

ONBOARD

Edited by Rosalyn Wikeley

20

**PAGES
DEDICATED
TO LIFE
AT SEA**



A Princess Yachts boat
provides the perfect springboard

SHARING ADVENTURES SINCE 1973



Hermitage Bay, Antigua
6.10pm, 10 April 2019
Oyster 885

www.oysteryachts.com



OYSTER

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Trends that are rocking the boat

GREEN PLANET

Increasingly builders and buyers are angling for more eco-innovation, using sustainable materials, solar power and low-emission cruising technology



« **Plain sailing**
Oceanco's 106-metre Black Pearl sailing yacht is as fuel-efficient as it is breathtaking. Its three sails are made from carbon fibre and it's said to be able to cross the Atlantic without burning any fuel, using full electric propulsions. oceancoyacht.com



« Tesla of the sea

There have been small electric boats before, but the difference with Konrad Bergström's all-electric X Shore vessel is performance. It has a range of 100 nautical miles on a single charge, and can reach 40 knots. Silent, fumeless and – thanks to their modular design, inspired by the South American eel – customisable. £260,000. xshore.com



« Carbon data

Princess' revolutionary R35 yacht recalls a futuristic James Bond getaway vessel.

The boat's active foiling system allows the engineers to create a super-efficient hull shape that delivers 30 per cent fuel savings but also a high-speed planning hull at full throttle (this is Princess' fastest ever boat, made from 100 per cent carbon fibre and reaching 50 knots). In short: a quick getaway's a green getaway. princessyachts.com

FISHING FOR DATA

As 'luxury' undergoes a seismic conceptual change towards morality, superyacht owners are carving out space for laboratories to study and support the ocean's ecosystem

The Nordic way

Vard is building the world's largest superyacht, a 181.6-metre REV for Norwegian billionaire Kjell Inge Røkke, equipped with laboratories for the World Wildlife Fund to gather scientific data to help protect our oceans. Launching in 2020, its research will be funded by its recreational and expedition-chartered cruises. revocean.org



« Blue planet

OceanX's advanced exploratory vessel Alucia sent a manned-submersible to capture the first footage of a giant squid off the coast of Japan and has worked with the Blue Planet II team. It has given fans a sneak peek of the new 85.3-metre explorer yacht 'Alucia 2'. Alucia on sale for £15.53m. fraseryachts.com

OFF-GRID ADVENTURE

Superyachts are shedding the champagne-up-top-in-Monaco cliché for a more exploratory purpose, with engineering and technology that can endure polar regions and rough conditions out at sea



« Ski and sail

Oyster Yacht's Firebird was fully customised for ambitious round-the-world passages. Its current owner has sailed the magnificent yacht to the northern tops of Norway, skiing untouched mountain faces towards a hauntingly pretty landscape below, peppered with icebergs and Arctic wildlife. Billed a 'floating chalet' with an onboard sauna and Michelin-starred cuisine, Firebird is available for private charter for up to seven and will be migrating from the Arctic tundra to the warmer climes of the Caribbean at the beginning of next year. oysteryachts.com

Sport fishing »

As a yachtsman and talented sport fisherman, the owner of Heesen's new 55-m VIDA superyacht worked closely with the shipyard engineers to customise his yacht for deep-sea fishing (as well as the archetypal superyacht indulgences), and make her the mothership of his sport fishing fleet – she can refuel and recharge her owner's Bayliss 60 and Baylis 68. heesenyachts.com



Ice queen

A cause of great curiosity at the 2015 Monaco Yacht Show, the SeaXplorer 65 combines luxury with commercial ship capabilities (and recalls a Nordic Bond villain's vessel). The team worked with EYOS Expeditions, which organises superyacht trips to ice destinations. A second yacht, SeaXplorer 77, has been commissioned by a client keen to use his new toy for surfing, diving and heliskiing. seaxplorer.nl

A SLICE OF THE GOOD LIFE

Yachts are increasingly accessible with charter companies relaxing their minimum terms, plus high-end exchanges and digital rental platforms

The borrowers »

The UK's fastest growing digital boat charter platform, Borrow A Boat is partnering up with superyacht central agent Ocean Independence to allow unprecedented access to superyacht charter. Ocean Independence adds over 100 superyachts into the mix with Borrow A Boat Plus functioning like a swanky version of Airbnb. borrowaboat.com



Day tripping

The self-proclaimed 'original' yachting company, Camper and Nicholson's has recently introduced day charter experiences, from L'Estaque to Calavaire. From £1,736. camperandnicholsons.com

TOP TRUMPS

Navigating the world's biggest and boldest yachts



SAILING YACHT A

TOP TRUMP: Super futuristic exterior and a foot-thick glass underwater observation area

- ☛ Built by: **Nobiskrug**
- ☛ Length: **143m**
- ☛ Launched: **2017**
- ☛ Top speed: **21 knots**

- ☛ Owned by: **Andrey Melnichenko**
- ☛ Exterior: **Philippe Starck**
- ☛ Interiors: **Philippe Starck**



OCEAN VICTORY

TOP TRUMP: The largest motor yacht ever built in Italy with six swimming pools

- ☛ Built by: **Fincantieri**
- ☛ Length: **140m**
- ☛ Launched: **2014**
- ☛ Top speed: **25 knots**

