

THE WORLD OF LUXURY YACHTING

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SYNDICATION

INSIDE BOATING'S HOTTEST TREND

FEATURED

START FROM SKETCH
BREAKING INTO
YACHT DESIGN

REVIEWS

FLEMING 78
BENETTI'S SEASENSE
OCEANCO'S JUBILEE
PALM BEACH 65 FLYBRIDGE

PLUS

RACE TO THE START-UP
CHRISTIAN BECK

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Destination

THE MED JETTY SET

It is easy to be overwhelmed by the choice of stunning cruising grounds around the Mediterranean, from late-night party ports to elegant and ancient towns. **Chantal Borciani** whittles down the dizzying array of options to a hand-picked selection of spots that are top on the hit list of the international jetty set.

Amalfi Coast

Italy's Amalfi Coast has a timeless elegance and the boating fraternity has an understandable enduring romance with its cascading villas, vineyards, pastel-hued houses and cliff-edge villages. The best time to explore the Amalfi Coast is between May and October.

Where to berth

No Amalfi itinerary is complete without discovering the treasures of the island of Capri. Marina Piccola in the south of the island is one of the most picturesque places to drop anchor.

Onshore entertainment

Capri is a magnet for the great and the good. Chic bars and swish eateries abound but it is worth calling in to La Fontelina beach club. Near Amalfi town, Hotel Santa Caterina is one of the few hotels on the coastline to have a waterline swimming pool and the archetypal Amalfi Coast hotel offers captivating views from its restaurant balcony. From the alluring waterfront of Positano to bustling Amalfi, the emerald waters offer some of the best cruising in Italy. Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel & Spa, a renovated monastery that juts majestically from the cliff, boasts one of the top tables on the mainland and overlooks the Bay of Salerno.



Above: The view from Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel & Spa's terrace and infinity pool is heavenly.



Left: While away lazy afternoons on the Amalfi Coast with a leisurely game of bocce ball or a walk through terraced gardens overlooking the jewel-hued waters of the Mediterranean.

Sardinia

The Costa Smeralda (Italian for “Emerald Coast”) is one of the most desirable ports of call in the Med, with the capital city of yachting, Porto Cervo, brimming with superyachts as high season approaches. Synonymous with the Italian elite and decadent parties (Silvio Berlusconi owns a villa here) visitors can expect to rub shoulders with oligarchs, supermodels and everyone in between. While Sardinia’s indented coastline offers a treasure trove of picturesque bays to explore, the seven large islands and 55 tiny *isolotti* that make up the sun-drenched archipelago of neighbouring La Maddalena are a must-visit for boaters in search of turquoise lagoons under denim blue skies.

Where to berth

Marina di Porto Cervo is located on the northern tip of Sardinia and has room for more than 700 boats with state-of-the-art facilities and provisioning.

Onshore entertainment

Yacht Club Costa Smeralda has been the place to go since the 60s and has a jam-packed calendar of exclusive events including the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup in September. For cocktails with views, head for Il Portico, and for dinner, Michelin-approved La Gritta is one of the top tables, accessible only by boat. Guests in search of an overnight sojourn on dry land can check in to the five-star Hotel Capo d’Orso Thalasso & Spa for rest and relaxation. Nestled amid the wild olive groves and junipers, overlooking La Maddalena (trips by helicopter or yacht available), the hotel is a stone’s throw from the Costa Smeralda and boasts two beaches, a sun-dappled saltwater pool, a sumptuous spa and five wooden sun decks stretching out over the tranquil Mediterranean Sea. Non-residents can simply dock at the hotel’s berths and head to the breathtaking restaurant for lunch or dinner. For a hotel ensconced in Sardinian history, Cala di Volpe is one of Sardinia’s most famous retreats and has hosted everyone from Princess Diana and Dodi al Fayed to Beyoncé and Jay Z. Luxurious, discreet and elegant, the hotel is the work of French architect Jacques Couëlle.



Above: From private beaches lapped by emerald-green waters to challenging golf courses, Sardinia offers plenty of activities.



Right: Old-world charm at the five-star Hotel Capo d’Orso.

Hvar

The darling of the Dalmatian Coast, Hvar has established itself as the glamour queen of Croatia’s sun-drenched shores. The combination of a long, sunny charter season, the burgeoning culinary scene and a host of exclusive party venues has put Croatia on the map in recent years. Temperatures are balmy from May and you will find Hvar town at its bustling best during July and August. Cruising options abound with the scattered Croatian archipelago boasting gin-clear waters backed by vertiginous slopes. Historic Korcula, captivating Mljet and the rugged Brac are an easy cruise away, while for boaters heading further south, the fortified UNESCO city of Dubrovnik awaits. For those with extended cruising in mind, the fjords of Montenegro are a truly unique cruising paradise.

