

CHANGE YOUR LIFE



And you? Do you believe in it? Changing your life is actually possible, as proved by these readers, who have explained everything to us...

THEY DID IT!



Changing your life, discovering new horizons on your own boat: tempted? (photo Julian Cohen)

WHAT DID THEY DO BEFORE LEAVING TO ROAM THE OCEANS?

Television and film producers, an ex-officer in the merchant navy, then manager of a small company in the nautical industry, a communications manager in a consular chamber, and finally, a 'golden boy', all converted to being long-term sailors, to experience a new adventure, alone or as a family, on catamarans as different as a Lagoon 440, a one-off construction, or a Privilège 615; they all chose this new life.

Patrick and Mapi are from Paris and were TV and film producers: "Patrick worked for 25 years for a major TV channel, which got rid of him when he refused to implement a restructuring plan he didn't believe in. At 50 years old, we considered his redundancy as an opportunity to be seized. We have also lost some very dear friends, taken from us at less than 50 years old, before having been able to realise their dreams, or enjoy what they have built. Our two children were beco-

Sailing in the Caicos, with Patrick and Mapi:

"Since we met, 17 years ago, we have wanted to move. We dreamed of boats and the tropics. We often thought about what we could do in this field. Our profiles and skills seem to be suited to the charter business, (Pat manages the boat, Mapi the marketing). It was realistic, so we took the plunge. We have always worked together and we get on perfectly, which is a major advantage.

Our love of the tropics led us to discover, 3 years ago, our coral paradise in the Turks and Caicos Islands. It was love at first sight! We immediately noted that chartering was not developed in the region, and that we could offer this destination."

It is now reality: so if you would like to discover Mapi and Patrick's paradise aboard a superb owner's version Lagoon 440, there is just one address:

www.caicossailing.com



Mapi, Patrick and the children: a real change of life for this family, who left to start a charter business in the Turks and Caicos.

building, I had done everything I wanted to do, I wanted to change my job, to do something else, to set myself a new challenge, and after returning from the voyage, to tackle the last third of my professional life - I don't know what it will be..." For Julie,

to go round the world on a boat. It's a very romantic perspective... Then we were caught up in the hurly-burly of life, children, jobs, etc... Life ashore wasn't unpleasant, but I could see clearly that my husband had not lost sight of his aim of a voyage, and was

financial markets: "I had always told my family I would retire at the age of forty-five, but I meant from the stresses of the financial world; to run a small dive shop or a family business to keep me occupied and some money flowing in once I had finished with the money markets. However I was extremely fortunate in that I was able to retire from work completely without worrying about my financial future..."

And three!...

For them, the choice of a voyage in a boat was obvious: they had always sailed, and it was a dream to be experienced finally, as a couple or with the children. Although the choice of a boat was always obvious, the catamaran suggested itself to our three families, as "for a voyage, the cat is brilliant!"

“ Do you realise that with my two 700-litre fuel tanks, my 60 litres per hour watermaker, and my 600 watts of solar panels, I can disappear for months in the middle of the 77 atolls in the Tuamotus, in total comfort? Can you tell me of another way of travelling which allows the same thing? ”

ming teenagers and were beginning to be sucked in by brands and our consumer society; it was time to react. We sold our flat, our furniture and our winter clothes. We bought a catamaran, and left with the children, the cat and the little puppy we adopted for the occasion."

One!

Max and Julie left as a family for a three-year trip around the world. Max: "because life is short, and at my age (54), I can sail a 15-metre catamaran singlehanded if necessary, but that won't last for ever, and later, I will no longer be able to take my children on such an adventure, and after having spent 15 years as a professional sailor, and 20 years in boat

40, things were a little different: "when I met my husband, he immediately told me about this project: leaving one day with his wife and children

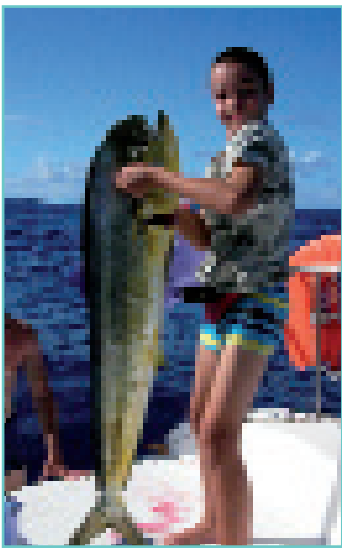
beginning to find the time ashore long and difficult..."