- ☛ Owned by: **Viktor Rashnikov**
- ☛ Exterior: **Espen Oeino**
- ☛ Interiors: **Alberto Pinto, Laura Sessa Design**

MAKING WAVES

Highly anticipated superyachts and sailing yachts, fresh on the scene or soon to hit the water



MADSUMMER (*project Figi*)

Built by: Lürssen
Length: 95m
Launching: 2019
Cachet: A superyacht beach club with a sea terrace



ARTEFACT

Built by: Nobiskrug
Length: 80m
Launching: 2019
Cachet: Mismatched windows and environmentally friendly features



TIS (*project Tis*)

Built by: Lürssen
Length: 111m
Launched: June 2019
Cachet: A palatial staircase and resort-style spa

AZZAM



TOP TRUMP:

A 29m Empire-style salon with low carbon dioxide and noise emissions

- ☛ Built by: **Lürssen**
- ☛ Length: **180m**
- ☛ Launched: **2013**
- ☛ Top speed: **30 knots**

- ☛ Owned by: **Mubarak Saad Al Ahbabi**
- ☛ Exterior: **Nauta Design**
- ☛ Interiors: **Christophe Leoni Interiors**

DILBAR



TOP TRUMP:

The world's largest yacht, when measured by interior volume

- ☛ Built by: **Lürssen**
- ☛ Length: **156m**
- ☛ Launched: **2015**
- ☛ Top speed: **22.5 knots**

- ☛ Owned by: **Alisher Usmanov**
- ☛ Exterior: **Espen Oeino**
- ☛ Interiors: **Winch Designs**

FLYING FOX



TOP TRUMP:

400 sq/m two-level spa and twin helipads. Week's charter allegedly €4m

- ☛ Built by: **Lürssen**
- ☛ Length: **136m**
- ☛ Launched: **2019**
- ☛ Top speed: **20 knots**

- ☛ Owned by: **Unknown (rumour says Jeff B)**
- ☛ Exterior: **Espen Oeino**
- ☛ Interiors: **Mark Berryman**

OCTOPUS



TOP TRUMP:

Its submarine was lent to Google Earth's 'Explore the Ocean' project

- ☛ Built by: **Lürssen**
- ☛ Length: **126m**
- ☛ Launched: **2003**
- ☛ Top speed: **20 knots**

- ☛ Owned by: **Paul Allen**
- ☛ Exterior: **Espen Oeino**
- ☛ Interiors: **Jonathan Quinn Barnett**



Black Eyewear
Sunglasses, £187



Ortaea
Earrings, £33,600

Eugenia Kim
Sun hat, £265



Yamamay
Bandeau, £29.95;
bottoms, £16.95



Issey Miyake
Trousers, £190



Ayla Swim
Top, £90;
bottoms, £80



Penelope Chilvers
Slippers, £259



WNU
Shirt, £80



Initially London
Bag, £50

For Her



Maiyo
Swimsuit, £125

New & Lingwood
Jacket, £695



Chester Barrie
Trousers, £295



Tom Davies
Sunglasses, £395

For Him



Luca Faloni
Linen scarf, £75



Sunspel
Jumper, £225



Hamilton & Hare
Shirt, £90



Orlebar Brown
Shorts, £165



Love Brand & Co
Trunks, £120

ON THE RIVIERA

Make a splash on board

Nautical overtones and linen finishes are the ordre du jour (just don't go overboard with it). The cool ocean breeze at full speed will remind you that the not-so-glamorous puffer jacket was, in fact, a fantastic idea. Really though, the boat's your catwalk and if you're not steering the thing or in St Barths, anything goes – diamonds, dresses, belted swimmers, short shorts, suits, lipstick. Just make a mental note of where you chucked the heirlooms before diving into the deep blue. ■



Billy Reid
Shirt Jacket, £370

BUOYS TOYS

A boat is only as fun as its accessories



« Let it slide

Adults seem to enjoy inflatable superyacht slides even more than children, which is possibly why they are flying off the shelves. These can go up to 18m in length and are usually attached to the top or second deck of a superyacht. From a long, 'legless' slide to the curved options, there's no easier way to draw out the inner child of everyone on board. £POA. superyachtendersandtoys.com

Salt cycle »

Biblical scenes are afoot with the Manta5 Hydrofoiler XE1, a nifty contraption that allows users to peddle across the ocean surface much like a bike on the road. Its 400w electric motor, battery and hydrofoil technology give up to an hour's window of unfettered fun, on both freshwater and saltwater. £5,790. uk.manta5.com



« Jet, lev, go!

