



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

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Dear Charterer,

The 2013 season is almost over with our September charterers now with documents in hand and looking forward to enjoying a well planned and deserved break.

Following up returning charterers is one of my favourite tasks and I have contacted all of our May to July departures this year. The feedback has been excellent and the weather, particularly in the Mediterranean, has been outstanding.

I have added a new area to my must-do list - America's Chesapeake Bay, which returning clients are raving about.

The Sydney Boat Show was certainly down in overall numbers but for us it was great to catch up with so many previous, current and repeat clients. Next year, our 29th year of successive exhibiting, the show will be relocated to Glebe Island as Darling Harbour is to be refurbished.

The America's Cup finals begin next week and sometimes I wonder if this is a good or bad thing for sailing. Constant litigation and now the Americans hiding bags of lead aboard are not the greatest promotion for our sport.

With club open days and the Australian Spring/Summer cruising season beginning next month it is a reminder of how diverse our interests are, linked mainly by the pleasure we derive from being propelled by the wind.



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☺ **PACIFIC UPDATE**
- News From New Caledonia
- Tales from Tonga



NEWS FROM NEW CALEDONIA

Last month we took the quick two hour flight from Brisbane to Noumea to see the new base, inspect the fleet and take the Catana 42 and Catana 47 for some test sails.

We were at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, with my son Jack sailing the high performance Viper Catamarans for Queensland Youth Week, so he was going to be the expert on these large centreboard flyers.

Claims on the web of low teens upwind and close to 20 knots downwind for the Catana 42 were enticing us to push them to the limit in New Caledonia's normally reliable 20 knot sea breezes.

As many of you would know from reading these newsletters, New Caledonia is a favourite of mine and the region has recently been recognised with a World Heritage listing for much of the barrier reef with over 80% of the world's coral species found here.

Cruising yachties have for many years rated the Isle of Pines as one of the two best areas in the whole Pacific, which is a huge claim as the Pacific is enormous.

Recently a Japanese travel magazine rated the beaches at the Isle of Pines number one and six in the world.

The area is so vast that even though I have cruised there many times I've only seen 10% of the total cruising area.

The Catanas arrived in Noumea in 2011/12 and are extremely well-equipped with water makers, generators, Gennakers, electronic throttles and electric sail winches on some of the models.

The sailing was great however we did not achieve close to the aforementioned speeds, possibly the extra ton of water/fuel and cruising gear, which is more realistic than the possibly stripped out version setting speed records.

Having said this, the speeds were way in excess of the mini keeled Fountaine Pajot, Lagoon and Seawinds that I have previously sailed.

Sailing at 8 knots upwind instead of six allows you to cover 25% more ground which is significant. Next year the fleet will be increased to include some large new 46' to 50' monohulls as well as the new Fountaine Pajot 40 motor cruiser.

Anyone who has experienced the Whitsundays would enjoy the natural beauty and cultural attractions of this pristine environment and the increase in bookings and vessels are an indication that it is set to attract many more Australian charterers.

TALES FROM TONGA

A number of vessels have finished their charter terms this year and next year Tonga will only offer six bareboats in total, being three monohulls and three catamarans. Forward bookings are already heavy given this fleet size which is at an all-time low. I first sailed Tonga's superb Vava'u Islands in 1985 and have had some clients charter over a dozen times claiming it is the best in the world.

I cannot remember anyone ever being disappointed with their charter holiday in Tonga and we have sent many hundreds over the past two decades.

Access has always been a limiting factor however Virgin Sydney/Tongatapu flights which began in 2009 offer the best access ever, albeit with poor connection times.

Tricia Morrison chartered in April this year and gives a brief account below.

Ñ TONGAN CHARTER WRAP



Hi Amber & Brook

The Morrison group are back from their charter in The Kingdom of Tonga.

It was fantastic and although early in the season, the weather was wonderful for the charter. Arrival was interesting in Tongatapu with Virgin as we arrived in the dark in a cyclonic tempest and it took the pilot only 2 attempts to land - which was a miracle in the conditions!!

The Robertson Caine catamaran was just lovely and so roomy for 6 of us, so clean and new, everything worked.

Raymond at the Base, the Manager at Moorings was wonderful. Technically excellent and couldn't do enough for us.

Brook, your suggestion of taking cryovac meat was great. We took one frozen meat meal per couple and put it in our main luggage.

We had 2 kayaks which were invaluable.

Some helpful feedback:

We had to pay excess luggage on our flight up to Vava'u. They explained any luggage over 10 kgs per person is over the limit - if you have been staying on Tongatapu more than 24 hrs. Any time less is ok (that's what I would call a local rule). Maybe worth knowing. Some of the local Kiwi businesses say they are working on trying to change the rule!!

Local restaurants - only 1 open out on the islands for us - La Paella. Early and late in the season the restaurants aren't open. We fortunately caught some fish so were fine.

