush rainforests, colourful open-air markets and world-class hotels, St Lucia is as luxurious as it is scenic. The Beausejour Stadium is conveniently situated close to Rodney Bay Marina, but for those looking for a quiet haven away from the bustling crowd, the Marina at Marigot Bay is ideally located.

**TEAM TALK** St Lucia is hosting England's matches in the Beausejour Stadium. Only a few years old, the stadium's capacity is being increased to 20,000 to cater for the Group Stage and Semi-Final matches. Currently ranked seventh in the world, England, led by Michael Vaughan, will arrive on the island fresh from Australia where they will have been defending their 2005 Ashes victory. →



## GRENADA

**ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS** Volcanic, rainforested and lush, Grenada has peerless cruising grounds, perfect for between-match relaxation. Also explore inland for forest waterfalls, cocoa plantations and rum shops. The two main marinas are based in St George's, one of the prettiest Caribbean towns with a bustling market and plenty of life, making it the perfect base for a World Cup stopover. (See *Grenadines Dream*, page 42)

**TEAM TALK** Play takes place at the scenic Queen's Park stadium which, severely damaged by Hurricane Ivan, has been specially rebuilt to welcome 20,000 for the six games it will host in the Second Stage – Super Eight Series.

## GUYANA

**ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS** At the point where the Caribbean meets South America, Guyana nestles on the main land between Venezuela and Suriname. Rich in natural beauty, with acres of virgin rainforest and the majestic Kaieteur Falls on the Potaro River, there is only one large city to speak of and this doubles as the capital Georgetown.

**TEAM TALK** The Providence Stadium (currently under construction) will have a capacity of 16,000 for the six games it hosts.

## ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

**ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS** The Antiguans love cricket and play all season long, resulting in world-class cricketers the likes of Sir Viv Richards, Curtly Ambrose and Richie Richardson. The island's passion for cricket spills into every aspect of life and no visitor can fail to be charmed by its magnificent beaches, scenic coves, great sailing and fantastic casinos and restaurants.

**TEAM TALK** Antigua and Barbuda are one of the four islands to host the Second Stage – Super Eight Series, so there will be two weeks of exciting play to be had as six of the eight best cricketing countries in the world battle it out at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, currently in build at North Sound. Situated between the airport and St John's it will have a 20,000 capacity for the six matches.

*For further information on chartering during the Cricket World Cup contact your nearest CNI charter broker (see page 10) or visit [www.cnconnect.com](http://www.cnconnect.com)*

## CATCH THE MATCH

### ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

#### Warm-up (Arnos Vale)

5 March  
6 March  
8 March  
9 March

ENG v BER  
AUS v ZIM  
ZIM v BER  
AUS v ENG

### JAMAICA

#### Opening Ceremony (Trelawny)

11 March

#### Warm-up (Trelawny Stadium)

5 March  
6 March  
8 March  
9 March

WI v KEN  
IND v N' LANDS  
KEN v N' LANDS  
IND v WI

#### Group Stage (Sabina Park)

13 March  
15 March  
17 March  
19 March  
21 March  
23 March

WI v PAK  
ZIM v IRE  
PAK v IRE  
WI v ZIM  
ZIM v PAK  
WI v IRE

A reserve day follows each match

#### Semi Final 1 (Sabina Park)

24 April  
25 April

Semi Final 1: 2 v 3  
Reserve day

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

#### Warm-up (Brian Lara)

5 March  
6 March  
8 March  
9 March

SA v CAN  
PAK v IRE  
IRE v CAN  
PAK v SA

#### Group Stage (Queen's Park Oval)

15 March  
17 March  
19 March  
21 March  
23 March  
25 March

SL v BER  
IND v BAN  
IND v BER  
SL v BAN  
IND v SL  
BER v BAN

A reserve day follows each match

### BARBADOS

#### Warm-up (3W's Oval)

5 March  
6 March  
8 March  
9 March

SL v SCO  
v BAN  
SCO v BAN  
NZ v SL

#### Second Stage – Super Eight Series (Kensington Oval) \*

11 April  
13 April  
15 April  
17 April  
19 April  
21 April

C2 v B2 (ENG v IND)  
A1 v D1 (AUS v PAK)  
B2 v D1 (IND v PAK)  
A2 v C2 (SA v ENG)  
D2 v B2 (WI v IND)  
D2 v C2 (WI v ENG)