Where to berth

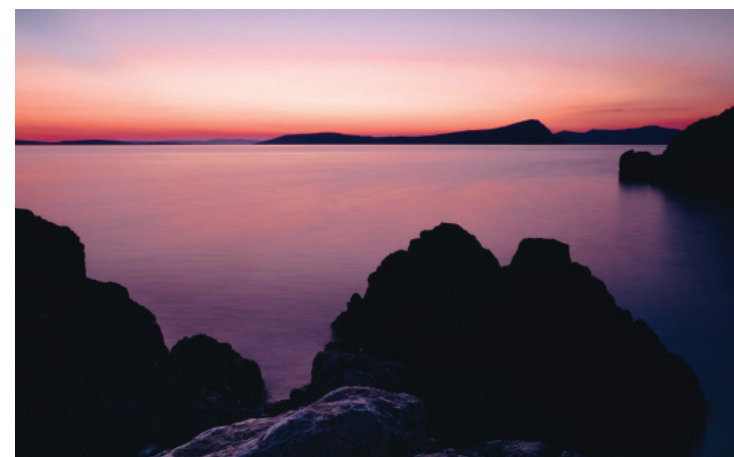
Grab a prized spot in Hvar’s harbour, where you can step off the passerelle straight onto the dance floor.

Onshore entertainment

Jet-setters flock to Carpe Diem on Hvar Harbour, renowned for famous patrons, sundowners and late-night cocktails. Located on the tip of the harbour, the club has hosted everyone from Bono to Prince Harry. Hvar’s distinguished nightlife gets going late and parties into the wee small hours. After midnight, revellers can take the water taxi to Carpe Diem Beach, the sister bar located on the neighbouring isle of Marinkovo. Its maze of cosy bars, terraces and small dancefloors is nestled among pine trees and perfect for late-night fun.

Left: Croatia’s magical sunsets will take your breath away.

Right: A picture of serenity by day, Hvar Harbour attracts a well-heeled crowd at night.



Ibiza

Over the last decade, Ibiza – fondly known as the White Isle – has swapped its slightly gaudy clubbing image for a more mature and chic form of hedonism. World-famous chefs, five-star hotels and exclusive VIP areas in its famed open-air clubs have attracted a hip and classy clientele. If time allows, cruising itineraries can include the sun-kissed shores of the other Balearic Islands. Chilled Formentera (an easy hop from Ibiza) is dotted with turquoise bays while Mallorca offers glam nightlife and copious *calas* (Spanish for “coves”).

Where to berth

Located at the foot of Ibiza Town, Ibiza Magna oozes exclusivity and its 85 superyacht berths are in fierce demand. Alternatively, Marina Botafoch and Ibiza Nueva have great views of Ibiza Town.

Onshore entertainment

Adding to the White Isle’s kudos, Nobu Ibiza Bay opened in 2017 and is set on the shores of Talamanca Beach, a short walk from Marina Botafoch. With two private seafront pools, restaurants and a spa, it is one of the hottest tickets in town. Anchor in the bay by Es Boldado for a romantic meal with views of Es Vedra rock or anchor in Playa d’en Bossa and tender in to your VIP box at Ushuaïa Beach Club. If you are island hopping in the Balearics, Mallorca has more than 30 marinas from which to choose, depending on your size of vessel; the most striking is the Philippe Starck-designed Port Adriano. Alternatively, pick a spot along Palma’s docks, under the shadows of the Gothic cathedral, for a night in the glitzy capital or cruise to Alcúdia in the north of Mallorca, where dramatic mountains provide a mesmeric backdrop. In the north-west of the island, the Jumeirah Port Soller Hotel & Spa perches on a romantic cliff-top bluff and is one of the island’s prized dinner spots.

Right: Nobu Ibiza Bay is a chic new spot for daytime or evening, from the hip poolside loungers to the private spots for a sundowner. Expect the world-class Japanese cuisine with a Peruvian twist for which Nobu is known.



Below from top: Monaco's Classic Grand Prix is a fun addition to the Côte d'Azur's calendar; Port Hercule has been homeport to legendary superyachts for decades; step back in time with a walk around the quaint Monaco City.

Côte d'Azur

The indisputable jewel in the crown of the Med, this legendary stretch of sheltered bays and outstandingly affluent enclaves is one of the original yachting destinations of the cognoscenti. With the Cannes Film Festival and the esteemed Monaco Grand Prix hosted in May, the French Riviera comes alive at the start of the season and hosts starlets, celebrities, billionaires and royalty throughout its heady summer season. And that's before the boat shows come to town in September.

Where to berth

On Grand Prix weekend, Port Hercule in the principality of Monaco is the only place to be seen. Further along the coast, the exclusive Port of St-Tropez has 700 berths over 22 acres. Expect money-is-no-object parties, glittering nightlife and esteemed clientele.

