

# sea & i

FOR CONNOISSEURS OF LUXURY TRAVEL

WINTER 2006

## PARADISE FOUND

Discover the magic of the Bahamas

## A QUIRK OF NATURE

An insatiable passion for pearls

### WELL DECKED

Designer apparel for elegant charters

### RISING STAR

Benetti shines again with the launch of Galaxy

### ISLAND LIFE

The best of Anguilla

### SCENTS OF OCCASION

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Photography: Jérôme Kélagopin

# NEW YEAR

The past year has been a period of great change and significant success in virtually every department of CNI. From the launch and rapid evolution of [sea&i](#) last November to the opening of new offices in Fort Lauderdale to the launch of a new website to the numerous partnerships and events in which it has participated or sponsored, CNI has continued to explore new horizons and improve its many services. What is more, 2005 saw CNI make the pledge to become CarbonNeutral. The first luxury yachting company to demonstrate its support of environmental concerns in this way, CNI offices across the world are now committed to reducing their emissions of carbon dioxide and compensating for the unavoidable emissions they do make through specialised 'offsetting' projects.

All this is, of course, in addition to CNI's fundamental services - that is buying, selling, chartering and managing luxury superyachts, in all aspects of which it is an undisputed global leader. The company is proud to list more yachts than ever in its fleet, cruising, as this issue of [sea&i](#) testifies, as far afield as the Galapagos, the Bahamas, New Zealand and the Mediterranean. Along with compelling charter destinations, this issue suggests some great seafood delicacies to savour on board, recommends some fabulous escapes to the snow, delves into the artisanship of culturing pearls and inspires all potential yacht owners with an interview with CNI broker Neil Cheston on the build of Galaxy, and entrepreneur George Wallner on the build of Tumblehome 2. We trust it will all give you food for thought for a very happy, productive and successful 2006. ■

# NEW HORIZONS





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# Contributors

**THOMAS GRANT** is a university scholar who has spent many years visiting museums and art galleries for research purposes. Specialising in Western Baroque and modern art, he currently resides in the UK, but travels extensively to galleries and museums around the world. In this issue of *sea&i*, Thomas previews exhibitions of two of the greatest painters in the western tradition – Rembrandt and Cézanne. (1)

**TINA MONTZKA** has been involved in the yachting industry for more than 20 years. From crewing, to marketing, charter management, and now charter retail, Tina has an in-depth knowledge of all aspects of yachting and can provide the latest information and advice on the best yachts to suit your style, along with recommendations on the latest destinations for chartering. In this issue of *sea&i* Tina provides an itinerary for a charter in the Bahamas. Based in CNI's Antibes office, Tina is fluent in German, English and French. (2)

**HOPE GAINER** is a contributor to a variety of magazines including *International Yachtsman*, *Haute Living*, *Lincoln Road Magazine* and *Where Miami* among others. (3)

**ANTHONY LASSMAN** a passionate traveller, created *Nota Bene* over four years ago. His mission? To seek the truth in luxury travel – without the hype. The result? Inspiring, authoritative reviews with detailed insider knowledge, written exclusively and independently for discerning travellers. This issue, Anthony provides an in-depth guide to the thrills and spills of Shanghai.

**DANIEL MONRO** is a travel journalist who has crewed on superyachts in both the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, from deck hand to first mate. In this issue of *sea&i*, Daniel once again provides an insight into the social attractions that can be found around the leading marinas, this time looking towards the Caribbean. (4)





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## Memories of Monaco

*The 15th Monaco Yacht Show was a flurry of excitement with luxury yachting enthusiasts from around the world pitching up to view the best superyachts and megayachts anchored in the prestigious port of Monaco. Throughout the show CNI maintained an extremely significant presence and the brokers more than had their hands full negotiating the purchase and sale of some of the largest yachts on the market. Clients were welcomed to two locations to view the company's central agency listed yachts, and a complimentary tender service running between them, along with cuisine at the private terrace of the Miramar Hotel, ensured ultimate convenience.*

### A SHOW OF GOOD FAITH

'CarbonNeutral' is the new buzzword on the lips of anyone who's anyone in Government, but it is also increasingly being voiced by the masses in ongoing efforts to save the planet. In an unprecedented move in the yachting industry, CNI and the organisers of the Monaco Yacht Show teamed up with The Carbon Neutral Company (TCNC) to make the event CarbonNeutral. By measuring the source and levels of greenhouse gases produced from the travel, electricity and waste of 530 exhibiting companies; the electricity and

waste for 92 yachts and 8,000 square metres of stands, and offsetting them with dedicated programmes, the organisers also raised awareness among participants to reduce their emissions wherever possible.

*CNI is the first yachting company to become CarbonNeutral and as such it is committed not only to offsetting its existing carbon emissions but also improving its working practices to help reduce future levels.*



### STARTING IN STYLE

The balmy temperatures of September facilitated plenty of outdoor partying with an elite crowd joining CNI at several events. The opening night saw the CNI Gala Dinner & Cocktail Party at the Yacht Club de Monaco. Hosted by CNI and held in association with Credit Suisse, the evening brought together the industry's key players with their CNI

brokers to enjoy an evening of great food and entertainment, with fashion from Sonia Rykiel's winter collection, and jewellery from Fanny Blanchelande, a Monaco-based top jewellery designer whose original creations have taken the Principality and the Riviera by storm. Thanks also to Geoffrey Parker whose unique CNI personalised game sets brought an additional touch of fun to this splendid evening.

### THE ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL

The second day of the show, Prince Albert II stepped aboard the 55m True Blue for a delightful lunch hosted by CNI and catered for by Riviera-based Private Catering.



Supporting CNI and the show's commitment to carbon neutralising the event, the Prince commented, "I am sure that all the participants of the world's greatest show will understand and follow this initiative by controlling their level of waste production as much as possible. It is undeniable that it is up to our generation, as well as the future ones, to struggle against the negative effects that atmospheric pollution is having on our health, and the devastating impact of greenhouse gas emissions on the climatic balance of our planet".



# Highlights of the Fort Lauderdale Show

## RAINING SUPREME

Prior to the arrival of Hurricane Wilma, CNI was looking forward to a spectacular boat show. Not only did the company have 16 yachts on display at three different locations but it had prepared some great parties and entertainment venues for its clients, captains and crew. Prior to the show, CNI held a big crew bash for more than 500 guests. Thanks and kudos are extended in equal measure to co-sponsors: MHG Insurance, Dockwalk Magazine, Marsh, The Club at Emerald Bay and of course the Quarterdeck on Cordova, where the party was held. When the venue itself became standing room only, guests overflowed into the parking lot, which had been exclusively reserved for just this reason.



## THE SHOW MUST GO ON

For a while at least, it seemed that CNI's 'A Crewed Affair' party might be the only affair at the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show thanks to Wilma arriving to sink the ship, so to speak. After much aggravation to those who had no



power, hot water or fuel, Show Management went ahead with an abbreviated boat show (shortened by one day) that took place one week after the original scheduled event. Many visitors stayed away, particularly with most hotels and restaurants out of action and no traffic lights

anywhere in the city; but most exhibitors showed up and those clients who did fly in were well qualified. On the Friday evening of the show, CNI, along with Citibank, MHG Insurance and GMT (Global Marine Travel), hosted a fun evening at the Chima Restaurant in Fort Lauderdale for CNI's yacht captains and their partners.

## FINISHING TOUCHES

As CNI had more yachts at the Las Olas docks than the Bahia Mar dock, along with use of the parking lot on its new premises at Bahia Mar, the company ran a VIP shuttle service between the docks and office - much to the delight of clients and employees alike. CNI also secured full use of the Bahia Mar Resort's Java Net Café as a private hospitality lounge. With its convenient location next to CNI's main Fort Lauderdale office, along with its tempting refreshments, this too was greeted with much enthusiasm.

## NEW TO CNI

CNI's Fort Lauderdale office has recently welcomed a new broker, John Kropf, who comes to CNI from the USA's west coast. John has an extensive background in yachting having navigated the US coastlines, and has owned and operated his own vessels. While with Ocean Air Yachts in San Diego, John sold a number of quality yachts including the 38m Trinity, The Big Easy, the 30m Nordlund Safari and a 33m custom motor yacht called Crystal. John is a certified diver and a professional photographer.

# More from the show world



## MIAMI SHOW PREVIEW

Partly due to the shortened Fort Lauderdale show, and partly thanks to an increasing CNI presence in the Miami area and marinas, expect another impressive display at the next Miami Boat Show, from 16 - 20 February 2006. Unlike last year, CNI will not share its exhibition space with its parent company the Rodriguez Group, but, at time of going to press, is scheduled to have at least six yachts on display: the Cutti Shark; the 21.3m Thunder; the 35.2m Osiana II; the 38.1m Janet; the 29.5m Quintessa; the 33.6m Arrivederci; and the 44.5m Balaju. For further details, please contact your nearest CNI yacht broker.

## DÜSSELDORF SHOW PREVIEW

Taking place between the 21 - 29 January 2006, the ever impressive Düsseldorf Boat Show will once again welcome clients from all over Europe. As it is not possible for logistical reasons to have much of a display there, CNI invites guests to join its participating brokers in the lounge set up by the Rodriguez Group at Halle 6, stand A62.

## CANNES & BARCELONA BOAT SHOWS

The increasing number of yacht shows across the world could become tough to keep up with as many now overlap. However, the two shows in Cannes and Barcelona, originally dedicated to production yachts in the 20-35m range, have developed impressively over the past couple of years, and may soon add a specific yacht brokerage component to their displays. CNI had a presence in Cannes with Charles Ehrardt's listed 28m Eurocraft in the superyacht arena, and shared the Rodriguez Group's stand in Barcelona - which also proved a good alternative for the European brokers who could no longer make it to Fort Lauderdale's delayed show.



## THE ANTIGUA & ST MAARTEN SHOWS

*Starting off the Caribbean yachting season, the Antigua Yacht Charter Meeting and the St Maarten Charter Yacht Exhibition gather yachts for inspection by the brokerage community before they start their season.*

### ST MAARTEN CHARTER YACHT EXHIBITION

The second annual St Maarten Charter Yacht Exhibition runs between the 5 - 8 December 2005. The event draws together more than 40 charter



yachts and charter brokers and among the CNI central agencies on display, visitors can expect to see the 37.5m Big City from Palmer Johnson, the 46.6m Feadship Charisma, and the 43m Chevy Toy.

### ANTIGUA YACHT CHARTER MEETING

Further south in the Leeward Islands, the Antigua Yacht Charter Meeting celebrates its 44th year from 7 - 12 December 2005. It will showcase some of the world's finest charter yachts, many of which have not yet made their debut in the Mediterranean and are therefore new to the European brokerage community. CNI will be at the heart of the action with 16 yachts on display, including the recently launched Perini Navi 54m Parsifal III, and the 56m Benetti Galaxy.





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# New builds

## EXCELLENCE IV

Why stop a successful series and change a successful team? Bitten by the Excellence bug, Herb Chambers - portrayed in issue 2 of

sea&i - has decided to develop the series further and will have his new 78m Excellence IV by Abeking & Rasmussen built under the supervision of Jim Wallace at CNI Palm Beach, who is currently managing his 58m build Excellence III.



### EXPEDITION CRUISING KETCH UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Xamura 40 has been developed by George Nicholson and two likeminded friends. Designed Paolo Scanu for comfortable cruising anywhere an owner might wish to go, it will deliver its passengers and crew safely to the sunny shores of the Mediterranean, Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific.

## What's hot

### THE DARLING OF THE PACIFIC

The 25m Darling from Oyster, will be following and participating in the SuperYacht Pacific Rally starting in April/May 2006 from Panama and ending in Australia in April 2007. She will be accepting charters in between race weeks throughout the routes, and will be available for an experienced sailor during the race weeks.

### CHARTER UPDATE

Further afield, Natori and Sea Quell will be heading to Croatia in the early spring, High Aspect will be based in Phuket, and Georgia is heading to Australia. For the more daring, Latitude will be in the Galapagos and Ecuador until May 2006, and Giant is due to cruise north to Antarctica.





## RAFFLES CUISINE

The 11th Raffles Annual Wine, Food and Arts experience will bring luminaries from the culinary world and prestigious wineries together for a showcase of cuisine, wine and living par excellence. The culinary, wine and art extravaganza has always been well received due to the renowned vintners and the Michelin-starred chefs who grace the event. Scheduled to take place from 15 - 19 February 2006 at Raffles Hotel in Singapore, the event will host 11 Michelin-starred chefs along with top vintages presented by eminent wineries from Europe. For further information please visit [www.rhwfae.com](http://www.rhwfae.com)

## STAR OF THE SEA

Emerging fresh from a thorough refit, the 34.5m Star Of The Sea is in impeccable condition and likely to be in hot demand for family charters around the West Mediterranean. Reaching speeds of up to 10 knots with her twin 365hp CAT engines, she is ideal for cruising from one port to the next. On arrival at each destination, her water



toys will no doubt provide hours of entertainment for the active, while more sedate guests can lounge around her stylish interior and welcoming decks.