A reserve day follows each match

#### Final (Kensington Oval)

28 April  
29 April

Final  
Reserve day

### ST KITTS & NEVIS

#### Group Stage (Warner Park)

14 March  
16 March  
18 March  
20 March  
22 March  
24 March

AUS v SCO  
SA v N' LANDS  
AUS v N' LANDS  
SA v SCO  
SCO v N' LANDS  
AUS v SA

A reserve day follows each match

### ST LUCIA

#### Group Stage (Beausejour)

14 March  
16 March  
18 March  
20 March  
22 March  
24 March

KEN v CAN  
ENG v NZ  
ENG v CAN  
NZ v KEN  
NZ v CAN  
ENG v KEN

A reserve day follows each match

#### Semi Final 2

25 April  
26 April

Semi Final 2: 1 v 4  
Reserve day

### GRENADA

#### Second Stage – Super Eight Series (Queen's Park) \*

10 April  
12 April  
14 April  
16 April  
18 April  
20 April

D2 v A2 (WI v SA)  
B1 v C1 (SL v NZ)  
A2 v C1 (SA v NZ)  
A1 v B1 (AUS v SL)  
D1 v B1 (PAK v SL)  
A1 v C1 (AUS v NZ)

A reserve day follows each match

### GUYANA

#### Second Stage – Super Eight Series (Providence) \*

28 March  
30 March  
01 April  
03 April  
07 April  
09 April

A2 v B1 (SA v SL)  
D1 v C2 (PAK v ENG)  
D2 v B1 (WI v SL)  
D1 v A2 (PAK v SA)  
B2 v A2 (IND v SA)  
D1 v C1 (PAK v NZ)

A reserve day follows each match

### ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

#### Second Stage – Super Eight Series (Sir Vivian Richards) \*

27 March  
29 March  
31 March  
2 April  
4 April  
8 April

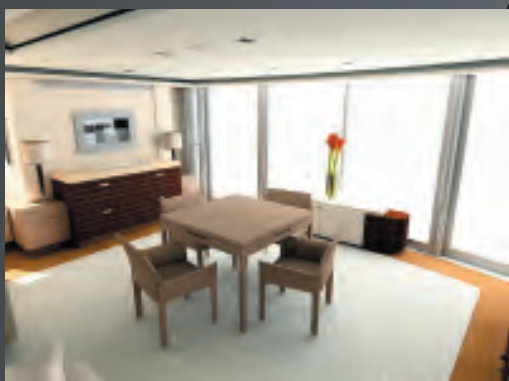
D2 v A1 (WI v AUS)  
D2 v C1 (WI v NZ)  
A1 v B2 (AUS v IND)  
B2 v C1 (IND v NZ)  
C2 v B1 (ENG v SL)  
A1 v C2 (AUS v ENG)

A reserve day follows each match

# Licence to thrill

777

Hollywood blockbuster *Casino Royale* may be set to stun cinema audiences worldwide, but Bond has missed a trick in not including 777 in his collection of high-tech toys. **sea&i** talks to CNI broker Mark Hilpern about his involvement in possibly the most technologically advanced yacht of her generation



**Above:** 777 boasts a spacious, contemporary interior with plenty of light

Besides the fact that 777 and agent 007 share a common number, thanks to all its high-tech paraphernalia there is something very James Bond-esque about Nobiskrug's latest 66.4m world-cruiser motor yacht. With her sleek profile and ultra-modern amenities she could be a lead character in a Bond movie, if not the lead character as she boasts many features never seen before on a yacht. As everything about her represents the very finest, she is bound to become one of the most sought-after charter yachts on the market.