Pre-provisioning was good, but be flexible as things like yogurt, cheeses etc. were not available, again because it was early in the season.

The Balcony on Vava'u is shut for the season as the owner has come back to Australia for 6 months. We stayed in a little B&B overlooking the Base, but wouldn't recommend it as we had bed bugs!!

The local markets are fun and the people out on some of the islands are very happy to sell fish & vegetables.

Boiling the local water is fine - we had no problems. Good to have lots of bottled water too.

Emails are unreliable when looking into accommodation. Best to ring as the locals tend to ignore emails!!

The overnight Virgin flight was not good - difficult to sleep and then you arrive at 5.15am and it's difficult to get an early check-in to a hotel before 9 or 10am, a bit of a waste of time really. We would highly recommend Little Italy Hotel in Nuku'alofa- on the waterfront and all so helpful. Apparently there is word that this Virgin flight may be changed!! The return day flight was just fine.

Thanks again for all the time and effort you put into organizing our holiday Brook, we really appreciate it.

When I get my photos organized, I will send you one.

*Thanks again
Trish & Gordon Morrison
Jill & Geoff Wallbridge
Jane & Peter Thompson*

▮ BAREBOATING WITH SKIPPERS

We have an increasing number of clients enjoying the benefits of taking a local skipper - although they have previously taken bareboats and are more than capable of handling yachts themselves.

We know from experience that skippers are the most important aspect of your holiday and take enormous time making sure the right ones are aboard.

Generally they are young, in their 20s and 30s, service orientated and understand that you need your own space.

In the Mediterranean this is easily achieved as the quay is nearly always just a step away, and they often catch up with mates ashore.

As a case in point, Andrew Kings just returned from taking his family on a Jeanneau 57 in Sardinia. Andrew has previously bareboated in New Caledonia and the Mediterranean and it is possible to take the Jeanneau 57 as a bareboat, but with the family aboard it was decided to try a local skipper.

Andrew relayed an insight into the difference it made for his wife Sarah.

It was blowing 25 knots and the large Jeanneau 57 had the gunnels in the water and was screaming along at 10 knots. One of Andrew's children, noticing the relaxed smile on Mums face, said "Dad you know if the skipper wasn't here Mum would be telling us to reduce sail and slow down!"

Andrew also enjoyed leaving the dock straight away with a briefing given enroute. Larger vessels such as those with generators, air-conditioning and water makers take a significant amount of time to understand in a bareboat briefing.

The lack of responsibility to navigate and berth the yacht, as well as access to local knowledge, are just some of the advantages available if you wish to make use of a local skipper. At around the \$200 per day mark I believe that a skipper is also a great value sailing lesson as they are always happy to impart knowledge and skills.

Not that I'm recommending all of you take a skipper, but in many circumstances they can really add to the overall holiday experience.

Ñ 2014 - THE YEAR TO BOOK



Bareboating continues to reach into the mainstream holiday market with destinations like Croatia experiencing exponential demand outside of the traditional yachties markets.

With new yachts still not entering the fleets at previous years rates, availability is restricted and I would suggest getting your crew together ASAP for next year.

Currently we're still using 2013 rates for 2014 for most of our operators although all 2014 rates will be released by the end of October.

International air travel is set to remain at traditionally low levels as further capacity grows mainly from Middle Eastern carriers. 2014 promises to be another great year to travel.

🇳🇵 GALLIPOLI FLOTILLA 2015

Join us on this historic occasion to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli in April 2015. We have already received a number of requests for an escorted flotilla to what is sure to be a spine tingling event. Currently the plan is to leave Skiathos in Greece's Sporades Islands for the 140 mile sail to Gallipoli. The dates for the two week flotilla are 18 April to 02 May 2015.

Please register your interest now as we anticipate huge demand for the yachts. There will also be an opportunity for singles and couples to join a skippered yacht for this event.

🇳🇵 CROATIA LICENCE UPDATE

About four years ago Croatia's Minister of Transport issued a list of the minimum certification required to charter in Croatia.

Approximately 50 countries are currently on this list and, although Australia is not, strangely New Zealand is! To date all of our operators have accepted any valid Australian license including State based licenses.

Croatia's entry into the EU last month has created some uncertainty of this continuing in 2014 and for this reason we are now recommending all charterers obtain an International Certificate of Competence (ICC) to charter in Croatia (along with the mandatory VHF licence needed here for the last couple of years).

This certificate can be obtained in all of Australia's capitals and many regional towns by a variety of sailing schools and involves a half day practical test.

If you have a certificate in excess of an ICC such as an RYA offshore or Coxswains, these can be converted to an ICC. As a guide to the course requirements Terry Wise of Pacific Sailing School at the CYC in Sydney has a great website and is always happy to chat about the courses and requirements. Telephone: 02 8999 8446 or visit www.pacificsailingschool.com.au.

Good chartering!

Brook Felsenthal
and the Charter World Team