## A RACY LITTLE NUMBER

CNI is delighted to announce the addition to its fleet of the highly lauded 35m Sojana. Launched in September 2003, this fast cruiser from Farr Yacht Design is one of a kind. She is now available for charter through CNI and will delight racing enthusiasts as well as leisure cruisers. Fast, stable and capable of inshore and long-distance ocean racing, she is also fantastically appointed with luxury accommodation for a maximum of eight guests cared for by six crew. Aside from her phenomenal performance, she is packed with luxuries including Plasma screens, a PlayStation 2, Linn sound systems, watersports equipment, Egyptian cotton linen and fine crystal.

## RECORD-BREAKING BLADERUNNER

In August 2005, Neil McGrigor, Tony Jenvey, Jeremy Watts and John Guille slashed more than three and a half hours off the Round Britain world speed record in the Bradstone Challenger - a Bladerunner 51 powerboat. So far, interest in purchasing Bladerunner 51s has come from such sources as the US and British navies, who were involved in its development and helped with the record attempt. However, in February 2006 Mount Hartman Bay Estate in Grenada (featured in [sea&i's](#) Autumn issue) will take delivery of Mamachulita - the first Bladerunner 51 ever ordered. From early next year guests staying at Mount Hartman Bay Estate will have this incredible vessel moored at the end of their private jetty, ready to embark on anything from an adrenalin-pumping jaunt around the offshore islands to a leisurely cruise to local dive sites.



# The early catch

Pre-season summer charters are on the horizon and choosing to travel before the season really kicks in means you have an even finer choice of the most popular yachts and captivating destinations



## THE BALTIC

The grandeur of the 19,200km of Norwegian coastline, where indigo waters edge Europe's largest fjords, is breathtaking. Further east lies the Baltic Sea and the enduring lands of contrast and culture along the coastlines of Denmark, Sweden and Finland, where the sophistication of Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki blend antiquity with modernity.



## GALAPAGOS

Revelling in scenic beauty, the fascinating Galapagos islands are located in rare isolation almost 1,000km off the coast of Ecuador. They comprise 13 major islands and a dozen smaller islets, each displaying its own unique rich flora and fauna and rare animal species. Follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin and discover extraordinary species like the Darwin finch, iguanas and flightless cormorants. A corner of the world that time forgot, the Galapagos archipelago has remained unchanged over the centuries and promises a unique cruising experience.





## BALEARICS

Tapas, flamenco and Rioja – the balmy Balearic islands combine centuries of Spanish culture with modern glamour and elegance. The coastlines of Mallorca, Menorca and Ibiza are steeped in history and renowned for their exquisite architecture, tranquil coves and sandy beaches. Charter as early as spring and enjoy a summer that lasts right through to late October.



## AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

With some of the best cruising grounds in the southern hemisphere, if not the world, Australia's diverse coastline takes in cosmopolitan cities, calming countryside, idyllic beaches and spectacular marine life. Even further south, the tranquil beauty of New Zealand inspires total relaxation. Home to some of the world's greatest sailing, New Zealand's North Island boasts Auckland, renowned as the 'city of sails'. The 144 islands and secluded coves of the Bay of Islands have attracted sailors from around the world for over a century with their sheltered anchorages and temperate climate.





## **CORSICA & SARDINIA**

The cruising areas of Corsica and Sardinia present a perfect balance of French and Italian charm. Set like a jagged jewel in the Mediterranean, Corsica is an island of spellbinding beauty, with a combination of towering mountains and wild beaches. The neighbouring Italian island of Sardinia is

also a striking land of contrasts, with an untamed and wild interior complemented by secluded anchorages to the south and the glamorous and sophisticated Costa Smeralda to the north where some of the world's finest restaurants and hotels grace the coastline.



## **AMALFI COAST & SICILY**

The beauty and tranquillity of this coastline is matched by its rich culture and history, from the ancient ruins of Pompeii to the clear blue waters of Sicily. Set sail from the fashionable city of Naples and lunch on the magical island of Capri before heading down the sparkling coastline towards the archipelago of the Lipari Islands. From here take a short cruise across the water to explore the historical sights and olive plantations of Sicily.







Grace



Latitude



Lady K



Georgia



Sea Jewel



Angel Heart



Braveheart



Blue Shadow



Galaxy

Photography courtesy of Rafael Cervantes Matcoix; Italian State Tourist Board; ibatur; Henk W Koester, Tourism New Zealand; Jérôme Kélagopian; Thierry Amaller; Norwegian Tourist Board. All rights reserved

## A few from the fleet...

### THE BALTIC

GRACE 40m/130' – 10 guests from €100,000 per week

### GALAPAGOS

IEMANJA 32m/105' – 8 guests from US\$35,000 per week

LATITUDE 52m/170' – 12 guests from US\$150,000 per week

### BALEARICS

LADY K 26m/85' – 8 guests from €26,000 per week

### AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

GEORGIA 48.5m/159' – 10 guests from US\$150,000 per week

### CORSICA & SARDINIA

SEA JEWEL 46m/151' – 12 guests from US\$150,000 per week

ANGEL HEART 33.5m/110' – 10 guests from €55,000 per week

CY KNOT 30.7m/100' – 10 guests from €45,000 per week

BRAVEHEART 50m/165' – 10 guests from \$133,000 per week

CUOR DI LEONE 49m/162' – 10/12 guests from \$210,000 per week

### AMALFI COAST & SICILY

BLUE SHADOW 50.5m/166' – 12 guests from €100,000 per week

AZZURRA II 47.8m/157' – 10 guests from US\$155,000 per week

GALAXY 56m/185' – 12 guests from €195,000 per week

THUNDER GULCH 50m/165' – 10 guests from \$180,000 per week

For more information on spring charter destinations and further yachts available, please contact your local CNI charter broker. See page 10 for details





## Carlos Dias

# IN PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

The soft tick of his grandfathers pocket watch inspired Carlos Dias to create his own timepieces - a passionate hobby that preceded his position as Chairman, CEO and Founder of Manufacturer Roger Dubuis. Dias' respect for tradition, precision in detail, understanding of technology, and quest for modernity, has resulted in a brand that holds a place of its own within the select circle of prestige watchmakers.

Manufacture Roger Dubuis' collections are created exclusively and limited to 28 pieces. One of the rare brands whose timepieces, with no exception, bear the prestigious Poinçon de Genève quality hallmark, Dias considers this a great privilege and is committed to constantly pushing the boundaries of perfection. Each year Dias' presents over 300 new models, including several world firsts. As a trendsetter himself, Dias' believes that his customers are the same, and therefore he is constantly renewing the Roger Dubuis range with innovative and daring designs. All components of a Roger Dubuis timepiece are entirely developed and produced in house, a goal set by Dias from the very beginning when he set up the horology house known as Manufacture Roger Dubuis.

Last year Dias set himself a new challenge by designing and launching his first jewellery collection. Like his timepieces, the designs are avant-garde, original, sensual, and extravagant, designed for the woman who has a strong presence and inimitable style of her own.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary Manufacturer Roger Dubuis has launched the K10 - K for Carlos, Dix for Dias and the company's 10th year - another exclusive and innovative design from Dias. ■

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

**Above left:** The Love Carousel ring from Roger Dubuis' jewellery collection. **Above right:** Too Much Cupidon watch with emeralds and rubies set on a green mother-of-pearl-dial from Roger Dubuis. **Right:** Carlos Dias - Chairman, CEO and Founder of Manufacturer Roger Dubuis







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watches

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①



②



③

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2. **Miroir des Eaux** in 18 carat white gold set with diamond case and dial in natural white mother of pearl from the Van Cleef & Arpels Secret Collection
3. **Premier Chronograph** with mother of pearl dial from Harry Winston
4. **Happy Fish** in rose gold with three free-spinning diamonds swimming in an ocean of pink mother of pearl on the dial, from Chopard's Happy Sport Collection
5. **Excalibur** with mother of pearl dial from Roger Dubuis
6. **White Chronograph** with mother of pearl dial and a range of white diamonds and pearls around the face, from Meyers
7. **Formula 1** rose with pink mother of pearl dial from Tag Heuer
8. **El Primero Quantième Perpétuel** with mother of pearl dial from Zenith
9. **Mulliner Tourbillon** with hand crafted mother of pearl hour-markers on the dial, from the Breitling for Bentley Collection
10. **Monsieur Arpels Tourbillon** with case in pink gold and a natural white mother of pearl dial from Van Cleef & Arpels Monsieur Arpels Collection
11. **Flyback Chronograph** with mother of pearl military dial from Blancpain



④



⑤



⑥



⑦



⑧



⑨



⑩



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## Art scene: 2006 – The year of Rembrandt and Cézanne

Anniversaries are often the stimulus for large-scale exhibitions at which some visitors discover a great artist for the first time, and others find something new in the work of artists whom they thought they knew well. 2006 is a year for big names, highlighting the fourth centenary of Rembrandt's birth and the centenary of Cézanne's death

By Thomas Grant



Two of the greatest painters in the western tradition will be in the spotlight even more than usual in 2006. Nobody, I think, has thought of putting them together, but several exhibitions will approach each painter from a distinctive angle. The fine Dulwich Gallery in south London, for example, will include 19 Rembrandts, along with his contemporaries, in 'Rembrandt & Co: Art and Business in the Uylenburgh Studio' (7 June – 3 September), while Los Angeles County Museum is currently showing 'Cézanne and Pissarro, 1865-1885', which will move on to the Musée d'Orsay in Paris from 28 February to 28 May.

**Exhibition:** *Rembrandt-Caravaggio*

**Venue:** *Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

**Dates:** *24 February – 18 June 2006*

The Dulwich exhibition will transfer to the Rembrandt House in Amsterdam in September, and there is not much doubt that the city where the artist lived and worked for most of his life will be the best place to see his work in 2006. From 26 January – 19 February the Rijksmuseum will be assembling all of its Rembrandt paintings, rarely if ever on show together, and immediately after that will be joining with the nearby Van Gogh Museum for an exhibition which puts the great Baroque introspective master alongside one of the most extrovert, Caravaggio. 'Rembrandt-Caravaggio' runs from 24 February – 18 June and can only be seen in Amsterdam. To compare these two painters of light and darkness, a different range of Rembrandts from those in the Rijksmuseum, including the great Belshassar's Feast from London, will be set against such Caravaggios as Amor Vincit Omnia from Berlin. Just a short walk to the northeast is the Rembrandt House Museum, which will be showing 50 paintings and many drawings in 'Rembrandt – The Quest of a Genius' (1 April – 2 July), a 'retrospective' which will concentrate on the years 1639-58, when he lived and worked in the house on Jodenbreestraat. In June, Peter Greenaway will be presenting 'Nightwatching', a project combining film, opera and the painting itself, while the Rijksmuseum rounds off the year with two sequential exhibitions showing all 60 of Rembrandt's surviving drawings.

**Exhibition:** *Cézanne*

**Venue:** *National Gallery of Art, Washington, US*

**Dates:** *29 January – 7 May 2006*

Cézanne is as closely associated with Provence, and in particular with the area around Aix, as Rembrandt is with Amsterdam. He was born and grew up there, and returned to live in the family house for the last 20 years of his life. There he painted the landscape which, he said, had never found an interpreter worthy of it. In what promises to be the largest and richest Cézanne

exhibition of 2006, the National Gallery of Art in Washington will be showing 87 oil paintings and 29 watercolours which chart the painter's long, loving relationship with the Provencal landscape, both around Aix and on the nearby Mediterranean coast, where he stayed at his mother's house at L'Estaque. This exhibition will, fittingly, move to the Musée Granet in Aix-en-Provence, from 9 June – 17 September.