For the ultimate thrill, strap a JetLev-Flyer to your back and experience the power of jet propulsion, zooming as high as 30ft above the ocean. This is German engineering at its finest and satiates every superhero fantasy going. From £79,000. jetlev-flyer.com



Poolside ocean »

Sea pools are an ingenious idea. Tightly woven netting not only provides protection from any sea critters and jellies but the enclosed area prevents guests from being swept away by the current. FunAir's Beach Club Sea Pool has become something of an Instagram sensation, with extensive inflating decking areas and Wave Loungers posing as a poolside experience in the middle of the ocean. £POA. funair.com



Bigger isn't always better

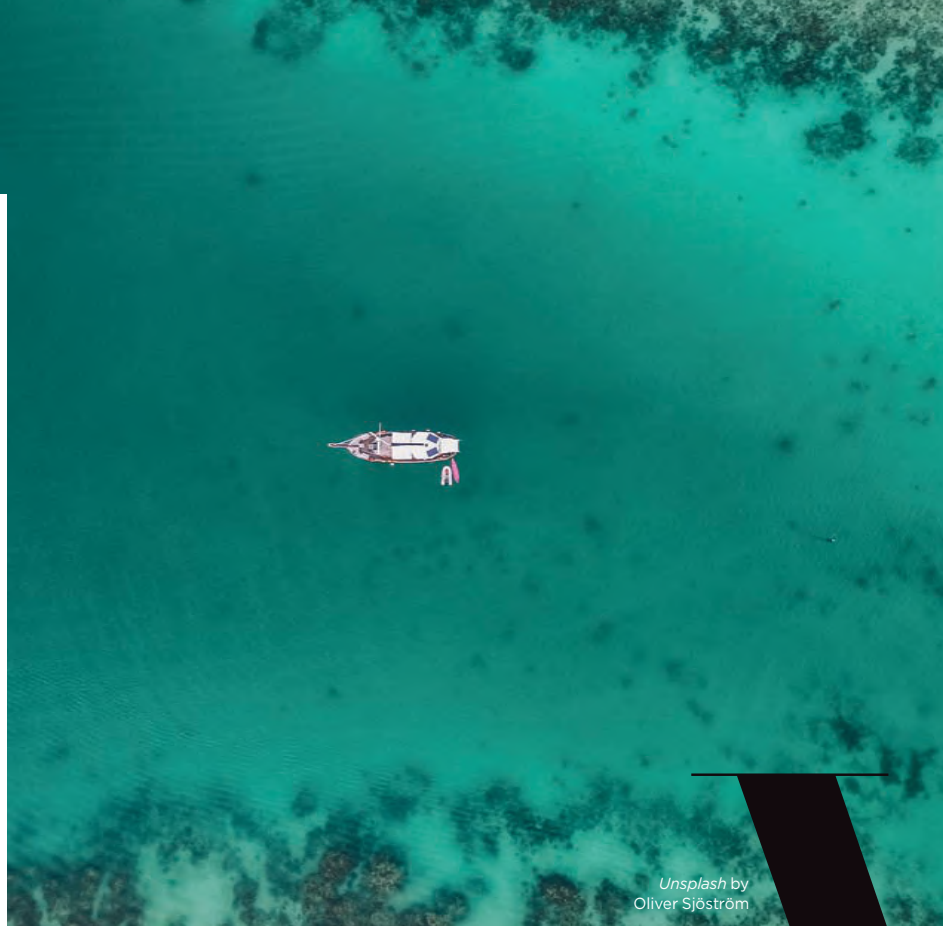
Buy a smaller yacht than you think you need. Most owners are better off keeping running costs under control and a yacht upgrade on the horizon than buying something too big and resenting the annual outlay.

Age matters

Pre-owned yachts make up the majority of the market, from classic mid-20th century yachts to those resold after a year or two. 2018's average pre-owned age was 12 years but, for sensational deals, look for yachts built in the '80s, '90s and '00s from renowned shipyards.

Location, location

Only an expert can match up a buyer's tastes with a shipyard. But, generally speaking, the Italians, Dutch, British and Germans excel at larger yachts and superyachts. For ski-boats, centre-consoles and sports-fishers, the American brands offer variety and quality.



Unsplash by
Oliver Sjöström

BUY

If you want to buy a boat, make sure you read **Julian Krickl's** tips first. Mercury Yachts' Managing Director has over a decade's experience at the helm of buying boats



SFG Sixty CCV designed
and built by Franco Gianni

Finding purpose

Will you be cruising along the Côte d'Azur or deep-sea fishing off the coast of Africa? Usage is key so charter a few yachts first to see how you operate on the boat, especially if it's with family. Similarly, chartering out the boat once you've bought it can help to keep the sting of fuel, upkeep and mooring bills at bay.

Speedy deals

If you're angling for a quick buy, punt close to the asking price. Shipyards or sellers will be less inclined to wait for a better deal and will move swiftly. You can expect to achieve between ten and 15 per cent off asking price; 20-25 per cent off is a really good deal, but ensure the financials are in place to move fast.



Chartering is an easy way to dive into the superyacht lifestyle without the upkeep

Early bird

Book early – the market gets quite heated the closer it gets to the season. Leaving things to the last minute will mean a smaller selection of boats, less choice and a higher chance of disappointment.

Devil's in the detail

Give as much information as possible about your party's requirements and what you are expecting. The crew will then be able to provide a tailor-made solution. Include food and drink preferences, your bucket list of sights, or specific watersports activities.

