



“Without doubt the experience of being in London, berthed in the City and cruising up the Thames to a specially arranged opening of Tower Bridge aboard *Forever One* was a once in a lifetime memorable occasion”

Owner, *Forever One*, 54.5m (178'8), ISA Yachts

ON BOARD

# Firm favourites

WRITTEN BY MIRIAM CAIN

In the first of a new series of client polls we discover  
your favourite memories and the yachts that were  
an essential part of that experience



**D**iscovering new places on board a ship isn't something new – after all, Christopher Columbus discovered America back in the 15th century in just this manner. But the idea of hitting the high seas for fun only truly came into being during the 1950s. This was the period when things were beginning to change within the yachting industry as rapidly advancing technology and innovative new builds created opportunities for yachting to expand. With this expansion came the pursuit of yachting as a leisure activity. Luxury yacht chartering has its spiritual home on the Côte d'Azur, where it remains just as popular today.

Meanwhile, technologies continue to expand, as does the ability to go virtually anywhere in the world. With 70 percent of our planet's surface covered by oceans, and less than five per cent of it having been explored, that leaves 65 per cent yet to be discovered. In the last few years there has been a veritable surge in demand for yachts venturing further afield, to lesser known, previously undiscovered waters, like the polar ice caps. But the well trodden paths remain as popular as ever. These include cruising grounds from St Tropez to Sardinia, and every port in between.

Whether you opt to take a fast sportster yacht between ports along the French Riviera or an explorer vessel through the Northwest Passage, there is something special about the unique experiences that no other leisure pursuit can match. But how do the cruising experiences compare? We wanted to put to bed the debate about how the traditional cruising grounds of the Western Mediterranean and Caribbean compare to the far flung shores of the South Pacific and Southeast Asia, or the dramatic landscapes of the Pacific Northwest and the Baltic? Whether you would rather be cruising on board a large displacement motor yacht or raising the sails on a traditional sailing yacht?

The responses were surprising in many ways. For one thing we discovered that owners and charterers are either exceedingly diverse in their preferences, or so happy to be on board that they don't really mind where they are cruising. Almost every one of our clients has cruised in the Mediterranean, many have sailed through the islands of the Caribbean, but an overwhelming majority of clients were quite clear that if offered the chance to step on board an explorer vessel they would just as easily head for the remote waters of the Antarctic or take a cruise through the Northwest Passage.

“There have been so many special moments on board *Dorothea III*. We are now on our second circumnavigation of the Pacific Ocean since buying *Dorothea III* in the summer of 2011, and she now has just over 75,000 miles on her; she has visited over 55 countries, and is still in amazing condition.”

Owner, *Dorothea III* 45m, (147'6) Cheoy Lee



“Memories from our cruise aboard *Parsifal III* in the British Virgin Islands are those we will always remember. These islands have the best of everything. One day you can wander around centuries-old ruins such as Fort George on Tortola, on another you can dive fantastic bays and reefs, then go ashore for some fun. *The options are endless.*”

Charter guest, *Parsifal III*, 54m (177'2) Perini Navi SpA



IMAGE *Parsifal III*, 54m (177'2), Perini Navi SpA

“We have cruised aboard the spectacular sailing yacht *Athos* through the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Pacific. From flying in her inflatable boat, to causing a traffic jam while anchored outside Portofino, allowing for her picture to be taken, to endless parties on board, swimming with the whales in Tonga... so many unique memories.”

Charter guest, *Athos* 62m (203'5), Holland Jachtbouw



LEFT TO RIGHT The 64.5m (211'6) displacement motor yacht *Silver Angel* is an extremely popular charter yacht; Built in 1963, the classic sailing yacht *Tiziana* was totally rebuilt in 2006 and today offers all the amenities found on board a modern yacht with the timeless elegance of a classic sailing yacht; the 52m (169'8) *Q* is a perfect example of a modern ketch-rigged sailing yacht offering an outstanding combination of performance excellence and sophistication.

“Cruising along the coastline of Antarctica has to be the ultimate experience. Indelible memories include the magic of the silver light that enveloped us through the night during the height of the Antarctic summer; visiting Shackleton’s grave on Elephant Island, and the truly unforgettable smell and sounds of the colonies of penguins on South Georgia.”

Charter guest, *Hans Explorer* 48m (158'), Fassmer Werft



#### The most popular yachts

Most clients favour the style of a modern motor yacht, but some prefer the history of a classic yacht, while others love the exhilarating romance of a sailing yacht. The majority chose the yacht based on the number of cabins required. A large, modern, motor yacht is suitable for families, first time charterers and large groups. It remains the most popular choice because of its size, spaciousness, stability and focus on being designed for pure comfort.

Those who were looking to explore more of the coastline in a shorter amount of time, without compromising on the kudos and adrenalin that goes with superyachts, went for smaller performance motor yachts. However, almost a quarter of clients opted for a modern sailing yacht as it is ideal for those who want the size, comfort and facilities of a motor yacht, but with the flexibility to hoist the sails on occasion.

Finally, a handful of clients wanting a genuine sailing experience, or who wanted to capture the real romance and thrill of yachting, opted for a classic sailing yacht.

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OUR CLIENTS' TOP 5 CRUISING GROUNDS

CLIENT POLL

# Top 5 cruising grounds



### British Virgin Islands

Thanks to their balmy climate, steady easterly trade winds and an abundance of sheltered anchorages, the British Virgin Islands were made for the waterborne and our clients certainly agree. The most popular cruising area around the BVIs is the channel named after Sir Francis Drake, where sailing between anchorages is never more than a few hours.



### St Barths

When it comes to cruising in the Caribbean, St Barths is one of the best-known and loved of the Windward Islands. It's located right at the centre of the archipelago, and accounted for a third of all responses, with plenty of owners and charterers wanting to return time and again.





#### The Côte d'Azur, Corsica & Sardinia

Maybe it's not surprising, but the most popular cruising itinerary for the majority was along the coastline of the Côte d'Azur, preferably, it seems, outside of the peak summer months of July and August. The favoured ports of call varied between St Tropez and Porto Cervo in Sardinia, with the social scene in these places drawing clients back year after year.



#### The Amalfi Coast

Just a few opted for the Amalfi Coast, but those who did raved at the cultural highlights that the small towns dotting the coastline provided. From Positano to Sorrento, stepping ashore in these quaint, historic fishing villages conjured up favourite memories for many.



#### The Dalmatian Coast

A few charterers preferred the Dalmatian coastline with Dubrovnik, Hvar and Split being mentioned repeatedly for their stunning backdrops and quieter pace of life. It's easy to see why. The cruising grounds of Croatia offer an almost perfect combination of drama, breathtaking coastal scenery, great beaches and the ability to get away from it all.