And two!

Finally, Julian has worked all his life in finance and on the

Julian is lucky: he is enjoying life on his beautiful catamaran. Life's good, isn't it?





During the Atlantic crossing aboard Oteka: we enjoy living together, quite simply

SO, HOW DO YOU ORGANISE YOURSELF TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE?

Max and Julie left for 3 years. For this, they sold everything "to take care of all the possible solutions for settling down again, possibly elsewhere (no job, no house, no material attachments). There are so many things to see in the world, travelling is so educational, that I wanted not only to enjoy it myself and share it with my wife, but also allow my last two children to discover and experience it. They will certainly benefit from it for the rest of their lives..."

Patrick and Mapi took advantage of a redundancy (which could have been a difficult experience) and made it into a happy event; they bought a catamaran, crossed the Atlantic as a family and launched themselves into catamaran charter in the Turks and Caicos Islands. For Mapi, changing your life: "is very simple: all you have to do is take the decision, and do the first thing that commits you to the realisation of your project (for us it

was selling the flat). Events then follow one another, and commit you to all kinds of problems, which you find a solution to one after another. Just like life!"

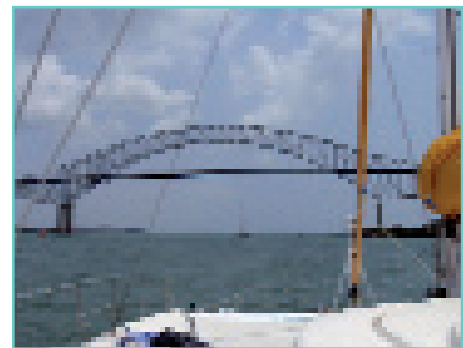
Finally, Julian considers himself lucky: firstly to have had a professional career which allowed him to enjoy the life he dreamed about, and then having a wife who was ready to follow him...

AFTER THESE YEARS SPENT CRUISING, WHAT LESSONS HAVE OUR SAILORS LEARNT FROM THEIR NEW LIVES?

Mapi and Patrick are in seventh heaven: "Finally we are freed from the consumer society, no more fashions to follow, or useless gadgets (except for the on-board electronics!). No shop windows or shopping arcades. Advertising doesn't affect us. We are content with what is really necessary, and lack nothing. We live in extraordinary natural surroundings, where the blue and purity of the water are incomparable, and the light is fascinating. The inhabitants know this and generously share the love they have for their island. The welcome they reserved for us quickly made us forget the aggressiveness of the Parisian drivers! We have met all kinds of people; some of them, who we would never have met in our Parisian microcosm, have become close friends. Certain destinies are extraordinary. In the Turks and Caicos, most of the population is immigrant. Everyone has left somewhere behind, and has therefore changed their life. Our story is not very rare, here. Which just goes to show that everything is relative!"

Max is also in seventh heaven: "overall, the voyage and the change in my life have met my expectations, with the pleasures and the difficulties. I have no regrets. I don't miss my social position and the job I did for 20 years in the slightest; I forgot them very quickly. I therefore haven't lost any time in metaphysical questioning; the change happened in just a few days, and so much the better. I can watch my two children grow up before my eyes every day, with pleasure, and I

Max and Julie going under the Bridge of the Americas, bound for the Pacific!



have learnt to know them better in a few months than in several years ashore. And my eldest son will be joining us in Polynesia soon..."

Julian still hasn't go over it: "the world looks totally different when viewed from a boat. Boating people are more likely to stop and have a chat or offer help and advice. There is a good natured feeling of camaraderie amongst the boating community. This is a far cry from the hustle and bustle of daily life in a big city."