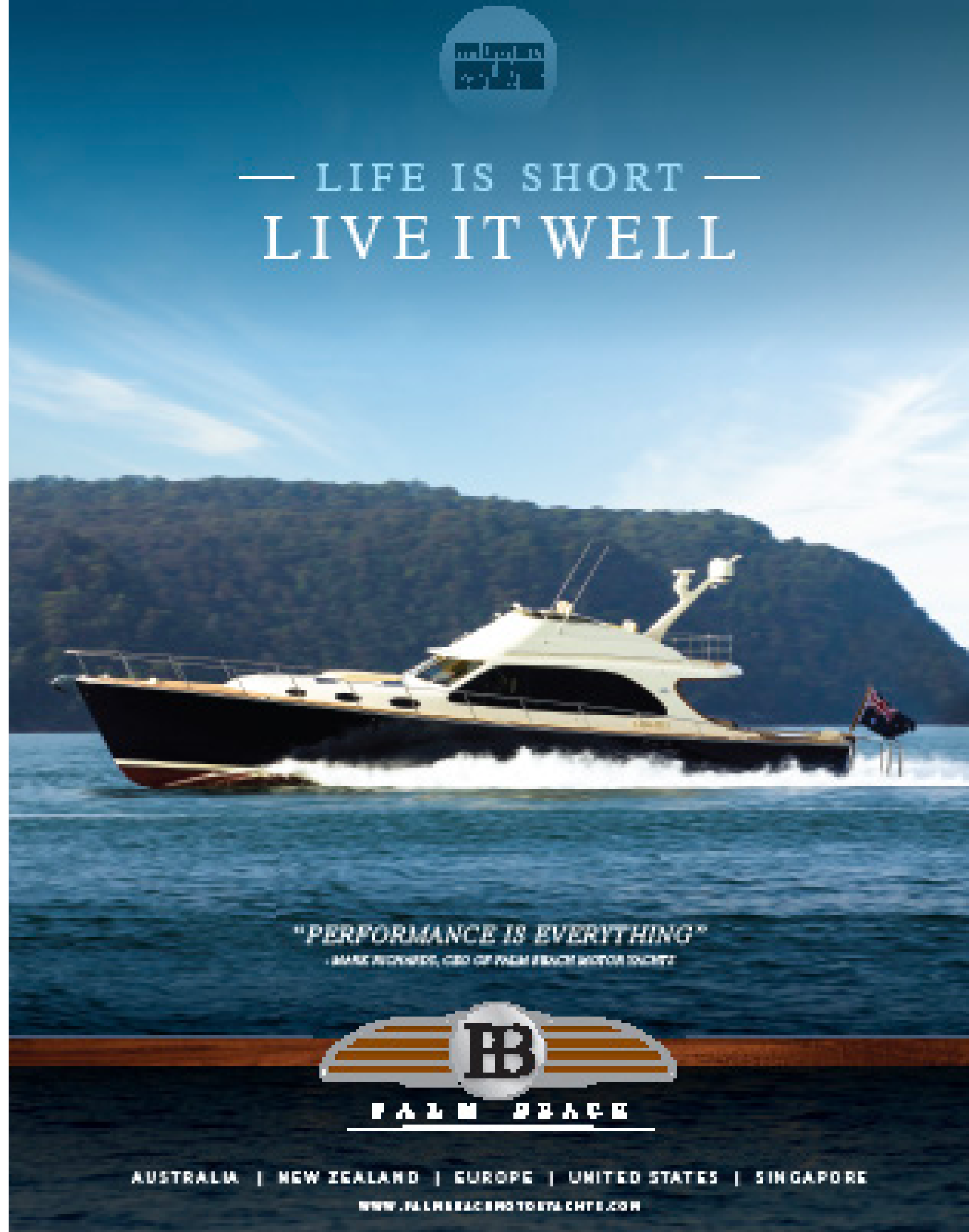


Onshore entertainment

Le Club 55 is a St Tropez institution for daytime revellery and when night falls the great and the good head to exclusive club Les Caves du Roy. Monte Carlo hotspots include Jimmy's nightclub, Quai des Artistes on the dockside of Port Hercule and Buddha Bar. Should your party require a little pampering, Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc provides an unbeatable sanctuary on the Cap d'Antibes. Guests can arrive at the 19th-century mansion by private tender and follow in the footsteps of such illustrious visitors as the Kennedys, Hemingway and Orson Welles. For ultimate seclusion, stay in one of the hotel's two- and three-bedroom villas, which feature private terraces and a Jacuzzi or pool. Set within a beautiful natural park, five-star La Résidence de la Pinède in St-Tropez is the only hotel on the Côte d'Azur with a private beach and its La Vague d'Or restaurant is a mecca for gastronomes, as it is home to revered Chef Arnaud Donckele, the youngest chef to be awarded three Michelin stars. [O](#)



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