

see & i

FOR CONNOISSEURS OF LUXURY TRAVEL

AUTUMN 2005



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•HAPPY SPORT•



Chopard

CHANGING PERSPECTIVES



Summer is a time to expand horizons, recharge batteries, undertake new projects and emerge fresh, bright and inspired, and this year CNI has taken this doctrine to the very extreme. For some time now, CNI has been evolving its corporate image to bring it in line with its new 'change perspectives' philosophy. The latest development in this strategy sees the company take on a fresh new corporate identity, and continue to explore emerging markets and establish ever-more successful partnerships with leading luxury brands worldwide. To support all these initiatives, CNI is also delighted to unveil its new website - www.cnconnect.com is now more comprehensive, impressive and easier to navigate than ever before. But along with the new opportunities and advantages CNI offers its clients, the one thing that will never be sacrificed is its promise to provide the last bastion of truly private, exclusive travel aboard its yachts.

Photography: Marcel Jolibois

With CNI taking care of all your needs in luxury yachting, it just remains for sea&i to keep you informed with news from the rest of the world of peerless travel and living. This issue transports you to the Seychelles, LA and St Barts - as well as the top five spots for weekend-long parties. We also have a new interior design feature to inspire creative yacht owners, and interviews with the world's best sommelier from Paris' George V hotel, as well as the designer and broker of the Helios build. In addition, we take a dip into the world of sportfishing, and once again transform the decks into a catwalk with our on-board fashion shoot. All in all, a great deal to see you safely through your autumn travels.

Camper & Nicholson's International

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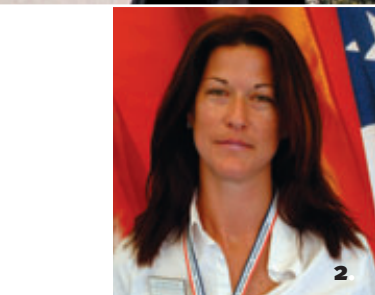
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Contributors



1.

THOMAS GRANT 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 two major exhibitions in New York and London. (1)



2.

TANDY ALTHOFF has been in the luxury yacht industry for more than 10 years and can recommend the latest and best spots for chartering anywhere in the world. Based at CNI's Antibes office, she is fluent in English, French and Italian. Tandy has a passion for St Barts, and after many years spent holidaying on the island, she provides *sea&i* with some great insider travel tips this issue. (2)



3.

BRIAN LAWRENCE has spent over 25 years in the world of interiors and design. He is a member of the British Interior Designers Association and specialises in creating customised interiors for clients worldwide. (3)



4.

DANIEL MONROE is a freelance 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 provides an insight into the social attractions that can be found around the leading marinas of the West Mediterranean. (4)

ANTHONY LASSMAN a passionate traveller, created Nota Bene 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. It's not just about luxury and exclusivity, but charm, beauty, location and individuality. This issue, Anthony suggests how *sea&i* readers can visit LA Nota Bene style.



5.

MARINA MICI a young intern journalist based in London, she had no previous knowledge of the yachting industry and spent hours researching the industry. This has proven an excellent opportunity for training and, bitten by the yachting bug, she is now considering a future career in the sector. (5)

JAMES SHOTTON completes the last page in every issue of *sea&i*. An avid sailor of small yachts, he has always been fascinated by both the classic sailing yachts and modern superyachts. This issue, James visits Valencia - the host of the America's Cup 2007.

sea&i

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sea&i scenes

A GRAND REUNION

CNI was delighted to sponsor the Drum Reunion Dinner following August's Fastnet Race off the Isle of Wight, UK. The occasion marked a very special 20th anniversary and raised funds for the UK's Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). In 1985 Duran Duran frontman Simon Le Bon commissioned well-known yachtsman Skip Novak to build the Maxi yacht Drum with the intention of competing in the Whitbread Round The World Race. In preparation, they entered the Fastnet Race, but the fateful journey saw the yacht capsize and a dangerous but successful rescue had to be made by the RNLI. In celebration of this rescue two decades ago, Drum again entered the Fastnet this year and was able to thank the RNLI both in person and by way of some much-needed financial support. CNI broker Neil Cheston was part of the Drum crew in both 1985 and 2005.



A WORLD IN HARMONY

Late August marked the 10th anniversary of the eminent World Orchestra for Peace. Once again, this musical extravaganza brought together the cream of the world's musical talent, drawn from more than 60 different orchestras representing over 40 countries. The World Orchestra for Peace was the brainchild of Sir George Solti and was established in 1995 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and promote world peace by uniting countries in the universal language of music. This year, the concerts took place in London's Royal Albert Hall, The Philharmonie in Berlin, the Great Hall of the Conservatoire in Moscow, and The Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing. The event, sponsored by Credit Suisse, saw this year's orchestra led to rousing success by world-famous conductor Valery Gergiev. www.worldorchestraforpeace.com

CNI rocks n' rolls in the US

HATS CHEATING!

Despite foggy conditions, the 19th annual Newport Bucket (formerly Nantucket Bucket) was as successful as ever, with CNI offering its share of support. Sailing yacht owners came together for two days of fun racing (the kind that turns a blind eye to cheating!) and the overall winner was the aptly named sloop Mischievous. The big boat prize went to the 33m Avalon and the Ron Holland-designed sloop Volare won the small boat category. CNI was there in force with Bill Sanderson, Georges Bourgoignie, Rick Morales, Sara Montefiore and Alex Berl all taking part in the action.



A NEW BROKER IN MIAMI

Ricardo 'Rick' Morales has joined the CNI's Miami team, along with Fernando Nicholson and Georges Bourgoignie. Rick is immensely qualified in the large yacht market, having been a captain of some of the world's most glamorous vessels, including ARTFUL DODGER (44m Heesen), SHAMWARI (46m Benetti), SOUTHERLY (46m Picchiotti), L'AQUASITION (44m Heesen) and, most recently, captain and owner's representative for the two Feadships called KISSES. Rick is also a licensed private aircraft pilot, a certified advanced scuba diver as well as a holder of various naval qualifications. He is fluent in Spanish and English.

SHOW BUSINESS

Fort Lauderdale is already limbering up in preparation for the fleet of yachts that will descend on its piers and harbours for the annual Fort Lauderdale Boat Show on 27 - 31 October. Each year the event expands in size, popularity and prestige, with people travelling from all over the world to catch up on the latest, largest and most luxurious yachts and products in the world of superyachts. At the time of going to press, CNI yachts scheduled to be on display include:

BAHIA MAR

FLYING EAGLE - 47.8m Bloemsma & van Breemen MY (2005)

MONTIGNE - 46m Feadship MY (1998)

SEA JEWEL - 45.7m Feadship MY (1987)

JANET - 38m Cheoy Lee MY (2003)

LAS OLAS

QUE' SERA - 36.8m Delta MY (1997)

OSIANA II - 35m Greenbay Marine MY (1996)

QUINTESSA - 28.6m Destiny MY (2000)

FAIR WIND - 22m San Lorenzo MY (2000)

THUNDER - 21.3m Delta MY (1988)

KANALOA - 48m CRN Ancona (1996/ 2001)

PIER 66

CHARDONNAY C - 32m Windship SY (1991)

GODSPEED - 24.3m Kelly Archer SY (1998)



Montigne

EAGLE EYES

If the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show is on your calendar for October, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the 48m Flying Eagle. She has just been delivered by Dutch yard Bloemsma & Van Breemen, and is the largest yacht to date to be launched from the builder's new facility. This modern displacement yacht, managed by CNI, has four decks, a panoramic skylounge and fantastic accommodation. As she makes her debut at the Fort Lauderdale Show, her owner, meanwhile, is busy planning a 60m build at the same shipyard. Watch this space...



NEW AT CNI YACHT MANAGEMENT

With a growing management fleet travelling to far-flung corners of the world, CNI has expanded its US Yacht Management team based in Ft Lauderdale and is delighted to announce the appointments of Andrew Cosgreave as Fleet Manager and Frank van Delft as US Technical Superintendent.

Andrew comes to CNI directly from IZAR Yachts USA where he acted as shipyard representative for the Americas for the past four years. From refits to new construction, Andrew has many years of hands on experience. He is also a keen sailor with extensive cruising and yacht management experience as a captain on a number of vessels over 30 metres.

Frank van Delft will be working closely with Andrew on the implementation of and continued compliance with ISM (International Safety Management) and ISPS (International Ship and Port Facility Security) Codes for CNI's growing fleet of managed yachts in the US. Frank will also be assuming the role of DPA (Designated Person Ashore) and CSO (Company Security Officer) as required by these Codes. Frank van Delft gained wide knowledge and experience of these particular Codes while an experienced auditor at Lloyd's Register North America since 2000. Before joining Lloyd's Register, he spent a number of years at sea on cargo, container and passenger ships, and as an engineering and maritime officer with Nedlloyd Lines BV.



NEW FORT LAUDERDALE OFFICE

CNI is pleased to announce that a major move is about to take place in Fort Lauderdale. In order to combine the two existing CNI offices at the Quay and Bahia Mar, CNI has recently taken over the old Water Taxi offices overlooking the Bahia Mar basin near Las Olas, and is undertaking huge renovation works to turn it into a trendy, modern office. Once completed, 651 Seabreeze Boulevard will be reminiscent of the Keys. Expect a fun opening during the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show!

Taking over the Riviera

ELITE TRAVELER & CNI

During the Monaco Yacht Show, well-known jet-setter's magazine Elite Traveler will be hosting a cocktail party at the Hotel de Paris on 23 September, from 6-9pm, in association with CNI and One&Only resorts.

THE YACHTS ON SHOW

The 15th edition of the Monaco Yacht Show sees CNI listed yachts spread wings in two locations: the traditional stand at the Quay des Etats-Unis has MY White Lie (ISA, 47.5m, 2005), MY Vinidrea II (Proteksan, 39m, 2003) and MY Moneykos (Codecasa, 55m, 2000) on display, while a second set of five yachts are exhibited by the Central T, with CNI's tender service available to cut the walk short. There, visitors can board MY Passionata (Ferronavale, 37m, 1990; refit 2004), MY Lady Anna of Fife (SBF Fremantle, 35m, 1984), SY Parsifal II (Valderetto, 34m, 1995; refit 2001), MY Serendipity Blue (Falcon, 26m, 2005) and MY Osiana (Ferretti, 24.8m, 2003). In addition, CNI once again welcomes its guests throughout the day and into the evening, at the terrace of the Miramar Hotel.



EUROCRAFT IN CANNES

In addition to CNI's regular presence at the Monaco Yacht Show, the Festival de la Plaisance in Cannes (14-19 September) also welcomes one of CNI's yachts for sale. As bringing in more brokerage houses to participate in the show is one of the organisers' objectives, CNI is pleased to support such a development and will exhibit the recently delivered Eurocraft 28m, on display at berth SYE 129.

CNI, CHAMPAGNE AND CELEBRATIONS



The social scene at Monaco Yacht Show takes a distinct glamorous tone on 21 September when CNI hosts its gala dinner and cocktail party in the grounds of the Yacht Club

de Monaco. Held in association with Credit Suisse for the launch of its new yacht finance division (see page 94), the dinner also includes a presentation by CNI about its commitment to the environmental programme CarbonNeutral (see page 56). Along with the great food, atmosphere and company, the occasion is highlighted with a fashion show featuring Lanvin's winter collection, and some surprises...

News from the yacht clubs

GSTAAD YACHT CLUB WINS AT COWES

Despite strong opposition from the Daring Class team, Royal Yacht Squadron, Yacht Club de Monaco and Real Club Nautico de Gran Canaria, the Gstaad Yacht Club team from Switzerland, led by Marc Erzberger and Chris Preston, won a gripping final in the Daring Class International Team Racing Championship in July. The performance was even more striking as GYC was last in the Round Robin. *For more information visit www.gyc.org*



NYYC PARTNERS NAUTOR'S SWAN

The New York Yacht Club recently announced the development of a 12.8m/42' yacht in collaboration with Nautor's Swan. Tailor-made for one-design racing, the vessel is to perform well under IRC and be comfortably cruised offshore. The project was jointly announced by NYYC Commodore George Hinman Jr and Leonardo Ferragamo during the Rolex Swan American Regatta in Newport. The 42-footer is a German Frers design, and the class rules will be developed by NYYC.

For more information visit www.nyyc.org



MAXI ROLEX CUP

Porto Cervo is a busy location over the summer, with superyachts filling the marina and bays nearby, and fleets of racing yachts battling for victory in the Rolex regattas. Expect no less than 40 of them during the Maxi Rolex Cup organised by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda from 4-10 September. Among other tough competitors, Luca Bassani, founder of Wally yachts, once again competes for victory against Alberto Roemmers - last year's winner with Alexia. Once the Cup is over, the Rolex Settimana delle Bocche follows through till 17 September. *For more information visit www.yccs.it*



MONACO CLASSIC WEEK

Starting the autumn festival of classic regattas - followed by Les Régates Royales in Cannes and Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez - the 7th year of the Monaco Classic week celebrates the 10th anniversary of TUIGA under her Monaco flag. From 14-18 September, 40 of the best classic yachts participate in the races, including three of the surviving four J Class yachts: Shamrock V, Ranger and Velsheda. As in previous years, CNI Chairman George Nicholson is once again the President of the Jury Technique.

In addition, the Yacht Club de Monaco has taken this opportunity to launch a club for owners of classic yachts, La Belle Classe, and announces a partnership with watch manufacturer Hublot, now the official chronometer for the Classic Week. Classic Riva yachts will also be on display in the presence of Carlos Riva. *For more information visit www.ycm.org*

High seas

ROWING THE ATLANTIC

Phil Harris and Charlie Woodward-Fisher are taking part in the bi-annual Woodvale Atlantic Challenge - a rowing race leaving from the Canary Islands on 27 November and arriving in Antigua, hopefully in mid January.

This is an unassisted crossing of some 4,700kms. Phil and Charlie's ultimate objective is to raise £1m or more for two charities, namely Tommy's (the baby charity) and the Royal Marsden (cancer). The campaign and 7m-boat are called ROW 4 LIFE in honour of the life-saving work of both these charities. The rowers row one at a time in shifts of two hours, 24 hours a day.

As Phil's wife is expecting twins while they are at sea, he is making a huge sacrifice by not being there for the birth of his children. He has rowed competitively and for pleasure for the last 20 years. Charlie has taken a year out to prepare for the challenge having sold his event business. His rowing career dates back to his childhood and on to winning the Doggett Coat and Badge, like his grandfather and brother.

For more information visit www.row4life.com



THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO CHARTERING

Launching at the end of the year, the CNI Charter Collection for 2006 will be the definitive guide to chartering a yacht. Expected to be CNI's most stylish brochure to date, the new edition will include two separate publications devoted respectively to our ever-increasing fleet of yachts, and a guide to the finest cruising grounds.

With an exciting collection of the newest yachts available on the market, the new Yacht Directory will contain a stunning portfolio of some of the world's most glamorous yachts. From classic yachts, fast motor-boats, and stylish sailing yachts, the guide will have something to suit every taste, including a new section on the new trend in yachting - Megayachts. With inspiring ideas for many different styles of charter, from gilt-edged, gourmet dining to exploring cultures ashore; from relaxing and reviving with pure indulgence to out of this world water sports; and from something for the family to corporate occasions, CNI's new Charter Collection 2006 will be the ultimate guide to luxury yacht charters. For further information on ordering your personal copy of the Charter Collection turn to page 89 in this issue of *sea&i*.

FOR THE DIARY...

MONACO YACHT SHOW	21-24 Sep	www.monacoyachtshow.com
AMERICA'S CUP TRAPANI, SICILY	27 Sep - 9 Oct	www.americascup.com
LES VOILES DE SAINT-TROPEZ	1-9 Oct	www.snst83.nuxit.net
ANAPOLIS US SAILBOAT SHOW	6-10 Oct	www.usboat.com
GENOA BOAT SHOW	8-16 Oct	www.fiera.ge.it
BARCELONA BOAT SHOW	22-30 Oct	www.salonnautico.com
FORT LAUDERDALE BOAT SHOW	27-31 Oct	www.showmanagement.com
ATHENS BOAT SHOW	1-5 Nov	www.athensboatshow.com
VOLVO OCEAN RACE START, UK	5 Nov	www.volvoceanrace.org
SALON NAUTIQUE DE PARIS	2-12 Dec	www.salonnautiqueparis.com
ANTIGUA CHARTER SHOW	7-12 Dec	www.antigua-charter-yacht-meeting.com
PHUKET MARINE EXPO	8-11 Dec	www.phuketboatshow.com

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Participating watch manufacturers in alphabetical order: Andersen Genève, Antoine Preziuso, Audemars Piguet, Blancpain, Bovet, Breguet, Chopard, Corum, de Bethune, de Grisogono, de la Cour, de Witt, Eterna, Franck Muller, Frédérique Constant, Gérald Genta, Harry Winston, Hublot, IWC, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Jaquet Droz, Kiu Tai Yu, Louis Vuitton, Officine Panerai, Omega, Patek Philippe, Piaget, Pierre Kunz, Richard Mille & Philippe Starck, Swatch, Ulysse Nardin, Vacheron Constantin, Zenith

MASTERPIECES ONLY WATCH FOR CHARITY

Under the high patronage of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, exceptional wristwatches will be auctioned at this year's Monaco Yacht Show to benefit the Association Monégasque Contre Les Myopathies

Luc Pettavino, one of the founders and the main organiser of the Monaco Yacht Show, is a man of action. When confronted with the news that his son had the fatal genetic disease Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, he did not give up. Instead, he started putting all his forces into the battle to help collect funds for further genetic research. At the helm of the Association Monégasque Contre Les Myopathies (AMM), Pettavino has already spearheaded many projects to that end, but Only Watch has taken things a step further.