In trying to do justice to this country, Cézanne stretched his technique in both oils and watercolour. He searched for ways of dealing with the bright sunlight of Provence in oils, deciding that it "cannot be reproduced, but it must be represented by something else, by colour". He painted the landscapes of Provence, especially Mt St Victoire, increasingly in terms of such colour, which articulates and links the overlapping planes with which he represented the mountain. In these arrangements of colours and planes it is easy to see the forerunner of cubism. There will be 11 versions of the mountain in this exhibition, including two watercolours from private collections. It is one of the great virtues of such exhibitions that images like these, which most people will never have seen, can be placed alongside better-known paintings. Here, the white paper of the watercolours is allowed to shine through the translucent layers of paint, representing the familiar landscape quite differently from the versions done in oils. In addition to the landscapes, the exhibition will include portraits, still lifes, and the series of Bathers painted towards the end of his life. Among these is the large *Les Grandes Baigneuses*, now in the National Gallery, London – a monumental work which, like the landscapes, had a decisive influence on Picasso. ■

**Opposite page:** *Belshassar's Feast*, Rembrandt, from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. From the collection of the National Gallery, London  
**Below:** *Houses in Provence: The Riaux Valley near L'Estaque*, c.1883, from the Cézanne exhibition at the National Gallery of Art, Washington





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**Top row, from left:** Creed Original Santal Natural Spray, 75ml; Hermès Un Jardin Sur Le Nil Eau De Toilette, 50ml  
**Second row, from left:** Davidoff Silver Shadow Pure Blend Eau De Toilette, 100ml; Jo Malone Pomegranate Noir Cologne, 100ml; L'Instant de Guerlain Christmas Scent Eau De Toilette, 50ml  
**Third row, from left:** Frédéric Malle L'Eau D'Hiver Eau De Parfum, 50ml; Chanel Allure Homme Sport Eau De Toilette, 100ml; Ralph Lauren Polo Black Eau De Toilette, 75ml  
**Left:** Sisley Eau Du Soir Eau De Parfum, 100ml

Photography: Jeff Romero



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# Winter wonderlands

**Ultimate retreats**

Looking for a winter escape with more than average charm? These top five winter resorts coax a little extra magic from their surroundings, stirring up an environment that will warm you by night and inspire you by day

**By Kate Rigby**





#### LA PLETA HOTEL & SPA, BAQUEIRA, SPAIN

Fresh from a \$3million refurbishment, the five-star La Pleta Hotel & Spa is on a black run to success. Tucked away in Baqueira in the heart of the Spanish Pyrenees (the country's most exclusive ski resort, long popular with the Spanish Royal Family), it occupies a premier location, promises excellent, friendly service, glows with cosy elegance and serves up gourmet Catalan and international cuisine. Adding to its merits, La Pleta has a divine new spa to pamper weary skiers. The first in Europe to use Erno Laszlo products, Occitania has a Vichy shower, an Aroma shower, a Kneipp reflexology path, a pool and sumptuous treatments. Finishing touches at the hotel include the cigar and brandy bar by the roaring log fire, complimentary warm soups and hot wine to greet you in the evening, and a boot-warming service to ease you onto the slopes in comfort each morning. Speaking of the white stuff, Baqueira is a Mecca for winter sports, offering 93 kilometres of marked runs for all levels of skiers and snowboarders, with snowmobiling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, heli-skiing and snowshoeing thrown in for good measure.

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





#### HOTEL ARCTIC, ILULISSAT, GREENLAND

With gigantic glaciers that constantly slide down from the icecap to form a desert of icebergs, Greenland is one of the most spectacular settings for a winter retreat. The Inuit town of Ilulissat is home to the Hotel Arctic, where the rooms in the new Kayak wing afford spectacular views over Disko Bay with its frosted sea and majestic icebergs. Fly over these ice sculptures and along the Ilulissat ice fjord and you can land on the icecap itself for a glass of chilled Champagne, or float between the imposing icebergs and party as the midnight sun casts a surreal glow over the surrounding scenery.

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

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#### THE LITTLE NELL, ASPEN, COLORADO

Arguably the most celebrated ski resort in North America, Aspen has four separate mountains and the two in the middle, Buttermilk and the Highlands, are barely touched by most visitors. The aptly named Little Nell is one of the many hotels here but it is one that punches well above its weight, pulling in a stellar clientele and providing the perfect base from which to explore this gorgeous resort. Set in the middle of one of the world's most glamorous ski towns, The Little Nell is also the perfect place for those with non-skiing partners who simply want to soak up the style and scenery that abounds here.

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



### LE MÉLÉZIN, COURCHEVEL, FRANCE

Set directly on the fashionable ski slopes of Courchevel, Le Mélézin is part of the Aman group, famous for its Zen-like resorts in tropical destinations. This Alpine residence is no less impressive, offering a classic ambience with the ultimate in après ski, including a Turkish-style hamman steam room, gym and pool. Le Mélézin's enviable location offers guests the advantage of being able to ski in and out of the hotel, or saunter to the village of Courchevel 1850 (there are four Courchevel villages, each named after their altitude in metres) with its lively mix of bars, boutiques and restaurants.

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



### WHITEPOD, VILLARS, SWITZERLAND

Far from the lift queues and rowdy après-ski crowd, perched at 1,500 metres on the side of the Swiss Alps, Whitepod is quite unlike any other ski resort you will have visited. A perfect Alpine refuge, it comprises five white mini domes set on wooden platforms above a stunning 19th century chalet (which serves as your hosting area). Accessible only by skis or snowshoes, the pods provide a sense of peace and tranquillity normally only found when you venture off piste. Not for the fainthearted, this is a place for those who want more than the average winter sports holiday. ■

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



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**M**ichael Sperling is a professional executive jet captain, certified flight instructor and the managing director and chief pilot of Speedbird Air Ltd based at London Luton Airport.

'I have been involved in general aviation and commercial operations, both as a captain and in aircraft broking and management since 1989, and have been privileged to have looked after and flown numerous VIPs to and from destinations around the world. Although a small company, we pride ourselves on providing a personalised first-class service to our clients, all of whom are considered VIP's.'

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# Anguilla Cream of the Caribbean

The tiny island of Anguilla is beautiful and romantic – a place where you can hide from the rest of the world protected by the fiercely proud and loyal locals who are always on hand with a friendly smile

By Miriam Cain

The most northerly of the Leeward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean, Anguilla measures only 26km by five across. It is hard to believe that as recently as 1984 this small, eel-shaped island had no electricity and only dirt tracks for roads. Today, Anguilla radiates an unspoilt innocence and tourists are seen as welcome visitors. Sparingly developed, Anguilla has become internationally renowned for offering some of the world's most exclusive five-star luxury resorts, has been voted one of world's top ten destinations for its beaches, and has more than its fair share of fine restaurants offering both local and international cuisine. But be warned, this year the Caribbean is all about hippie chic, and the trend isn't confined to fashion – the accommodation with its butler service may be sophisticated but with stylishly simple interiors, deserted beaches and 12,000 friendly and laidback locals, the emphasis is on comfort and ease. [sea&i](#) recommends a selection of the finest attractions Anguilla has to offer... →



# eating

With so many restaurants serving up an eclectic mix of international and island-style cuisine, it is hard to fit in all the hip haunts on this one island in just a few days. Seafood features heavily on Anguillian menus, with local crayfish, whole lobster, grilled snapper, swordfish and mahi mahi being the main specialities. From beachfront shacks to romantic gourmet waterfront restaurants, the following are a cross-selection of what the island has to offer...

The latest offering from the Altamer haut-luxe resort, the **Altamer Restaurant** is magnificently set on the shores of Shoal Bay West, where dining can either be enjoyed along the open front only yards from the lapping waves, or at the rear where the chef's table affords views of your dinner being cooked right before you by Chef Maurice Leduc and his team. The extensive menu includes local fresh fish dishes, such as Sweet Potato Crusted Snapper, and is accompanied by a vast selection of

wines that are passionately recommended by the restaurant's sommelier, Brian Reid.

*For more information, visit [www.altamer.com](http://www.altamer.com), or call +1 264 498 4000*

Combining an authentic Caribbean menu with fine china, crystal and crisp white linen, **Blanchard's** offers style and panoramic views over Meads Bay and the Caribbean waters. A regular winner of the Wine Spectator Award for Excellence, Blanchard's has an extensive wine list and a sophisticated menu with a Caribbean flair reflecting influences from around the world.

*For more information, visit [www.blanchardsrestaurant.com](http://www.blanchardsrestaurant.com), or call +1 264 497 6100*

An islet in the bay of Island Harbour, **Scilly Cay** is home to the restaurant of the same name. After an entertaining two-minute tender ride with the boatman 'Africa', relax with a Scilly Cay rum punch while the simple menu of spiny lobster, crayfish and





# sleeping

Anguilla is well known for its small group of hip, exclusive, architecturally striking haunts. From the ‘supervillas’ offering complete privacy, to the extremely smart resorts, the island’s accommodation offers excellent levels of style and service.

**Altamer** is a trio of whitewashed geometric-style villas lying on the southwestern tip of the island overlooking Shoal Bay West. An oasis of luxury, each villa has its own unique interior décor theme – the Russian Amethyst is influenced by the riches of Italy and Turkey, the Brazilian Emerald has colourful artefacts from South America, and the African Sapphire boasts a natural décor inspired by the warmth of Africa. Sleeping between 10 and 16 guests, each villa also has a professional gourmet kitchen complete with chef and assistant, two butlers and two housekeepers. **sea&i** recommends the central villa – the Brazilian Emerald – with its lofty ceilings, large round bar

area, outdoor pool, hot tub and the finest service under the guidance of head butler Laval.

*For more information, visit [www.altamer.com](http://www.altamer.com), or call +1 264 498 4000*

On the other side of the island, the Santorini style **Temenos Villas** are another trio of properties overlooking the pristine Long Bay. The villas are all similar in design but inside each one is uniquely influenced by one of three elements: sea, sand or sky. Seemingly floating between the sea and sky, the Sea Villa affords outstanding views over the Atlantic Ocean from almost all vantage points, including the stunning infinity pool. With accommodation for eight to ten guests, each villa has an expansive stone deck with Jacuzzi, outdoor dining pavilion, stairs leading down to the stunning beach of Long Bay, and a full complement of staff. Temenos is cloning these villas at its resort at the island’s Rendezvous Bay. The new complex will come complete with a state-of-the-art Greg Norman 18-



chicken is cooked on the Anguillian-style grills. The restaurant is a hip hangout with live music on Wednesdays and Sundays.

*For more information, visit [www.scillycay.com](http://www.scillycay.com), or call +1 264 497 5123*

For great local cuisine, lunch at **Gwen's Reggae Grill** on Shoal Bay East. Specialising in barbecues and salads, this is the perfect place to escape the midday sun accompanied by a cool rum punch and a live reggae band on Sundays.

*For more information, call: +1 264 497 2120*

Another restaurant for great local cuisine is **Tasty's** at South Hill. It has delicious seafood, including crayfish, tuna, snapper, mahi mahi and conch.

*For more information, call +1 264 497 2737*

Set alongside CuisinArt's spectacular pool, the cuisine at **Café Mediterraneo** is fresh and organic and uses produce from the

resort's organic garden and hydroponic farm. Drawing inspiration from around the world, with a hint of Caribbean flavours, the daily menu of spa grill lunches and Mediterranean dinners is accompanied by specials throughout the week including a lobster night on Tuesdays, a West Indian prime rib beef menu on Wednesdays, and a castaways champagne brunch on Sundays.

*For more information, visit [www.cuisinartresort.com](http://www.cuisinartresort.com), or call +1 264 498 2000*

The centre of Anguilla's limited nightlife, Sandy Ground is home to both **Johnno's**, a classic Caribbean beach bar famous for its music and delicious seafood, much of which is caught by the proprietor himself, and **Gabi Gumbs Pumphouse**, where the rum punch should be referred to as just rum, and where local bands entertain on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Renowned for its annual Moonsplash festival, the **Dune Preserve** at Rendezvous Bay is run by the island's local celebrity music master, Bankie Banx. →



**Opposite page, clockwise from far left:** Altamer Restaurant on the shores of Shoal Bay West; Altamer's fresh local seafood dishes; Blanchard's overlooking Meads Bay  
**This page, clockwise from far left:** CuisinArt's Café Mediterraneo; Johnno's on Sandy Ground; cuisine from Pimm's at Cap Juluca



# beaches

hole golf course, and the whole resort is due to be completed in the next two years.

*For more information, visit [www.temenosvillas.com](http://www.temenosvillas.com), or call +1 264 222 9000*

Those looking for accommodation for fewer numbers will find Anguilla has several luxury resort hotels, including the **CuisinArt**, the **Malliouhana** and the popular **Cap Juluca**. Standing in a line of 18 spectacular villas overlooking the perfect crescent-shaped Maunday's Bay, the Andalusian-style resort of Cap Juluca attracts celebrities and honeymooners. A lively and upbeat atmosphere is created by the hotel's award-winning General Manager, Eustace Guishard and his team, who offer many activities, including watersports, croquet, tennis, and the resort's Spa Rituals programme. The resort also has three very different restaurants – **George's** for lunch on the beach or a casual evening barbecue, **Pimm's** for fine cuisine, and **Kemia** for tapas-style dining.

*For more information, visit [www.capjuluca.com](http://www.capjuluca.com), or call +1 264 497 6666*

With clear calm waters on the southern coast and rough and rolling waters on the northern Atlantic side, Anguilla has a very varied coastline. The beaches are public but many are deserted, accessible only from beachfront properties. What's more, as motorised watersports are banned on Anguilla, tranquillity is guaranteed.

At the southwestern tip lies the secluded **Shoal Bay West**, a great beach for snorkelling and romantic moonlit strolls. **Shoal Bay East** on the other side of the island is also good for snorkelling, with its reef-protected shallows. It is also great for family swims, as is **Mead's Bay** further along the northern coastline, and the southern **Rendezvous Bay** with its millpond-calm waters. Both **Windward Point Bay** and **Captain's Bay** at the most northerly tip of the island are great for wild waves, and due to their remoteness, are populated by pelicans.

