



Charter World Yachting Holidays
- Australia's original yacht charter specialists

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Dear Charterer,

Over the years I have used many great shots supplied by our charterers - but I must admit that I have chosen the ones with sun and laughter in a serene mood.

The shot shown here was taken from a four boat group who encountered some rough seas on their recent charter in New Caledonia. When things go wrong and get hard on board some might think "Why don't I take normal holidays? Sit by a pool and let the palm trees sway in the 40 knots". My thoughts are that a special type of person seeks out holidays that offer more than relaxation.

Those with an adventurous spirit, sense of self sufficiency, seeking pristine and untouched environments by nature take more risks.

I know from hearing the bad or stressful stories when charterers return that these are rationalized, become highlights and are fondly remembered as time passes.

A famous quote defines the difference between a traveller and a tourist or a charterer and a resort dweller "The traveller was active, he went strenuously in search of people, of adventure, of experience. The tourist is passive; he expects interesting things to happen to him. He goes sight seeing."



• BOATS AND GEAR

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New models available for the 2010 Mediterranean season include:

Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 33i
Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 50 Deck Saloon
Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 53
Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 57
Lagoon 400
Fountaine Pajot Lippari 41
Beneteau Oceanis 31
Beneteau Oceanis 34
Beneteau Oceanis 37
Beneteau Oceanis 40
Beneteau Oceanis 43
Beneteau Oceanis 46
Beneteau Oceanis 50
Beneteau Oceanis 54
Bavaria 43 Cruiser
Bavaria 55 Cruiser

Each season I have a number of potential boat buying clients who like to try the latest models. A visit to the factory is also an interesting and worthwhile thing to do. I have visited Fountaine Pajot, Jeanneau and Dufour in recent years and each were an amazing experience.

• DREAM ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA

French backed Dream Yacht Charter are a major global operator with bases across the Caribbean and Mediterranean, Tahiti, Fiji, Madagascar, Mauritius, Maldives, New Caledonia, Thailand and Malaysia.

Dream's entry is currently in the form of a marketing venture with Queensland Yacht Charters who have recently added a number of Fountaine Pajot catamarans to their fleet (Mahe 36, Lavezzi 40, Belize 43, Salina 48, Cumberland 44).

Dream's predominantly European client base will now be exposed to the Whitsundays and one would hope increase the number of

international visitors.

For many years Whitsunday operators had to exhibit solo at European and U.S. boat shows. Now a number of global operators offer the Whitsundays alongside all of the world's best cruising areas. This can only help arrest Australia's recent decline in inbound tourism.

• CHARTERERS IN FOCUS

Melville Bell & Don Morley

Both of these charterers spring to mind who have this month booked charters, taking as crew their young adult sons.

Yacht chartering is, I believe, a perfect holiday for busy families looking to catch up. If you went to a hotel together it is more than likely you will only catch up at dinner time. Yacht chartering offers, adventure and excitement and is a team building environment and it is probably true to say that if you can get on aboard a small yacht for a week, the relationships are strong.

Don has previously chartered in New Caledonia and Croatia and next month is taking a Bavaria 46 in Thailand.

Mel likes to take long charters and has chartered extensively in the Pacific, a three week Turkish charter last season and just booked a Beneteau Cyclades 50 for three weeks to circumnavigate Sicily including Malta.

• TERRIFIC TONGA



Tonga has remained a favourite with our charterers for over two decades and we have several clients who have returned at least ten times and are never disappointed.

The cruising area is however small (the overnight anchorages are within an area one quarter of the size of the Whitsundays) and is best described as an island studded lake.

Negligible tide, clear deep passages and predominately lighter winds (10-12 knots) make cruising significantly easier than the Whitsundays.

It is the cultural melting pot which is at the heart of the Tongan experience.

As the only remaining Pacific monarchy, local life is unique - so unique and untouched that like Iceland, the local gene pool has been identified as a valuable resource for medical research.