Attracting the attention of many of the major watchmakers' CEOs, Pettavino managed to convince the leaders of the watch industry to develop their creative talents and offer exclusive timepieces to an extremely sophisticated clientele of collectors, with 100 per cent of the proceeds being donated to a worthy cause. Now with the auction catalogue available, it seems the original expectations have more than been exceeded, as Osvaldo Patrizzi, chairman and CEO of Antiquorum, explains: "While studying the 34 descriptions and illustrations of the watches to be offered, I was struck by the diversity of the pieces. Each manufacturer has interpreted the mission in its own fashion, producing a watch characteristic of that firm's image, style and flair," he says. "I was also moved by the humanitarian spirit displayed by the brands. They wholeheartedly took part in the project. The result is a magnificent selection; the finest in watchmaking today."

The Only Watch auction will take place in Monaco on the 22 September at 6pm, with previews on the 21 and 22 September. For further information, visit www.antiquorum.com / www.monacoyachtshow.com



A STROKE OF GENIUS

In celebration of its tenth anniversary,
Roger Dubuis has released two
spectacular movements: the Excalibur
EX01 and the Excalibur EX08

The Excalibur EX01 is equipped with the new in-house-calibre RDo1 mechanical movement and is manually wound. Driven by two tourbillons with a constant force that rotate in opposite directions, the double tourbillon is equipped with a differential mechanism that calculates the average of the two tourbillons on the time display. Only 28 pieces of the World Premiere EX01 are available. Cased in white gold, with a white mother-of-pearl face and white-gold hands and detailing, the timepiece is complimented by a genuine crocodile-leather strap.

The Excalibur EX08 is equipped with an automatic RDo8 movement, with a double micro-rotor made of platinum. The only model from Roger Dubuis with a minute repeater that has a chiming dissipater, the mechanism is activated by rotating the turning bezel in a clockwise direction, as opposed to the traditional means of sliding a lever. Available as a World Premiere edition, its 28 pieces are cased in 18-carat rose gold, with Roman numerals and rose-gold hands on the dial. As with the EX01 World Premier edition, the EX08 also comes with a crocodile-leather strap. ■

Art scene: New York & London

Many art events are labelled 'major' and 'creative', not least by their organisers, but this autumn sees the opening of two exhibitions that promise to justify those overworked epithets by changing the way in which visitors subsequently view the artistic output of, respectively, a major nation, Russia, and one of the greatest masters in the European tradition, Rubens

By Thomas Grant

Opposite page,
clockwise from top left:
Dionysii Crucifixion,
from the Pavlo-Obnorskii
Monastery, Moscow, 1500;
Peter Paul Rubens,
The Conversion of Saint
Paul, circa 1614;
Kazimir Malevich,
Black Square, circa 1930

Exhibition: *RUSSIA!*

Venue: *The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York*

Dates: *16 September 2005 — 11 January 2006*

RUSSIA! should justify its capitals, and perhaps even its exclamation mark, by offering a unique opportunity to see over 250 works of art from the foremost Russian collections, a large number of which have never travelled out of Russia before. The emphasis is mainly on painting, from 13th-century icons to experimental contemporary art, but concurrently with this exhibition the Guggenheim-Hermitage Museum in Las Vegas will be showing *RUSSIA! The Majesty Of The Tsars: Treasures From The Kremlin*, featuring objects from the royal courts of the 16th and 17th centuries. Visitors to the New York Guggenheim exhibition will follow it chronologically through the famous spiral of the museum. Notable among the earliest items will be the serene, classically balanced icons of Andrei Rublev, painted around 1400 and incorporating Byzantine influences, but developing a distinctive Russian religious idiom. This dynamic relationship with European art, predictable in a large nation on the fringes of Europe, runs in one way or another through most subsequent Russian art. It is seen in a different way in the paintings brought to Russia from western Europe by Peter the

Great and Catherine the Great, and later by the pre-revolutionary merchants Sergei Shchukin and Ivan Morozov, who were among the chief patrons of Picasso and Matisse. These collections will be in two of the Annex galleries, but Russian art itself will continue up the spiral through the 18th and 19th centuries to the great modernists of the early 20th century, when activity in Russia rivalled that of Paris, particularly in the abstract painting of Kazimir Malevich, who is represented by his *Black Square* from the Hermitage. The other great Russian modernist, Kandinsky, who had much in common with Malevich, does not feature in this exhibition, presumably because the Guggenheim has a rich collection of its own.

Exhibition: *Rubens: A Master In The Making*

Venue: *National Gallery, London*

Dates: *26 October 2005 — 15 January 2006*

One of the European masters in the Hermitage collection is Peter Paul Rubens, the painter without whom no royal collection is complete. Although Rubens seems, in his painterly energy and inventiveness, to be a force of nature, his originality and confidence were based on careful, fruitful study of the painting he saw first in his native Flanders and, crucially, during the time he spent



in Italy in his twenties, from 1600 — 1608. Rubens: A Master In The Making will explore his development from his early work as a pupil of minor Flemish teachers and his enrolment as a master in the Antwerp Guild from 1598, through his Italian years, to the period of his return to Antwerp and his establishment in the period 1609 — 1614 as the outstanding international figure in European art.

Though little is normally made of Rubens' work in the years before his Italian trip, with hindsight it can be seen that many of his characteristic strengths stem from his early training in the Flemish tradition, with its emphasis on using paint to render surfaces and textures as realistically, often as sensuously, as possible. In this, he looks back to van Eyck and van der Weyden, but in Italy he laid the groundwork for his unique ability to augment his sensuous, loving realism with the brushwork and colour of Titian and Tintoretto, the solidity of figure of Michelangelo, the dramatic realism of Caravaggio, the large scale of much Italian painting, and a great deal more. The National Gallery will bring together the fruits of this rich amalgam, including the superb series of portraits painted in Genoa in 1606 — 1607, and the great baroque masterpieces painted after his return to Antwerp, culminating in such magnificently energetic, and crowded canvases as *The Conversion of St. Paul* (1614). ■





Red-hot cuisine:
dining at the Sand
Bar at Eden Rock



Spicy SAINT BARTS island

Unfeasibly stylish and sexy with great spirit, St Barts is the epitome of Caribbean chic — and never more so than when enjoyed from the decks of a superyacht

By Tandy Althoff

During the summer, anyone who is anyone takes up residence in the Côte d'Azur or the Hamptons — it's only natural. And, come winter, uber-style living again follows nature's lead and just as the birds migrate, so too the jet set slip south to the island of St Barts.

Discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493, St Barts lies in the small smudge of islands in the northeast Caribbean. Its capital, Gustavia, is one of the prettiest in this part of the world and its beaches and shores are the stuff of Caribbean dreams. But beyond this St Barts is far from your average Caribbean island. It passed through the hands of the French, Swedish and British before finally joining the French commune of Guadeloupe — and there is no denying its Gallic heritage. St Barts is French through and through, from its *joie de vivre* to its cool nonchalance, to its great cuisine and laissez faire spirit. This is the Caribbean's take on the Côte d'Azur — a unique place where you need do nothing other than eat, drink and look fabulous in the most flippantly barefoot style. Decisions on St Barts are of the most desirable variety — which beach to grace, whether to go snorkelling in the morning or in the afternoon, what to wear, and where to eat. There is a gourmet choice of all the above — restaurants, beaches and boutiques abound — so to smooth your way to the perfect charter, [sea&i](#) suggests a handful of the finest attractions for your next visit... →

eating

The chefs on St Barts adapt traditional French cuisine to suit the warmer climate. Sauces are lighter, and Caribbean fruits and spices highlight classic dishes. Among 30 or so good places to eat in St Barts, a few places stand out in particular...

Hailed 'the sexiest place on earth', bling-cool **NIKKI BEACH CAFÉ** is one of the most popular spots for glamorous gastronomes. As with the celebrated Nikki Beaches of St Tropez, Miami, Marbella and Mexico, arrive by yacht for maximum impact, then simply stroll up the beach for lunch. The menu firmly falls into the fusion category, mixing Oriental (the sushi station is a must) and European styles with a touch of the Caribbean. This is the place the party set migrate to on Sunday afternoons to catch up on the gossip from the previous night's action at trendy sister venue Casa Nikki. *Tel + 590 590 27 64 64; www.nikkibeach.com*

The best spot to enjoy a leisurely Sunday lunch with amazing views over the Bay of Flamands is **LA CASE DE L'ISLE**. The sensational cheese platter (recommended as a main course and not the suggested appetiser) and generous salads are a must in the Caribbean heat. As long lunches are the thing — eating and drinking can last until sunset — so reservations are essential. *Tel + 590 590 27 61 81; www.st-barths.com/isle-de-france*

Another great place for watching the sun set is **DO BRAZIL**. Tucked away on Gustavia's Shell Beach and accessible only via a maze of one-way streets, it is a very chic setting, albeit in an understated way. Book dinner somewhere else, but head here for a Caipirinha — the traditional Brazilian brandy cocktail. *Tel + 590 590 29 06 66*

One of the most popular restaurants on St Barts, **MAYA'S** lays on a warm welcome and inspired menu that changes daily to take advantage of fresh market ingredients. Decorated with large, round tables and 'crayon-coloured' canvas chairs, Maya's overlooks Gustavia Harbour. The restaurant is on everyone's list, so reservations are recommended. *Tel + 590 590 29 83 70*

The waterfront bar in Gustavia, **BETE A Z'AILES** (known by the locals as 'baz') is a great place to head for mojitos and chocolate martinis, accompanied by live jazz and great sushi. *Tel + 590 590 29 74 09*

For delicious Creole cuisine, **LE TAMARIN** is a funky but upscale beach restaurant. Following a lazy lunch, sip a cool cocktail

under the century-old Tamarind tree, lounge in a hammock or retire to the beach. *Tel + 590 590 27 72 12*

Dining at **EDDY'S RESTAURANT** in Gustavia is a fun, casual affair. Set in a tropical garden with a thatched roof and suspended lighting, the venue is inviting and relaxed. The menu changes daily to take advantage of the freshest ingredients and, if available, we recommend the conch baked in pastry, black sausage in sweet and sour sauce, Thai shrimp, or goat or chicken curry. A rum punch, appetizers, entrées, a bottle of wine, dessert and an after-dinner rum will set you up for a big night at the popular Yacht Club nearby. *Tel + 590 590 27 54 17*

St Barts' first hotel, **EDEN ROCK** remains its most famous and is audaciously built on a giant rock in Saint Jean Bay. It has its own tapas bar, as well as the Sand Bar and The Rock, where you can dine enjoying spectacular views of the sea — or the many celebs that flock here. The beachfront Sand Bar is recommended for those who want to chill with a glass of Muscadet and a sensationally fresh seafood platter. *Tel + 590 590 29 79 99; www.edenrockhotel.com*

Along Saint Jean Bay, the colourful beach club **LA PLAGÉ** at Tom Beach Hotel is where a quiet night of gazpacho and tuna sashimi can suddenly transform into a lively, unforgettable night of dancing on the tables. *Tel + 590 590 27 53 13*

Nightlife on St Barts is usually a casual, off-the-cuff affair with an evening dinner smoothly slipping into a night of unexpected opportunities. However, if you want to party there are a couple of spots where you can let your hair down. Capturing the funky spirit of St Barts, **LE TI ST-BARTH** is a wildly popular hill-top spot where you can dance with the in-crowd, lounge at one of the pillow-strewn banquets featuring honey-drizzled chevre salad, house-smoked fish or grilled duck fillet, before chilling on the torch-lit terrace with a dessert wine from the extensive wine list. For night owls, the famously raucous full-moon parties at Le Ti St-Barth are legendary. *Tel + 590 590 27 97 71*

Le **YACHT CLUB** in Gustavia is a relatively new club and already a firm favourite with locals and yacht owners. The cause of many a celebrity hangover, the island's own restaurateurs come here — meaning it must be a good choice. →



The ever-stylish
Nikki Beach Café



Sunday lunch with
a view at La Case
De L'Isle



Eden Rock: the island's first
and most famous hotel



Expect great cuisine and
character at La Plage at
Tom Beach Hotel

beaches

Needless to say, the beaches on St Barts are stunning, ranging from the crowded and cosmopolitan St Jean to the remote, roaring madness of Anse Toiny.

For the non-bashful, **ANSE DU GOUVERNEUR** and **GRANDE SALINE** on the south coast are the two best beaches where most sunbathers go nude even though there is a law prohibiting complete nudity on St Barts' shores. The beaches are secluded, with blissful swimming and spectacular views across to the volcanic islands of St Kitts, Saba and St Eustatius. **BAIE DE ST JEAN** is like a mini Côte d'Azur. St Barts' beaches don't get livelier than this hip strip of sand, famous for beachside bistros, bronzed bodies, windsurfing, and, the most popular island sport — people watching. Alternatively, **ANSE DE COLOMBIER** and **MARIGOT** are St Barts' best for those who prefer a little more peace and quiet. Anse de Colombier is the least accessible but the most private and it has an ideal cove for a calm anchorage and snorkelling. If your idea of heaven is a perfect curve of silken sand, head for **ANSE DE FLAMANDS** on the northwest coast. For the surfers, **ANSE TOINY** is St Barts' wildest beach, where the waters are only suitable for surfing, while the steady waves lapping **ANSE DE L'ORIENT** make this a popular spot for surfers and swimmers. ■

DON'T MISS...

The 11th anniversary of the St Barth's Bucket takes place from 31 March — 2 April 2006. In 2005, the race was hailed as one of the most important superyacht races in the world and the turnout for 2006 is expected to be greater still.



The view over Toiny Bay



Look forward to lazy days on the Baie De St Jean



Plunge below the waterline for an alternative view

A woman with dark hair and blue eye makeup is sitting on a sandy beach. She is wearing a blue, off-the-shoulder, draped dress and a thick, multi-strand pearl necklace. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall mood is elegant and serene.

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Into the blue

As the year draws to a close it signals the arrival of the southern-hemisphere charter season, and once again CNI has a fleet of its finest yachts waiting to deliver you to your favourite haunts and harbours



FROM THE FLEET...

HIGH ASPECT 21.7m/71.2' — 8 guests from US\$21,500 per week



MYANMAR & THAILAND

The ancient land of Myanmar is a hauntingly beautiful fusion of sleepy villages, sacred cities, golden pagodas and mist-shrouded jungles. For so long these mystical landscapes were hidden from foreign eyes and remained untouched by the passage of time. It is, therefore, a real privilege to visit now

and experience such a rare and magical culture. In contrast, although Thailand is an established travel hot spot it still retains its endemic appeal. The secret of any charter is to mix the two faces of the nation: spend time partying on the larger islands, then disappear into the Indian Ocean to explore remote, untouched jungle-strewn isles that seem to be a million miles from anywhere.



FROM THE FLEET...

GEORGIA 48.5m/160' — 10 guests from US\$150,000 per week



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

The bright lights of the city, desert wildernesses, mountainous landscapes and remote tropical islands — Australia has it all. The east coast from Cairns down to Melbourne links one highlight with the next, making any cruise a fantastic voyage of discovery. Choose from snorkelling the Great Barrier Reef, a night out at the Sydney Opera House, touring the wine lands or cruising the Whitsunday Islands. Further south, the two islands of New Zealand offer equal appeal. This is a sporting paradise — from sailing to hiking to fishing to skiing to extreme sports — but it is also a wonderful place for culture and warm hospitality, and your charter can combine an enticing mix of all.



CUBA

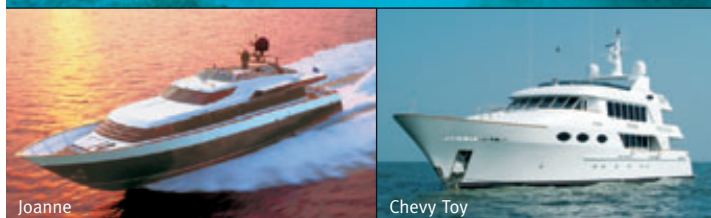
The largest island in the Caribbean, Cuba is the place to go if you want clear blue skies, sparkling seas, white sands and an ample dose of culture and eclectic, colonial character. Alongside crumbling 18th-century palaces you'll see pre-Revolution Chevs and Buicks dotting the towns while, further inland, fruit orchards, sugar plantations and time-forgotten villages highlight the landscape. On your itinerary, include a visit to the tranquil courtyards and plazas of Old Havana, visit the famous cigar factories around Pinar del Rio and explore the beaches and coral reefs of Cayo Coco and Cayo Guillermo.



Boo Too

FROM THE FLEET...

BOO TOO 27.4m/90' — 4 guests from €24,000 per week



Joanne

Chevy Toy

FLORIDA & THE BAHAMAS

The Bahamas offer dynamic social life and pure isolation in equal measure, so if you want to party hard one day and relax the next, this is the place for you. Flying into Miami, you can explore the club scene there before flying to Nassau on Harbour Island where you'll meet your yacht. From there lie 700 miles of island-hopping fun, from Eleuthera to the Exumas to Cat Island to the Abacos. Mix up your charter to combine clubbing, golf, diving, gourmet dining, shopping and plenty of stretching out doing absolutely nothing at all on virgin-white beaches.

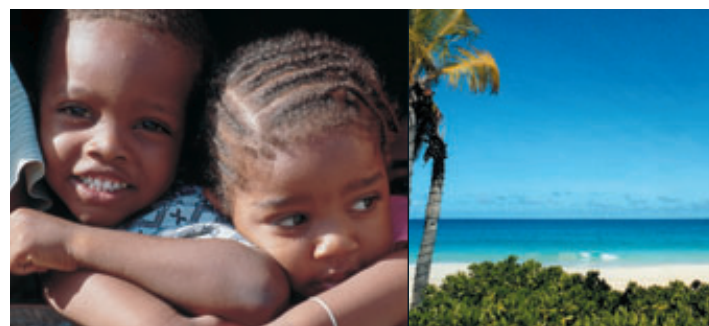
FROM THE FLEET...

JOANNE 37m/120' — 8 guests from US\$44,900 per week

CHEVY TOY 43.3m/142' — 10 guests from US\$140,000 per week

THE GRENADINES

The Grenadines stretch out at the tail end of the Caribbean and are rich with rainforests, spice plantations, Calypso music and pretty pastel cottages peeping out beneath the palms. From St Vincent you can cruise south to the Tobago Cays, take a stroll at sunset along the exclusive shores of Mustique and visit the pretty island of Bequia. At the end of the Grenadine chain lies Grenada — the perfect place to begin or end a cruise with its scenic waterfalls, tropical beaches and famous island rum.