With such an abundance of accommodation, dining and beaches, Anguilla is the perfect island on which to spend a few days ashore at the end of your charter through the Leeward Island's chain. For accommodation and flights to Anguilla, contact the Azure Luxury Hotel Collection. ■

*For more information, visit [www.azurecollection.com](http://www.azurecollection.com) or call +44 (0)1244 322770*

**Opposite page, clockwise from far left:** The Brazilian Emerald Villa at Altamer; Temenos Villas' stunning infinity pool; Long Bay  
**This page, from left:** Cap Juluca's moorish-style villas; Shoal Bay West



Photography: Anguilla Tourist Board







# Paradise found

**Bahamas cruise**

A mythical submerged city, encounters with sea monsters, swimming with sharks, sky-skiing, spa indulgence and championship golf... a trip to Atlantis followed by a cruise of the Exumas is as legendary as the lost city itself

By Tina Montzka









**Above:** The Ocean Club Golf Course at Atlantis is a scenic par 72, 18-hole course designed by Tom Weiskopf  
**Above right:** The 32m Solemate will take you on an unforgettable cruise of the islands  
**Opposite:** The waters of the Bahamas are some of the most breathtaking in the world for diving and snorkelling

with panoramic views into the immense Ruins Lagoon – a five-million-gallon marine habitat writhing with an assortment of 20,000 sea creatures. In the afternoon, children from four to 12 years can continue their adventures at the unique Discovery Channel Camp based in a Spanish Galleon. Fully supervised, it promises non-stop fun and activity, from snorkelling in an undersea safari to fun mini archaeological digs. Mum and dad, meanwhile, can slip off to the 18-hole golf course or the resort’s pampering Mandara Spa.

For dinner, perhaps, head to the newly-opened Japanese Nobu restaurant, or Five Twins with its satay and sushi bar and outdoor terrace. Children can then disappear off to Club Rush (a fully-supervised ‘no adults’ teen and pre-teen nightclub) while adults can take a more leisurely stroll to the lounges, bars, clubs and the largest casino in the Caribbean. If you happen to strike it lucky on the 850 slot machines and 80 gaming tables, celebrate your fortune with the finest Cuban cigars and vintage rums on offer at the Cigar Bar.

The next day, dive into the fun of the world’s largest marine habitat. In the Predator Lagoon you can gape at sharks and sea monsters through a 30m underwater viewing tunnel, in the Poseidon and Ripples pools kids can splash around the water fountains, and in the Mayan Temple breathtaking slides drop you 18m, sweep you through shark-filled lagoons and wind through exotic jungles and caves. In your busy itinerary, make time for duty-free retail therapy at the Crystal Court shops, wander the

new Marina Village which is abuzz with the fun and flair of Bahamian festivities, and drop in for a sundae at the 1950s-inspired Jimmies ice cream parlour near the Atlantis Marina.

#### NEW HORIZONS

Speaking of marinas, Soulmate is waiting to sweep you off on the next stage of your journey. As Atlantis gradually shrinks into the distance, your private yacht steers you safely to Highborne Cay on Exuma. A few hours later, after a tasty lunch on board, you’ll hop into the tender and whisk over to Allens Cay to feed the wild iguanas before returning for dinner on board.

The next few days are yours to fill. An early-morning fishing trip can be arranged off the east coast of Highborne, or you may prefer to go shell collecting on Lobster Cay, or snorkel or play with the water toys. The crew have some great watersports secrets up their sleeves and deep-sea fishing trips for mahi mahi, wahoo, tuna and marlin can be arranged in the tender.

On the fourth day you’ll be ready for a change of scene and nearby Shroud Cay is perfect. If you catch high tide, this is the place to try the famous Mangrove Run aboard the jet ski or tender. At the end of the run there’s a hill called Camp Driftwood which is a fun climb, and at the top you’re rewarded with a remarkable sight. Cruisers from around the world come here and leave mementoes from their journeys and this, along with the view, is well worth the climb. A trip to Normans Cay is also a must. This was a famous island in the drug-running days →





Eleven thousand years ago a legendary continent was believed to have sunk beneath the waves of the Atlantic Ocean. The myth was perpetuated by word of mouth for five centuries before it slipped into the writings of Plato in the fourth century BC. Since that time, the shadowy secrets of Atlantis have surfaced time and again but the city itself remained submerged. That was until 1998 when the phenomenal imagination and extensive resources of Kerzner International breathed life into the legend by recreating the ancient city on Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

Towering out of the Atlantic Ocean, Atlantis invites you to take a surreal journey through a magical world of aquatic discovery and peerless entertainment. From mystical marine paradises to grand hotels to labyrinths of ancient chambers, you can wind your way around the unique wonders of Atlantis for days before steering your way to its world-class marina. Here, the stunning 32m motor yacht Soulmate awaits to sweep you off on a remarkable ten-day journey around the Exumas islands. But first, to Atlantis...

#### ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Flying in to Nassau International Airport, it's just a short taxi ride to Paradise Island. There are several hotels and villa options but the jewel in Atlantis' crown is its Bridge Suite. Suspended between the two buildings of the Royal Towers, the suite is a vast profusion of gold, gilt, glass and marble with floor-to-

ceiling windows unfolding the world of Atlantis 17 storeys below you. Comfortably sleeping four guests, the suite has ten rooms, dedicated butler service, entertainment and gaming centres, a baby grand piano and a vast balcony.

Having explored the heady heights of your accommodation it is time to come back down to earth – but only in a physical sense, for although you must descend to ground level to explore Atlantis, the experience itself remains sky high.

After your flight you may simply want to relax. Not a problem. The resort has five private beaches and several fresh-water pools, or you could float through tropical gardens on giant inflatable tubes on the Lazy River Ride, go kayaking, or take a mini submarine trip – all good stuff to fuel your appetite for the 35 restaurants and lounges that will tempt you for dinner. Fathoms is fun. As you dine on seafood and steak you can gaze through enormous picture windows into ancient chambers and submerged passageways filled with live sharks and piranhas.

#### THE LEGEND COMES TO LIFE

The next day it is time to soak up the lore and legends of Atlantis with a trip to The Dig. A veritable maze of wondrous chambers and limestone corridors, it recreates Atlantean life from 11,000 years ago complete with archaeological exhibits and tanks teeming with green eels, lobsters and moon jellies wallowing around. Afterwards, take a short walk to the Royal Towers Lobby where the Great Hall of Waters is another visual wonder →

**Opposite:** The Marina at Atlantis, where your cruise begins  
**Above left:** Glass sculptures, waterscape views, 80 gaming tables and 850 slot machines make the Atlantis Casino the most exciting in the Caribbean  
**Above:** Prepare to dare yourself by descending the five out-of-this-world water slides of the Mayan Temple













and you can now visit its hidden runway and an old DC-3 airplane that crashed in the water and now makes for a great snorkelling site. Also, prepare yourself for a ride on the ‘Velocity Blaster’ in the protected lagoon on Shroud Cay – it is a real thrill.

#### FROM SEA TO SKY

The next day you steer south to Little Halls Pond Cay. This is one of the most scenic anchorages in the Bahamas complete with a spectacular approach through the sandbars. Once Solemate has safely anchored here, you can hop ashore to the Sand Bar and visit the famous Sea Aquarium – a beautiful coral reef that is teeming with fish. You can then return to your yacht for refreshments before setting off on a leisurely two-hour cruise to Sampson Cay, which always turns out to be a favourite spot with everyone who visits. On the first day there you simply can’t miss the unique opportunity to head over to the island of Big Majors with the crew to feed the wild swimming pigs. Depending on the tides you might also fit in a snorkelling trip to the Thunderball cave where the James Bond movie was filmed. It is a beautiful setting that will bring to mind Atlantis with its thousands of fish milling around.

For more marine adventure, ask your crew to escort you on a trip to Compass Cay. You’ll never forget the experience of throwing hot dogs to the nurse sharks and then diving in to swim with these incredible creatures. Your crew will also be happy to take you to Spaniel Cay Yacht Club for a relaxing

afternoon in preparation for the adrenalin rush you’ll later get when you learn to sky-ski.

The crew will teach you all you need to know to get to grips with this fantastic activity. Basically, it is a chair-cum-ski that you sit on atop a 1.2m-high hydrofoil towed behind the tender. After a 20-minute instructional video you’re good to go, and most people can’t get enough of it. During your stay at Sampson Cay your crew also have a special evening in store for you. It is a major highlight of the cruise so we’re not giving away anything – you’ll simply have to go and see for yourself!

On day eight or nine it’s time to head north again. On the way you’ll steer past the Exumas Land & Sea Park at Warderick Wells. There’s a whale’s carcass on the beach that you can explore, a sunken sailboat to snorkel over and a small coral reef. Ashore, there are hiking trails up Boo Boo hill, atop which you can gaze down on your yacht and the gorgeous seascape below.

Your final day is spent cruising back to Highborne Cay. You might be able to squeeze in a quick bone-fishing trip with our trusty guide Joel Miller (aka ‘Cool Runner’) and you can have a last leisurely beachcombing trip or a dip in the ocean. Then it’s back to Nassau to fly home, where the magical worlds of Atlantis and superyacht cruising will sink deep into your mind, embed themselves there and become legendary memories. ■

*CNI can create a unique charter around the islands of the Bahamas.*

*All flights, transfers and accommodation at Atlantis can also be arranged. For more information see page 10 or visit [www.cnconnect.com](http://www.cnconnect.com)*

**Opposite:** Beach barbecues are the perfect conclusion to a day in the Bahamas  
**Above left:** Beachcomb to your heart’s content on the islands  
**Above:** Exploring the underwater world of the Bahamas echoes the marine magic of Atlantis



Protect skin from the damaging effects of the sun and get natural-looking colour at the same time with self tanners containing an SPF. Try Clinique Radiant Bronze Face & Body Tinted Self Tanner SPF15, 125ml

Avoid sunburn by using a high-factor cream and reapplying it before the SPF runs out. Try Dr Hauschka Sunscreen Cream SPF20, 3.4fl.oz

Sun care should be an integral part of your daily skincare routine. Carita has captured its anti-ageing expertise in its regular skincare products to provide fantastic, comprehensive care and protection when in the sun. Try Carita Anti-Age Solaire Protecting and Moisturising Sun Cream SPF30. 50 ml

# Beauty on board sun care

Get sun smart on your next charter by being aware of the risks of over exposure and equipping yourself with the finest sun-care products



Protect yourself against both types of damaging UV rays: UVB that cause sunburn and UVA that accelerate ageing, fine lines and wrinkles. Try Shiseido Refreshing Sun Protection Spray SPF15 PA+ for body, hair and scalp. 150 ml



Incidental sun exposure is possibly the most damaging as it catches you unawares. Make sure you're always protected with products like Shiseido Sun Protection Compact Foundation SPF30, 12g



Prickly heat can set in after a few days of tanning, so select sun creams with almond and apricot-seed extract to help counteract this, such as Clarins Sun Care Cream Ultra Protection SPF30. 125 ml



Flaunt beautiful golden skin and be sun safe with a moisturising cream offering UV protection and bronzer, such as Elle Macpherson Sun Kissed Body Balm, 200ml



Make life easy by choosing versatile products when you travel. Some skin products double up as hair moisturisers, so one bottle double the benefit! Treat yourself to Elemis Exotic Frangipani Monoi Moisture Melt, 100ml



Saltwater and sun leave skin feeling dry and rough. Containing evening primrose, macadamia, rosehip, frankincense, sandalwood and rose, This Works Skin Deep Dry Leg Oil, 125ml, is ideal for intense moisturising



If you are taking the plunge with a full face of make-up, use specially formulated waterproof products such as Estée Lauder Illusionist Waterproof Mascara, 27.0g/17 ml







*For sun-kissed, glowing skin in the evening, enhance your tan with Guerlain Terracotta Duo Matt & Shine Highlighter Face Eyes Lips*

*Choose an after-sun lotion that's easy to apply to avoid irritating sensitive, sunburnt areas. Gel or oil-based balms with essential oil extracts are ideal. Try Decléor Aromessence After Sun Balm. 50 ml*

*It is vital to rehydrate skin after UV exposure. Guerlain Irmia SOS Crème, 30ml, alleviates minor irritations caused by prolonged exposure to the sun, leaving skin intensely hydrated*



# sea&i

aboard Sherakhan

Sleek, stylish and sophisticated – fashion at sea should reflect the luxury yachts on which you cruise. **sea&i** boards the 70m Sherakhan with a show of designer apparel to see you through the most elegant of charters

Audrey wears jeans and smock top by Xuly Bêt for Lull; emerald and diamond necklace by Fanny Blanchelande. Jahour wears jeans, shirt, leather belt and velvet jacket, all by Façonnable. Thomas wears jeans, wool turtleneck, leather belt and leather jacket, all by Façonnable










Aymeline wears pink tunic dress by Xuly Bêt for Lull, and white and pink agate coral necklace by Fanny Blanchelande





Jahouar wears chocolate merino turtleneck and cotton trousers, both by Façonnable



Audrey wears striped dress by Xuly Bêt for Lull, and ivory and grey pearl necklace with diamond and ivory cross by Fanny Blanchelande









Jahouar wears striped suit,  
cotton shirt, silk tie and  
leather belt, all by Façonnable







# Sherakhan

**N**amed after the tiger in Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, Sherakhan is the result of an owner's desire to convert a Dutch training vessel into a classically styled luxury motor yacht. Heralding the birth of a new dimension in the yachting world, she was launched in Spring 2005 to great acclaim. Her classically stylish exterior is coupled with an imaginative, contemporary interior. Outstanding

features include an inspiring, open main saloon with a dining area for 24 and a large deck area complete with an 18-person Jacuzzi. Sherakhan's owner's suite with saloon and study can be converted into a separate double. There are nine further guest suites with double and twin configurations, two of which have an adjoining children's cabin. ■