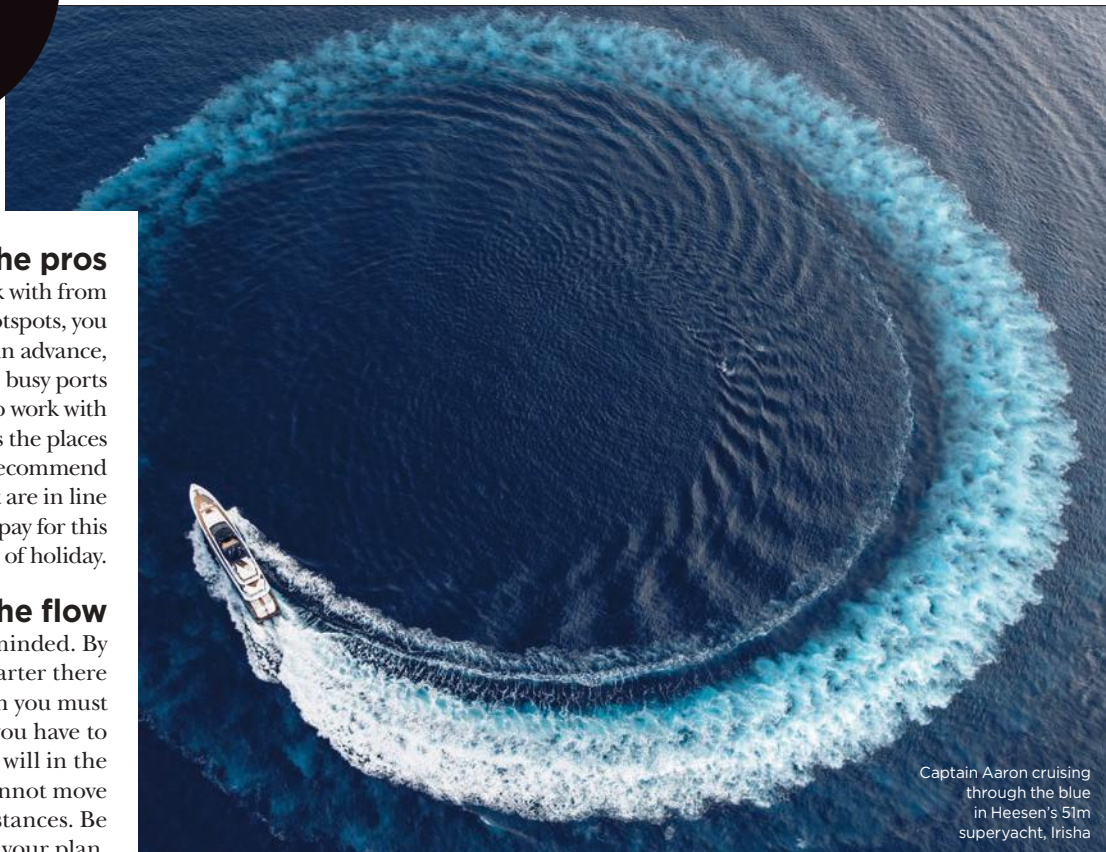
Crew cut

Ultimately a yacht charter holiday is made by the team and not by the boat. If you have a substandard crew then you will not have a good time. Ask your broker to provide a profile of the crew and if they have been personally vetted.

S

CHARTER

An easy, breezy guide to chartering a yacht by **Captain Aaron** of Heesen's Irisha and SuperYachtsMonaco's **Jim Evans**



Captain Aaron cruising through the blue in Heesen's 51m superyacht, Irisha

Trust the pros

Choose a good broker to work with from the beginning. At European hotspots, you need to book many things well in advance, including berths for boats in busy ports and other attractions. It's best to work with a professional broker who knows the places you wish to visit and can recommend exceptional experiences that are in line with the high price you will pay for this kind of holiday.

Go with the flow

Be flexible and remain open-minded. By the very nature of yacht charter there is a weather element which you must accept. If the heavens open, you have to understand that with all the will in the world even the best crew cannot move a boat in dangerous circumstances. Be ready to adapt and change your plan.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES; © MIKE JONES; © CARLO BORLENGHI; © OLIVER SJÖSTRÖM; © SFG DESIGN

Oyster 565-01 on her maiden
voyage to Guernsey

THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER

Thirsty for real adventure? Get inspired by the sailors taking part in the Oyster World Rally

Oyster Yachts' 45 years' experience and uniquely inclusive philosophy embody a lust for uncontrived adventure, a return to nature and a rallying cry for greener seafaring. Its streamlined designs hit that veritable sweet spot between bygone elegance and cutting-edge technology, enchanting well-seasoned sailors and wide-eyed beginners in equal measure.

With over 1,000 hand-crafted and custom-built sailing yachts under its belt, the British sailing yacht builder and charter company prides



Oyster 565-01

itself not just on its objectively tasteful designs and performance but on the unrivalled aftercare – above and beyond the 'hand-holding' expected when investing in a life-changing vessel. Rather than collecting your shiny new toy and being left to your own devices, Oyster Yachts guarantees a support team that facilitates this new lifestyle: engineers are on call 24/7 to send advice, information, spare parts and even boat-side assistance anywhere in the world.

It's akin to a society – a family of yacht owners united by their zest for life and desire to truly feel the ocean rather than cruise unwittingly over it to the next marina. Such is the bond of ownership

that the company's prestigious Oyster World Rally sees an exclusive club of Oyster owners come together for an adventurous epic and reconnecting with family, friends and the humbling rhythms of nature.