Corinthian

Galaxy

FROM THE FLEET...

CORINTHIAN 35m/114.8' — 8 guests from €47,600 per week

GALAXY 56m/183.8' — 12 guests from €195,000 per week



THE LEEWARD ISLANDS

One of the most popular of the Caribbean island groups, the Leewards count St Kitts, Antigua, Anguilla, St Barts, St Martin, Nevis and Barbuda among their many charms. During an eight-day cruise you can access all of the above, but there is so much to see and do you could easily spend the whole season here. For French Riviera-style living, St Barts has no equal, Antigua is fabulous for genuine yachting charm, while barefoot relaxation is best reserved for the quieter isles of Anguilla and Barbuda.

FROM THE FLEET...

BRAVEHEART 49.8m/163.4' — 8 guests from US\$147,000 per week

SAVANNAH 36m/118' — 8 guests from US\$47,500 per week

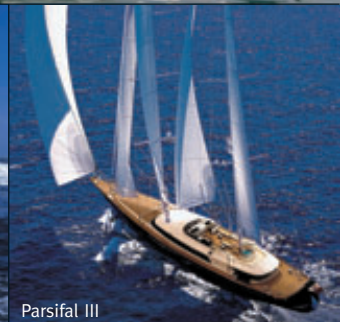
PARSIFAL III 54m/177' — 12/14 guests from €178,000 per week



Braveheart



Savannah



Parsifal III



Casuarina

Royal Eagle



Midlandia

FROM THE FLEET...

CASUARINA 38m/124.3' — 8 guests from US\$65,000 per week

ROYAL EAGLE 43m/141' — 8 guests from US\$70,000 per week

MIDLANDIA 52m/170' — 12 guests from US\$185,000 per week



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Crowning the Caribbean with a cluster of idyllic destinations, the Virgin Islands are a fabulous cruising ground. The main islands to head for are Anegada, Tortola, St John, St Thomas, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke, but countless smaller isles are worth including on your itinerary. Norman Island has some wonderful caves to explore (reputedly with buried treasure) and Peter Island offers fantastic views from its hilltops, but in between the isles the sea is equally compelling. The waters are perfect for sailing, swimming and watersports, while the marine life and numerous shipwrecks in the area make it a perfect spot for divers.

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



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PREPARE TO PARTY

ULTIMATE VENUES

If you are going all out to host a party in style, it shouldn't be over in a matter of hours. With that in mind, **sea&i** has found five amazing properties you can hire for the whole weekend — giving you ample time to celebrate... and recover!

By Miriam Cain

REETHI RAH, THE MALDIVES

The latest addition to the One&Only group of hotels, the island resort of Reethi Rah is a perfect cocoon where your every whim is indulged. Reethi Rah — which means ‘beautiful island’ in the native language Dhivehi — is made up of 130 sophisticated open-plan villas complete with high ceilings, sunken baths and personal butlers. With fabulous diving, deep-sea fishing, a Zen-inspired spa, three restaurants and, last but not least, miles of stunning beaches, the resort has something for everyone. Party the night away under the spell of Fanditha’s beachside bar on the tip of the island. In true boho-chic style, it is strewn with cushions, hammocks and Balinese-style beds — the perfect place for pink Champagne apéritifs before you drift down to the tables at the edge of the ocean to dine by candlelight. Reethi Rah Island can be exclusively hired for a long weekend.

For further information, visit www.oneandonlyresorts.com



DEVI GARH, INDIA

Nestled in the Aravali hills of Rajasthan, the 18th century Devi Garh Fort Palace is one of the most innovative hotels in India. It is an eclectic mix of traditional and modern, with 30 spacious suites, a gourmet restaurant with spectacular views over the Aravali hills and a large marble swimming pool filled with rose petals for the most romantic celebrations. There is seemingly no limit to the exotic activities available here. You can embark on a camel safari, play croquet, be entertained by traditional Rajasthani dancers, watch full-blown pageantries of traditionally clad Merwari warriors on horseback, or gaze at spectacular laser and fireworks displays specially hosted for you and your guests. This is the perfect venue for a lavish party for over 350 guests, and with no neighbours around for 15 miles there is no risk of being disturbed in this idyllic corner of the world.

For further information, visit www.deviresorts.com



ALTAMER, ANGUILLA

Thanks to its fantastic weather and laidback lifestyle, the Caribbean has a reputation as a party place, and on this idyllic corner of Anguilla you simply can't go wrong. The Altamer resort is a cluster of three large, white villas with a profusion of glass triangles, semicircles and rectangular expanses set on one of Anguilla's finest beaches, Shoal Bay West. The first villa, the Russian Amethyst, is adorned with paintings and objects from Russia, Turkey and Italy, making for a truly eclectic stay. The Brazilian Emerald is favoured for its large, semicircular bar and 180-degree view of the Caribbean, while the third and most spacious villa, the African Sapphire, has its own pond for snorkelling. The Altamer has an impressive staff of butlers, housekeepers and gourmet chefs who attend to your every need, be it a massage in your private treatment room or arranging a scuba diving excursion or island-hopping trip to neighbouring St Martin or St Bart's. Available as a trio or individually, the villas threaten to run away with the luxury sweepstakes.

For further information, visit www.altamer.com



MOUNT HARTMAN BAY ESTATE, GRENADA

Combining antique charm with modern and quirky appeal, Mount Hartman Bay Estate is an exquisite example of innovative architecture. Arriving on a private peninsula on the southernmost coast of Grenada, you and your guests will be welcomed to a striking house built into the hillside on a beautiful bay circled by coral reefs. The duration of your stay will be one long party — whatever that might mean for you. For some, this is the place to come and laze around the pool while sipping a Planter's Punch cocktail. Others can jump aboard one of the motor cruisers at your disposal and take a trip to one of the neighbouring islands for a Caribbean picnic. And the more active of your guests will no doubt be tempted by the opportunities to explore the island by motorbike, or to dive into the Caribbean Sea to wakeboard, waterski, snorkel or Sea Scooter the afternoon away.

For further information, visit www.mounthartmanbay.com



ULUSABA, SOUTH AFRICA

Set in South Africa's Sabi Sands, the ultra-stylish Ulusaba is a private game reserve located in a stunning setting on the edge of the Kruger National Park. Ulusaba has two exquisite lodges. Rock Lodge is high on the summit with panoramic views of the bush where the animals roam in peace, while Safari Lodge has rooms built in a romantic tree-house style with their own private deck accessed by a rope bridge. During the day, you and your guests can head into the bush for an unforgettable private safari before returning to the lodges to party into the night. After a busy day, the evenings are relaxed affairs with an ambience that resembles a colonial country-house party in the bush. While you are inside enjoying the finest modern luxuries with friends, the wilds of Africa on your doorstep add a unique, exotic edge to the occasion. Both lodges can be hired exclusively. ■

For further information, visit www.ulusaba.com



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Enrico Bernardo assesses one of the wines on the George V's prestigious wine list

SOMMELIER

The wine master

When it comes to great taste, few can match Enrico Bernardo, Beverage manager at Paris' George V hotel, and recognised to be the best sommelier in the world, Bernardo is an authority on the finest wines

By Kate Rigby

They say the best things come to those who wait. Enrico Bernardo can attest to this, although it should be pointed out that the 'waiting' in his case does not equate to time, rather it refers to the nature of his job. As beverage manager at the George V hotel in Paris, Bernardo has not only secured one of the finest positions in his profession, he also currently holds the highly lauded title Best Sommelier in the World. And he loves his work. Not a bad start for someone who has yet to hit his thirties.

Bernardo joined the George V five years ago at the tender age of 23. Originally from Milan in Italy, he began his career journey at the Istituto Alberghiero di Milano (Milan Hotel School) before honing his skills at the three-Michelin-starred Troisgros and the one-Michelin-starred La Poularde restaurants in the Rhône Valley, the Grand Hotel in Stockholm, and Le Clos de La Violette in Provence. Along with such esteemed establishments on his CV, he also adds the title of Best Sommelier in Europe (2002), and, as mentioned, Best Sommelier in the World. In a fiercely competitive industry, such titles are not lightly bestowed.

"A good sommelier is one who has an impeccable knowledge of wine in every respect — not just which ones are the finest, but how each one should be stored and served," Bernardo explains. "It requires a deep passion for wine, spirits, food, service and people."

The work of a top sommelier is a delicate combination of many skills. It involves a great deal of travelling to find the best wines and establish excellent

relations with the wine growers and distributors. It also demands a canny skill in investing in the right stock to suit each unique establishment and its menu and guests. The delicate pairing of food and wine is something for which Bernardo is passionate. "I always work very closely with the chefs and serving staff," he says. "I taste the food all the time to ensure that we have the right wines to serve by the glass to compliment each dish." And this being the George V, the dishes are something really quite special. The hotel's legendary Le Cinq restaurant has three Michelin stars, with Philippe Legendre as its executive chef.

Aside from the undeniably tempting duties of travelling to the most celebrated wine lands and sampling the world's finest foods and wines on a daily basis, Bernardo readily admits that the part of the job he most enjoys is the contact he has with the guests.

"I love to talk about wine," he enthuses. "I love to share my knowledge and experience and help people select the right wines to enjoy with their meal. It is a great pleasure to be surrounded by others who appreciate great food and wine. To share such a passion is very rewarding."

The George V currently has around 1,300 different labels and more than 50,000 bottles in its cellars, so Bernardo is not short of wines to recommend — nor, clearly, is he short of knowledge concerning them. As part of his challenge to win the Best Sommelier in the World award he had to complete a blind tasting, identifying the exact wines and spirits he was served from all over the world. He also had to correct a flawed wine list, decant, and make a selection of wines to accompany a full menu. Along the way his sommelier-guests service skills were tested to the extreme, with the judges assessing to the tiniest detail his ability to mingle with guests, share his skill and passion for great wines and spirits with poise and professionalism, and offer exemplary recommendations.

"The service at George V is one of the things we focus on in particular," Bernardo explains. "Our service team is like a family. We have a great →



respect of wine — which glass each should be served in, at which temperature, and with which foods and so on. And we likewise have a great respect of each other and of our guests. We spend a great deal of time talking to them, advising them and making them feel welcome and informed.”

The team of nine wine staff at the George V not only keep up with the latest labels, but also the latest tastes, which, Bernardo notes, can alter considerably. “In the past, people loved concentrated, oaky wines, spicy and full of flavour, but now the preference is for more light, balanced and elegant fruity wines with less oak.”

When it comes to taste, Bernardo currently recommends that Italy is the place to go for red, and Germany or Austria for white, although he stresses that Chilean reds and New Zealand whites can also be superb. For those in

the market to invest, Bernardo suggests aiming for Riesling from Mosel-Saar Ruwer, Chardonnay from Burgundy, Sauvignon from New Zealand, Nebbiolo from Barolo and Barbaresco, Syrah from the Rhône Valley and Cabernet Sauvignon from Bordeaux, the Napa Valley and Chile.

Selecting the right wines is one thing, but once you’ve bought them storage is a major consideration. The George V’s legendary wine cellar nestles 14 metres below ground in what used to be an old stone quarry used in part to build the Arc de Triomphe. Created in 1928, it houses the hotel’s phenomenal selection of wines (the most expensive of which is the Romanée Conti 1966 at 12,000 Euros per bottle) in optimum conditions. Unfortunately, for charter-going wine enthusiasts, storage can often be a problem on board a yacht, but Bernardo has a few words of advice when it comes to laying in the right labels for your next cruise.

“Don’t keep your wine on board for too long,” he recommends. “Always take them at the beginning of each charter. And store them in a quiet corner of the yacht where there is the minimum of motion and where the atmosphere can be controlled. Ideally you need a temperature of 14 degrees with 70 per cent humidity.”

Although the very finest wines in your collection may not make for the best travelling companions, at least you have the consolation that your yacht can deliver you to many of the best restaurants in the world, where the wines — and the way in which they are served by the professional sommeliers — will no doubt make for many a vintage celebration. ■

Wine wisdom on board

The decks of a private yacht are unquestionably a very special place to crack open a bottle of fine wine, whether it be a Grand Cru Classé from Bordeaux, a Barolo from Piedmont, or an Australian Shiraz



Left: The bar and cellar of George V in Paris
Above: Relaxing with a glass of wine on Kanaloa

Unfortunately, although yachts are the perfect place to enjoy a leisurely glass of wine, they are far from being the ideal place to store bottles. The manner in which your wine is delivered and stored is a challenging task, but there are professional wine suppliers who can guarantee that once your magnificent 1989 Château Haut-Brion leaves the cool dark calm of its cave it ventures safely into the rolling world of luxury yachting. Once on board, your crew will store the bottles upright, minimising the effect of the 'roll' of the yacht and thus leaving sediment safely at the bottom of the bottle. Decanting reds before serving also helps separate the sediment from the wine.

The matching of food and wine is a matter of personal taste, hence the importance of a charterer's involvement in the selection of the wines. When considering a client's individual menu requests and balancing these with a varied choice of wines, the space and storage restriction aboard a yacht and the local availability of wines, it is easy to see why your charter broker needs to discuss your personal tastes prior to a charter. While your preference may be for classic wines, whether you are in the West Mediterranean, East Mediterranean, the Caribbean or Alaska, be bold and try the local wines — you may be pleasantly surprised. ■

→ WHY NOT PURCHASE **PRIVATE AVIATION**
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Michael 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.'

A member of BBGA (British Business and General Aviation Association, formally GAMTA) Speedbird Air Ltd offer the following services:

AIRCRAFT BROKERAGE

A complete broking service dealing with all the complexities and hassle associated with sourcing and purchasing an executive jet. Speedbird Air Ltd will use their knowledge, experience and contacts to find the most appropriate aircraft to suit your needs and budget; while an association with the aviation department of a top American/British law firm guarantees that your interests are protected.

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For existing jet owners, Speedbird Air Ltd offer comprehensive aircraft management in London and the surrounding area. The management service includes qualified aircrew; dealing with all maintenance schedules; organising appropriate documentation; and the preparing and submitting of flight plans. Speedbird Air Ltd will arrange for special clearances; crew positioning and accommodation; crew training; handling agents; catering; accounts and administration; aircraft recovery; and replacement aircraft where necessary (e.g. when one's own aircraft is in for maintenance). They will also arrange passenger accommodation and transportation upon request. All the owner has to decide is when and where they want to go.

AIRCRAFT CONSULTANCY

Speedbird Air Ltd offer consultancy on aircraft acquisition, group ownership, fractional ownership and charter brokerage, employing their experience and a vast network of contacts to provide a range of services and reports tailored specifically to your needs.

Business aircraft ownership allows you to take control of the time you spend on travel. In your own aircraft you can work uninterrupted in the quiet privacy of a custom cabin. Whether for work or for pleasure you depart and arrive whenever you like, taking off and landing at the most convenient airport. No more tedious security checks, just a hassle-free trip. Because executive jets generally fly as fast as and often higher than most airliners, and because using closer airfields avoids the time wastage and delays incurred at major airports, there is generally a big time saving factor.

Time is money. Owning an executive jet saves time and hassle, and thus saves money. Very often you will find that even from a direct cost aspect, using your own jet wouldn't be that much more expensive than flying schedule, and can often be more economical.

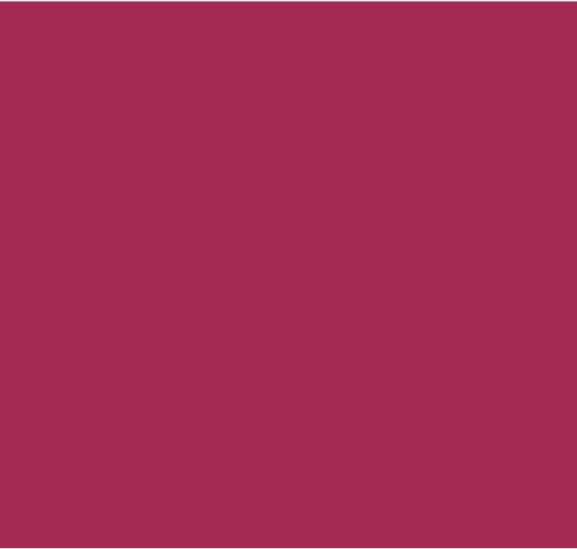
Throughout the history of aviation executive jets have always maintained good value, usually appreciating and thus remaining a valuable asset. Since the events of September 11th, 2001, however, prices of jets have plunged, bottoming out at the beginning of 2004. This means that, although prices have started to rise again, they are still extremely low compared to three years ago, particularly as they are priced in US dollars (which currently works in the particular favour of the UK purchaser).

One can purchase a relatively new, quality jet for as little as \$3 million. Running costs are not easy to pinpoint and will vary according to the aircraft and type of operations.

A great way of getting the benefits of one's own aircraft with less capital investment is group ownership between two to five friends. Speedbird Air Ltd will arrange this for you, setting up a special purpose company which would be the 'operator' and which would purchase the aircraft on behalf of the partners.

Purchasing an executive jet is an option well worth considering. Speedbird Air Ltd offer a personal service and expertise that is second to none. ■

For more information, please visit www.speedbirdair.com or contact Speedbird Air on +44 (0) 1582 727 555 or Captain Michael Sperling personally via email at michael@speedbirdair.co.uk



SPORTFISHING

The reel deal

The thrill of the chase, the irresistible battle of man against fish, a year-round calendar of international tournaments and fantastic prize money have made sportfishing a multi-billion-dollar industry

By Kate Rigby

When it comes to sportfishing, it is hard to judge who gets more truly caught. Is it the 80-pound sailfish enticed into biting the dancing lure? Or is it the eager angler, braced for action, rod poised, eyes glued to the line for the slightest twitch to signal that battle is set to commence? For the former, it is purely a fight for life; for the latter it is a more complex battle involving pride, patience, talent, experience, love, obsession, ambition, and, increasingly, hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Fishing fanatics across the world have fallen hook, line and sinker for sportfishing since it became popular in the early part of the last century. It has something to do with that primal urge to hunt: the thrill of the chase, the mental and physical challenge of the fight, the pitting of man's skill, tenacity and spirit against the force and fury of a pounding, powerful, 120-pound marlin — a bitter battle to the end when the fish will flail itself free of the hook, or man will triumphantly land his catch.