*Prices from €360,000 per week for 22-24 guests (140 guests for day charters)*

**BOUTIQUES:** *Façonnable:* [www.façonnable.com](http://www.façonnable.com) - *Lull:* 29, rue de Millo MC 98000 MONACO - *Fanny Blanchelande:* [www.fannyblanchelande.com](http://www.fannyblanchelande.com)





# pearls A quirk of nature

From Cleopatra to Coco Chanel, pearls have meant countless things to the different people who have sought and treasured them. With their enticing spectrum of shapes and shades, these living gems reflect both fortune and fashion and, as such, have cast a lasting hold over mankind

By Miriam Cain



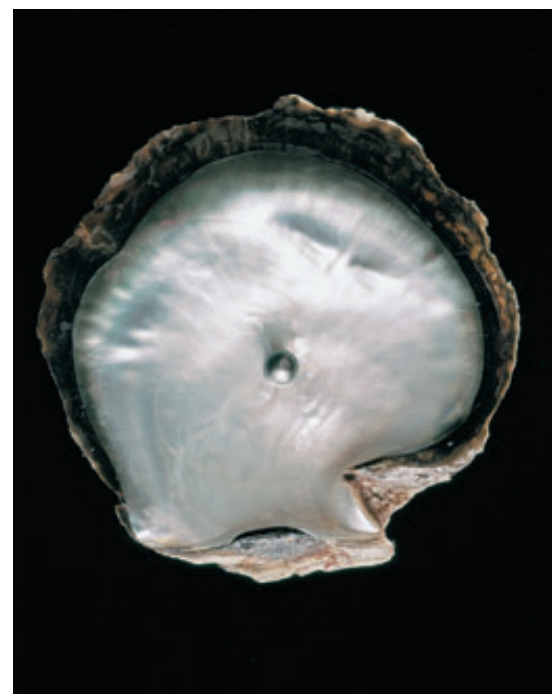
The Romans coveted pearls, Muslims used them as ransom in ancient times, and the Chinese traditionally buried their dead with a pearl in their mouth to help them pave a favourable way for themselves in the afterlife. Thanks to their pure beauty and the seemingly magical process of their creation, pearls have entranced us all for centuries.

Despite their association with natural perfection, however, pearls are actually a quirk of nature – a fortuitous by-product of the defence systems of molluscs. Only a few species of mollusc produce pearls, these generally being saltwater oysters and freshwater mussels. The process occurs when an intrusion such as a shell fragment or grain of sand lodges inside the shell. The mollusc surrounds it with a protective veil of calcium carbonate, called nacre, and this evolves into a pearl. As naturally occurring pearls are rare (found in only one in every 10,000 molluscs or so), the worldwide demand for them has long since exceeded the supply from natural sources. Sadly, this over fishing, along with industrialisation and pollution, means most of the world's natural pearl beds have been destroyed.

As a result, the source of pearls has shifted over time and human intervention has helped create a new supply of mollusc-born gems, known as cultured pearls. Invented by the legendary 'pearl king' Mikimoto, the process of cultivating pearls mimics nature (see *The Art of Culturing*, overpage) and this highly specialised, interventionist technique greatly improves the spontaneous birth of a pearl. However as their shape is still dictated by nature, only a few find their way onto the world's most coveted jewellery as it is the quality of the pearl that determines its worth.

Quality and desirability in a pearl generally comes down to colour, size and shape – and these are all dictated by the thickness of the nacre and the way in which it evolves. Pearls occur in a vast array of shades ranging from white to gold to purple to black, and their colour is determined by the species of mollusc that produced them and the environment in which the creatures lived.

Cultured pearls come from three main types of oyster: the *Pinctada fucata*, the *Pinctada margaritifera* and the *Pinctada maxima*. Originating in Japan, but currently cultivated in China, the *Pinctada fucata*, which produces the akoya pearl, produces a creamy-white finish; the black-lipped *Pinctada margaritifera*, found in Tahiti, unsurprisingly produces black pearls. The *Pinctada maxima* found in Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines gives rise to white and golden pearls, the white-lipped maxima inspires white pearls with blue to yellow →



Left: Tahitian pearls from Angharad Rees tied with 1920's vintage ribbon

Above: A perfect pearl embedded in the flesh of an oyster





**This page:** Mikimoto's Reserve necklace features Japanese Akoya cultured pearls  
**Opposite page, from left:** A South Sea pearl set in a De Grisogono Icy Diamond ring; Orchis earrings from Van Cleef & Arpels; the legendary Kokichi Mikimoto





## THE ART OF CULTURING

*Creating perfect pieces of pearl jewellery is a long process – from the culturing of the pearl to selecting the perfect gem to the design and final checks.*

### *Culturing the pearl*

*Pearl culturing begins by raising healthy oysters from the sea. A shard of shell is then inserted into the flesh of the oyster and this becomes its nucleus. The quality and precision of this procedure has a major influence on the subsequent formation of the pearl. The oysters are returned to protected bays in the sea and later moved to offshore areas rich in nutritious plankton. The oysters are finally brought ashore by hand during the coldest part of the year.*

### *Sorting and selecting the pearls*

*Once the pearls are drawn from their oysters they are meticulously sorted by colour, lustre and size.*

### *Designing each piece*

*The designer and craftsman work closely together. First the designer dreams up the piece and establishes its dimension, then the craftsman brings the design to life.*

### *The final polish*

*To enhance the full character and lustre of the pearl, every part of the piece is polished to perfection.*



undertones, and the gold-lipped maxima from the Philippines produces naturally golden or beautiful champagne-coloured pearls.

Pearl size also varies considerably. Akoya pearls, traditionally cultivated in the cooler oceans of Japan, range from two to ten millimetres in diameter. Freshwater pearls, largely from China, range from one and a half to six millimetres, while South Sea pearls, the rarest and most expensive, can be as large as 26 millimetres in diameter.

Along with lustre, colour and size, shape determines a pearl's appeal and value. Tear drop and pear shapes are rare and are formed when a single pearl becomes enclosed in the sac within the mollusc. Microorganisms trapped in the sac create a gas bubble and it is this that inspires a ballooned bottom to develop in the nacre. The perfectly round pearl is the most desirable, and inevitably the most difficult to achieve in the culturing process due to the unpredictable movements of the implanted nucleus in the pearl sac. The larger and rounder the pearl the more alluring it is, and connoisseurs will pay vast amounts for a single choker of consistent size, colour and lustre that could take years to complete.

The pearl has long been the gem of choice for many. Passed down through generations, they are often offered as a celebratory gift at a coming-of-age ceremony or wedding, and are the traditional symbol of the 30th wedding anniversary. They have also earned a slew of iconic fans. Cleopatra allegedly swallowed a pearl to prove her limitless extravagance, while Queen Elizabeth I of England, whose passion for pearls is apparent in every portrait of her, draped her entire bodice in pearls. More recently, Coco Chanel wore strings of pearls with her suits by day and draped them over her shoulders and down her back in the evening. Chanel's love of pearls has dominated the brand's costume jewellery line for decades and women all over the world have since adopted, and adapted, the Chanel look. Similar inspiration came from Grace Kelly, who was given a specially commissioned parure of pearls made by Van Cleef and Arpels as a wedding present from Prince Rainier of Monaco. Jackie Onassis, meanwhile, could often be spotted in a single-strand pearl choker. Pearls were likewise a trademark of the late Princess Diana, and were glorified by Audrey Hepburn in the film *Breakfast At Tiffany's*. Collectively, these women defined the image of modern elegance and beauty with their taste for subtle yet exquisite jewellery.

Tastes change with time, but pearls have always weathered the tides of fashion. One season the walnut-sized South Sea pearls are in vogue, the next season little sea pearls in delicious colours find favour. But no matter what their size, shape or colour, these living gems have embedded themselves in our favour, gently grown there, evolved into something quite beautiful, and emerged as a treasured and timeless gem. ■





Roasted, boiled, steamed or grilled, lobster lends itself to a plethora of culinary delights



# seafood Jewels of the sea

Connoisseurs of travel know that to cruise the oceans by superyacht is one of life's finest experiences. The sea also proffers the most exclusive of gourmet treasures, with caviar, lobsters and oysters proving the perfect epicurean partners for any charter

**By** Kate Rigby





The ocean is a bounteous provider of gourmet delights, among the finest of which are oysters, lobsters and caviar. Strictly speaking the latter is gathered from fresh-water rivers as it is here that the female sturgeon usually journeys to spawn her eggs, but for the remainder of her exceptionally long life the sturgeon is a saline creature, a fact that is reflected in the delicate flavour of her eggs.

The sturgeon is the most prized of fish, and little wonder – its credentials are impressive indeed. It is believed it has swum the seas for around 250 million years, has been known to grow to more than five metres and has been recorded to live for 170 years or more. But it is for its lucrative eggs that the sturgeon is most highly cherished. Caviar is the most exclusive and sought-after of all foods, partly because the process of obtaining it is so lengthy and specialised, but particularly today because pollution and over-fishing have dramatically depleted sturgeon numbers in the Caspian Sea, which, along with the Black and Azov seas, is home of the key caviar-producing sturgeon.

Caviar as a dish has been lauded since 2400BC when ancient Egyptian and Phoenician coastal dwellers would pickle the fish and its eggs. Known as the food of the gods, it has found favour in the writings of Pliny, Ovid and Shakespeare, has been placed under royal protection by monarchs the likes of Henry II and Edward II of England, and has been cherished by Russian Tsars. Over the centuries, caviar has netted itself a global following, with devoted fans ranging from Pablo Picasso to Charles de Gaulle.

Today the eggs of many different fish are savoured but for the true connoisseur there remain only three members of the sturgeon family that produce legitimate caviar: Sevruga, Oscietre and Beluga. The colour, size and flavour of the eggs varies from fish to fish and many devotees insist one type or another to be the *ne plus ultra* of caviar, but Natalie Rebeiz-Nielsen of the Caviar House in London, and author of *Caviar – The Definitive Guide*, maintains it is a matter of personal preference. Beluga caviar is the rarest and therefore the most expensive, and due to overfishing and the endangered nature of the species, the US government has recently banned imports of beluga caviar and sturgeon originating from the Black and Caspian seas. It is hoped this will prompt greater conservation efforts to protect the beluga sturgeon.

With such a high price on its head, it is perhaps only natural that a certain etiquette has evolved in order to best appreciate the savouring of caviar. Buying caviar is an art in itself. It is generally sold in vacuum-sealed tins and you can judge the reputability of the vendor by the authenticity of its labelling. Caviar is also available in glass jars, in which case you can judge the quality of the eggs by turning the jar around slowly. It is a good sign if the eggs follow the motion.

When it comes to tasting caviar, connoisseur Rebeiz-Nielsen advises, “Put a gold spoon vertically into the tin or jar, then place a little caviar on the back of your hand in the V between your thumb and first finger. Eat it from the skin, rolling the eggs in your mouth, then gently popping them to release their full flavour. Lastly, rub the skin of your hand: there should be no residual odour.”

Serving caviar likewise follows a unique protocol. About half an hour before serving, the caviar should be removed from the refrigerator but left sealed until you are ready to serve it. The serious gastronome will equip themselves →





Caviar should always be savoured  
from a gold or mother-of-pearl spoon





Food of the gods:  
oysters are best served  
with a dash of lemon  
juice or Tabasco sauce,  
or simply on their own



with a glass or shell caviar server in which the eggs can be presented in their tin, or tipped directly into the dish. Alternatively, present the tin or jar in a dish filled with crushed ice. It is important never to use a metal spoon (other than gold) as it will oxidize the caviar and impact on its flavour.

The flavour of caviar varies from buttery, oceanic overtones, to mild fruity or nutty accents, to bursts of bold flavour, but regardless of which you prefer, opinion largely favours serving caviar without garnish in order to leave its true flavour untainted. Traditionally plain bread or toast is acceptable, and avocado, sour cream and unsalted butter will not detract from its taste. With regard to alcoholic accompaniments, the national Russian drink of vodka is caviar's perfect partner, served icy cold. Alternatively, Rebeiz-Nielsen suggests a NV Champagne, a Sancerre, good Sauvignon Blancs and unoaked or lightly oaked Chardonnays, such as Chablis.

Nestling alongside caviar on the gourmet seafood menu is lobster – but such acclaim has not always been the case for this tasty crustacean. When the European pioneers first arrived in America, lobsters were in such great abundance they literally washed up in their hundreds on the beaches of Plymouth, Massachusetts. They were so plentiful Native Americans used them as fertiliser and fishing bait and legend has it that servants in Massachusetts became so weary of the dish they had it put in their contracts that they would not eat lobster more than three times a week.

The culinary fate of the lobster has subsequently swung to the other extreme.

In the middle of the 19th century, America joined the ancient Romans and Greeks in recognising the potential of lobster as a delicacy. Traditionally, lobster was served roasted or boiled, but more recent chefs have adapted it in an ever expanding repertoire of enticing dishes.