The 2022 World Rally event will begin for the first time in the Mediterranean, setting sail from Oyster's base in Palma for exotic locations including Tahiti, Vanuatu, Ascension Island and Antigua over the course of a life-changing three-year journey. The company persuades custodians of its yachts to embrace a lifestyle of adventure and unfettered pleasure. And the beauty of the boats is that they are equipped for protracted sailing expeditions from the outset – every whim, habit, style accounted for. 'You step on a boat and you're able to go around the world,' assures one Oyster ambassador. Even inexperienced sailors can muscle in on the maritime action.



Elegant interiors create a home from home

PHOTOS © BRIAN CARLIN; © WATERLINE MEDIA

Take Leo Eccles and his family, for instance, who recently decided to sign up to the Oyster World Rally to explore the far-flung corners of the globe with a skipper steering the way. Having worked in the city, trading metals for over 15 years, Eccles moved with his family to warmer climes in the South of France and soon graduated from their own motorboat to an Oyster. Hearing tales of intrepid experiences from friends who had completed the Oyster World Rally, Eccles and his family decided to sign themselves up.

‘Before we know it the kids are going to be grown up... so why not experience this fantastic adventure together as a family,’ he says. ‘We are so confident that with the fantastic support that Oyster provide for their World Rallies that it would be the safest and most amazing way of circumnavigating the world.’

Eccles family’s Oyster 655 ‘MAN OF WAR’ will be gracing screens with their own budding YouTube channel, documenting the entire journey and inspiring other young families with little or no sailing experience to follow in their adventurous footsteps.

For avid sailors Jamie, Hamilton and Juan, the siren call of an Oyster Yacht was hard to resist. Quitting their jobs, the three friends put their seafaring wiles to good use, investing in Oyster, Uhuru, and embarking on an exotic adventure, one that substituted the rat race back home in London for the hair-raising exhilaration of the ocean. ‘We had a boat, a route and the dream had become a reality,’ enthuses Jamie, 36 (Uhuru’s captain).



Exploring Alaska



The Eccles family on a real adventure



Hamilton, Jamie, Juan



Jamie on the approach to St Lucia

Oyster Yachts effortlessly satiate the desire to break free from technology and rediscover spontaneity and nature in its rawest form. It’s a ticket rather than a product – whether carving the untouched slopes of Svalbard in the Arctic on skis or confronting the white horses in unknown islands of the Pacific.

And where sustainability is concerned, Oyster Yachts are (refreshingly) loath to pay lip service to the term, acknowledging that they are not perfect but undeniably one of the best options for the eco-conscious sailor. They are tirelessly scrutinising their boat build cycle and supply chain, ascertaining areas where they can minimise environmental impact, while solar power technology and drinking water filters on board bear testament to this effort.

While Oyster may boast a diversity of clients, one thing they all share is an enlightened desire to invest in quality of life as well as a breathtaking sailing yacht.

oysteryachts.com

RULE, BRITANNIA!

British-made boats still command the high seas. **Simon de Burton** takes a deep dive into our nation's best shipyards



FROM LEFT: Plymouth-based Princess Yachts' 40m superyacht is top of the range; the interior of Princess Yachts' V40 vessel; Peter Freebody specialises in elegant 'slipper' launches at its Hurley workshop

Our country might be in a bit of a state right now, what with a government in disarray and no one knowing whether we're coming or going over Brexit – but there's one thing you can't take away from us, and that's our proud maritime heritage. Just think about all those magnificent British-built ships of the past: Francis Drake's Golden Hind, Admiral Lord Nelson's Victory, the mighty Ark Royal, RMS Titanic... well, maybe not that one.

The point is we have an enviable history of creating some of the greatest vessels in history and now, after a period in the doldrums brought on by the financial crash of 2008, Britain's boatbuilding industry is once more riding the crest of a wave.

Only last week I was aboard the 62-knot Hawk 38, the latest creation from Sunseeker, which starts at £535,000, plus VAT, and harks back to the type of craft built by the firm when it was originally founded

as Poole Powerboats in 1969 by the late Robert Braithwaite, an enthusiastic racer who worked on the Hawk 38 design – it now has a limited edition named in his honour.

Nowadays, Sunseeker is best known for the type of large, white, ocean-going cruisers that are often referred to as 'gin palaces' by those who don't approve. But moneyed buyers who care little for such disdain are once again filling the firm's order books, as well as those of other British builders such as Princess Yachts of Plymouth, whose range-topping V40 (130ft) superyacht could be in your berth for as little as £16m, plus VAT.

The recently-revived Oyster Yachts is also back on course after being bought from administrators a year ago by gaming software tycoon Richard Hadida.

And business is really booming in the field of the more traditional crafts being created around the country in all shapes and sizes by Britain's burgeoning



network of classic boat builders. Peter Freebody & Co is a 300-year-old family firm now making fabulously elegant Thames ‘slipper’ launches at its exquisite boathouse in Hurley, Berkshire – the ‘slipper’ term relating to the boat’s sloping stern. Using woods such as mahogany, cedar and teak, the Freebody team handcrafts each boat individually and can create bespoke interiors to suit all tastes (especially those that appreciate plenty of wine and a decent picnic on board).

Now run by the founder’s son, Richard, the classic appearance of the firm’s vessels – starting at around £250,000, plus VAT – belies the fact they are powered by the latest eco-friendly electric motors and can comfortably cruise for an entire day on a single charge.