The appeal of sportfishing transcends nationality, age and time, with early luminaries of the sport including the writers Zane Grey and, more famously, Ernest Hemingway — an avid sportfisher from the 1930s onwards. Boarding his beloved 12m cabin cruiser *Pilar*, he set off for days of deep-sea hunting, becoming a vastly accomplished fisherman in the process. At the time, sportfishing as a recreational activity was in its early days. It was not until after the Second World War, when fibreglass boats became available, that the sport really took off. Since then it has grown into a multi-billion-dollar industry with an ever-impressive arsenal of high-tech rods, reels, lines, lures and electronics — not to mention sophisticated sportfishing boats from the likes of Bertram, Hatteras and Luhrs.

These boats can be seen darting across every corner of the globe, but it is the Bahamas that is regarded as the sportfishing

capital of the world. Indeed, the fertile waters of Bimini were among Hemingway's favourite hunting grounds. The author loved Bimini as a place to write and to fish. In the 1930s he reportedly snared the island's first big tuna, a 381-pounder, employing a technique that later became known as 'Hemingwaying' a fish — that is, landing it aboard before it has a chance to tire. Much of Hemingway's fishing, however, was done in the waters around Cuba and such was his influence that the great writer gave his name to an annual tournament that is still going strong today, some 55 years later.

Among the countless international tournaments that lure fishing fans from all over the world, the World Billfish Series (the WBS — the sport's only sanctioning organisation) hosts more than 60 prestigious tournaments in eight worldwide divisions (Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Gulf Coast, Caribbean, Pacific Coast, South Pacific and Pacific Rim), which attract more than 30,000 anglers. "The WBS has seen an unprecedented growth in tournament sportfishing over the last few years," says Sam White of the WBS. "We attribute this to an increased awareness among recreational anglers. Tournament fishing is a combination of many things, including camaraderie, competition and the potential for substantial financial gain. But it is really the enjoyment of the entire experience, from the dockside cocktail parties to the adrenaline rush of a leaping marlin, that drives anglers, captains and owners to compete."

There is no denying that sportfishing is a fun, challenging and increasingly accessible sport — one that requires a delicate mixture of skill, strength, patience, equipment, experience... and luck. Having bitten the bait, there is no guarantee the catch will be firmly hooked, and even if it is snared the fish will often fight its way free. In the meantime, though, a merry dance ensues with the fish variously running, slowing, turning, →

From top left: Landing a fish relies on skill, experience — and luck; a sailfish puts up an impressive fight; the final stages of battle

EVENTS

2005

OCTOBER

⇒ *Bisbee's Black and Blue Marlin Tournament, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico*

2006

JANUARY AND MARCH

⇒ *Los Sueños Signature Series, Los Sueños, Costa Rica*

APRIL

⇒ *Yamaha Contender Miami Billfish Tournament, Miami, Florida, US*

⇒ *Bahamas Billfish Championship Series, Bahamas (April — June)*

JUNE

⇒ *Mississippi Gulf Coast Billfish Classic, Biloxi, Mississippi, US*

AUGUST

⇒ *Pirate's Cove Billfish Tournament, Manteo, North Carolina, US*

⇒ *Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 Tournament, Cape May, New Jersey, US*

⇒ *White Marlin Open, Ocean City, Maryland, US (currently the most lucrative prize-winning competition, awarding one million dollars to the winning team in 2005)*

For more information on the above competitions, visit www.fishwbs.com



Top right: Celebrations are always in order after a successful day at sea

Above: Recording the moment of triumph before releasing the catch

diving deep, or, in the case of the prized billfish, performing awesome aerial acrobatics.

Along with tuna, billfish are the most popular catch in sportfishing and the size of the fish generally determines the length of time the battle will take, with the larger fish taking several hours to land. The heaviest fish ever caught per IGFA rules was a 2,664-pound white shark. While sharks are not the most widely hunted fish, there is a certain glory in fighting and landing such a creature, and this drives increasingly more anglers to search them out in Australia, California and off the Northeast coast of America.

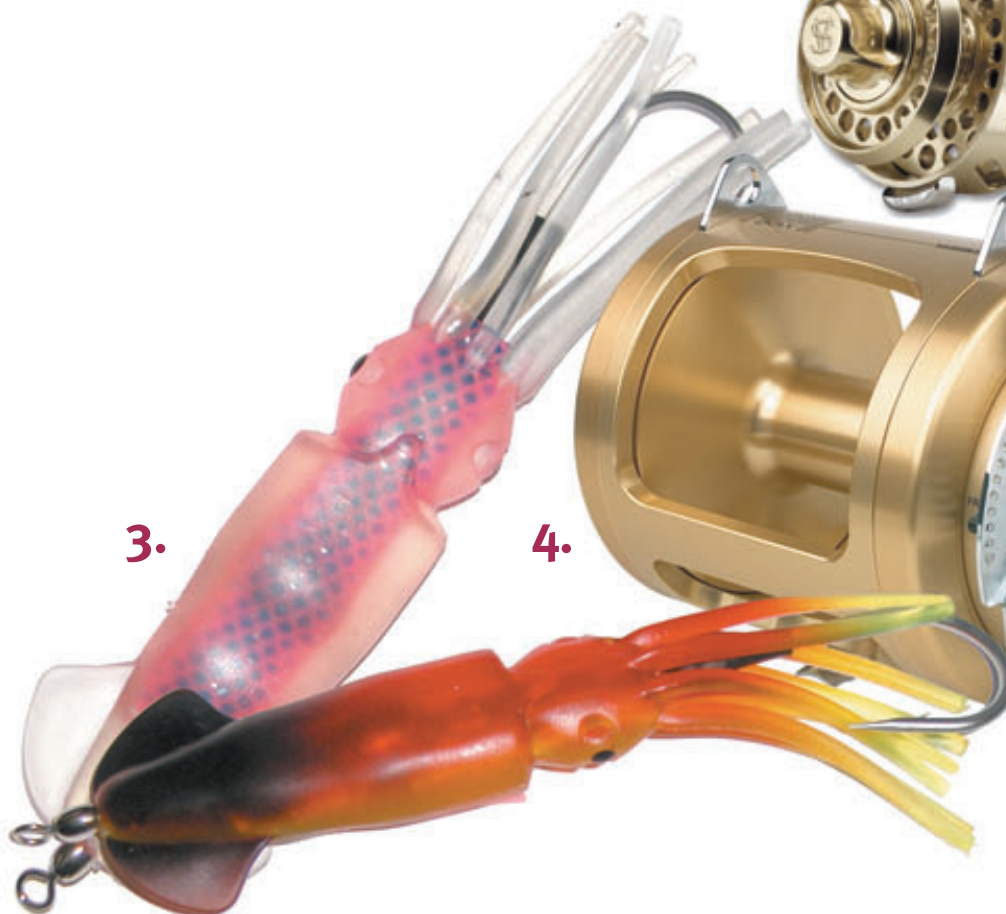
Sadly, overzealous hunting in previous decades has taken its toll on major fish populations, leading to the introduction of a catch and release policy. Nowadays, stringent rules exist regarding the technique and recording of a catch if it is to be recognised by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA). The IGFA was established in Florida in 1939 and is: "Committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping." Thanks to the conservation efforts of the IGFA, the future of sportfishing is now being carefully monitored and its regulations are increasingly being embraced and supported. For example, certain prestigious tournaments — such as the International Billfish Tournament of

the Club Náutico in Puerto Rico — now promote the catch and release practise. Every time such a policy is adopted, awareness is raised meaning sportfishing will be a sport that can continue to be enjoyed by future generations. Which is good news, as sportfishing is not just a great, fun, sport, it is also highly lucrative. Sam White says, "Some events on the WBS World Tour are now offering hundreds of thousands of dollars of prize money, and even up to one million dollars for the top teams."

But along with the competitive side, there is a great deal of fun to be had by beginners and novice anglers. A great way to break into the sport is to take off on a specially tailored half-day or day charter where a captain will provide the boat, equipment and training. If you are planning a CNI charter in Florida, Mexico, the Pacific Rim or the Caribbean, for example, why not ask your broker to arrange a sportfishing excursion? If you are blessed with beginner's luck — or a great deal of natural talent — and manage to land a sizeable fish, you will have the pride (and photographs) as a fantastic memory of your day. On the flip side, if you only manage to catch a small tuna, there is the equally appealing consolation of being able to take it back to your superyacht where your chef can serve it up as a delicious evening meal. Whatever the outcome of your fishing exploits, the chances are the fish will not be the only one to have got well and truly hooked. ■

Catch of the day

1. **BRIGHT IDEA** Perfect for tuna fishing, the 4-inch Cedar Feather lures from Ballyhood come in 18 colour combinations. www.ballyhood.com 2. **REEL IMPRESSIVE** The advanced Van Staal VS series 250 spinning reel from a selection at Finest Kind. www.finestkind.com 3. **GLOW CRAZY** The closest thing to live bait, Ballyhood's Squid Dog lures light up with an internal glow stick. www.ballyhood.com 4. **GO FOR GOLD** The Shimano Tiagra 50WA reel with a one-piece-machined aluminium frame, two-speed gears and a Septon grip. www.shimano.com 5. **HOT ROD** The high-performance Shimano Tiagra XTR rod. www.shimano.com





A SHOT OF **GUNMAKING** INSPIRATION

The snug fit against the shoulder, the reassuring click as metal closes on metal, the sure, straight shot... only the owner of a Best London gun knows the rare pleasure of commissioning such a bespoke work of craftsmanship

By Marina Mici



From left: Peerless craftsmanship is evident on every inch of a Best London gun; a barrel-maker requires 60 hours to complete a pair of barrels to perfection

There are precious few things that you can cherish during your own lifetime and then pass on to future generations safe in the knowledge that they will endure the test of time, provide countless decades of use and be treasured as unique family heirlooms. However, an expertly handmade rifle or shotgun — the likes of which are made bespoke for each client and involve some 1,000 or more man hours to make — is such an item, representing the perfect marriage of function and form, accuracy and artistry.

Only a handful of companies in the world offer such an elite service and each draws on a long history of expertise. In 1526 the Beretta family in Italy initiated a history of firearms manufacturing that has passed down 15 successive generations. Nearly 500 years of experience make Beretta something of a legend, but as well as longevity, the company boasts Olympic acclaim (its guns won a first Olympic Gold medal in clay pigeon shooting in Melbourne in 1956 and have since garnered medals at ten different Olympic Games). The company now exports its sporting firearms to almost 100 countries. Spain, likewise, has produced its highly prized Arrizabalaga shotguns and rifles since 1940. But the country best known for its elite gun-making skills is England, where companies such as Purdey

and Holland & Holland have led the field since the early 19th century. Around this time the term ‘Best London’ was coined to describe a gun that neither money nor time could improve. It was an honour precious few earned.

Purdey, one of the world’s finest gunmakers, was established in London in 1814 and by 1838 had earned the royal seal of approval after Queen Victoria ordered a pair of Purdey pistols. The company received its first Royal Warrant in 1868, and since that time each succeeding monarch has bestowed that honour on the company. Purdey now builds around 70 bespoke guns and rifles a year, each requiring 18 to 24 months to complete. Such craftsmanship does not come cheap. A new Purdey starts at around £46,000, while the most expensive Purdeys ever sold (a pair of 16-bore guns built for King Edward VIII of England), fetched £120,000 when they were auctioned in Geneva in 1991.

So what is it that imbues a gun with such value and prestige? On a recent visit to the Holland & Holland gun factory in London, the truth began to dawn as I witnessed the extreme level of artistry, dedication and skill involved in this time-honoured craft.

Holland & Holland’s lineage dates back to 1835 and, remarkably, many of the tools and methods of gun making have changed little since the mid-19th century. The devotion and →



pride for perfection of the 40-strong team, likewise, remain the same, but nowadays computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) technology, and the finest steel, ensure the finished product is more exemplary than ever. Every craftsman perfects each detail, and every component down to the smallest pin is uniquely made for each gun.

“We insist on training all our craftsmen ourselves, which takes three years,” explains Andrew Lawley, Factory Manager at Holland & Holland. “Each one then follows an apprenticeship of around five years — so it is a good eight years before a Holland & Holland craftsman is fully qualified to begin his work. Unsurprisingly, the majority remain with us their entire working life. In some cases, generations of the same family have succeeded one another. Such is the level of pride and loyalty.”

The process begins with the client using a ‘try gun’. This is a tool that looks and fires like a gun but comprises moveable joints that expand, contract and adjust to establish the unique specification of the client — taking into account their height, stature and lead eye. “Only with such detailed information can each craftsman ensure the gun is made to perfection at every stage and will shoot sure and straight for that one client,” says Patrick Murphy, the company’s Gunroom Manager.

The build process begins in the machine shop where heavy metal rods are bored through before passing on to the barrel-maker and actioner, the latter of which is responsible for the moving parts of the gun — the trigger, spring, hammer and ejector. The stocker then houses and protects the inner

workings of the metal in the finest walnut — personally selected by the client from an extensive in-house stock. The walnut predominantly comes from Turkey and is taken only from the section between the root and the trunk where the wood is at its strongest and most beautiful. With remarkable skill, the stocker carves out the intricate moulding for the locks and uses the time-honoured method of ‘smoking’ the metal to ease it neatly into place. This alone ensures the fit of metal against wood is perfect. Finally, the lock, stock and barrels of the gun pass to the finisher who hardens the metalwork, polishes the lock-work and oils the stock and forend. But before the gun is delivered to its proud owner, there is yet one more fundamental element to such a gun: the engraving.

At the time of commissioning a gun, the client specifies what they would like. Some opt for the traditional house scrollwork, others choose more elaborate pictorial scenes with intricate inlays of sentimental value. Depending on the work involved, the engraving alone can cost tens of thousands of pounds and take a year or more to complete — yet for many it is the finishing touch.

The level of time, expertise, skill and devotion at each stage of the build is quite remarkable. To say each gun is painstakingly handmade is no exaggeration. This is a craft so specialised that in many cases the tools for the job cannot be bought — the craftsmen must make their own. But it must not be forgotten that these guns are, above all, built for performance — genuine works of art to be used, and admired, for generations to come. ■

Above left: Only the finest walnut is used to ensure optimum strength and beauty
Above right: A work of pure craftsmanship from Purdey

IN THE FIELD

Before you set off for a day's shooting, invest in some of the finest accessories available

1. **TWEED TAILORING** Holland & Holland's Molland jacket features Scottish tweed with a waterproof membrane and is designed for comfort and ease of movement. 2. **LADIES DAY** Purdey's classic tweed jacket for women is perfect in fit and fashion. 3. **HAND CRAFTED** Keep warm on cold winter days with Holland & Holland's tutti-frutti hand mittens. 4. **CARRY IT OFF** Store your cartridges in style in Purdey's canvas bag. 5. **IN GOOD SPIRITS** Fortify yourself with a quick swig from Purdey's sterling silver and 18-carat gold shotgun-cartridge drinks flask. 6. **STEP IN STYLE** For a sure foothold, slip on these nubuck and suede boots from Purdey.

For further information, visit www.hollandandholland.com and www.purdey.com





SEYCHELLES

THE REWINDING ECO CLOCK

Despite being marooned deep in the Indian Ocean, the Seychelles is a global inspiration when it comes to ecotourism. Here you can enjoy a rare paradise, relax in exceptional luxury... and help preserve one of the world's last true idylls

By Miriam Cain



My idea of the perfect break is simple. It involves lying on a deserted beach, swimming in clear, warm water, eating fresh food every day, and not feeling the least bit guilty about indulging in such unashamed hedonism. Just a 20-minute flight from Seychelles' Mahé airport I discovered my dream destination in the verdant, tropical island of Frégate — a place you wouldn't mind getting washed up on to for a decade. The island provides everything you would expect from any five-star location — great cuisine, a stylish pool, white-sand beaches and fabulous service — but on top of this, its commitment to ecotourism means you can enjoy all this luxury secure in the knowledge that, unlike many holidaymakers, you are actually benefiting the island.

The 115 islands of the Seychelles archipelago were uninhabited before the French first made anchor there in 1742. Over the years, the Seychellois have become an exotic mix of Indian, African, French, Portuguese and Arab cultures. They are a people who have a fierce pride in their islands and thus have a great desire to protect them. As such, the Seychellois government has adopted a concept of 'tourism with a conscience', which it hopes will serve

as a role model for other nations that are serious about preserving their unique natural habitats. The Seychellois government has a strict policy about what can and cannot be built and it insists that environmental impact studies are carried out and that accommodation takes the shape of smaller, more exclusive hotels that compliment the natural beauty of the islands. Mass tourism is not encouraged and there is a policy of targeting a more select, exclusive clientele to help avoid great numbers of visitors that would pose a threat to the environment. A gutsy move considering the delicate state of the Seychellois economy.

Ecotourism is big in the Seychelles, where 46 per cent of the land is given over to conservation zones and nature reserves. The Seychellois boast two UNESCO World Heritage sites: the atoll of Aldabra has the world's largest population of giant tortoises, while the endemic palm forest, Vallée de Mai, on Praslin is home to the famous pelvic-shaped coco-de-mer — the heaviest seed in the vegetable kingdom. The warm equatorial currents and pollution-free environment in this part of the world create a haven for rare species of birds and marine life. But due to the previous agricultural cultivation of the islands by the →

Left to right: Frégate Island's Anse Victorin; the stunning North Island from the air; the island flora adds exotic splashes of colour



Frégate Island is the Seychelles' original luxury eco-hideaway. Flying onto the island, it feels like you have landed in the world's last remaining Jurassic Park

French, who harvested premium-quality spices and coconuts here, the diverse populations of indigenous melodious birds and other native species of wildlife, flora and fauna have severely depleted in numbers.