## REALITY BEATS FICTION

777 (pronounced 'triple seven') is packed with all the latest high-tech equipment, developed to deliver the ultimate in entertainment, comfort and safety. She boasts full wireless coverage; LAN connection with separate email and Internet access; a circular bathing cum lounging area (nicknamed 'the top of the world nest'), which converts to a helipad; a central communication system that incorporates music and video on demand; a library that converts into a cinema; a swim platform that combines with a gym and spa when the transom is opened; Quantum zero-speed 4-fin system stabilizers; and a fully computerized, programmed maintenance system. The only James Bond feature that could possibly be added to the list is a pocket submarine, but as the hull hatches cover spacious side garages where both tenders are stored, nothing prevents her future owner from replacing one with a more dynamic underwater toy at some stage. →





## TECH SPECS

**BUILDER:** Nobiskrug

**DESIGNER:** Newcruise

**YEAR:** 2006

**LOA:** 66.4m

**BEAM:** 12m

**DRAFT:** 3.55m

**CONSTRUCTION:** Steel and composite (non-structural).

**Composite mast**

**DISPLACEMENT:** 1,391 tons

**NET TONNAGE:** 359 tons

**FUEL CAPACITY:** 185,000 litres

**WATER CAPACITY:** 27,700 litres

**MAXIMUM/CRUISING SPEED:**

17/15 knots

**RANGE:** 6,000nm at 15 knots /

7,300nm at 14 knots

**ENGINES:** 2 x MTU 16V4000M60,

2,360bhp (1,760kW)

each at 1,800rpm

**CLASSIFICATION:** German

Lloyd's - Full MCA

**FLAG:** Cayman Islands

## AMAZING SPACE

777 boasts unique interior and entertaining spaces over her four decks, including the hi-tech library and cinema and an inside and outside circular bar on the main deck. She features many open lounge areas on her exterior decks, as well as an outside cinema. She has a large sun-lounge designed with a gazebo for informal seating, plus a wellness area surrounding a Jacuzzi with a waterfall effect on her sundeck – perfect for lounging.

777 accommodates up to 12 guests in five spacious cabins, and has two studies that can be converted to accommodation cabins. The owner's stateroom comprises an office cum study or guest cabin, 'his' and 'hers' dressing rooms, and spacious bathroom arrangements. The yacht's interior also incorporates a saloon, a large dining area and second saloon with full-length bay windows, spacious staterooms, an adjoining office/guest bedroom, and four additional VIP cabins.

**SEO&I:** What was the most challenging part of the project?

**MH:** Defining a design that mirrored the owner's exact requirements, which had as much to do with the use of interior space as the external aesthetics of the yacht. Prior to the commencement of the project I spent a lot of time with the owners examining the pros and cons of existing yachts, which eventually helped us to develop what I consider to be one of the most beautiful and well-constructed yachts in existence.

**SEO&I:** What was the most fun part of the project?

**MH:** All of it. Working with an extremely talented team on all levels has been a very rewarding experience, and being able to keep up to date with modern technology and incorporating this into the yacht wherever possible is always exciting.

**SEO&I:** What specific aspects of her design/engineering make her outstanding?

**MH:** Nobiskrug has a long history of building commercial vessels that need to operate in extreme conditions continually for many months. The yard has brought this experience to the construction of 777 and, technically speaking, she is an engineer's dream. Many yachts sacrifice space that should be used for easily accessible and well-laid-out technical areas to increase the owner and guest accommodation; this, in my experience, often compromises their sea-keeping qualities and overall reliability.

**SEO&I:** From where did you draw your inspiration for the development of her design?

**MH:** Frank Neubelt and Roland Krueger at Newcruise Yachts Project & Design were able to produce a design that perfectly matched the owner's requirements. When designing a yacht for a specific owner it is a great advantage to have knowledge as to how that particular owner and his family will use their yacht. Therefore, the primary inspiration in the creation of this project was the owner himself. Inspiration was also drawn from other existing yachts, however the overall design of 777 is unique and by no means an amalgam of other designs.

**SEO&I:** Which area of 777 is your favourite?

**MH:** My preferred feature of 777 is the apparent seamlessness of the exterior and interior spaces. The design of the yacht embraces the environment in which she exists, with large windows in all areas making charterers continually aware that they are at sea and not in a New York apartment.

**SEO&I:** How did you feel when she was first unveiled?

**MH:** That was, as ever, an extremely moving time for all involved. At Nobiskrug, the hull



and the majority of the superstructure were constructed under a temporary building shed and launched in the traditional manner before being towed around to the fit-out shed. Up until around 80 years ago all the chocks were removed, with the exception of one at the aft end of the vessel, which is closest to the water. In Germany the job of displacing the final chock with a sledgehammer was given to a prisoner who was awaiting a death sentence. There was obviously a great risk of the person removing the last chock being crushed by the vessel as it slid down into the water. If, however, the convict survived this experience he was given his freedom. Things are done a bit differently these days. An emotional moment for me was retrieving the golden sovereign that I had placed under the keel prior to the keel-laying ceremony.