The third member of the elite seafood trinity is the oyster. This delectable shellfish is considered in many cultures to be an aphrodisiac (Casanova is claimed to have eaten five dozen oysters a day), and whether or not it really does inspire people to love one another, it has certainly provoked many to fall in love with its own plump, pearly flesh. A dish fit for a king, this valuable mollusc was also favoured by the gods; after all, it was Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, who chose an oyster shell on which to emerge from the sea. Ancient Greeks and Romans were also confirmed fans, US president Abraham Lincoln reputedly threw oyster parties, and Britain's King Edward VII was an avid devotee of this prized delicacy. In fact, so prized have oysters become that many waters have been nearly depleted of natural oysters. This has led to the introduction of many cultivating programs, particularly in North America, to ensure the future of this valuable and much-loved mollusc. As with most natural delicacies, oysters are best left to speak for themselves, ideally served alone or simply accompanied with crushed ice and seaweed. Many people enjoy oysters with a dash of fresh lemon juice or Tabasco or Worcestershire sauce, and yet others conjure up inventive ways to poach, grill, fry, bake or marinate them.

Whether you have a preference for caviar, lobster or oysters, or all three, it can be fun to try them in different dishes as well as savouring them *au naturel*.

With that in mind [sea&i](#) has turned to Australia, England and America to discover some fabulous, alternative ways to dish up these delicacies, which we recommend are best served at sea, accompanied by a fine superyacht. →



# Savour the sea

Ocean treats prepared with the freshest seafood and served in mouthwatering dishes



**SLICED LOBSTER TAIL AND CAVIAR ON CROUTONS**  
(Makes 12)

## INGREDIENTS

- Light oil for frying
- ½ chicken stockcube
- 4 slices white bread
- 1 lobster tail
- 50g (2oz) Sevruga caviar

## METHOD

- ① Heat oil in a large frying pan. Crumble the stockcube into the oil, then fry the bread until it turns an even gold colour. Drain well on kitchen paper.
- ② Using a small, round cutter, cut out circles of fried bread.
- ③ Slice the lobster tail vertically into medallions and place one on top of each croûton. Top with caviar.

FROM *Caviar – The Definitive Guide*, SUSIE BOECKMANN & NATALIE REBEIZ-NIELSEN (MITCHELL BEAZLEY)

## SCALLOPS IN THEIR SHELLS WITH CAVIAR AND ASPARAGUS SAUCE

(Serves 4)

## INGREDIENTS

- 300g (11oz) green asparagus, trimmed
- 30g (1oz) butter
- 8 large scallops
- 200ml (7floz) whipping cream
- Salt and black pepper
- 4 scallop shells
- 30-50g (1-2oz) Sevruga caviar

## METHOD

- ① Preheat oven to 190°C (375°F/Gas Mark 5). Bring a pan of salted water to the boil. Add the asparagus and cook for 5-7 minutes until just tender. Drain and cut off the top 5cm (2in) of the spears. Set aside. Cut remaining stems into 2.5cm (1in) pieces. (If still hard, boil for 3-4 mins). Keep warm.
- ② Butter a sheet of tin foil and bake the scallops for 4 minutes.
- ③ Blend the chopped asparagus stems and cream in a food processor until smooth, then transfer to a small saucepan and heat gently. Do not allow to boil. Add salt and pepper to taste.
- ④ Take four heated plates and place a scallop shell on each. Arrange two scallops on each shell, pour some sauce over each and top with the asparagus tips. Decorate with the caviar.

FROM *Caviar – The Definitive Guide*, SUSIE BOECKMANN & NATALIE REBEIZ-NIELSEN (MITCHELL BEAZLEY)







### OYSTERS WITH ESCHALOT RED WINE VINAIGRETTE

#### INGREDIENTS

- 50ml (2floz) red wine vinegar
- 10g (½oz) Eschalot finely chopped
- Pinch of sea salt and freshly cracked black pepper
- 5ml (1tsp) extra virgin olive oil

#### METHOD

Mix all the ingredients well and serve as a dipping sauce with freshly shucked Pacific or Sydney rock oysters.

FROM ELAINE LEE, HEAD CHEF AT MOSAIC RESTAURANT, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

### BUTTER-POACHED MAINE LOBSTER WITH CREAMED SPINACH, BOUDIN NOIR, WILD MUSHROOMS AND LOBSTER GLAÇAGE (Serves 4)

#### INGREDIENTS

- 4 x 575g (1¼lb) lobsters
- 2 cups\* double cream
- 2 cups\* spinach, blanched, shocked and drained
- Salt and white pepper
- 1tbsp chives – finely chopped
- 1 cup\* boudin noir (blood sausage)
- 1 cup\* assorted wild mushrooms – cleaned
- 1 shallot, finely diced
- 350g (12oz) clarified butter
- 2 egg yolks
- 55ml (2floz) lobster stock – reduced to a glaze

#### METHOD

- ① Place lobsters in boiling water for 3 mins – transfer to an ice bath. Separate the claws, head and tail. Remove the tail meat, cut in half length-wise and remove the vein. Crack the claws and remove the meat. Rinse tail and claw in cold water to remove fat deposits then pat dry and set aside.
- ② Reduce one cup of cream by half in a saucepan. Add the cooked, cooled spinach. Reduce until thick. Add salt, pepper and some chives. Keep warm.
- ③ Warm the boudin in a small saucepan. Season to taste. Keep warm.
- ④ Sauté the mushrooms and one tablespoon of shallot in two of clarified butter until soft. Finish with chopped chives and season to taste. Keep warm.
- ⑤ For the glaçage, prepare a hollandaise sauce with egg yolks and 175g (6oz) of clarified butter. Whip the remaining cream into soft peaks. Fold the reduced lobster stock into the hollandaise, then fold in the whipped cream. Keep warm.
- ⑥ To serve, place the spinach in the centre of four bowls, top with the boudin and mushrooms then add 1 lobster tail (cut in half), and 1 claw and spoon over each lobster. Using a broiler, brown the tops for 45 seconds. ■

FROM SPENCER WOLFF, EXECUTIVE CHEF AT THE SPICED PEAR RESTAURANT AT THE CHANLER HOTEL, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, US



\*1 cup = 8oz liquid capacity. Photography courtesy of *Caviar – The Definitive Guide*, Susie Boeckmann & Natalie Rebeiz-Nielsen (Mitchell Beazley); The Chanler Hotel, Newport, US; Mosaic Restaurant, Sydney, Australia



# Shanghai-lights

the Orient

Sprawling along the estuary of China's Yangtze River, Shanghai is a magical multicultural metropolis bubbling with the thrills and spills of traditional and modern Oriental glamour

By Anthony Lassman, Nota Bene

**P**earl of the East, Whore of the Orient, Head of the Dragon... Shanghai has one hell of a reputation to live up to. Over the past century it has inspired all sorts of hyperbole. Back in the 1930s the city was renowned for its cosmopolitan decadence and wealth and although its party pace later slowed to a long dour Marxist-Leninist shuffle, its reputation as a place where the good times roll may be about to re-emerge.

Shanghai must now be one of the most vibrant, dynamic cities in the world. It has the vitality of pre-1997 Hong Kong and the same appetite for luxury and wealth that makes Moscow exciting. But more than that it has magnitude. The sheer scale of the place is so impressive – not just its size but the superlatives, the records it aspires to break.

Yet in the shadow of those gigantic monuments to mammon there is a more human side to Shanghai. Sometimes you even see dancing in the street – men and women in traditional dress skipping and twirling with red flags to a musical accompaniment. Alternatively, outdoor t'ai chi is the stately meditative way in which many locals keep fit, and you'll see them practising outdoors first thing each morning.

What constitutes the 'best' part of town in which to stay is open to debate. Some hotels boast their 'prime' location in Puxi – the older part of town incorporating the Bund, a sweep of

colonial edifices built by the British in the early 20th century. Across the river is Pudong – the newer business district built on reclaimed swamp and generally considered the 'wrong' side of Shanghai – yet we would probably opt to stay here in either the Grand Hyatt or the newly opened Tower 2 of the Pudong Shangri-La. One advantage of staying in Pudong is that you get to look across the river to Puxi. In the evenings the view is truly stunning as the shimmering lights switch on.

It may seem strange to recommend multinational chains like the Hyatt and Shangri-La but in Shanghai these really are the only hotels worth considering. Until recently, the Grand Hyatt was our outright favourite for its height, its floor-to-ceiling windows, its 87th-floor Cloud 9 bar and the views of the Bund from the Grand Deluxe Bund View suites. But the second tower of the Shangri-La at last offers an alternative. Its Horizon Club Suites are exceptionally well planned, comprising some of the most spacious and luxurious rooms in the city. Another draw is the Shangri-La's new Chi spa – already touted by some as Shanghai's best.

If you're set on staying more centrally, we can't deny that the JW Marriott at Tomorrow Square occupies a superior site for accessing Shanghai's shopping and cultural attractions. Yet the hotel just isn't special in any way. The Portman Ritz-Carlton, also on the Puxi side, might not occupy as favourable a →

**Main picture:** The scale and architecture of the city is truly inspiring  
**Right:** Yuyuan Garden is the only Ming garden left in the city and is believed to date back to the 16th century









site as the Marriott but overall we feel it is a marginally more polished operation.

As befits a merchant city, it goes without saying that cuisine of every sort is available in Shanghai. Most mainstream European and Asian cuisines get a look in, as do the many varieties of traditional Chinese cooking.

The obvious place to head for a gourmet dinner is the Bund, where a number of the grand edifices have been transformed into restaurants and bars. For French-influenced fine dining we suggest Jean Georges (the Shanghai outpost of New York chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten) or Sens & Bund, overseen by Michelin-starred brothers Jacques and Laurent Pourcel.

T8, in an area of the city called Xintiandi, is probably the best-designed restaurant in the city, combining an ultra-modern glass and steel kitchen with exquisite Chinese fretwork screens and panelling, plus low couches and cushions.

It would be a mistake, though, to visit the fabulous city of Shanghai and miss out on the city's native culinary offerings — and there are some particularly fine ones that we would recommend. The basic appointment of Bao Luo is more than compensated for by some of the best Shanghainese food we've tasted. In contrast, the elegant Whampoa Club is the city's pre-eminent venue for fine dining *à la chinois*.

One of the most recent openings on Shanghai's burgeoning

bar scene is Bar Rouge. Its audacious, modern design and spectacular views from the terrace are already attracting one of the most stylish and sophisticated crowds in town. Nearby at Three on the Bund is New Heights, another wonderful deck with an excellent cocktail list for night-time drinkers.

As a shopping destination, Shanghai has mixed merits. Its state-of-the-art malls are packed with all the luxury Western brands but there's little sense shopping for such merchandise readily available in all the major capital cities of the US or Europe. More interesting are the independent shops such as classy homeware stores Magazine and Spin Ceramics, or some of the interesting local markets.

For all its street life, shopping malls and stock of handsome 20th century and aspiring 21st century architecture, Shanghai is not an overtly beautiful city but it is a great place to visit. There may not be much in terms of heritage but Shanghai's contemporary art scene is thriving and, we suspect, about to become very big indeed. The place buzzes with bar and restaurant openings... it exudes excitement... it is a city that spills thrills at every turn. ■

*Nota Bene independently reviews destinations around the world and is available by subscription. Email Nota Bene at [enquire@nbreview.com](mailto:enquire@nbreview.com), or visit [www.nbreview.com](http://www.nbreview.com)*

**Top left:** Shanghai's city waterscape by night  
**Left:** While in the Three on the Bund area, make time for a relaxing treatment at the Evian Spa



GALAXY

CASTLETOWN





# The rising galaxy star

**T**he 56m motor yacht Galaxy is the first new custom Benetti built at the shipyard's new facility in Livorno. Launched in mid June 2005, she has already met with tremendous success during her first charter season. Neil Cheston from CNI Monaco supervised the construction and elaborates on the finer points of her build.

#### How did this project come about?

**Cheston:** I was approached by Geoff Lovett, an Australian broker who represented the owner in Melbourne. The owner already had a 30-metre motor yacht named Galaxy and was looking for a yacht of 50 metres or more. I advised him that just such a vessel was under construction at the Benetti yard and was a year away from delivery. It was an opportunity he couldn't miss.

#### Did Galaxy's design take its inspiration from any previous launches?

**Cheston:** I had supervised the construction of the initial 50m and subsequent 55m Amnesia yachts [a highly successful →

The recent launch of the 56m Galaxy has reaffirmed Benetti's reputation as a world-leading yard and has added one more name to CNI's ever-expanding fleet of exceptional charter yachts

**By Laurent Pérignon**



**Above:** The 56m Galaxy cuts an impressive figure on the waves  
**Top right:** The sun deck has a gym, Jacuzzi, dining and lounging area and helipad  
**Right:** Galaxy is currently available for charter in the Caribbean and Mediterranean

Benetti series]. The new hull was a derivative of that design and Geoff Lovett presumably thought I was the right person to take care of the completion of the new project, provided the owner felt she would be the right yacht for him. There was a lot of work and preliminary development involved before we agreed on the final plan, but I believe everyone is happy with the end result.

**Was your role more concerned with technical development or the interior configuration?**

**Cheston:** I'd say both. The hull was under construction when we took on the project but that was about it. The experience I had with the previous Amnesias certainly came in very useful.