To witness the evolution of an environmental paradise, I visited two private islands at different stages in the lengthy ecological development process. Both have a series of innovative, ongoing programmes with the combined goal of restoring and preserving the islands' indigenous natural habitat. Thanks to investment, Frégate and North islands are encouraging bird life by eliminating predators and reintroducing endemic species. Frégate Island Private is the Seychelles' original luxury eco-hideaway. Flying onto the island, it feels like you have landed in the world's last remaining Jurassic Park, with bright blue skies filled with so many soaring birds it seems there is a canopy over the imposing granite boulders.

Offering 16 luxurious villas set in harmony with their natural surroundings, the accommodation conforms to the island's ecological concept. Measuring three kilometres squared, the island has a self-imposed limit of just 16 villas to restrict the



number of guests to a maximum of 40 at any one time. Situated above the idyllic bay of Anse Bambou, the vast Indonesian-inspired villas are arranged so that privacy is guaranteed and panoramic views of the ocean can be enjoyed from all areas, including the four-poster beds, the terraces and the living rooms. Although I could quite happily have spent days lazing around the Jacuzzi in my villa, the island has so much to offer that I had to explore every inch on my electric buggy.

Small roads shaded by exotic fauna wind between massive granite boulders leading to the seven beaches that fringe the island. The sand is silky and white, the sea glittering turquoise and crystal clear. To the west of the island, Anse Victorin was recently voted the best beach in the world by *The Sunday Times* and I found it to be the perfect place to watch the sun set while tasting the home-made breadfruit crisps that were delivered by our butler. Trekking across the island through a spectacular array of indigenous vegetation is thirsty work, but the sweeping beauty of Grand Anse is ample reward. The shell-strewn beach is memorable for its wild beauty. No footprints mar its silver sand other than those left by crabs and turtles, while the only

sounds are the roar of the surf and the piercing protests of the ferry-terns that wheel above. Frequently visited by the critically endangered Hawksbill turtle and Green turtle, the beach is a safe haven for nesting between October and January. Anse Maquereau can be reserved on a first-come first-served basis with a 'Beach Occupied' sign ensuring uninterrupted bathing. But there is no shortage of deserted beaches, and there is also a 25-metre freshwater infinity pool with equally gorgeous views of the ocean.

Interest in the ecology of Frégate began in the early 1980s with concern for the survival of the unique indigenous Magpie Robin, which was close to extinction. Steve Hill, the island's conservation and ecology manager, and his team have recreated a natural habitat in which to nurture critically endangered indigenous species. An infectious enthusiastic South African, Hill lived on the island while it was being turned into a paradise. Escorted around the many projects, I was inspired by his passion and dedication to what must have seemed such a mammoth task when he first landed on Frégate, when 60 per cent of the island was covered in alien vegetation. Hill has →

Clockwise from far left: The famous pelvic-shaped coco-de-mer; Frégate Island's 25-metre infinity pool affords fabulous views over the ocean; ensure uninterrupted bathing by turning the sign to 'Beach Occupied'; Frégate Island boasts over 70 indigenous Magpie Robins; the resident giant Aldabra tortoise roams on Frégate Island



Left to right:
North Island's huge stone bath is enhanced with natural materials; the vast villas on North Island face the beach; Frégate Island's Rock Spa offers a wide range of therapies

planted over 70,000 indigenous trees, providing nesting sites for birds unique to Frégate. The effort has paid off, with numbers of Magpie Robins increasing from less than 15 to more than 70. Other rare birds have also increased in population, among them blue pigeons, sunbirds and fregates.

Along with the bird life, all the reptiles endemic to the Seychelles can now be found on Frégate, including the giant Aldabra tortoises. There are only three wild populations left in the Seychelles and Frégate's includes James II — a 150-year-old tortoise. Among the conservation programmes that guests are encouraged to support, the Tortoise Project, which protects the juvenile giant Aldabra tortoises, is the most popular.

The island's small plantation, including an impressive Hydroponics House built and developed by Hill, grows more than 60 different fruits and vegetables, including 16 types of bananas, mangos, sweet corn and countless herbs. The freshly grown produce is used in every dish possible and more than half of the crops grown are sold on to other local islands and resorts, providing Frégate with another income to support its environmental programme.

Following in its footsteps, the privately owned North Island lies to the west of Frégate and is a 20-minute helicopter flight from the capital of Mahé. As another conservation-oriented, ethically-driven destination endeavouring to rewind the ecological clock, it has just 11 villas. This former plantation (abandoned over 30 years ago) measures just two by one kilometres and has been transformed into an exclusive drop-dead luxury island retreat.

Espousing space and complete privacy, my villa was over 450 metres squared and was handcrafted from natural materials of every description — from driftwood mirrors to upturned tree trunks. Facing a stunning beach, I had my own pool, gazebo and 24-hour butler, Francis. Reflections of the sea are everywhere, whether lying on your massage bed, in the indoor or outdoor shower, or bathing in the huge stone bath. The communal areas (virtually an extension of my villa as I barely saw another soul), follow the same rustic design. The open-air restaurant has screens of threaded white pebbles, and in the bar area old takamaka tree trunks have been turned upside down so their wide roots support the ceiling in an extraordinary display. I spent my evenings watching the sun set over the sea while



ROCK SPA

Opened in May 2004, Frégate's Rock Spa nestles high above the villas. Walking up the winding stairs cut into the huge granite rocks, and absorbing the panoramic views and the sound of water from the spa's pools, I drifted into a Zen-like trance — a state that was heightened by the relaxing foot bath that is given before each treatment. The spa offers a wide range of therapies, but it would be rude not to experience one of the signature treatments devised by the spa's manager, Pippa McGann. The Lekor Wrap is 90 minutes of pure indulgence. As with all the signature treatments, fresh local ingredients from the island such as papaya, mango, banana, turmeric, sandalwood and jasmine, are mixed in the spa's own apocathary. After an invigorating body scrub I was cocooned in banana leaves while my face and head were massaged. Emerging from the cocoon, cool streams of water and an invigorating body massage brought me back from my Zen-like state. Pippa and her team will be bringing The Rock Spa to the Urban Retreat at Harrods from 12 — 26 November, from 9am to 6pm daily. To book a treatment, call Urban Retreat at Harrods on +44 (0)20 7893 8333.

sipping cocktails before returning to the restaurant for further gastronomic delights.

As with Frégate, North Island is going through the process of removing all non-indigenous plants and animals. The nursery has forested over 30,000 plants that are gradually being planted in an attempt to attract the same birds and indigenous wildlife found on Frégate. In environmental terms, North Island has a way to go to catch up, but as far as accommodation is concerned it has firmly put the Seychelles on the luxury tourist map. When people visit the Seychelles to savour the island idylls, the cherry on top is that they also experience the islands' environmental philosophy, and hopefully take it to heart and support it.

It is said that if you taste the Seychelles' breadfruit you are sure to return to the islands but I'm sure that even if it had not been in season when I visited, I would still be returning to this paradise — if not to taste the breadfruit, then certainly for the cherry on top. ■

Abercrombie & Kent offers three nights on Frégate Island Private and three nights on North Island from £6,499 per person inclusive of return flights with Air Seychelles. Accommodation is on a fully inclusive basis with helicopter transfers. For further information, visit www.abercrombiekent.co.uk





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Think green

CARBON NEUTRAL

In support of efforts being made to avoid a climate crisis, CNI has teamed up with The CarbonNeutral Company to make yacht charter eco friendly

By Miriam Cain

Global warming has been on the environmental agenda for decades, but the term 'carbon neutral' is relatively new. The main contributors to global warming are carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases. When emitted, they form a blanket around the earth and trap heat that would otherwise escape into space. This heat rebounds off the earth's surface and the planet's temperature rises, thus creating a greenhouse effect. We create CO₂ whenever we burn fossil fuels — such as coal, natural gas and oil — to generate energy. Since the Industrial Revolution over 200 years ago, additional CO₂ has been pumped into the atmosphere, and over the past century CO₂ emissions have increased by about 30 per cent. At our current rate of climate change it is estimated that the world will soon be warmer than at any time in the last 10,000 years. The widespread impact of these shifting climate conditions is causing droughts, storms, floods and other extremes of weather all over the world.

Although climate change and environmental responsibility are seemingly on everyone's agenda (with a great deal of high-level discussion within and between governments worldwide about global warming), our generation continues to produce and dispose of more goods than ever before and, in the process, we are consuming more and more of the world's finite resources. As far as scientists can tell, global temperatures have varied by less than one degree since the dawn of human civilisation. But climate model results show that the average

surface temperature of the globe is projected to increase by 1.4°C to 5.8°C between 1990 and 2100. It is the responsibility of everyone — governments, businesses and individuals — to cut CO₂ emissions. However, it is not only essential that we reduce the amount of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere, it is equally crucial that where CO₂ is emitted, it is absorbed by natural processes wherever possible.

The main focus of The CarbonNeutral Company (TCNC) is stabilising concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that avoids serious and irreversible damage to the planet. This requires input from both businesses and society in order to shift towards zero net greenhouse gas emissions by the second half of this century. To that aim, TCNC has set up programmes to measure and reduce emissions, and then to compensate for unavoidable CO₂ through international 'offset' projects which save equivalent levels of CO₂. These offset projects include new forestry and 'green energy' schemes around the world.

With the help of TCNC, CNI has made a commitment to neutralise its contribution towards global warming by →

CNI has committed to neutralise its contribution towards global warming



CNI has partnered with the organisers of the Monaco Yacht Show in an effort to make the annual event CarbonNeutral

becoming CarbonNeutral*. Furthermore, CNI has partnered with the organisers of the Monaco Yacht Show in an effort to make the annual event CarbonNeutral. By measuring CNI's environmental performance as it stands, and commissioning a 'Carbon Footprint' to measure the source and level of greenhouse gases that the company produces from all its activities, CNI is learning how to reduce its emissions and set realistically achievable targets and goals. There will always be a degree of unavoidable emissions but thanks to TCNC's CarbonNeutral Programme, CNI is offsetting these emissions by paying for equivalent amounts of CO₂ to be soaked up and saved through new forestry and 'green energy' schemes around the world. The carbon offset is calculated by the ECCM (Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Management) and the whole programme is verified by KPMG.

The first scheme is Nairnside Wood in Scotland. Historically, Scotland was home to Caledonian pinewood trees, the majority of which have gradually disappeared. Nairnside is a new native woodland area that will help restore Caledonian pinewoods and provide a valuable habitat for many rare bird species, including

Scottish crossbills, found only in the highlands of Scotland, the Capercaillie, whose numbers have dramatically declined in recent years, and the Crested Tit. Established with the simple objective of creating new native woodland, Nairnside will be planted with rowan, willow, alder, juniper, Scots pine and silver birch.

The second scheme is based in Jamaica, where the carbon-saving scheme supplies energy-efficient light bulbs primarily to the tourist industry — the predominant industry on the island. The huge saving of carbon dioxide is of immediate benefit to the local community and also helps protect the climate in the longer term. The electricity grid network is weak throughout the Caribbean, and much of Jamaica's energy comes from oil. Oil produces significant amounts of carbon dioxide — and one energy-efficient light bulb uses less than a quarter of the oil of a standard light bulb. The CarbonNeutral Programme encourages businesses to adopt the new technology, firstly by subsidising the price of bulbs by pre-importing large quantities in bulk, and secondly by educating technical staff working at hotels about the benefits of energy efficiency.

As part of its effort to become CarbonNeutral, CNI is targeting new measures to reduce its CO₂ emissions at source. One of its greatest challenges is ensuring all its employees worldwide can embrace the initiative to the full and translate their environmental efforts into relevant customer-facing schemes, giving the programme more integrity and impact. Clients will eventually be given the choice of making their charters CarbonNeutral. It is actions like these that will make all the difference in the bid to preserve the planet. ■

Above and right: The CarbonNeutral Programme encourages the use of green energy, such as wind and solar, wherever possible





ABOARD BRAVEHEART

Look the part

Cruising aboard the 49.8m Braveheart provides every fashionista with the perfect opportunity to show off their latest attire. Here **sea&i** presents a unique collection of designer wear for life on the waves





Laurent wears leather jacket and cotton T-shirt by Lanvin. Bianca wears T-shirt in viscose and silk, chain and accessories, all by Lanvin.



Bianca wears white linen three-quarter jacket and pearl necklace, both by Lanvin

Laurent wears linen shirt by Lanvin



Bianca wears polyamid
and elasthane swimwear,
cotton T-shirt, scarf and shoes,
all by Céline





Bianca wears orange
Céline viscose dress,
earrings model's own



Braveheart

The 49.8m Braveheart began life with every advantage: a strong hull constructed in Sweden and her fitting out accomplished by a leading Dutch builder. With three full accommodation deck areas topped by a wonderful sun-drenched flying bridge deck, Braveheart is a wonderful floating resort for private use or corporate entertaining.

Braveheart has a wonderful multi-functional interior layout that brilliantly mixes open spaces for large-scale entertaining with smaller areas for more intimate conversations. When it comes to outdoor relaxation and entertainment, Braveheart excels. Five distinct outdoor activity areas ensure plenty

of space for guests to enjoy various activities in both small and larger groups. With three outdoor sunning locations, shaded aft deck and retractable awning to cover the upper aft deck, outdoor dining and relaxation areas can vary from day to day.

Braveheart boasts an array of watersports equipment including skis and toys, waveriders, windsurfers and snorkelling gear, all easily accessible from her stern bathing platform.

Braveheart is available for charter through Camper & Nicholsons International (CNI) from US\$133,000 per week

BOUTIQUES: *Céline* 24, La Croisette, 06400 Cannes - *Lanvin* Sporting d'Hiver, Place du Casino, MC 98000 Monaco

Fall you need

This season, accessories follow nature's lead with every shade of autumn. So get creative with gold, copper, coffee, bronze and chocolate tones



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1. **SOFT TOUCH** Stay in contact with this soft suede address book from Aspinal of London. www.aspinaloflondon.com 2. **REPTILE STYLE** This crocodile-skin luggage from Ermenegildo Zegna is made for autumn travel. www.zegna.com 3. **PHONE ALONE** Get dialling with the first and only exotic hardwood mobile phones from Mobiado's Professional EM collection. www.mobiado.com 4. **WELL HEELED** Step out in Chanel's beige leather and silver detailed high heels. www.chanel.com 5. **GOLDEN BROWN** Take inspiration from Louis Vuitton's Prêt-à-Porter collection for autumn/winter 2005-06. www.vuitton.com 6. **FELINE FASHION** Accessorise with Louis Vuitton's yellow gold and tiger-eye Vienna earrings. www.vuitton.com 7. **ANKLE CHARM** Embellish pretty ankles with these Christian Lacroix high-heeled shoes. www.christian-lacroix.fr 8. **BELT UP** Complete an outfit with Chanel's beige-tweed and metal belt. www.chanel.com

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8



LOS ANGELES

LA CONFIDENTIAL

Los Angeles is something of an anomaly — a cluster of semi-autonomous cities that have somehow become fused. So familiar thanks to its film-industry fame, yet also vaguely detached, the City of Angels is truly compelling

By Anthony Lassman



Arriving in LA for the first time can be disconcerting. Its endless suburban sprawl is hard to make sense of, but there are many attractive enclaves worth exploring. Even the hitherto moribund Downtown area has recently enjoyed something of a renaissance. Its Art Deco architecture has been spruced up and André Balazs' Standard Hotel has given modish Angelenos a new place to drink. Generally speaking, however, the choice areas are West Hollywood, Hollywood, Brentwood, Bel-Air and Beverly Hills.

West Hollywood has real atmosphere with its leafy streets, quaint houses, quirky boutiques and fashionable restaurants, but if there's a district that typifies the popular image of LA it is surely Beverly Hills with its long palm-lined avenues and exclusive boutiques and restaurants.

Not unexpectedly, this is where the best hotels are found: The Beverly Hills Hotel, The Peninsula and the Four Seasons. Given the calibre, wealth and, you might think, discernment of Hollywood's film-industry fraternity, it might be assumed that Los Angeles brims with hotels of the finest order. But this is

not the case. Nowhere is faultless or truly outstanding, and Tinseltown's hotels, in the main, look a little tarnished.

About two miles west of Beverly Hills, Bel-Air — where the abiding atmosphere is one of class and old money — has its famous Hotel Bel-Air and its sister Country Club: LA's equivalent to New York's Carlyle, if you like. Hotel Bel-Air has a reputation for fabulousness. Yes, it is the stuff of legends but some myths are there to be exploded. First, it is reputedly a haven of peace and quiet. Fair enough if you get the right room (in terms of size, poolside location, peace and privacy), but be warned: a number of them back onto Stone Canyon Road and suffer from early-morning traffic noise. Second, it is renowned for being famously glamorous. Well maybe if pink floral chintz, potted kentia palms and tea cosies work for you. The style is chintzy, precious and rather old fashioned. Many of its rooms are small but they have just spruced up 14 rooms and suites to the tune of over US\$20 million. There is no spa, though in-room treatments are available and there is a decent pool with a terrace where you can take lunch. Good pool service, an →

Left to right: The sprawling metropolis of Los Angeles; on average, the sun shines 270 days a year in LA; chill out at André Balazs' Standard Hotel



IF THERE IS A DISTRICT THAT TYPIFIES THE POPULAR IMAGE OF

abundant supply of towels and the comfort of the loungers are all definite plus points.

An architecturally uninspiring 16-storey tower, with 285 rooms (including 98 suites), the Four Seasons Beverly Hills attracts its fair share of movie people at Oscar time. Rooms are comfortable and well-furnished (if a little ordinary), but you'll want for nothing with the usual super-comfy beds, video/CD/DVD in all rooms, good laundry and an alteration service. The corner Deluxes and Deluxe Executive suites are favourable, but don't be tempted by the Executive suites as the bedrooms are internal and have no window. One step up, the corner Luxury suites have wraparound balconies and two bathrooms.

