



sail of the century

WITH A-LIST CELEBRITIES INCLUDING SUPERMODEL CINDY CRAWFORD AND ACTOR GEORGE CLOONEY DITCHING AIR TRAVEL IN FAVOUR OF CRUISING, YOU'RE GUARANTEED TO BE IN GOOD COMPANY WHEN YOU HEAD FOR THE HIGH SEAS FOR THE SEASON'S EXTRAVAGANT HOLIDAY OF CHOICE

WRITTEN BY HEIDI FULLER-LOVE

When it comes to high-end travel private jets are so passé, with elite crowds opting for luxury on water aboard five-star yachts. Only recently movie titan Steven Spielberg paid US\$200 million (Dhs734 m) for his super vessel, Seven Seas, while the launch of History Supreme, a gold-plated craft that scooped the title of World's Most Expensive Yacht (Dhs8.5 billion), proves that when it comes to sailing its decadence all the way. The new fad may be expensive but by offering more privacy than plush city hotels and broadening your horizons destination-wise, it's rapidly becoming the only way to holiday among celebrities and millionaires alike. SPEND IT reveals some of the best yacht charters...

THE BASICS Prices for high end charters start at around Dhs2,907 a week. This price usually covers captain, crew and insurance, but may not include fuel, docking and water charges, which will add approximately 25-30 per cent to the bill. Not every superyacht will have a statue like the History Supreme's, which is made from the bone of Tyrannosaurus Rex, but a swimming pool and helicopter pad are certainly expected, according to Jill Bobrow, author of the book *Outrageous Yachts*. Bobrow states that elaborate spas with steam rooms and beauty salon spaces are also becoming standard, whilst other soon-to-be-must-haves include personal submarines, DJ consoles and waterfalls.

SOLEMATES

What is it? American music producer Sean 'P Diddy' Combs made waves recently when he spent a week with his family on board this high-tech ship.

Why charter it? A blend of intelligent design and edgy flair, the major innovation on this yacht is the groundbreaking technology that allows guests to choose their morning newspaper, order dinner, close the blinds in their cabin, or turn on the TV just by pressing a button on their iPad control system. And with new charter destinations for 2012 including the Pacific coast and Costa Rica, Solemates promises "the ultimate charter experience".

The amenities: ● Five light-filled, spacious guest cabins have kingsize beds and en suite bathrooms. ● The wood-paneled Owner's Suite on the main deck boasts panoramic views. ● Toys include a couple of Watershed SeaBobs, golf clubs and biodegradable balls, and state-of-the-art powered surfboards.

Capacity: 12

Cost: From Dhs1.9 million per week

Find out more: www.yachtsolemates.com



CHRISTINA O

What is it? Originally built in 1943 as a Canadian convoy escort, this legendary superyacht was bought and refurbished by Aristotle Onassis in the mid 1950s.

Why charter it? Apart from the kudos of cruising in a vessel that has hosted A-listers including Maria Callas, Frank Sinatra, John F Kennedy and Sir Winston Churchill, the Christina O has every possible amenity to make you enjoy life on the ocean waves as much as Onassis and his guests did back in the swinging sixties.

The amenities: ● Elegantly designed it has 17 magnificently appointed guest staterooms as well as the lavish, and legendary, Onassis Suite complete with a Jacuzzi bathroom, and private lounge. ● Other luxury touches include a large Jacuzzi deck with canopied sunbathing areas, a massage and beauty salon, a fully equipped gymnasium and a saltwater swimming pool that converts to dance floor as soon as the sun sets. ● Big toys include waveriders, water-skis and snorkelling gear, giving you plenty of options for creating fun.

Capacity: 36

Cost: Dhs215,245 per day

Find out more: www.1800sailaway.com



IMAGES BOB PAYLOR, DANA JINKINS, SAILWAY YACHT CHARTERS AND SUPPLIED



KOGO

What is it? This 71.71m long yacht with its five double cabins and two sumptuous twin suites is the creation of multi award-winning yacht designer Tim Heywood.

Why charter it? Ethnic-style dark woods, crackled lacquers and unique furniture fittings make this a chic option. The stylish craft is designed for exploring the chic delights of the Cote d'Azur and the French Riviera.

The amenities: ● There are four large guest cabins with dressing areas and en suite bathrooms, and two vast VIP cabins with full size windows. ● The Owner's Suite, spanning the width of the yacht, has a living area, large bedroom, spacious bathroom, sitting room and well-equipped study. ● Other on-board perks include an outdoor stage with concert facilities and a magnificently appointed pampering space with a massage room. ● Toys include four two-man Kawasaki jet skis, helipad and large pool.

Capacity: 14

Cost: From Dhs2,035 per week

Find out more: www.burgessyachts.com, www.superyachts.com



INDIAN EMPRESS

What is it? Formerly owned by the Qatari royal family and now the property of Indian business baron Dr Vijay Mallva, this 95m yacht was launched in 2000.

Why charter it? Reaching speeds of up to 24 knots, the megayacht is ideal for exploring the Indian Ocean.

The amenities: ● Monogrammed sheets, priceless oil paintings and a garage for two Mercedes cars are just some of the exclusive features of this yacht. ● It offers five double rooms and 11 twin staterooms whose previous guests include pop singer Jay-Z and entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson.

Capacity: 36

Cost: Dhs3.4 million per week

Find out more: www.burgessyachts.com, www.superyachts.com





MOONLIGHT II

What is it? One of the largest superyachts in the world, this highly autonomous steel-hulled supercruiser was launched in 2004 by Greek yachting mogul Andreas Liveras.

Why charter it? Capable of crossing the Atlantic or navigating the Panama Canal, it's ideal for adventurers who want to explore South America or South East Asia. The vessel is also superbly designed with marble features, handmade carpets and silk hangings. **The amenities:** ● All of the 15 guest staterooms – including one equipped for guests with special needs – have super kingsize beds, walk in wardrobes and large bathrooms with a bath, shower and twin basins. ● The VIP stateroom also includes a sitting room with a 42-inch plasma television and Michelangelo marble-clad bathroom with Jacuzzi bath. ● The larger Master Suite, with its bathroom decked out in white Afyon marble, has 180-degree panoramic windows, a private deck, separate his and hers facilities and even bodyguard quarters. ● Other exclusive features include a state-of-the-art spa, gymnasium and beauty area, and a 100-inch cinema screen with surround sound.

● Toys include WaveRunners, a Laser sailing dinghy, and two scuba scooters.
Capacity: 36
Cost: From Dhs3.2 million per week
Find out more: www.1800sailaway.com