**So would you say you have become the specialist for this range of custom yachts at Benetti?**

**Cheston:** I wouldn't go as far as to say I'm *the* specialist but I guess I have become *a* specialist for these yachts. There's no doubt that when you're involved in a series of yachts you have a better chance of making sure they evolve in a positive way.

**When a new construction project comes along, are you usually involved from the start right through to completion?**

**Cheston:** Each situation is different. In this case the original

design was already decided so it was more a question of muscling in on the work already carried out by Benetti. Of course, the more people that get involved the greater the potential for original thinking and input. Figuring out the right technical solutions while maintaining the spirit of the yacht and adapting things to the new owner's requirements can be complex. With Galaxy, one of the difficulties was the interior design. The owner's interior designer lives in California and, although she had never worked on a yachting project before, she only visited the yard twice, which meant all of us had to work things out from a more 'virtual' perspective. I have to admit that in spite of my early misgivings she did a fantastic job and the end product has exceeded all our expectations.

**What has working on this build meant for you personally?**

**Cheston:** It has certainly advanced my experience and skills in handling such matters 'long distance', particularly when it comes to understanding what the owner wants and keeping him informed of the progress. It has given me a greater level of confidence to work this way in the future.

**What particular difficulties did the 'long-distance' factor pose?**

**Cheston:** Well, the fact that the interior designer was not on site to see the work in progress never helps. In some instances →



## A GUIDED TOUR OF GALAXY

Boarding via the main deck passerelle, guests can relax on a large built-in sofa on the covered aft deck. From here, it is a short step through twin sliding doors into the cream-coloured main saloon where a seating area invites guests to relax on two oval sofas.

The main deck saloon, dining room and lobby are vertically panelled in timber and leather and large windows afford a wonderful view over the sea. The floors in this area (along with the lobbies, main foyer, upper deck saloon and veranda) are burma teak parquet, lending the yacht a cosy yet vibrant atmosphere.

The pale brown full-beam owner's suite in clear maple burl is located forward on the main deck. It comprises three separate areas. The first is the owner's stateroom with his and her's bathrooms in honey onyx, and dressing rooms with a 42" plasma screen sliding out to starboard to face the king-size bed. The second area is the lounge, which is located forward and up the stairs allowing for a great view over the sea through nine windows. This area features a desk to starboard and another plasma screen to port. Built-in sofas provide comfortable seating. The third area is set aside for the owner's private study with all the necessary desk and office equipment.

The four guest cabins are located amidships on the pale-green lower deck and can be accessed through the central main staircase or via the glass elevator down to the guests' lobby.

The forward twin to port is panelled with European plane wood, and the starboard one is finished with eucalyptus. There are two double cabins aft featuring birdseye maple and harewood, with bathrooms boasting Jacuzzi tubs.

The naturally coloured burl maple VIP cabin is located to starboard and has large rectangular windows extending the length of the cabin lending it an abundance of light.

The welcoming skylounge is dedicated to guests' entertainment thanks to a large corner bar, a games table and its two separate seating areas with sofas and armchairs. It is made of European plane tree and the floor is Burmese teak parquet. A 42" plasma screen and a 77" retractable screen with a projector equip this area, allowing it to transform into a home cinema. Guests can access the panoramic dining room through the glass door in the skylounge, or from the outside area of the upper deck.

The sundeck layout is a true innovation. The white-lacquered-wood gym is located in the centre of the deck and surrounded by windows. As the elevator terminates inside the room, guests can go up to exercise or to relax in the Jacuzzi without running into the crew. The aft part of the sundeck is dedicated to relaxation and dining, with an oval glossy teak table complete with loose chairs and a built-in sofa, along with comfortable sunloungers. Helicopter landing is also possible in this area.

MY Galaxy is Lloyd's and MCA classified











we asked the furniture contractor to do full-size mock ups to ensure that the final layout and use of space corresponded with the designer's vision. Although it is time-consuming and costly, at least you don't take the chance of ending up with a product that doesn't fulfill its requirements.

#### What are Galaxy's most innovative features?

**Cheston:** She has an elevator, which is quite unusual. Even more unusual is the fact that this is an integral part of the design, with the spiral staircase enclosing its glass panels from the lower deck right up to the sundeck. It terminates under cover in the gymnasium. The interior is also very special thanks to the variety of exotic timbers and marbles that have been used in interesting ways. The split-level master suite is fantastic and the circular dining table that opens onto the upper deck, thanks to large retractable glass-panelled windows, is also a major feature offering 180-degree views. And her sundeck is truly exceptional.

#### What is Galaxy's charter potential?

**Cheston:** As mentioned before, Galaxy derives from the development of the original Amnesia, one of the most successful charter yachts on the market. I could not tell to what extent the owner agreed to the project with that in mind; all I know is

that he certainly explored the idea and wanted his yacht to follow the same criteria in order to enjoy similar success, if not greater!

#### Do you have any more similar projects under way?

**Cheston:** Yes, I have three new constructions under way and another in negotiation.

#### Finally, would you say you prefer to deal with new construction or brokerage yachts?

**Cheston:** I like the diversity of both but I admit I have a preference for new-build projects now. Spearheading a project from the original meeting with the owner, negotiating the contract and specification with the chosen shipyard, and seeing the build through right up to the launch and beyond is thrilling. Constantly trying to improve every detail is an incomparable experience. Some people think all we do is go to the shipyard every few weeks, have lunch with the guys and write a report to the owner describing what a great job we're doing on his behalf. It's far from being that simple... although naturally I never say no to a nice lunch! ■

*Neil Cheston has been with CNI for eight years. An experienced and avid sailor, he has participated in many regattas and round-the-world races, including the Whitbread (now Volvo Ocean Race).*

**Top left:** The upper saloon has Burma teak parquet flooring

**Left:** The main saloon is truly palatial in size

**Above:** The master stateroom has three areas comprising a bedroom, a lounge and a study

George Wallner

# Chasing dreams

George Wallner wanted to have it all, so the engineering genius modernized and modified his original yacht to meet his millennium lifestyle needs in a new build that is due to launch in 2006

By Hope Gainer

George Wallner, founder of Hypercom Corporation, is a renowned innovator. He is considered to be the visionary behind the development of today's electronic transaction technologies and he spearheaded Hypercom's evolution in becoming a global provider of end-to-end electronic payment solutions. So when it comes to specifying his own yachts, Wallner is able to bring a great deal to the projects.

## ALL IN THE DETAILS

"To do what I want takes a truly exceptional motor yacht," he says. "Most yachts have some of the aspects I want but very few have it all – not just any big, white yacht will do."

When it came to building Tumblehome 2, Wallner chose the original team that created the first 28m Tumblehome (launched in 1997); that is, Lyman Morse shipyard (a distinguished custom boatbuilding yard in Maine) and designer C Raymond Hunt. The new 28.6m Tumblehome 2 is set to be ready in autumn 2006.

Through Wallner's many journeys and his experience with

the original Tumblehome, he has learned what he wants from his latest build. New technologies have become available that offer the opportunity to design and build a vessel that will overcome the deficiencies of his original vessel. This means Wallner can improve on numerous features while losing none of his original yacht's strength and capabilities. "An improvement on an existing and proven format is a better path than starting from scratch with a new ground-up design," he says.

For Wallner, Tumblehome has proven to be an exceptional sea-going yacht; tough but light thanks to her SCRIMP hull construction. She's fast, with 20 knots cruising speed, but she's also an efficient long-range cruiser burning 22gph at 10 knots. The interior wood finish and comfortable layout, combined with ample interior and deck space, also make her a comfortable yacht for the Caribbean. Tumblehome is just the right size for Wallner: large enough for several couples and crew but with a shallow draught and good manoeuvrability to make her suitable for diving and accessing small marinas in the Bahamas. She can also be handled without a professional crew. →





George Wallner aboard the original 28m Tumblehome



Wallner is confident that the combination of the C Raymond Hunt design, Lyman Morse expertise and new technologies and materials will result in a strong yacht to meet his needs. And he believes a growing number of new yachtsmen will want the same – a practical mini-megayacht that they can captain themselves.

J B Palmer of Lyman Morse had this to say about collaborating with Wallner: “George brings to us this second time a large challenge in integrating some of the leading edge technology with which he is so adept. The new systems on Tumblehome 2 will be absolutely state-of-the-art and will make operating the yacht much easier. We like the challenge of creating something that has never been done before,” says Palmer. “George’s engineering genius is phenomenal and we are relishing being part of the creative powers that are going into this project.”

#### ONCE UPON A TIME

Wallner likes to begin talk of his past life with something like “Once upon a time, in another galaxy...” Hailing from a working class family in Hungary, he learned to work hard. After studying engineering in Budapest, he ventured to Sydney where he went from earning \$53 a week in a factory to launching his own company, Hypercom. His business started with himself as its sole employee and quickly turned into a 1,600-employee company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (HYC). Hypercom went from being ranked number 30 to number one in five years. Eventually, Wallner moved his headquarters to Phoenix in 1987. Then, in 2003, he retired – 25 years from the day he started his company.

Wallner had no real yachting life prior to retirement because he had no time to establish one. His first boat was a 14m Buddy Davis named La Pescadora (Fishing Woman), followed by a Swan 53 sailing boat, Atlantica, and then an 18m Precision named Varzim in the Great Barrier Reef. In 1997, Wallner bought Tumblehome and created a second residence in Miami.

#### HAPPY ENDINGS

Now Wallner has retired to Miami and is enjoying the yachting life. He feels the city is the best metropolitan area in the world for cruising. “We have Biscayne Bay and, a couple of hours away, the Bahamas,” he says. “From Sydney to the Barrier Reef takes a couple of weeks.”

Today Wallner is a destination yachtsman rather than a cruiser. Bigger is not better for him and a floating mobile mansion isn’t his cup of tea, rather he prefers yachts that are big enough to get to remote places and fast enough to get there in his lifetime.

Wallner’s new boating lifestyle consists of short dive trips to the Near Bahamas, week-long trips to the Outer Bahamas



and trips around the entire Caribbean that can last up to a year and a half, interrupted only by ‘work breaks’.

Wallner’s short cruises to the Near Bahamas aren’t the usual trip to Bimini but to the seldom-visited southwestern edge of the Great Bahama Bank. He also heads past Orange Cay to a chain of coral reefs teeming with fish, turtles and dolphins – a diver’s and fisherman’s paradise. He anchors out in the open to dive and fish, often finding sharks milling around. Most of the time there are the usual reef sharks but sometimes bull sharks turn up. This is when it is time to get out of the water. “You can’t intimidate these guys,” says Wallner. In the evenings, the large pod of dolphins that live along the edge of the bank come up to his boat to play. “We often swim with them – I’m starting to believe they know us by now,” he says. After a couple of days in the area, he takes a last morning dive, enjoying lunch before heading home to his dock in Miami by 4pm “There is no other international city where you can do this,” he says.

Wallner’s mid-length trips to the Outer Bahamas are to Rum Cay. He heads to Conception Island where the ‘real’ Outer Bahamas begin. It is a nature reserve managed by the Bahamas Trust. Wallner says it is beautiful with a large lagoon where





Wallner and his partner take time out from their busy schedule

you can kayak and watch turtles and other interesting sea life. From Conception, it is only 30 kilometres to Rum Cay – unknown to most yachters. But Wallner says they don't know what they're missing. He too used to pass it by, pushing on to other exciting offerings in St Martin and the Virgin Islands until he stumbled upon it and found it had the best diving and fishing in all the Bahamas, and perhaps all the Caribbean. He considers Rum Cay to be the secret jewel of the Bahamas. Cay Sal Bank – close to Cuba, 80 miles southeast of Key West and referred to as 'no man's land' in the Bahamas – is another of his secret spots with incredible diving and fishing. Plus, he says, it is totally wild with spectacular blue holes.