On Little Santa Monica Boulevard, The Peninsula Beverly Hills under the expert stewardship of Ali Kasikci is perfectly located if you are here to shop. It is also one of the best-run, most appealing hotels in the city. Smaller and more intimate than the Four Seasons, the stone-clad, low-rise Peninsula, with its large, glamorous porticoed entrance attracts a fair share of the industry crowd. Whereas the Four Seasons can seem somewhat corporate and sober, The Peninsula has the confidence to bridge the gap between being a business and a resort hotel. And The

Belvedere restaurant is 'the' place for Sunday brunch. The rooms at the rear of the building, directly beneath the rooftop swimming pool are quieter and, therefore, preferable.

If there is a property that typifies the whole Los Angeles ethos, surely it is the legendary Beverly Hills Hotel with its pink stucco walls, green-domed turrets and 1950s' typography. The most desirable accommodations are the 21 bungalows, though many of these are a little on the dark side. Otherwise, rooms on the fourth floor of the main building have good views of the gardens and pool area, and there are La Prairie treatments at the spa.

Chateau Marmont is still a hit. It is not a world-class hotel by conventional standards but its atmosphere makes it special and if you want the Sunset Strip experience and the history and faded glamour of an oh-so-cool hostelry, you'll love it here.

West along Sunset Boulevard from Chateau Marmont, the Mondrian Hotel is Ian Schrager's LA outpost. Nothing about the 237 accommodations is distinguished, other than the view south across the city, but its Skybar has been one of LA's top nightspots for some years and is still a crush on week nights.

The Argyle, a Sunset Strip veteran, has a new owner — Jeff Klein of City Club NY fame. At present it is being revamped by



LA, IT IS SURELY BEVERLY HILLS

interior designer Paul Fortune (who designed Marc Jacobs' home in Paris) and will be open later this year. Another opening worth keeping an eye on is Chamberlain. Situated on Westmount Drive in West Hollywood, it is part of the Kor Group, which owns the super-trendy Viceroy in Santa Monica.

On the restaurant scene Mr Chow is still very much in style. Ago, especially if you can get a table on the patio, remains a real West Hollywood experience (just don't go on a Friday), and AOC is still a winner — as is the contemporary, casual Bastide. Il Sole on Sunset Boulevard is also recommended, although Dan Tanas is the place to go for celeb spotting. The Ivy remains pre-eminent for people watching and Friday lunch on the patio is a must. L'Orangerie, which is very expensive and consequently popular with the well-heeled, middle-aged crowd, is best for impressing a client, while Lucques, sister to AOC and more sophisticated, remains a favourite. Relative new kid on the block is Ashton Kutcher's Dolce but the hype is already starting to settle. Sister restaurant Geisha House serves Japanese cuisine and has a sushi bar and sake lounge.

If you are after traditional, authentic Japanese, Ita-Cho is always packed with chic Hollywood locals. It may not be in the

same league as Matsuhisa but it is much less expensive. JAR is a great addition to the Los Angeles restaurant scene and serves mostly steaks and chops. Brunch at Campanile is good any day of the week and The Little Door, a St Tropezienne take in West Hollywood, is utterly romantic and atmospheric. It is a shame the food is so mediocre. Let's hope Ortolan, the new French restaurant everyone's talking about, is a whole lot better.

Suzanne Goin, the restaurateur behind AOC and Lucques, has a new place, The Hungry Cat, which is casual, unpretentious and great for seafood. Also making its mark is the Hotel Roosevelt's steak restaurant Dakota (which opened at the end of June). The poolside bar Tropicana is also attracting its fair share of fans. New to the LA nightlife scene is Mood — hip, happening and very hard to get into, especially on Saturday nights.

Unlike New York there is no real lounge scene in LA, but with more than 20 beaches, a great climate and a range of hotels that run the gamut from boho to blissful (well almost), Los Angeles is an extraordinary and alluring place to spend time. ■

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Left to right:
Hotel Bel-Air;
rollerblading
around Venice beach;
the legendary
Beverly Hills Hotel;
the Four Seasons
Beverly Hills

CORPORATE CHARTER

The mega-cool alternative

Whether to reward, entertain, motivate, inspire, extend your business contacts or enjoy a peerless environment in which to work, socialise and relax, a megayacht has no comparison

By Miriam Cain

When you have a winning formula, the general consensus is not to change it...but who ever said anything about not extending it? Superyacht charter first emerged in the middle of the 20th century, and within a few decades it had really come into its own. It is not hard to see why. Not only does it promise luxury beyond comparison, it is also exciting — your own private travelling resort delivering you to the most compelling destinations in the world. But above all, a superyacht affords an extreme level of security and privacy; a means to escape media attention, the masses and the complexities of everyday life. It is not surprising, therefore, that following the success of private charters the formula was extended to the corporate world.

Corporate hospitality and staff incentives have become big business and the challenge to come up with new, dynamic alternatives means yacht charters have become a highly desirable choice. They are the equivalent of six-star, self-contained private

resorts complete with business and conference facilities and a variety of entertainment and relaxation amenities. What is more, with a charter broker, captain and crew on hand 24 hours a day, the entire organisation and smooth-running of the charter or event is guaranteed from start to finish.

In answer to the corporate demand, a new breed of charter yacht — the megayacht — has emerged in recent years. “The superyacht industry has broken free from the previous boundaries of its 12-guest limit and now offers better yachts than ever,” says CNI Group Charter Manager, Sarah Balls. “Not only have interior volumes doubled, with capacities for up to 80 guests in some cases, the amenities now exceed those of the world’s best resorts. Added to this, the client has the absolute assurance that they need only ever be surrounded by the people in their chosen party. This is exclusivity beyond comparison.”

In an age where business is an integral part of life for so many, luxurious megayachts the likes of the 85.3m →



Vast decks mean there is plenty of space for everyone to relax and socialise



Celebrate a corporate event with a fabulous party on the decks of a megayacht

Annaliese or the 116.5m Turama, are increasingly chartered by corporations, high-profile personalities and large family groups. The controlled environment that they can provide is a key selling point for security and privacy reasons, as well as the highly efficient, discreet and inspired working environment they offer. Equipped with all the latest safety and entertainment technology and communications, the new breed of megayacht offers facilities for both conferences and private work. First-class accommodation and a full range of leisure facilities are on hand to refresh employees at the end of a busy day, and most yachts now include spas and gymnasiums. Full-time professional crews (including gourmet chefs, nurses, massage therapists and beauty experts) are also on hand to take care of every need. This does not just cover waitressing and laundry duties, in many cases the crew have taken training in watersports instruction, or even defence skills to ensure guests' security. To this end, the traditional nanny's cabin adjacent to the owner's suite is often

occupied by the guest's own bodyguard or personal assistant. Thus high-profile celebrities and statesmen, for example, can travel in comfort and safety with their entire entourage — whether for business or pleasure.

Corporations are also tapping into the yacht charter market as a way to retain devoted, talented employees and keep them motivated and inspired. The crew can organise watersports activities and excursions ashore, or the charter broker can arrange for professional team-building seminars and challenges, such as learning to sail on board a fleet of yachts. There are endless options.

Aside from the remarkable activities available on a corporate charter, the destinations alone are a peerless incentive. Charters can take place in the world's most striking destinations, such as the remote Virgin islands, in the most dynamic cities, such as the trendy, business centre of Cannes, or can tie in with world-famous events, such as the Monaco Grand Prix. ■

For corporate entertainment occasions, or simply if larger groups of guests wish to charter a yacht, Camper & Nicholsons International can supply a fleet of yachts to cruise in tandem, or provide a single megayacht with accommodation for up to 80 guests. The following yachts are just a sample of the many available...



ALEXANDER
 LOA122m
 Price . . .from €90,000 per day
 Guests80

TURAMA
 LOA116.5m
 Price . . .from €90,000 per day
 Guests70

CHRISTINA O
 LOA99m
 Price . . .from €45,000 per day
 Guests12 – 30

ANNALIESSE & ALYSIA
 LOA85.3m
 Price . . .from €45,000 –
€94,500 per day
 Guests15–36

SHERAKHAN
 LOA69.95m
 Price . . .from €50,000 per day
 Guests24 (140 guests
for day charters)

Alexander has an extensive array of amenities including a pool and Jacuzzi on the sun deck, a private cinema with seating for up to 27 guests, a ‘starlight’ discotheque, a gymnasium, a children’s play room and a beauty salon. She also has an impressive veranda ideal for alfresco dining or apéritifs, and a stately dining room which can be transformed into a formal conference room for 20 people.

The recently converted Turama accommodates up to 70 guests in stylish accommodation. Ideal for corporate events, she has a meeting room for up to 12 guests, and an 80-seat conference room, Internet lounge and business centre. She also boasts multiple entertainment opportunities, including a piano room, disco, cinema, swimming pool, Jacuzzi and gymnasium.

Steeped in peerless history, Christina O has regularly entertained the world’s most famous, powerful and influential people, including Sir Winston Churchill, Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra and many more. Totally refurbished with five-star guest facilities, she retains a fantastic sense of opulence. Her versatile deck space has entertainment areas for alfresco dining, cocktail parties and sunbathing. She has a Jacuzzi and a mosaic-tiled swimming pool which can be converted to a dance floor. She also offers a library, games room, beauty salon, play room, casino and music lounge.

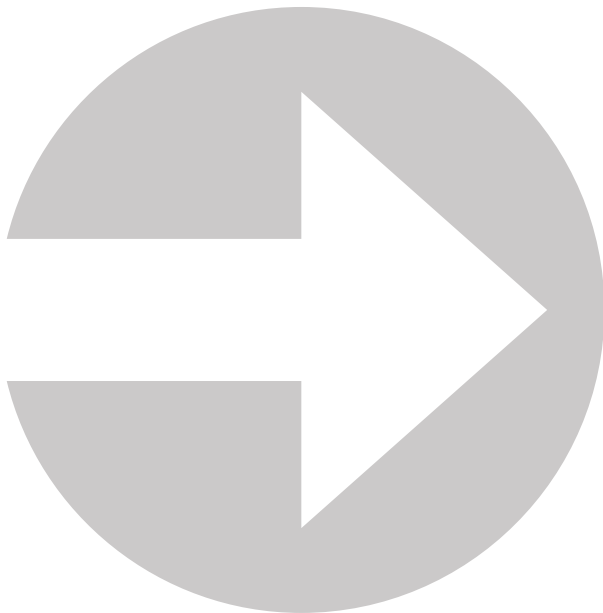
Suited for private charters and corporate entertaining, both yachts have their own health and fitness centres, sauna and steam rooms, a beauty and massage salon, gymnasium and cinema. The vessels also boast a fully-serviced business centre, mini hospital with permanent medical staff, and a large crèche. Outdoor recreational areas include a sun deck with Jacuzzi and plunge pool, and there is a vast array of watersports equipment, such as jet skis, waterskis, windsurfers and diving equipment. The yachts both have a one-to-one guest to crew ratio, and two musicians.

Launched in 2005, Sherakhan brings a new dimension to the yachting world. She has a classic and stylish exterior complimented by an exciting contemporary interior. The open main saloon features a dining area for 22 beneath a glass-bottomed, 18-person Jacuzzi on her main deck.



INTERIOR DESIGN

Elements of design



Priceless works of art are the finishing touch to any yacht's décor, but creating a truly exceptional interior relies on first establishing the perfect backdrop with rare, beautiful and tactile materials

By Brian Lawrence

Chances are, when you step on board a yacht it is the striking furniture, graceful marble statues, priceless oil paintings and eclectic sculptures that immediately capture your attention and provoke comment and compliments. There is no denying that such embellishments lend each yacht its unique identity and add to its appeal, but however valuable and eye-catching they are, they would have little effect if presented in the wrong way.

Successful interior design on board any yacht relies on the fundamental décor. It cannot be stressed enough that the choice of materials is imperative in creating the desired overall effect. However, the very thought of searching through copious swatches of material and endless samples of woods and marbles fills many people with horror. Others merely see it as a mundane task — the insignificant background on which they can display their favourite artwork. Yet with a little knowledge, creating the framework on which your yacht's interior will take shape can be an exciting, compelling and rewarding challenge — particularly if you employ the creative eye of an expert.

Specialist designers are a godsend when it comes to ensuring you select, combine and contrast exactly the right shades, shapes and textures in every room. Treated by the right designer, an interior can be transformed from one that merely meets expectations to one that is truly breathtaking. You simply need to know where to start...

→ Glass

Glass not only adds a subtle, tasteful edge to an interior, it is also extremely versatile. By angling the glass in the right way, natural and artificial light can be refracted to create a feeling of space within a confined area. Similarly, using larger expanses of glass helps to bring the outdoors indoors, widens horizons and creates a bright, clean atmosphere. Glass is most commonly used in interior design in the form of bricks or tiles, but as an unusual dimension the use of glass panels and embellishments within furniture can create truly spectacular effects. Not to be forgotten are the obvious functional applications of glass in lighting and customised tableware.



Far left: Intricate marble designs decorate a table top

Left: Wood can be crafted to create unusual effects

Below: Custom fabrics add unique personality

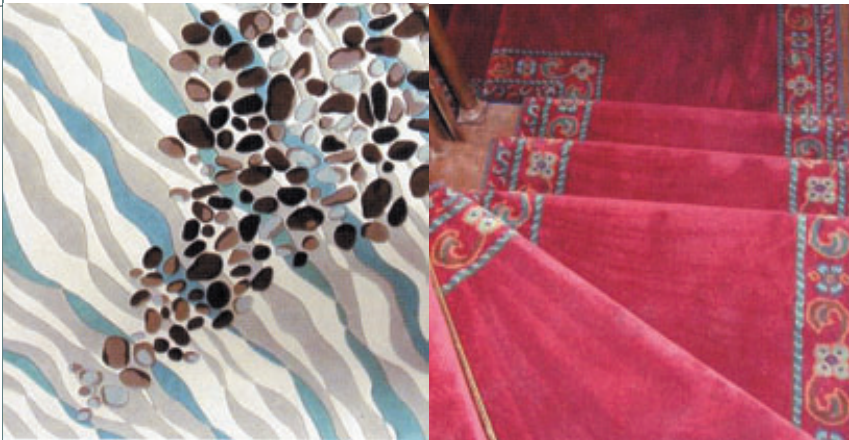
→ Woods and veneers

Mahogany and hardwoods are the most usual choice on board yachts, but birds-eye maple and root woods are often selected to add a touch of exclusivity. What is more, most of these exotic woods are readily available and environmentally sound — making them an even more popular choice. The skill of the master cabinet-maker is proved not just in the way he crafts the wood, but also in his experience in selecting the finest timber in the first place. The quality and strength of the wood, and the beauty of its grain, are paramount in ensuring designs are executed to their full potential.

→ Custom-printed and woven fabrics

There are virtually no limitations when it comes to choosing and using fabrics. Thanks to a combination of modern technology and traditional skills, exclusive designs can be produced in short runs, thus bringing monogrammed or personally commissioned designs within most budgets. When it comes to fabrics, it is important to consider not only colour, but also tone and texture to ensure they compliment the surrounding furnishings and create the desired effect. The right choice of fabrics, however subtle, will add a unique ambience and personality to any yacht.





Above left & right: Bespoke carpets and rugs add homely comfort

Right: Horsehair panelling lends unique texture to a room

Below: Classical touches often work well in modern design

➤ Hand-made carpets and rugs

That which can be created in a fabric can also be carried through to fitted floor coverings and rugs. Despite a recent vogue for stripped boards, the luxury and comfort of a deep-pile carpet under foot (at least some of the time) never ceases to appeal.

➤ Scagliola marble

This derives from the Italian word scaglia and refers to chips (of marble) which are used to make a hard paste to inlay a design cut from a marble base. When dry, the paste is polished to a high finish. There is evidence of scagliola decoration used by the Romans and later during the Renaissance, giving table tops and floors colour and perspective. Using this exceptional example of the plasterer's art in modern design can therefore add a classical dimension to an exclusive interior. What is more, though porous, marble can be sealed and made practical for modern applications — making it a highly versatile and desirable material.