**sea&i:** What are your thoughts on the team involved in this project?

**MH:** The main protagonists in the construction were the owners, Newcruise Yachts Project & Design, Nobiskrug shipyard, Captain Clive Golding, the owner's surveyor, Charlie Baker and his team from Marine Engineering, and interior designer Kathy Rasjek. With 777, the teams at Newcruise and Nobiskrug are making a remarkable entry into the top ranks of highest quality yacht construction in Germany and beyond. So much so that 777's owners decided to extend the successful experience and develop another project with the same team – from broker to designers to engineers – for an even larger yacht already known as 778, planned to be released in 2008. ■



777 will be debuting at the Monaco Yacht Show. She is now available for charter through CNI, please contact your nearest CNI charter broker for further information (see page 10)

# Prêt-à-port

city stopovers

Seafront cities have it all: dynamic fast-paced entertainment, stunning views and fantastic marinas that forge the perfect bridge between metropolitan and ocean life

By Daniel Munro



Buckingham Palace



St Katharine Docks



The London Eye

## ST KATHARINE DOCKS, LONDON

London's premier marina has a striking outlook over the City of London, the River Thames and the Tower of London. The docklands development is a mix of historic intrigue and modern facilities, and an impressive new phase of development is in progress. As well as nearby attractions, the heart of London is just a taxi ride away.

**Sport & leisure** In the summer months, the celebrated Lord's cricket ground hosts a number of Tests and One-Day matches, and Wimbledon is well worth the journey if your visit coincides with the annual international tennis from the end of June. Highlights in the centre of London include the eclectic Covent Garden, the scenic St James' Park just a stroll from Buckingham Palace, and fantastic shopping in Knightsbridge, Bond Street and Sloane Square. Some of the street markets are also a fun and historical insight into colourful London life – Columbia Road Flower Market, Brick Lane and Petticoat Lane are all near St Katharine.

**Dining & nightlife** Conran has five restaurants housed in the Great Eastern Hotel off Liverpool Street: Aurora, Miyabi, Fishmarket, Terminus and George. Caravaggio, the Italian opened by Pavarotti in 1996, is also close to hand. Further afield, but easily accessible are The Ivy and Gordon Ramsay's at Claridges. While in town, the West End shows should not be missed. *Billy Elliot* is drawing big crowds, Patrick Swayze stars in *Guys And Dolls* and Val Kilmer appears in *The Postman Always Rings Twice*.





A bird's eye view of New York



Surfside 3 of Manhattan,  
Pier 59, Chelsea Piers



### SURFSIDE 3 OF MANHATTAN, PIER 59, CHELSEA PIERS, NEW YORK

Moor your yacht at Surfside 3 Marina and not only can you soak up the historic splendour of Chelsea Piers, you can also gaze at one of the world's most awe-inspiring skylines and see, hear, feel and sense the magic of the city beyond. Extending out from the buzzing metropolis into the Hudson River, the marina is wonderfully equipped, and the addition of Pier 57, currently in development, will make it a *tour de force* of the marina world.

**Sport & leisure** The Golf Club at Chelsea Piers has an Academy and two full-swing simulators. The latest in virtual golf technology, these allow you to play any one of 51 championship courses. There is also a spa at Chelsea Piers if you don't fancy straying too far for your pampering. A must, though, is a trip to the New York Yacht Club on 37 West 44th Street. One of the most established and honoured clubs in the city, it is a private club but Jeff Beneville of CNI's New York office is a member and is happy to give a tour to CNI clients if they contact him in advance (tel: +1 212 980 1858).

**Dining & nightlife** The Ritz-Carlton Battery Park – the only AAA Five Diamond luxury waterfront New York City hotel – is a cab drive away and well worth a visit for its bar and restaurants. Its Rise bar on the 14th floor has fantastic views of New York Harbor and the Statue of Liberty. Elsewhere, Chelsea's Tía Pol is renowned for its fantastic tapas, while in the heart of Chelsea, Gascogne is unbeatable for rustic southwest French cuisine and fantastic Armagnac. →



Petrus restaurant



Gold Coast Yacht And Country Club



Market life in the city

### GOLD COAST YACHT AND COUNTRY CLUB, HONG KONG

Polished Italian marble, soothing, elegant décor, exotic palm trees and vast skylights – the Gold Coast Yacht and Country Club is a welcome sight for arriving charterers. Located in one of the most exclusive parts of Hong Kong, it is home to a number of the city's resident superyachts and is perfectly situated for those wanting to explore the area.