Up at Lochgilphead in Argyllshire, A & R Way Ltd was founded by husband and wife team Adam and Ros Way, who have spent more than 20 years restoring, upgrading

and building traditional (and poetic-sounding) wooden boats, from sailing skiffs to historic luggers like *Reaper*, a 1902 Fife Herring Drifter, or 50ft blue water cruising cutters, capable of taking entire families around the world.

Similarly, Ben Harris Boats of Fowey in Cornwall will knock up a beautifully finished sailing dinghy or full-sized, clinker-built yacht that fulfils your nautical dreams. His Auk tender (with sailing option), is offered at seven foot six inches or ten foot, made with traditional, copper-riveted larch on oak construction for strength, durability and swimmingly romantic *Swallows and Amazons* looks.

Indeed, Cornwall seems to be the place to go these days for a handcrafted vessel, one of the most renowned builders being Dave Cockwell, whose boatyard at Mylor Creek in Falmouth is famous for its Duchy motor launches. They range from the open 21ft day boat, at £36,000, to the elegant, twin-engined, 45-footer that’s



FROM TOP LEFT: Cockwells' Titian Tender is made from Burmese teak and copper-infused caulking; hand-finishing a Cockwells boat; Suffolk's Spirit Yachts are pushing the boundaries of eco-friendly design

capable of up to 32 knots in open seas, at £800,000. (The prices don't include VAT.) A Duchy 60 is in the pipeline.

Perhaps the boat that best exemplifies Cockwell's skills is the gorgeous 10.5m (34ft) Titian Tender – a day boat that combines futuristic hull design with the best of old-world craftsmanship. With planking of rich Burmese teak and copper-infused caulking to the deck, the Titian Tender is as beautiful as it is practical, with capacity for up to a dozen people, thanks to a fold-out table in the cockpit. There's space enough, in fact, for a couple to enjoy an intimate overnight stay – assuming they can raise the starter price of £750,000, plus VAT.

For sailors on a less extravagant budget, who want the old-school look of a clinker-built boat (that's one with overlaid wooden planking) at an affordable price and without the need for careful hull maintenance, nothing beats the tried and tested products of Cornish Crabbers,

which makes a range of GRP (glass-reinforced plastic) vessels at a yard in Rock near Wadebridge, Cornwall. The smaller 17ft Shrimper open sail boat starts from below £20,000, with the range rising to the 26ft Crabber, starting at £114,950 (both prices include VAT).

Sailing is already eco-friendly, but one British firm aims to make it even greener than the sea. Early next year, Suffolk-based boatbuilder Spirit Yachts is launching an ultra-sustainable boat with no hydrocarbons on board, at a starting price of £700,000, plus VAT. The Spirit 44E will have colour-matched solar panels integrated into the aft deck to charge the 16 batteries required to power her electric drive system, which uses 'hydrogeneration' via the propeller to top them up while sailing. Ultra-thin solar panels may also be built into its recyclable sails, while winches will be manually operated – and cooking done on a non-petrochemical spirit stove.

Make mine a mackerel and chips... ■

INSIDE STORY

As these two projects illustrate, it's what's on the inside that counts



Keep it secret

As New Secret's owner is frequently on board, Winch Design and Amels were tasked with connecting the landscape with the interior design of the 74m yacht, so they could feel immersed in the surrounding views. The team travelled far and wide to procure exclusive materials which have been cleverly pared down by contrasting with a naturally-inspired interior. The real star of the show,

however, is the central staircase, which floats unattached to the wall. Uniquely, the central column around which it spirals is hollow, with a cut-out section running vertically up, allowing guests to see the inside, gilded with gold. winchdesign.com



Off the table

Sy Elfje, a comfortable but detailed yacht by RWD, needed to be able to both cruise and race as its owner is a great philanthropist with a love of sailing. The project was highly collaborative, with the owner involved every step of the way, and her elegant and timeless character really shines through in the design created by Royal Huisman Shipyard. Forget a glass-bottomed boat, this 46m ketch has an Oculus coffee table unlike any you've seen before – when you look down you can see passing sea life, a beautiful detail and a stunning piece of craftsmanship. You won't want to put any books (or coffee mugs for that matter) on this table.

rwd.co.uk





1



2



3

CABIN FEVER

These hotels can't fail to float your boat – literally and metaphorically speaking



5



4

1 DEEP DIVE

Diving junkies looking for a wellness escape would do very well to book onto the REVIVÖ Diving and Mind Training Retreat, a healing cruise through Indonesian islands. It provides the privacy and space needed to reset your batteries, with an on-board wellness coach and nutritionist, plus yoga, meditation and spa treatments.

BOOK IT: Six nights from £72,516. revivoresorts.com

2 YES, SIR

Fresh on the scene in Ibiza this summer, the 18m Sir Boat has paired up with Sir Joan Hotel to float the hotel's tasty IZAKAYA Asian Kitchen & Bar dishes out to sea. Captain, crew and a delightful on-board butler accompany a party of up to ten guests ... soon to open at Barcelona's Sir Victor, too.