➤ Horsehair

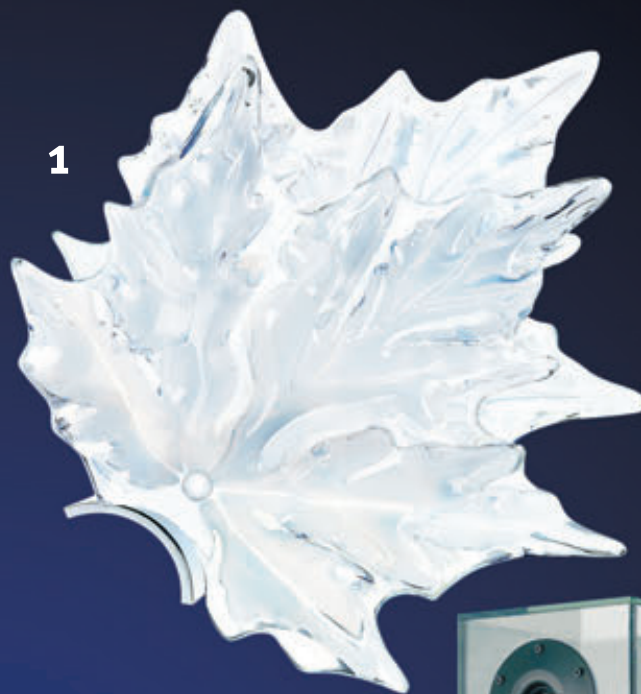
Often considered something of an ersatz material and somewhat neglected by modern upholsterers, horsehair is actually a wonderful substance that can be used to create distinctive interior panelling, fine fabrics and even jewellery. It has been used by architects and designers such as Lutyens and Rennie Mackintosh, and in royal palaces around the world. ■

For further information, visit www.brianlawrence.net

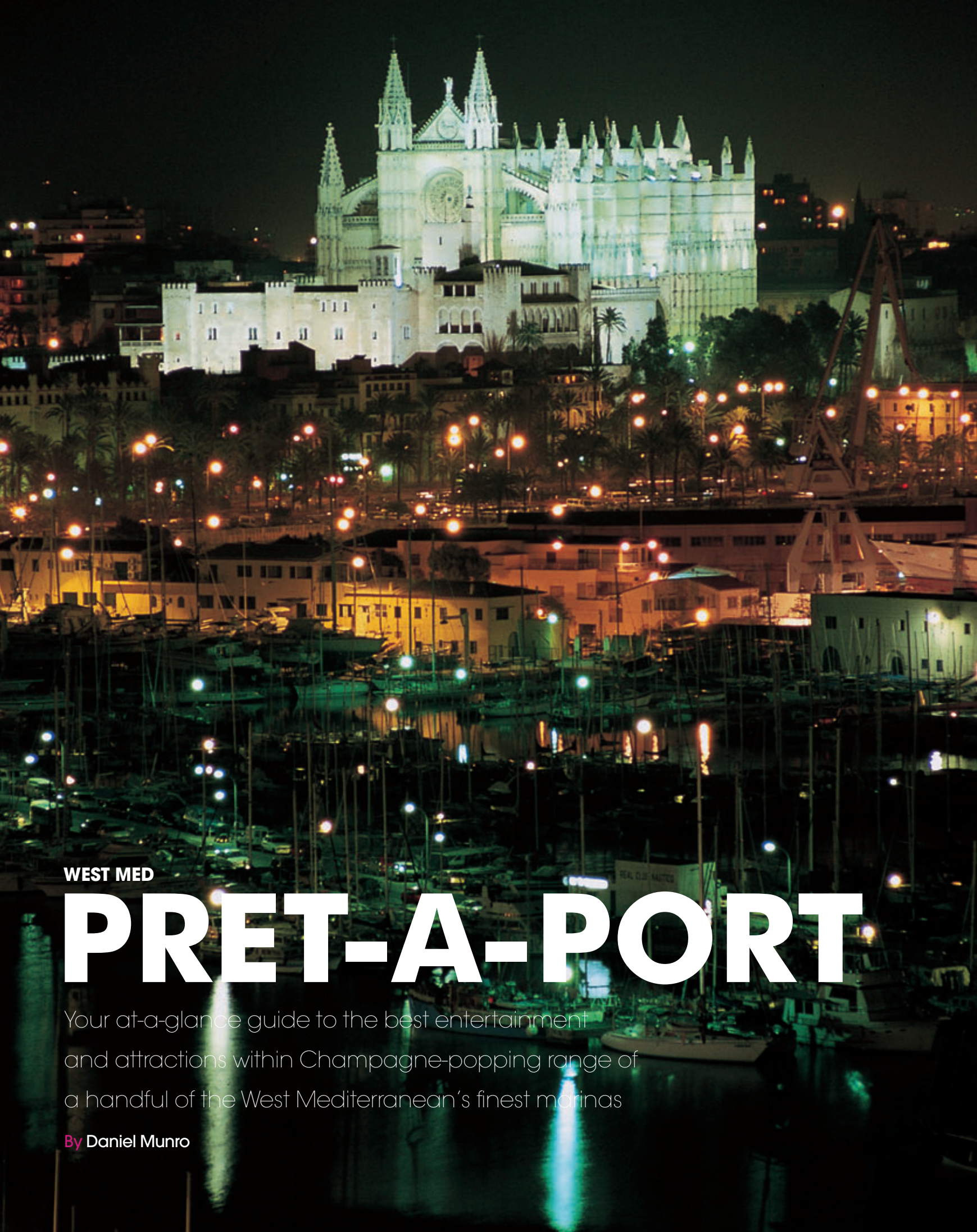
Pure inspiration

Ice-white fabrics, sparkling glass and translucent materials are clearly superior when it comes to clean, contemporary styling

1. LIGHT FANTASTIC The Champs Elysées wall sconce from Lalique's White Light collection. www.lalique.com . 2. PERFECT CURVES The Dali chair from Andrew Martin. www.andrewmartin.co.uk 3. COFFEE TIME Bone china mocha cup and saucer from Alessi. www.alessi.com 4. IN HARMONY Translucent Victoria speakers from Waterfall. www.waterfallaudio.com 5. ICE MAGIC Alessi's 'Chiringuito' wine cooler. www.alessi.com 6. SITTING PRETTY White-leather, deep-buttoned sofa from Alison Henry. www.alisonhenry.com



6



WEST MED

PRET-A-PORT

Your at-a-glance guide to the best entertainment and attractions within Champagne-popping range of a handful of the West Mediterranean's finest marinas

By Daniel Munro



PORT DE MONACO, MONACO

Monaco glitters with seven centuries of monarchical heritage. Must-attend events include the International Tennis Championships in April, the Grand Prix in May and the Yacht Show in September. But with the following attractions, Monaco is a gem at any time.

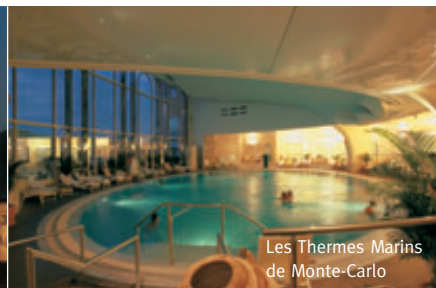
Sport & leisure A sea-view pool, Oriental serenity, ultra-modern facilities and more than a dozen types of massage make Les Thermes Marins de Monte-Carlo a must-visit spa. Or pop into the Clé de Peau Beauté Institute in Le Port Palace hotel for deluxe Shiseido treatments. For lunching, the Yacht Club de Monaco is perfect, and for tennis or golf... the Monte-Carlo Country Club.

Dining Candles, sea breeze, jazz and moonlight make La Note Bleue on Larvotto Beach a great place for pre-dinner drinks. But Michelin-starred eateries fight for space, so head to Alain Ducasse's three-starred Louis XV serving Monegasque and French cuisine. With one star apiece are La Salle Empire and Le Grill, while La Coupole takes care of international and French cuisine.

Nightlife Try your luck at the ornate Casino de Monte-Carlo, dance at the world-famous Jimmy'z, check out the live session musicians at the Sass Café, or take in a ballet or opera at the gilded Salle Garnier. Alternatively, simply sip Champagne and snack on gastro-tapas at the Sea Lounge. →



The Royal Palace



Les Thermes Marins de Monte-Carlo



The Monaco Grand Prix



The Casino de Monte-Carlo



PORT DE SAINT-TROPEZ, FRANCE

Designer boutiques, quaint narrow streets and Manolo Blahniks clipping along a waterfront laced with the world's most fabulous superyachts... Saint-Tropez simmers with all the charm that Brigitte Bardot fuelled it with 50 years ago, but it now offers the savvy visitor a great deal more to soak up than the sun.

Sport & leisure For relaxation, try the Thalgo thalassotherapy treatments at the Thalasso First Marine Thermal Baths at nearby Issambres in the Gulf of Saint-Tropez. For a more energetic day, book a round of golf at Golf de Beauvallon — one of the oldest courses in the Var region, or head to the challenging greens of the 18-hole, par 71 course at Golf de Sainte-Maxime.

Dining For gastronomic finesse, try Lei Mouscardins in the Port of Saint Tropez. Laurent Tarridec's restaurant has it all — great views of the bay, a dining room filled with famous faces and sighs of appreciation, and a kitchen full of divine creations. Further afield in a 19th century manor house in the hills of Aix en Provence, Jean-Marc Banzo's Les Clos de la Violette is a rare culinary treat.

Nightlife Where to start...? Café de Paris on Quai Suffren is trendy and friendly, Chez Joseph is more discreet but equally popular, and for atmospheric jazz Octave Café oozes character, class and charisma. But for all-out, all-night partying, trip your dancing shoes along to Les Caves de Roy at Hôtel Byblos.

PORT PIERRE CANTO, CANNES, FRANCE

Port Pierre Canto is the glittering gateway to a world of fashion, fine dining and even finer living. Based on your yacht you are at the heart of it all — a mere step away from the famous croisette, boutiques, clubs and beaches that have made this stretch of the Côte d'Azur so famous.

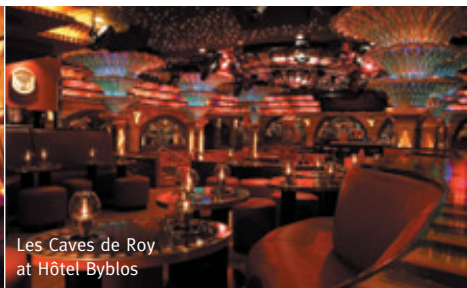
Sport & leisure Treat yourself to the serene setting and relaxing treatments of the Hotel Martinez' Givenchy Spa, or set off to one of the many golf courses in the area. Just half an hour's drive from Cannes is the world-famous 18-hole Saint-Endréol golf course highlighted by ancient pines and views of the river Endre, while the Golf Mandelieu Old Course, created in 1891, winds along the shore and the river Siagne and is both scenic and historic.

Dining One of the great Riviera restaurants overlooking La Croisette, La Palme D'Or serves up wonderful seafood and seasonal delicacies. For a cosy yet grand ambience, try the Royal Gray in the Hotel Gray d'Albion with its modern, innovative cuisine.

Nightlife For a sedate evening, sip a Champagne cocktail or Cognac in the Havana Room overlooking the boulevard de La Croisette, while for late-night partying the ever-famous, ever-fun Jimmy'z or the Casino Croisette are winning choices.



The bright lights of Les Caves de Roy



Les Caves de Roy at Hôtel Byblos



The Martinez Spa



Saint-Endréol golf course



CLUB DE MAR, MALLORCA, SPAIN

The impressive Club De Mar marina is wonderfully situated to access the five-star attractions of the Balearic's largest island. Based on the southwest side of Mallorca around the capital Palma, you'll find yourself surrounded by some of the finest sporting, leisure and nightlife attractions in the world.

Sport & leisure The Mardavall Hotel has two golf courses and a spa offering thalassotherapy and Chinese-inspired therapies, while the Dorint Sofitel Royal Golfresort and Spa has a spa and an 18-hole course. More than a dozen other courses include the 18-hole Son Vida at the mansion-style Arabella Sheraton hotel (which also has a holistic spa), and the 18-hole Son Muntaner course. Alternatively, head to one of the fantastic beaches.

Dining It is some way from Palma on the northwest coast, but the El Olivo restaurant at the La Residencia hotel is well worth the drive. For more local gourmet delights in a striking setting complete with marble floors and palms, head for Antonio Gil's culinary delights at the Bahía Mediterráneo.

Nightlife Clubs abound. Perhaps the most historic is Tito's — haunt of Ray Charles and Marlene Dietrich in the '50s and '60s. Pacha's, built into the side of the cliff, is one of the most famous clubs or, for alternative entertainment, play the night away at the Casino de Mallorca in nearby Calvia.

PORTO CERVO MARINA, SARDINIA

The waters surrounding Sardinia are among the most bewitching in the world, while inland the wild beauty of the island is breathtaking. But in addition to its natural assets, Sardinia adds Porto Cervo — one of the most gilded and glamorous marina resorts in the world. Expect culture, designer labels, gastronomic delicacies and high society in abundance.

Sport & leisure Founded by, among others, H.H. Aga Khan in 1967, the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda is the perfect place for members and guests to relax on the terrace by the pool or gymnasium. The 18-hole, par 72 Robert Trent Jones-designed Pevero Golf Club is one of the most spectacular in the world — and extremely challenging to boot. What's more, the clubhouse is a fantastic spot for celebrating — or drowning your sorrows!

Dining On the terrace of the Romazzino Restaurant, Giovanni Raccagni serves up his famous rice dishes. Offering equally fine cuisine and views is La Terrazza of the Hotel Cervo overlooking the famous piazzetta of Porto Cervo.

Nightlife For a sophisticated start to the evening, enjoy pre-dinner drinks at Il Pontile Piano Bar at Hotel Cala di Volpe. Later, follow dinner with some livelier action at the Billionaire or Sopravento nightclubs — the island's 'it' places to be seen. ■



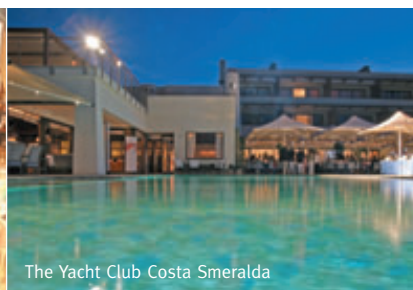
The Mardavall Hotel and Spa



Beach life in Mallorca



Porto Cervo's Rolex Maxi Yacht event



The Yacht Club Costa Smeralda

Fast forward

ELLA FONTANALS CISNEROS

A prominent businesswoman, collector and philanthropist based in Miami, Florida, Ella Fontanals Cisneros is also the proud owner of the distinctive *Ellix Too*, ISA's 47m motor yacht that was launched to great acclaim during last year's Monaco Yacht Show.

By Laurent Pérignon

Born in Cuba and raised in Venezuela before moving to Miami, Cisneros is a fine example of an enterprising woman with international perspectives. She has managed to combine life in the fast lane with her passion for contemporary art as well as her commitment to social and cultural awareness - all whilst remaining deeply rooted to her own cultural origins.

MAC WAS BORN

Miami Art Central (MAC), the exhibition space and museum Cisneros opened after taking over an old 1945 Southern Bell telephone building, epitomises her achievements and philosophy. The industrial estate, located near the Miami University and the luxury residential suburbs of Coral Gables, was converted by the Italian architect, Alessandro Fiorentino, into an exhibition venue destined to be one of the visual highlights of the area.

In addition to providing ultra-modern, flexible and open exhibition spaces, the building adequately houses the offices of Cisneros' luxury real-estate business, EFC Holdings, as well as the Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation. Since its grand opening during Art Basel 2003, the now prominent MAC has housed a wide variety of contemporary art exhibitions, many of which featured Latin American and Hispanic artists, such as the *10 Floridians*. Cisneros explains, "Our primary objective is to serve and engage our community, as well as gaining an international audience. This is why we opened at the time of Art Basel, a time when many foreign artists come to the area of Miami."

ACHIEVING DREAMS

Fostering cultural exchanges, offering a cross-cultural platform, and sharing her passion for the arts, has been a long-standing dream for Cisneros. She believes the development of MAC is a way of inviting people to experience contemporary art and culture at the same time as giving something back to the community. Cisneros explains, "MAC is a meeting place where our community can encounter the power of art in a context in which artists feel free to experiment. An extensive educational programme is in place to spark the imagination of adults, students and children, and create a deeper understanding of the culturally diverse world we live in." MAC is only the visual tip of the iceberg. Behind the scenes, the Cisneros Fontanals Foundation is a non-profit organisation that was established prior to the opening of MAC to offer residency and support for artists with a Latin American heritage. The Foundation includes supporting activities for MAC, but it also goes way beyond this, with a strong commitment for performing arts, an area that Cisneros believes often requires more support than visual arts: "We will continue implementing a strong exhibition schedule with public programmes that incorporate not only the visual arts, but also music, film, literature and the performing arts."

UNBENDING SPIRIT

When it comes to her personal life, Cisneros shows the same passion and long-term commitment in all that she undertakes. Cisneros would not have worked her way through to →





develop MAC and the Cisneros Fontanals Foundation if she had not been deeply involved with the arts right from the start of her career: “I first opened a gallery in Caracas in the 1960s, and immediately became interested in finding and supporting young talent. I have works by established masters such as Tamayo, Soto and Volpi, but my collection also includes pieces by younger contemporary artists like Herrera, Vic Muniz and Ernesto Neto, among others.”

FOR THE DIARY

Camper & Nicholson's International is one of the sponsors of the William Kentridge exhibition that opens on November 29th, 2005, at Miami Art Central, as part of Art Basel 2005. William Kentridge, a most significant artist of our time, addresses challenging and intimate aspects of life in South Africa. Through his short animated films, sculptures and installations, he explores the nature of emotions and memory, and the ambiguity and complexity of our lives in the age of globalisation.

William Kentridge's art suggests an original perspective whereby perpetual change, process and transformation are balanced between ethics, responsibility and poetry. For more information, contact MAC or media@can.cnyachts.com

Yachting has been a long time passion for Cisneros. Surrounded by water in Cuba when she was born, Cisneros grew up with yachts. Cisneros' taste for creativity certainly explains why she chose the stunning Ellix Too and International Shipyard Ancona (ISA) when she was looking for a yacht to build. With her contemporary lines, flexible and open spaces, Ellix Too proved to be the right fit; and a major piece of art too. Cisneros describes her with passion: “From the inside out it is all a piece of art. With a deep red hull and white superstructure, she looks amazing.” The fact that she was, at the time of her launch in 2004, only the second hull of this type to be delivered by ISA, was an added benefit. For someone daring like Cisneros, there is always something exciting in facing the relatively unknown, as long as, of course, you hold the right cards in your hands and have the right kind of flair. ■

For more information on Miami Art Central, visit: www.miamiartcentral.org. Tel +1 305 455 333

For more information on ISA, visit www.rodriquezgroup.com

Ella Fontanals Cisneros is a member of the board or patron of numerous additional art institutions, and is also a member of Institute for International Education, the Together Foundation of the United Nations, and the International Women's Forum. She was the recipient of the 2003 Spectrum Philanthropy Award presented by the American Red Cross.