Reportly 97% of Tongans attend church, with most Christian denominations well covered and a choice of over 100 churches between the airport and capital, Tongatapu (a 20 minute drive)!

On our last visit I remember pondering on the dialogue when the Seven Day Adventists knocked on the door of the Mormons, on an island with a population in the hundreds - 'Want to convert over to us today Bob' - not today thanks maybe next week!

The main dirt street in Vava'u has a Caribbean-type feel, youths rap dance around a ghetto blaster and move to a liaise fare pace.

Up to 50% unemployment exists, yet the social and family system caters for this.

Captain Cook's first experience here led him to name the Vava'u group - the Friendly Islands.

The people are warm and friendly inviting you to church on Sunday, Tongan feasts and even into local schools.

Cruising yachts of all nationalities have put Tonga firmly on the world route with up to 400 foreign yachts in the country in the season (although not restricted to Vava'u). They even operate their own radio station and provide a true international and cosmopolitan feel, as do the varied and often eccentric restaurateurs on the islands. Ferreti is Austrian, but given he has not left Tonga for 20 years and now has no passport is stateless. He is a Master Chef and his Blue Lagoon Resort is a must visit (The King eats there when in Vava'u).

Other island eateries include:

La Paella (Spanish), Mounu and the fishing resort ("Kiwi" run) and a new British run resort.

Virgin Pacific offer twice weekly flights Sydney/Tongatapu direct from \$274 each way with a further domestic flight required to reach the charter base in Vava'u. A range of Beneteau/Jeanneau yachts and Robertson Caine catamarans are available some with generators and air conditioning.

Our advice is to get there sooner rather than later as Tonga is still not geared for mass tourism and this is perhaps its greatest appeal.

• SPECIALS



PHUKET

For charters up until 18 December
Pay for 7 and sail for 10 nights
Pay for 10 and sail for 14 nights
Pay for 14 and sail for 21 nights

LANGKAWI

For charters up until 18 December -
Pay for 7 and sail for 10 nights
Pay for 10 and sail for 14 nights
Pay for 14 and sail for 21 nights

TAHITI

For all October bookings - receive 50% discount on 10 night charters on the Eleuthera 60 or Marquise 56 cabin cruises.

CARIBBEAN

St Martin/Guadeloupe/Martinique
For all charters up until 24 Dec 09 -
Pay for 7 and sail for 10 nights
Pay for 10 and sail for 14 nights

Pay for 14 and sail for 21 nights

MADAGASCAR/MALDIVES

50% off selected Sept/October 09 cabin share departures.

• **AIRFARE SPECIALS**

One of the main questions we are being asked at the moment is will air fares to Europe get cheaper if I wait. My personal opinion is that they will not and my advice would be to book now or if you cannot, wait until the last minute. For the first time I can remember, carriers such as Singapore Airlines have released fares up until July 2010 (3 months before normal). These are competitive fares and given a pent up demand with volume down in 2009, 2010 is set to be another busy year.

Please call for prices and details.

• **FEEDBACK AT FOLLOW UP**

For 25 years we have followed up almost every one of our charterers returning from their holiday. This has provided invaluable information for us to monitor all aspects of vessels, operators and local onshore changes. This has also allowed us to provide the most up-to-date data on local costs, highlights and places to visit.

Gary MacLeod, his brother Phillip and 80 year old father Roy, recently returned from Turkey.

Hi Brook,

Just a note to let you know I returned today from my break overseas. The two weeks we spent in Turkey were a high light. The land content was excellent and the yacht charter simply stunning.

We saw all that we wanted to in the two weeks and had plenty of time for relaxing. And I have to agree with you - cruising in Turkey is better than Greece. The scenery is magnificent, the people friendly and the winds reliable. Perfect!

Can't wait until next time!

Cheers,

Gary MacLeod

Good chartering!

Brook Felsenthal
and the Charter World Team