**Sport & leisure** The Gold Coast Yacht and Country Club offers excellent facilities, with tennis and squash courts, a gym, swimming pool, games room and relaxing massages. The five star Gold Coast Hotel is also within the marina complex. Set in ten acres of landscaped gardens, it has a beautiful spa overlooking the South China Sea offering everything from facials to aromabaths. For more dynamic sport, head into the city. The Sha Tin racecourse makes for a fun day out, or arrange a round of golf on one of the many wonderful courses in the area. The Royal Hong Kong Golf Club, established in 1889, is steeped in history and the Clearwater Bay Golf & Country Club has a truly stunning setting, to name just two.

**Dining & nightlife** The Gold Coast Hotel has several dining options, including its Qi Chinese restaurant for Cantonese and Rocco's Alfresco Grill for a romantic seafront atmosphere and a feast of grilled seafood and meats. In the city centre, Petrus at the Island Shangri-La Hotel is perfect for a romantic meal *a deux*, while the Alain Ducasse restaurant Spoon at the Hotel InterContinental has great views, contemporary French cuisine and a wine cellar with around 3,000 bottles to choose from. ■



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# The America's Cup: the history

As America's Cup action reaches fever pitch, Valencia in Spain is preparing to burst at the seams with spectators. But no viewing post for the world's most famous yacht race can equal one afloat in the heart of the action. [sea&i](#) refreshes your America's Cup knowledge and offers you the opportunity to charter during this prestigious event

By James Shotton



A.C. Management Photo Library

## SHARE IN THE EXPERIENCE

*At the heart of the 32nd America's Cup competition in Valencia, a new superyacht pier has been constructed. Surrounded by the team bases of the 11 challengers and single defender, it offers a peerless platform from which to enjoy the racing and festival atmosphere. The two race areas are located less than 30 minutes sailing time from the Valencia Superyacht Marina and 43 berths for yachts ranging from 30 - 150 metres will be available in the private marina. Guests aboard the superyachts will have access to The Foredeck Club, the Private Beach Club, and will receive invitations to social events and exclusive America's Cup events. For information on how you can secure such exclusive viewing action, please contact your nearest CNI charter broker.*

and your chance to be part of it

When Commodore John Steven sailed the schooner America across the Atlantic in 1851, she was escorted the last few miles to Cowes by a local yacht named Lavrock. But rather than sailing with her escort, America raced against her and left her far behind, shaming the British yachtsmen into inviting America to a race around the Isle of Wight. The Americans won and donated a silver ewer in trust to the New York Yacht Club as a challenge trophy – and so the America's Cup was born.

An America's Cup Match takes place every four or five years and is an exciting dual between the defender and a single challenger. Now in its 32nd series, the America's Cup rests with defender Alinghi who brought it to Europe and inspired thousands to flock to see the Louis Vuitton Acts leading up to the final race in 2007.

Between 2004 and July 2006, several contenders have raced in a culmination of Acts. From Marseille, Malmo, and Sicily to Valencia, the Louis Vuitton Acts are dramatic events where yachts race for points until the final act in April 2007.

Racing commences again between the 3 to 7 April 2007, with Act 13 determining the final Louis Vuitton ranking. From 18 April to 12 June begins the challengers' fight for the Louis Vuitton Cup and the right to take on defender Alinghi for possession of the America's Cup. Then comes the grand finale – the 32nd America's Cup Match itself, from 23 June to 7 July. This event will see the waterfront of Valencia crowded with spectators from all over the world, gathered to watch as the America's Cup is fought over in tense head-to-head matches in a best-of-nine contest. To be among them, see *Share In The Experience*, above. ■

**Above left:** Defending America's Cup champion Alinghi  
**Above:** The marina at Valencia is hotting up for America's Cup action



# New builds & yacht listings new listings

Displayed over the following pages are an incredible collection of some of the finest superyachts available for purchase through CNI. But first we can't ignore the latest launches (and hulls) to hit the water

## TEAMWORK AT ITS BEST

**N**ew construction has always been a major focus for CNI brokers. Most projects remain secret until released but sometimes preview information does surface. Since the previous issue of *sea&i*, three new yachts developed in collaboration with CNI brokers have hit the water and many more are under construction, with deliveries planned from this autumn all the way to 2010. These include: **777** – the 66.7m world cruiser released in early August from her shipyard Nobiskrug – a Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems' yard – in Rendsburg, Germany (see full feature page 98).