BOOK IT: From £4,443 per day (July to August). sirhotels.com

3 OFF-GRID OMAN

The Six Senses team at Ziggy Bay has designed an ultra-luxe Omani dhow vessel, Dhahab, to cruise the Arabian Gulf, keeping up to six guests cool in those Omani heatwaves. Dhahab's three-day itineraries sail past remote fishing villages and secluded bays, and can include fishing, kayaking, snorkelling and film screenings.

BOOK IT: Three-day itinerary from £16,891. sixsenses.com

4 ISLAND HOPPING

Four Seasons Koh Samui's exotic location in Thailand's Angthong National Marine Park makes it the perfect launchpad for exploring hard-to-reach areas aboard Minor Affair, enabling guests to delve deep into the scenery. Guided stargazing is available, should the adventure spill into the evening.

BOOK IT: Day trip from £7,769. fourseasons.com

5 BODRUM BEAUTY

Bodrum's relaxed boutique resort Caresse has plenty to boast about on the water: the jewel in its crown is its traditional wooden Turkish Gulet, Miss B – although its Sunseeker XS 2000 comes a close second, playing a starring role in James Bond's *Casino Royale*. Day trips with Miss B will sweep you into a Robinson Crusoe-style reverie.

BOOK IT: Half days from £1,069. marriott.com



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SOAK IN THE SEA

Spas with a real-life wave soundtrack: cruise ships are taking spa seriously, says **Laura Ivill**

If you thought cruising wasn't for you, think again. Spectacular ships are rolling off production lines like never before, reclaiming their rightful place as the glamorous way to see an ever-changing landscape. These days, cruise lines recognise that gorgeous no-expense-spared spas are a must-have, just as they are for luxurious resorts on land. Since oligarchs realised how ships are a secluded 'pull up the drawbridge' way to holiday, the rest of us have caught on (OK, we mostly have to share ours, but aren't the best trips the ones where we make new friends?).

Cruising's appeal is 'to do, or not to do'. When you've had your fill of markets or ruins ashore, then the spa is calling. With an exciting glut of recent launches (there are more than 100 cruise ships on the order books, including new brands by Ritz-Carlton and Virgin) come spas that impress with features and deliver on treatments – all in beautiful, relaxing resorts-on-the-move.

Cruise lines and ships differ wildly, so doing your research or talking to an agent is essential to shortlist your options. Some have spas open to all, but the bigger ships might need to restrict access. If you want more than just sunrise yoga included, you could look for special wellness-themed voyages.

Take the launch of Celebrity Edge in December, with its jaw-dropping spa by Kelly Hoppen. Much fanfare was made of this new class of ship and its hiring of uber-designers Kelly Hoppen, Patricia Urquiola and Tom Wright (architect of the Burj al Arab) to all play their part, along with 4,000 works of art. It heralded a new dawn for cruising, appealing to the younger design-savvy globalista, who knows her hammam from her hammock.



« Seabourn Ovation

SEABOURN

Ovation, launched last year as the latest ultra-luxury Seabourn ship, has been designed by the starry Adam D Tihany and oozes all the beauty of a private yacht combined with the intimacy of a private members' club. His spa doesn't just look good – all Seabourn ships also offer a wellness programme curated by

the pioneer of integrative medicine, Dr Weil. The programme includes daily meditation and yoga classes to stimulate creativity, mental focus and happiness, and mind and body seminars, such as expert talks on anti-inflammatory foods, mindfulness and healthy ageing. Dr Weil and his team also personally lead two dedicated Wellness Cruises.

BOOK IT: 19-day Route to Ancient Wellness Cruise, staterooms from £4,499 per person. seabourn.com

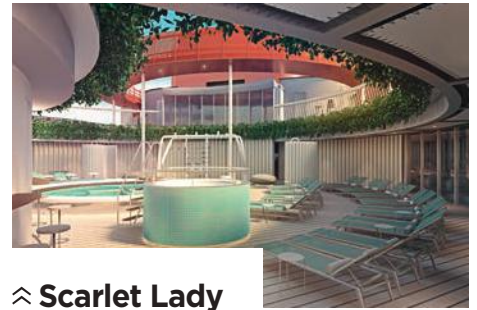


⋈ Celebrity Edge

CELEBRITY CRUISES

Kelly Hoppen has created magic with her design of Celebrity Edge's spa and fitness suite – a vast temple to wellness over two decks. Her palette is, of course, neutral – dominated by uplifting whites that dazzle and chime with the surrounding azure waves seen from floor-to-ceiling glass panels. Bespoke body treatments explore the spa's theme of earth, sea and air; the elegant thermal suite flows from room to room, from heat to hammam, to crystals, salt and more; the high-tech Kérastase salon uses diagnostics for hair, and if you want to experience cosmetic treatments (from fillers to teeth whitening), the spa is your one-stop shop.

BOOK IT: Infinite veranda staterooms by Kelly Hoppen, from £1,854 per person. celebritycruises.co.uk



⋈ Scarlet Lady

VIRGIN VOYAGES

Such is the changing face of cruising that even Richard Branson is sticking his oar in with the launch of Virgin Voyages' first cruise ship, Scarlet Lady, due next April. Staterooms are already on sale, and you can bet that Virgin will be rocking the high seas with some high-spirited parties. A cave-inspired den of iniquity, the spa is called Redemption and is where red-eyed revellers will detox before the next round of re-toxing. Late-night DJ spa parties, of course, promise to create havoc with your circadian rhythm. No doubt the Scarlet Lady herself will be the most-requested memento from the tattoo parlour...