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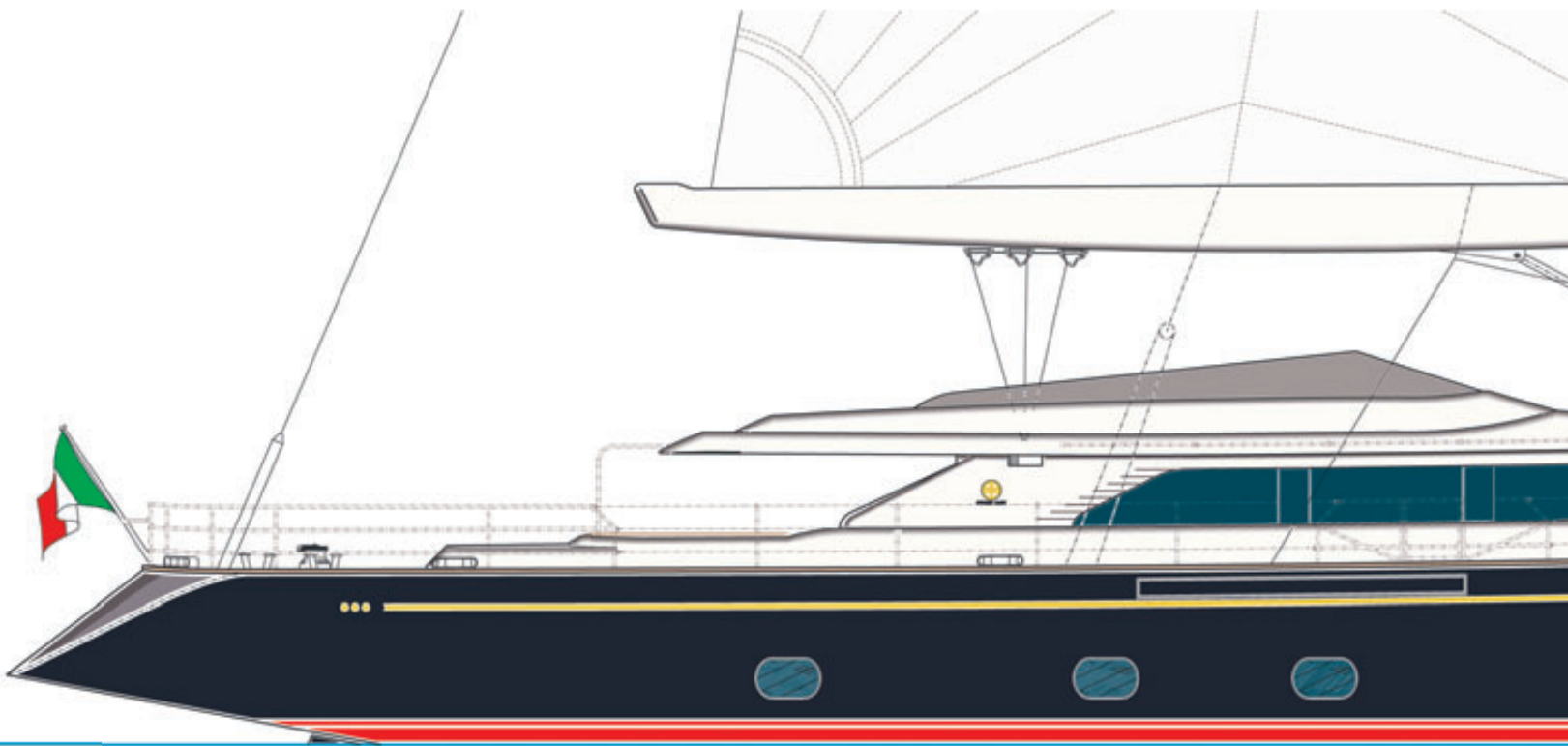
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HELIOS

A C R O S S O C E A N S



Bill Sanderson is an avid traveller. Sailing across oceans and participating in many world famous races in his early days, he never really stopped moving even after establishing himself as a yacht broker in Palm Beach. Managing the development of Helios in New Zealand was therefore not a major issue, even with the designers based in the UK. [sea&i](#) talks to Bill and the project's naval architect, Ed Dubois.

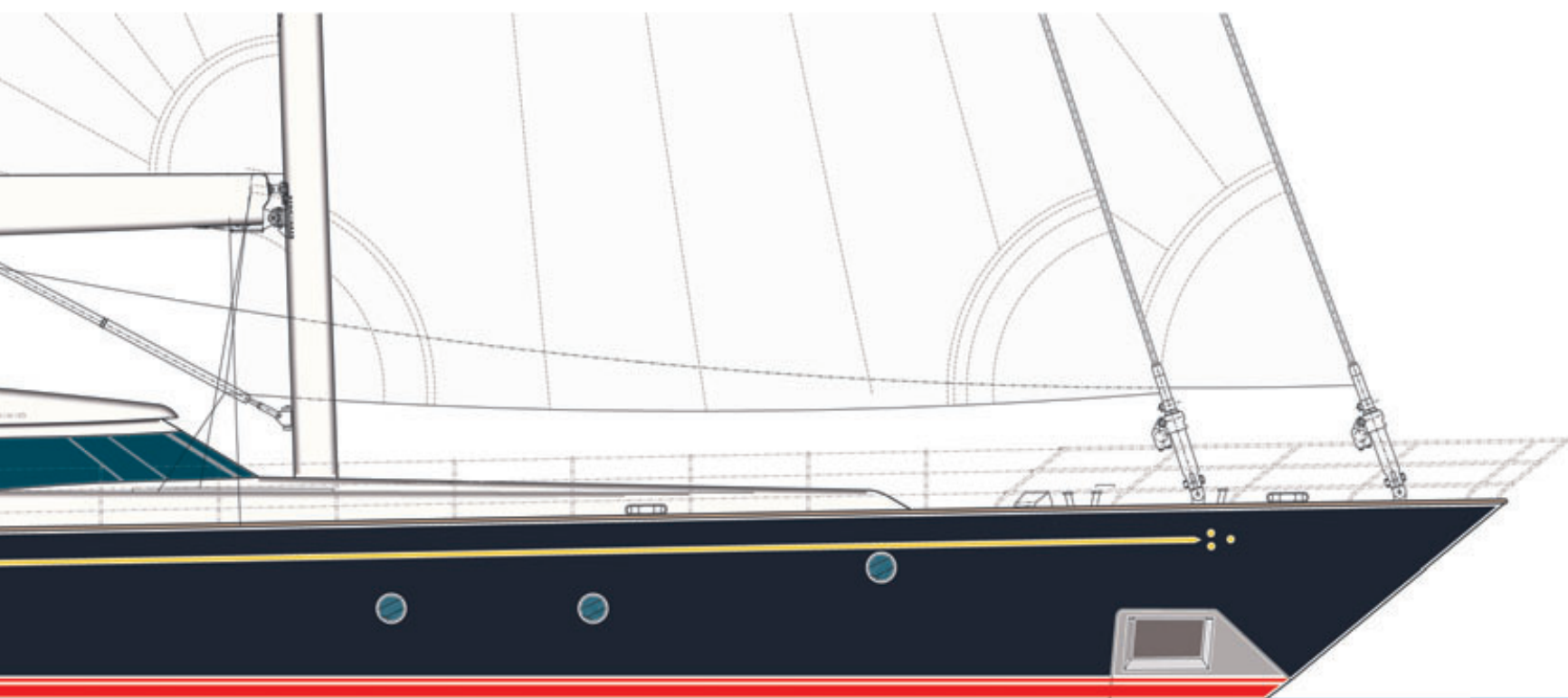
How hard was it coordinating the project across three continents?

Sanderson: The construction of Helios was certainly an original situation, but as it turned out the distances between the UK,

Palm Beach and New Zealand were not a problem. I inherited the Zulu project when she was already under construction at Fitzroy Yachts in New Plymouth, which is right at the bottom of New Zealand's North Island. It required several 29-hour flights and transfers but not as many as it would have necessitated even a few years ago. To be honest, trying to get to the remote location of the Redman Whiteley Dixon office in the UK was not necessarily much faster! But luckily these days, with CAD drawings and 3D renderings accessible by email and high-speed courier companies delivering materials and paper work so efficiently, communication logistics are no longer such a problem.

When CNI broker Bill Sanderson found out Zulu, a sloop in build at Fitzroy Yachts, was looking for an owner, he jumped on the opportunity and Zulu became Helios. Sometimes, it is (almost) all about being in the right place at the right time

By Laurent Pérignon



How did the collaboration work between Fitzroy Yachts, Ed Dubois and Redman Whiteley Dixon?

Sanderson: It was great. Before Helios, I represented Fitzroy for the sale of its spec-built Spirit of Fitzroy so I already had a good rapport with the yard. Thanks to its work on Midnight and subsequent builds, Fitzroy Yachts has matured considerably and has tremendous potential as a yard.

Dubois: Helios was our second collaboration with Fitzroy (Midnight was the first), and we are now working on our fourth project together. We have also produced many yachts in New Zealand with

Alloy Yachts, therefore we were on familiar ground and it all went very smoothly. The experience we have gained over the years helped tremendously, and I like to think that in the design of Helios we have achieved a layout where the balance of cabin and day space, though always challenging, has reached a very high level. Working closely with the original owner also helped to achieve this.

Sanderson: My client took over in November 2003, when the yacht was already half built. Redman Whiteley Dixon styled the interior and made changes to the original layout drawings to take account of the new owner's preferences. Take the →

Above: Line drawings of the 37.5m Helios

original service bar, for example. This was transformed into a proper bar and became a focal point in the pilothouse — very much like it is on Atlanta (a yacht the owner previously owned). Also, the dining room was slightly altered and became more formal than had originally been planned. In fact, my client was very much inspired by Atlanta when he was considering purchasing Zulu. There were a few changes of fabrics and colours and so on, but thanks to Fitzroy's and Dubois' wide experience with such a range of yachts the main features of the yacht were so appealing that they remained unchanged.

How did you ensure Helios was exceptional in terms of her technical specification?

Dubois: Helios has benefitted from the steady development of a long line of Dubois-designed yachts starting with a vessel named Aqual II — another 37m yacht — built in New Zealand in 1986. Since then we have been responsible for over 20 yachts exhibiting the same characteristics. As naval architects we always strive to make living and sailing aboard these yachts a thoroughly safe, comfortable and stimulating experience. Sailing yachts with good performance and all the comforts and luxury of a motor yacht are a relatively new concept. It has been made possible thanks to the powered sailing systems that have become extremely reliable over the past ten years, allowing for fewer crew to handle such large yachts, and therefore ensuring most of the accommodation space is available for the owner and his guests.

Sanderson: Helios is loaded with all the best gear from around the world. Her composite hard top is unique to the industry at this time. It can also be adapted to give the option of an outdoor theatre. Rig wise, she has a removable inner forestay so she can tack in a fraction of the time it takes for other non-removable inner-head-stay yachts to roll up a genoa and tack and unroll. And naturally the electronics and entertainment systems are the latest on the market.

As project manager, was your involvement with Helios comparable to other yacht constructions you have handled or are currently handling?

Sanderson: As opposed to recent projects like Solemates (a 52m Feadship), Georgia (a 48.5m sloop) or Ranger (the recreation of a 1937 J-Boat), Helios did not start for me on a piece of blank paper. I was lucky to have the opportunity to find a yacht already under construction that corresponded to my client's brief. It saved us all a great deal of time. Having spent time in New Zealand when I was an avid young sailor, and having an excellent relationship with the yards and yachting community there, was also helpful.



Was this the first time you worked with this client?

Sanderson: I previously sold my client an Alloy Yachts/Dubois yacht, and that was certainly a considerable factor in helping to select the right yacht for him this time, too. We looked at other yachts in Holland and the US, but Helios quickly proved to be the right choice for the right budget.

Was Helios solely designed for private use?

Dubois: Charter and private use don't necessarily conflict, both the owner and charterers demand a high level of comfort and luxury, top quality crew and excellent accommodation. Catering must also be first class, so the galley is always a prime area that must be superbly designed, equipped and positioned to allow for the most efficient service.

Sanderson: I couldn't agree more. There is always the question of personal taste but generally speaking what is good for an owner and his guests should also tie in with what charter guests are looking for in a yacht.



Clockwise from far left:
Helios under sail; the console; excellent deck space was a high priority; the lazarette houses all the toys; a sun-worshipper's dream



What up-and-coming projects are on the cards for you both in the next year or so?

Dubois: I am currently developing designs for a number of yachts similar to Helios — in fact, there is a slightly larger version currently under construction at Fitzroy Yachts. Dubois Yachts also has a 44m yacht beginning construction down in New Zealand, and we have just launched a 40m yacht from Alloy Yachts. That's all for the Helios line. Of course, Dubois designs are also busy working on a number of larger craft, ranging in size from 44m to 56m.

Sanderson: As for me, I have recently signed for a new 45.5m Perini Navi build for the same client, which means Helios is now for sale — and I can certainly recommend her as an excellent choice for a yachtsman who wants to throw off the lines and immediately go sailing! ■

For further information regarding Helios, please contact Bill Sanderson at CNI in Palm Beach. Tel: +1 561 655 2121



New kid **CREDIT SUISSE** on the block

Credit Suisse has always been one of the top names in wealth management. Following the bank's move to launch a yacht finance division, are yachts now considered to be valuable assets rather than just 'boys toys'? **sea&i** finds out more in an interview with Alain Ucari, director of Credit Suisse Monaco

By Laurent Pérignon



Alain Ucari is a Swiss national born in Lausanne, where he studied Business Management. He joined Credit Suisse ten years ago and has worked in the UAE and Lebanon. He arrived in Monaco three years ago and enjoys sailing with his family at the weekend.

Credit Suisse has recently launched a yacht finance division. How did this new department come about?

Ucari: We want to be able to offer services to our clients that go beyond what you would normally expect from a private bank. As Credit Suisse has more than 60 years of experience in financing commercial ships, it was a logical step for us.

There are already many financial institutions specialising in yacht finance. What are Credit Suisse's expectations in terms of market penetration? And why have you left it until now?

Ucari: The rapid development of the yachting market has led to a growth in the demand for financing solutions in this area, which we are now able to satisfy, supported by a team experienced in structuring and handling yacht mortgages. Our prime objective is to complete our range of financial products for private clients in order to become a highly specialised financing house.

Does yacht financing work the same as real estate or business jet financing? And what is Credit Suisse's approach in this area?

Ucari: The comparison with jet financing is apt. Both businesses have the very same approach and we offer highly customised,

reliable, long-term financing solutions to demanding customers. The financing of a yacht should be the beginning of a long-term relationship with a client. For our existing clients, this new product demonstrates our continuing commitment.

What are the exact features of your yacht financing product?

Ucari: We focus on motor yachts above 30m, and we offer loans from US\$ 5 to 25 million. Larger loans will be considered on a case by case basis. In general we finance 50 per cent of the yacht's value for up to eight years. The repayment schedule and the size of the balloon payment will be determined individually. Our loans are secured with a first-priority mortgage on the yacht and a personal guarantee of the yacht owner. These are our 'general terms'. However, each loan will be arranged separately and the conditions adjusted accordingly. Flexibility is one of our strengths.

Are your services limited to the financing of yachts, or are there additional options available to yacht owners?

Ucari: As a leading global private bank we want to focus on what we do best: providing comprehensive financial advisory services and managing our clients' assets. For anything else,



we refer the client to specialised firms that we trust to offer excellent services; top brokers like CNI or renowned law firms specialising in the maritime field. More specifically, for yacht owners, in addition to our yacht finance services, we also offer traditional banking services: this may include the opening of an account in the name of the company that owns the yacht, the cashflow management of the yacht's expenses and the issuing of credit cards for the crew members.

Do you work in collaboration with yacht brokers, or do you have your own technical surveyors to help assess the value of a yacht requiring financing?

Ucari: As mentioned before, we focus on the financing side and we always use the services of leading brokers or surveyors to assess the value of a yacht.

Are you more likely to finance new constructions, or do you also consider pre-owned yachts?

Ucari: We focus on new yachts up to three years old. But we evaluate on a case-by-case basis and we would certainly finance some pre-owned yachts, where appropriate.

Do you also work with shipyards?

Ucari: We have established first contact, and will certainly be doing more with shipyards in the near future.

What are your existing links with the yachting world? And do you have any plans for further exposure and developments in this industry?

Ucari: Credit Suisse Monaco is a long-standing partner of the Monaco Yacht Club. In fact, we sponsor a number of major events, such as the Primo Cup Trophée Credit Suisse which opens the International Monohull Racing Season and was established back in 1984. Since then the event has seen an ever-growing number of participants from across the ranks, including the most enthusiastic and skilled sailors. This year the number of competitors once again increased, and two new classes were added, the Dragons and the First Class 7.5, in addition to the existing eight other classes: J24, Star, Bénéteau 25, Melges 24, Mumm 30, Farr 40, Swan 45 and Smeralda 888. One hundred and eighty vessels were present, with 700 sailors from fifteen different nations. Achievements come with commitment, and that's what we like. ■



For further information on your ultimate America's Cup charter please contact your nearest CNI office.

From 16 - 26 June, the 12 teams engaged in the America's Cup series battled fiercely on



ACTS 4&5 The Heat is On

the grounds selected to host the Cup in 2007. With the Valencia Superyacht Marina now set up as the heart of the teams' bases, all is almost in place for superyachts to enjoy the races to the full.

By James Shotton

The weather conditions were perfect throughout. A constant light wind blowing at 9 knots ensured no race would be cancelled, proving, if need be, that the choice of Valencia was the right one. The interest from the Spanish public was there too, with a lot of curiosity in the air, and many visitors eager to understand better the complexities of match-racing rules, the level of technology involved, and the teamwork behind the scenes. There was a Formula One type atmosphere to the show, which is certainly what the America's Cup Management is trying to infuse into the event – although all the facilities are not yet in place.

The canal, designed to avoid the commercial side of the harbour, is yet to be finished, which allows for surreal sights of slim high-tech carbon racing boats sailing past large steel container vessels. The Foredeck Club for the teams still lies in the middle of the Superyacht Marina, away from the bases. But none of this really matters. The atmosphere is already building and looks as though it will reach great heights. The Marina, which is already operating thanks to the hard work of all involved – including the CNI Palma office – was ready to welcome its first fleet of yachts in less than two months. Those interested in joining the fun in 2007 will have to start planning the trip soon to ensure space.

As for the actual races, Alinghi remains as impressive as ever, no doubt allowing Ernesto Bertarelli a smug smile while enjoying a drink onboard Vava berthed nearby, and certainly giving Larry Ellison reason to worry while working BMW Oracle's tactics onboard Rising Sun moored across the port.

Of course no one can yet predict who will be the Challenger. The ambitions of Team New Zealand, Prada and BMW Oracle have been made pretty clear, but these strong contestants should also be wary of many upcoming teams who proved over the ten days' racing they were not willing to surrender just yet. ■

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