But there is no point in being angelic, there are also some negative points to this life afloat. Thus Julian knows full well that nothing is simple at sea: "problems are there to be solved, not panicked over, and there will be problems. Things on boats break, and they do so with alarming regularity. Some

things can be fixed quite easily, but others involve expense." For Max, the most negative point in his three-year programme: "three years to sail round the world is a bit tight. It means that sometimes we are forced to make a difficult choice of destination and length of stay. On the other hand, we are surprised by the rarity, once past the Panama Canal, (because in the Atlantic, with boats on a sabbatical year, things are different: lower average age, more families cruising), of boats with family

Julian's photos

If you like beautiful photos, have a look at Julian's web site. This excellent sailor shows all his talents as a photographer on it... Superb!

www.flickr.com/photos/juliancohen

And note that Bella Principessa is available for charter and can be contacted through the website

www.bellatsea.com



The first to reach the horizon wins...



3 years to sail round the world: Max and Julie have to 'fill up' with memories...



Changing your life, OK, but a few chores remain... don't they, Patrick?

and children. The children are always looking for contacts with other children of their age, which is quite natural. On this subject, we have been a bit disappointed, but the children adapt well. And the voyage is not over."

For Julie, there is also "sometimes a co-habitation which is a bit stifling, despite the size of our boat and the two hulls, we nevertheless live together 24-hours a day. The children are always present in our discussions; our conjugal privacy is reduced and the atmosphere can quickly become

electric, though it always settles down quickly. I sometimes miss my family and friends, too..."

Finally, Mapi and Patrick are, in addition, having to develop their new business, and this is not always simple: "things take time to set up, we proceed by trial and error, we make mistakes, and we start again; this can be a source of stress. You have to be able to finance the adaptation period, not knowing if it is going to last, and whether the new life will allow you to take care of your daily needs. You leave a



Changing your life: the parents' choice, the children's pleasure!

life, friends, who envy you at the start, then become more distant, naturally, promising to come and see you one day. You also leave the family and parents, who in our case are starting to grow old. They are pleased for us, but of course our absence is hard for them..."

SO, SHOULD WE DO IT?

Yes, yes and yes. Everyone agrees on this; the experience is very definitely worth living. And should we do it? When? Mapi: "as soon as possible; if you really want to change, do it. Stop waiting for a better moment. If you are in good

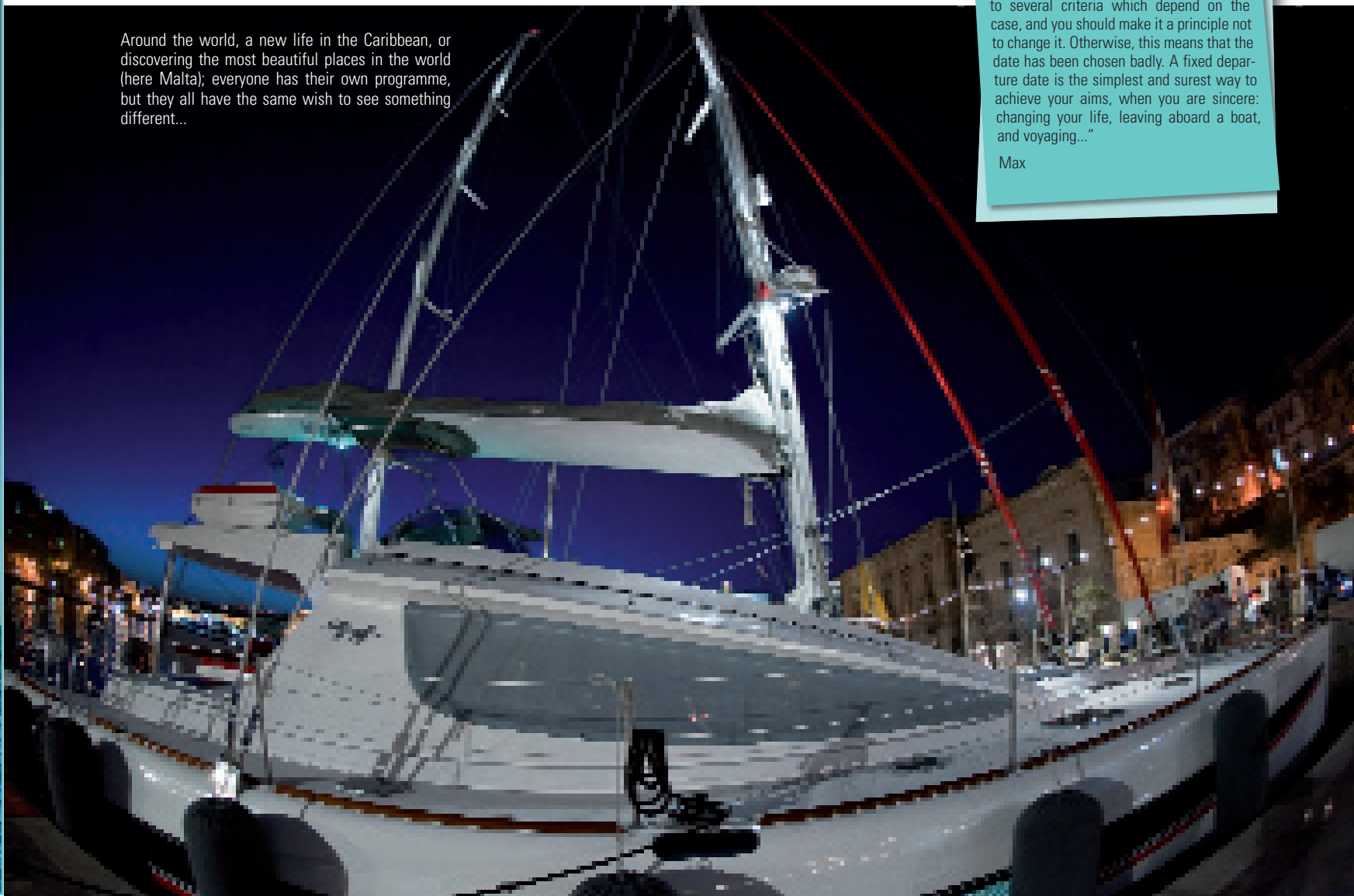
health, save some money, and go! Life is short, and you are capable of doing lots of things. Have confidence in yourself; you will discover skills you didn't know you had until now. It's extraordinary to observe that you become much smarter when you take a bit of a risk..."