**ASHA** – A magnificently designed 27m Miora, Asha was launched in late June so her owner could enjoy her throughout the summer. Catch her in *sea&i*'s fashion shoot (page 82) where she served as centre stage for the models and luxury watches being photographed. Asha is available for charter through CNI's Monaco charter management division. For further information on Asha, contact your charter broker.

**AMELS 171** In late May, the bare hull of the very first yacht in the Amels' Limited Edition series reached the shores of Vlissingen, Holland, where it is now being completed. It was spotted in the northern mist by CNI broker Neil Cheston, who acknowledged her arrival on behalf of one of his clients. ■



**NOMAD** 46m, Mjellem & Karlsen, 1974  
Currently being converted into a yacht support vessel, for helicopter, additional stores & personnel. Owners deck with three VIP cabins.



**KAHALANI** 43m, Feadship, 1993/2001  
KAHALANI has three full accommodation levels plus a superb private sun deck with Jacuzzi. State-of-the-art entertainment systems run throughout.



**CD TWO** 43m, CN Nicolini, 1995  
A semi-displacement, steel hull, aluminium structure. Recent refit on primary systems & equipment. Lloyds 10 year Special Survey in 2005.



**MARTHA ANN** 42m, Westship, 2001  
Classical styling highlights an elegant interior designed with guest comfort in mind. Fast, powerful MTUs drive Martha Ann to a range of 3,500 nm.



**DREAM SEEKER** 42m, Feadship, 1984  
A perfectly maintained Feadship with a great charter history. Features include a baby grand piano, a safari themed aft deck, & a tropical sky lounge.



**CENTIUM** 39m, Astilleros M.Cies, 2006  
A solid & reliable long range vessel built to commercial standards. Fully Lloyds classed & MCA compliant. Ample deck areas & spacious accommodation



**LADY HARMONY** 33m, Overmarine, 2001  
Immaculate 108' Mangusta with Luxurious accommodation for eight guests. Powered by 2 x 2750hp MTUs giving speed in excess of 37 knots.



**TEMPEST** 32m, Esterel, 1963/2004  
Originally built as a Patrol vessel, Tempest has been completely rebuilt and offers luxurious accommodations in four large cabins.



**SCHNUPSI** 32m, Hatteras, 1990  
Custom built by Hatteras, Schnupsi is one of the fastest semi-displacement yachts ever built. Her build guarantees comfort and seaworthiness.



**FOREVER ONE** 32m, Overmarine, 2005  
This magnificently powerful Mangusta Sport provides the ultimate comfort in a stunning spacious interior. Quality and luxury best describe this yacht.



**NEGARA** 31m, Overmarine, 2004  
Negara boasts spectacular accommodations, with a 50m2 Owner's suite, and an additional double and twin.



**M&M** 28m, Ferretti, 2003  
Further to a recent refit, this pristine yacht boasts four guest staterooms, and ample crew quarters. staterooms Every option available. →



**SUZANNE** 26m, Arno, 2002  
Original owner, very little use (approx 160hrs), captain & crew maintained since new, offered 'turn key' for the season.



**DANCING MILLY II** 26m, San Lorenzo, 2002  
A distinctive yacht from this pedigree yard offering a four cabin layout. Countless options and 'state of the art' navigation and entertainment systems.



**LONDON DREAM** 24m, Arno, 2006  
The only 2006 Leopard 24 on the market at present, she has a beautiful interior. Available for inspection in London's St Katharine Dock.



**VAMOOSE** 22m90, Fleming, 2003  
Every conceivable option, from the engine room to the pilothouse, makes this the best cruising yacht built for a couple or six people, plus crew.



**AQUA REGIA** 22m, North Star, 2004  
Four staterooms; Caterpillar 3406s, with 1000hp provide 20 knots cruising speeds; low hours; finest electronics of any yacht under 100'.