One time, Wallner took a trip through the Gulf of Pariah and up the Rio Macareo, a small tributary of the Orinoco, into the Venezuelan jungle. It was totally wild and uncivilized with only Waro Indians living in open huts built on stakes on the edge of a mangrove jungle. On the last leg of his long journey, Wallner hit the worst storm he had ever seen. He experienced a 30 to 35-knot northerly wind on the nose with 3m-high seas. Luckily, Tumblehome stood up well through the storm. Wallner proudly reported that all she broke was a bottle of chilli. ■



## WALLNER'S WISH LIST

### 1. MORE SPEED

*"Speed is important, especially if you like to be on board while your boat is travelling. Exploring at 10 knots is boring!" Tumblehome 2 has a cruising speed of 27 knots, with a top speed of 33 knots.*

### 2. MORE RANGE

*"I expect a 2,000-nautical mile range at 10 knots."*

### 3. MORE STABILIZATION

*"Tumblehome rolls. As we often anchor in places with poor protection this has been an annoying problem. The new yacht will have quantum stabilizers."*

### 4. SYSTEMS AUTOMATION

*"I like to take the yacht cruising on my own but i've found that the daily chores of managing it take a lot away from my time. Therefore I have used technology to create a vessel automation system that takes care of onboard chores without the need for large investment in a complex computerized vessel management system."*

### 5. BETTER ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

*"Current marine electrical practices are mostly primitive and sometimes plain wrong. I have designed an improved DC system and a better A/C power management system that requires less 'running around' without the weight and cost of a megayacht's electrical system."*

### 6. EASIER HANDLING

*"Just because i'm not a professional mariner and can't manoeuvre a yacht as well as they do, that doesn't mean I shouldn't be able to captain one! So we have added remote control, increased bow thruster power, a stern thruster and power steering with bang-bang operation. I don't care what the old salts say, I use technology to cheat and be able to get into a tight slip just like the professionals do – but without having spent 20 years apprenticing under a great captain."*

### 7. BETTER AIR-CONDITIONING

*"In the tropics, where I use my yacht, we need good air-conditioning. Unfortunately, until now there have only been two choices: effective but noisy American systems or quiet but wimpy European systems. I wanted something that was quiet and effective. We have worked closely with Beard Marine, Ocean Options and Marine Air to create a configuration that keeps you cool without making you deaf."*





Luxury yachts fill  
St. Thomas' waterfront  
during charter season



# Prêt-à-port Caribbean

From the Virgin Islands to the Bahamas, Tortola and Martinique, **sea&i** cruises the Caribbean to bring you some of its finest marinas and suggest the best ways to pass your time on these popular isles

By Daniel Munro



One of the many spectacular views from the Mahogany Run Golf Course

## YACHT HAVEN USVI, ST THOMAS

Charlotte Amalie is the capital of the US Virgin Islands, so the Yacht Haven USVI is the perfect place to call home during your visit to St Thomas. From your yacht you can see pastel-painted waterfront houses against the emerald hills, and just a few steps beyond lies world-famous shopping and fantastic restaurants.

**Sport & leisure** Twenty minutes away from St Thomas' Yacht Haven is the 18-hole, Par 70 championship Mahogany Run Golf Course with its famously challenging Devil's Triangle – the signature trio of the 13th, 14th and 15th holes overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Other great things to do on the island include jumping on the St Thomas Skyride to soar 213 metres in a cable car, sinking 24 metres below the water on an Atlantis Submarine expedition to see turtles, sharks and sea gardens, or snorkelling along the shoreline. And, lest you forget, Charlotte Amalie is the duty-free shopping Mecca of the Caribbean.

**Dining** The Old Stone Farm House Restaurant at the Mahogany Run Golf Course is located in a 200-year-old plantation field house and is noted for its excellent food and wine. Feast on the likes of bacon-wrapped red snapper with caraway roasted Yukon Gold potatoes, black mussels and a caramelised onion sauce. For lobster with filet mignon overlooking the lights of the harbour, head to The Banana Tree Grille, or opt for a candlelit meal in Charlotte Amalie's Hervé Restaurant and Wine Bar.

**Nightlife** The historic Hotel 1829 has a charming bar – perfect for relaxed chats and fans of backgammon. For a stylish watering hole, order sushi, caviar and Champagne at Epernay; for jazz, blues and clubbing head to The Sugar Mill; or dance into the small hours at The Green House in the heart of Charlotte Amalie. →

**This page, clockwise from top right:** Snorkelling in St Maarten; a fine catch from a day spent deep-sea fishing; serving up a good game in Great Abaco; Abaco Beach Resort & Boat Harbour; The Yacht Club at Isle De Sol  
**Opposite page, top left:** Village Cay Hotel & Marina  
**Opposite page, bottom left:** Succumb to idyllic pampering on Peter Island  
**Opposite page, top right:** Marin Yacht Harbour on Martinique  
**Opposite page, bottom right:** Diving in Martinique



## THE YACHT CLUB AT ISLE DE SOL, ST MAARTEN

The smallest island in the world to be split between two nations, St Maarten (St Martin) is a wonderful mix of cultures. The Yacht Club at Isle de Sol is on the Dutch side and has ample attractions, but the island is so small you can easily venture over to the French side to explore the many great restaurants and sights it has to offer.

**Sport & leisure** The only golf course on the Dutch side of the island is Mullet Bay, offering 18 holes of beautiful lagoon views and palm-lined fairways. If you prefer alternative ball games, take your tennis racket as many of the local resorts are happy for you to reserve their courts, or why not take a leisurely horseback ride along the beach? If you venture to the French side of the island you can disappear into the divine Elysées Spa at La Samanna Hotel, or head to Orient Beach for a spot of parasailing.

**Dining** Known by many as the gourmet capital of the Caribbean, St Maarten presents delights the likes of the aptly named Temptation. Anyone for foie gras with caramelised pineapple and port wine sauce? Antoine Restaurant in Philipsburg, meanwhile, is the place to go if you fancy a memorable lobster thermidor.

**Nightlife** Many of the hotels organise beach barbecues complete with steel drum bands, or you could head to a casino in Philipsburg, such as Rouge et Noir or the Coliseum Casino, or the Vegas-style Pelican Casino in Simpson Bay. The Axum Jazz Café is a fun place to go if you are a fan of upbeat jazz and reggae.

## ABACO BEACH RESORT & BOAT HARBOUR, GREAT ABACO, BAHAMAS

Abaco Beach Resort & Boat Harbour is ideally located on the sheltered southeastern shore of Marsh Harbour on Great Abaco, which, in turn, is the commercial hub of the Bahamas. One of the finest marinas in the region, it makes for a great stopover and promises fantastic dining, entertainment, sport, leisure and shopping.

**Sport & leisure** Home of the Bahamas Billfish Championships, Great Abaco is the place for a deep-sea fishing trip and there are plenty of local experts that your charter broker can arrange to escort you. Also nearby is the 18-hole Treasure Cay Golf Club – a tropically landscaped inspiration designed by the legendary Dick Wilson. Divers, meanwhile, will love the San Jacinto wreck (a large steamship that sank in 1865), the numerous reefs and the sun-dappled caverns teeming with tropical fish. The marina resort also has tennis courts, pools and a gym.

**Dining** The Angler's Restaurant at the marina resort offers international cuisine with a Bahamian accent and a lovely setting overlooking the water. For a taste of island specialities accompanied by live music, make your way to the nearby Conch Crawl Pub.

**Nightlife** The Pool Bar at the Abaco Beach Resort has a terrace café with live entertainment most nights. On other evenings, try the Tippy Seagull Bar at the Treasure Cay Hotel Resort and Marina for live entertainment and dancing, or simply wander along the harbour and drop in at the various local watering holes along the way for an authentic taste of island nightlife.





## VILLAGE CAY HOTEL & MARINA, TORTOLA

The Village Cay Hotel & Marina is located in the heart of Road Town – Tortola’s capital city. Its tropical setting belies its international appeal and its southern location ensures you are well placed for restaurants and attractions when you step ashore.

**Sport & leisure** Sailing, snorkelling, kayaking, marlin fishing and swimming with dolphins are among your many watersports options when you visit Tortola. But for divine indulgence, four miles south of Tortola is Peter Island with its blissful spa. The therapists are happy to travel to your yacht for private treatments, if pre-arranged, but a trip to the super-luxurious Peter Island Resort itself is a treat not to be missed.

**Dining** The nearby Brandywine Bay Restaurant is a favourite evening haunt serving delicious Italian food. The Callaloo on the Reef, meanwhile, offers numerous culinary treats the likes of red pepper essence of Caribbean bouillabaisse perfumed with Madras curry, while Pusser’s Fort Bert Restaurant is arguably one of the BVI’s best restaurants serving fresh Caribbean cuisine. Village Cay also has its own restaurant – and don’t miss the marina’s La Dolce Vita ice cream store when you pass by.

**Nightlife** The nightlife is very relaxed on Tortola but small reggae clubs and beach bars dot the waterfront and make for a fun evening where you can really join in the spirit of local life and culture. Wherever you finally end up, ensure you order Tortola’s famous Pusser’s Rum. It is the original Navy Rum and is a firm favourite served up neat or in a famous Pusser’s Painkiller cocktail. No visit to the island is complete without indulging in this local tipple.

## MARIN YACHT HARBOUR, MARTINIQUE

As French an island as you could ever hope for, Martinique is washed by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Caribbean Sea to the west. Centuries ago, the Carib Indians called the island ‘Madinina’ (Island of Flowers) and it still has spectacular hills, mountains and coastlines – on the southern stretch of which lies Le Marin.

**Sport & leisure** Skilfully designed by Robert Trent Jones, the prestigious Empress Josephine Golf Course promises 18 holes of challenging play. Explore the island by helicopter, canoe, kayak, mountain bike or horse, or take a bracing hike to discover its tropical rainforest, world-famous volcano, alpine peaks, rocky hills and virgin beaches. The marina has three tennis courts, or you could while away a relaxing morning at the spa at Cap Est Lagoon Resort. The local church is also well worth a visit. It dates back to 1766 and is one of the most beautiful, historic monuments on the island.

**Dining** The cosy, sea-facing Le Zanzibar restaurant in Marin serves African, Indian and Asian dishes, while a drive northeast to François delivers you to the Cap Est Lagoon Resort and Spa – the most luxurious five-star hotel in the French West Indies with an acclaimed restaurant, Bélem. Also recommended, La Plantation has a great chef, acclaimed service and wonderful wines, cigars and local rums all served up in a charming colonial villa setting.

**Nightlife** If you want to add a touch of live entertainment to your evening make sure you pay a visit to Calebasse Café in Marin, a very vogue, cosy spot that features Cuban, Jazz and French music. Alternatively, Le Zanzibar transforms into a club twice a week.





# To the <sup>charter retail</sup> ends of the earth

It is a charter broker's aim, each and every day, to turn dream cruises into reality – but to what lengths will they go to ensure the perfect charter?

By Miriam Cain





**Above:** CNI always has impressive line up of charter yachts at the Genoa Charter Meeting

To say that charter brokers go to the ends of the earth to ensure a yacht charter is perfect – right down to the very smallest detail – is no exaggeration. Only the very, very best will do.

With more than 100 years of charter experience between them, the CNI charter brokers have a wealth of expertise and a wide variety of skills to assist the charterer every step of the way. From selecting the ideal yacht to planning an unforgettable itinerary, they offer the very best advice, support and personal service. They even ensure that the planning and preparation is as inspired and organised as the charter itself.

Training for charter brokers ranges from legal and sales expertise to lengthy in-house training in client relations to encourage negotiation skills that help them deal with every situation. This includes arranging events, deliveries or services in any part of the world, and ensuring that they know exactly how and where to get the very best for the client, regardless of what they desire. “I had a last-minute request to find and

deliver matching yellow and red Ferrari Testarosas, mid-charter,” says CNI broker Barbara Dawson. “It can sometimes be a tough call, but we pride ourselves on our ability to deliver the exceptional.”

As part of their work, CNI charter brokers regularly attend seminars to keep them up to date with the latest industry developments. In order that the broker can best assist their client in making the right choice of yacht and destination, they also go on familiarisation trips in all the charter areas and fly around the world to visit yachts and major trade shows. On such occasions, they take the opportunity to personally inspect each yacht, meet the crew, and even sample the food on board to ensure it is of a suitably high standard and that the service is impeccable. Only then are they prepared to recommend that yacht to a client, always making sure, of course, that the boat is the best possible choice for that particular charter party.

Matching a client with the perfect yacht and crew is one of their greatest challenges. Over the years CNI brokers have →



Photography: Jérôme Kelagopian; Alexis Andrews

**Clockwise from top left:** CNI's hospitality lounge at the Genoa show; the charter brokers visit all the CNI chartered yachts at trade shows around the world; Braveheart is one of the most popular charter yachts in CNI's fleet; the 62.5m Apogee chartering in the Bahamas

developed a detailed 'requirements form' and they know exactly what questions to ask so that the charter activities can be planned well in advance and the yacht stocked with the client's favourite wines, foods, DVDs, newspapers and flowers. In addition, they are able to inform clients about the very latest information regarding yachts and locations, and they have excellent contacts to arrange limousine transfers, private helicopters, jets and deliveries, as well as hire any specialist equipment for the charter which may not already be on board. "On one occasion I had to source a specific mineral-water ice-cube-maker and fly it out to a yacht," says CNI charter broker Tandy Althoff. Such requests involve a great deal of communication between the charter broker and the captain and crew of each yacht. From start to finish, a real team effort is crucial to plan each and every charter right down to the smallest detail. And this level of service is guaranteed for every single charter.

Some clients see a yacht charter as the opportunity to live life to the full, meet new people, dine in superb restaurants, dance

in the 'it' clubs and stroll along the most glamorous beaches. For others it is a chance to indulge in pure seclusion, spend quality time with family, switch off and chill out. Some see it as a time to indulge in hobbies or learn new sports, others want to soak up exotic cultures, broaden their horizons and explore new places. The beauty of a superyacht charter is that a charterer can do all of the above precisely because their charter broker can tailor the holiday to suit their family, lifestyle, tastes and dreams. They know the finest places to go for dining, sport, clubbing, relaxing, shopping and experiencing the very best of each destination and culture. What is more, they are true professionals at pulling together all the right elements to achieve exactly the type of charter the client is looking for.

The forthcoming CNI Charter Annual is divided into its usual fantastic destination categories but it also suggests some different ways to enjoy charters in each part of the world. For your complimentary copy, please contact your nearest charter broker – see page 10 for details. ■



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