BOOK IT: Inside cabins from £1,130 per person. virginvoyages.com



⋈ Viking Jupiter

VIKING OCEAN CRUISES

Unlike many other cruise lines, use of the spa's thermal suite is included on a Viking Ocean Cruise. This year's Viking Jupiter is the sixth ocean ship (all mostly identical, with chic Scandi design). The LivNordic spas of the Norwegian-owned liner are cosy, cocooning and true to their homeland. Take a Nordic bathing ritual, in-and-out from sauna to ice cave, from Jacuzzi to cool water shower. Spa therapists explain how the ritual is authentic to Nordic wellbeing, and they can even flog you with a birch branch if you ask nicely.

BOOK IT: Viking Iconic Western Mediterranean eight-day cruise, from £2,190pp. vikingcruises.co.uk



⋈ Europa 2

HAPAG-LLOYD CRUISES

This German-based small-ship cruise line's spa facilities are particularly extensive – more than 1,000 sq/m, indoors and out,

including a fitness studio with PTs and medics for personalised plans. The Europa 2 also has special In2balance sailings focusing on relaxation methods, yoga, burn-out prevention, t'ai chi, shiatsu and interval training. In October, its expedition ship, Hanseatic Inspiration, will focus on 'wellness and nature'.

BOOK IT: In2balance 13-night cruise, from £6,669pp. hl-cruises.com ■

CRUISE CONTROL

New wave cruises blowing the cliché firmly out of the water

1 Jungle is massive

With just three boats and run by a Peruvian family who are deeply involved in the local community, Delfin is the pioneer of luxury on the Amazon. Meals are unlike any you've had, using rainforest produce.

BOOK IT: From £1,892. delfinamazoncruises.com

2 Three is a magic number

Discover The World has launched three thrilling new itineraries: spotting grey whales and sea lions in Baja California; botanical UNESCO World Heritage sites on the coast of Costa Rica; or coming face to face with Komodo dragons in Indonesia. Decisions, decisions.

BOOK IT: From £5,510. discover-the-world.com

3 South American dream

SeaDream Yacht Club's 70-day inaugural voyage conveniently begins in London aboard the swanky new SeaDream Innovation (an advanced hybrid megayacht) and winds up in Ushuaia, Argentina – the gateway to Antarctica – via Central America.

BOOK IT: From £34,490. seadream.com

4 Animal magic

Relais & Châteaux-certified Theory is a state-of-the-art ship with ten lavish stateroom cabins and the highest ratio of guides to guests in the Galapagos, giving guests space to breathe and explore the beautiful islands at their own pace.

BOOK IT: From £883 per night. ecoventura.com

5 Health hit

Taking VivaMayr clinic's renowned holistic healthcare to the water, this is the cruise to jump aboard for preventative medicine. Sneaking off to the shops for chocolate relapses is just not an option at sea.

BOOK IT: Six nights from £8,000.

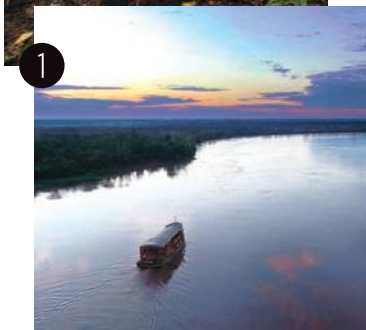
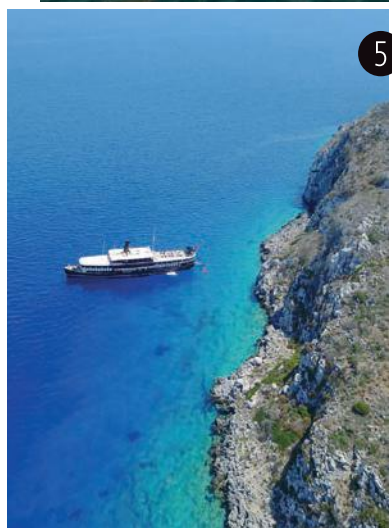
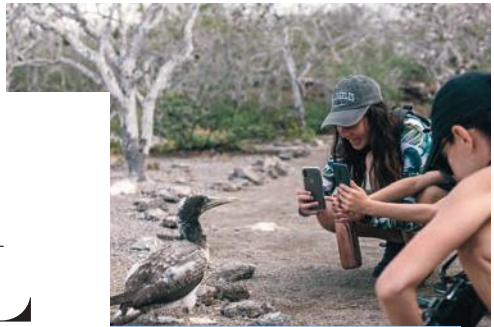
vivamayr.com

6 Glacial pace

OK, it's not an intimate affair but if you're going to dip your toe in the cruise-liner water, this is the itinerary to go for. Setting sail from Vancouver, guests aboard Cunard's lavish Queen Elizabeth will glide through Alaska's majestic glaciers.

BOOK IT: Ten-nights from £1,899.

cunard.com



DON'T DREAM IT.
BE IT.

The Lau Group, Fiji
12:05pm, 16 July 2018

www.oysteryachts.com



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