**INVICTUS** 22m, Guy Couach, 2002  
A fast and sea worthy motor yacht. This vessel is extremely well equipped; she is fast and is now MCA compliant. Inspection is recommended.



**QUEEN NEFERTITI** 41.5m, Astilleros Celaya, 1985/2004  
Excellent accommodation for eight guests, a large deck saloon with access to the bridge and a full width formal dining room/ lounge below.



**LADY LAUREN** 40.4m, Perini Navi, 2001/2004  
This stunning Perini Navi is in 'as new' condition. She boasts accommodation for eight guests in four cabins.



**MARIA CATTIVA** 40m, Royal Huisman, 2003  
Fresh from refit after a world-girdling expedition, this fine yacht combines timeless comfort with sparkling performance under sail.



**JOSEPH CONRAD** 37m, Top Goff Schooner, 1916/1979  
A unique vessel built to extremely high standards as a Sailing freight ship. She offers a comfortable interior and yet has kept her timeless lines.



**SPIRIT OF FITZROY** 24.7m, Fitzroy Yachts, 2000  
A truly fine example of New Zealand quality & integrity yacht construction. Accommodations equivalent to much larger yacht with the finest gear.



**LOLA E** 20m, K&M Makkum, 2005  
A powerful steel yacht built with every convenience of a large yacht yet able to be handled easily by a couple cruising around the world.



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changed. Now a number of international banks and finance houses are competing heavily to provide finance to the superyacht market, which itself is experiencing incredible growth.

Whether or not finance is a requirement for the purchase of a yacht it remains an important consideration. In the superyacht sector in particular, a lender would expect a buyer's asset value to reasonably exceed the purchase price of the yacht but this asset value might not be liquid. Rather than disposing of other assets or investments it may prove beneficial to a buyer to finance the purchase of the yacht, thus leaving in place investments whose yield may well surpass the rate of interest on the finance or at least provide a hedge against the cost of finance.

There are various ways of financing the purchase of a yacht but before this can be decided upon other important factors should really be considered. Most would agree that it is prudent not to own a yacht of any significant size and value in one's own name for legal liability purposes and various forms of ownership structures can also offer significant tax advantages. With VAT (sales tax) in the EU ranging from 15% to 25% this is of special interest to EU based buyers. Direct tax implications can also be dealt with by the correct implementation of a bespoke structure.

For small to medium sized yachts leasing is becoming an ever more popular option. It removes direct ownership of the yacht and provides finance at the same time. For EU buyers there are leases that reduce the level of VAT payable on the lease by up to 70%.

For larger yachts there are even more effective ways of mitigating the effects of VAT through special purpose vehicle companies. This matches up well with the complexities of operating large yachts, crew employment being just one, and so corporate ownership is the most common form in this sector.

It is not only yachts owned, or beneficially owned, by EU residents that face VAT liabilities but potentially any yacht sailing in EU waters. Careful fiscal planning should therefore always be undertaken for any yacht purchase. If finance is desired it should be adapted to, and follow, an ownership structure, chosen for legal and fiscal reasons, not vice versa.

Ownership structures and finance can be tailored to any kind of yacht whether it be large or small, new build or old, refit or conversion. These can be seamlessly joined with yacht management and crew services provided by other specialists.

Given the potential minefield of taxes (both direct and indirect), customs issues and other financial pitfalls, buyers would be wise to seek out professional advice and assistance in the creation of a structure and the provision of finance that is specifically tailored to meet their own personal needs. ■

*The Fortis Yacht Group specialises in providing yacht ownership structures, finance and management services. Please see [www.fortisintertrust.com](http://www.fortisintertrust.com) or contact us at [yacht@fortisintertrust.com](mailto:yacht@fortisintertrust.com) for further information.*

# Bespoke finance

Yacht finance

As the superyacht industry continues to experience rapid growth, the benefits of yacht finance increase. Alex McBarnet from Fortis Bank provides an insight into why you should opt for financing programmes

Only a few short years ago superyacht finance was not something with which the banking community was very familiar and there was little appetite for change. It was certainly possible to finance smaller yachts through what were effectively personal loans but these loans were to the individual owners and not suitable for larger yachts which tend to be owned in slightly more complex ways. This meant that financing a superyacht, for whatever reason, was virtually impossible. How things have

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