The departure date

"Fixing an effective date to depart aboard a boat, that of the start of your change of life, at least 3 years in advance if possible, seems absolutely essential to me, in any case, for a couple settled in their lives. This date must be chosen with care, according to several criteria which depend on the case, and you should make it a principle not to change it. Otherwise, this means that the date has been chosen badly. A fixed departure date is the simplest and surest way to achieve your aims, when you are sincere: changing your life, leaving aboard a boat, and voyaging..."

Max

Around the world, a new life in the Caribbean, or discovering the most beautiful places in the world (here Malta); everyone has their own programme, but they all have the same wish to see something different...



TURKS & CAICOS

The bewitching islands

The Lagoon 440 allows you to take full advantage of this archipelago.

Here is a unique and truly original destination, as there is just one local charter company with a single catamaran. The archipelago offers everything you could wish for: sublime beaches, coral reefs with multi-coloured inhabitants, anchorages where you will always be alone and incredible colours...

LOGBOOK

A little paradise situated in line with the Bahamas and north of the Dominican Republic, the Turks and Caicos Islands are an archipelago of coral islands just surfacing from a turquoise ocean. They are perfectly protected from mass tourism, and for the several years now have offered Hollywood stars a Caribbean retreat sheltered from

view, and sailors a new secret exotic destination.

Caicos Sailing takes you aboard a catamaran to discover the forty or so islands which form the archipelago. Only eight of them are inhabited. As you can imagine, you won't be disturbed by the neighbours at anchor. Kilometres of flour-white sandy beaches are bordered by transparent waters in which swim all



Although the banks offer good snorkelling, it is best to be familiar with the passes to get in and out of the lagoons...

the fauna of the spectacular coral reefs: turtles, dolphins, lagoon sharks, barracudas and multi-coloured fish. A constant trade wind rocks the boat, which slips unconstrained over the Caicos Bank, sheltered from the Atlantic swell by the reef further offshore. The land, rather arid, can be discovered on foot, by bike or in a golf caddy. The eagles, flamingos, iguanas and pelicans approach confidently,

just like the hump-backed whales which pass each year between the Turks and the Caicos to go and reproduce further south.

Your private catamaran will anchor in the mangrove or be beached at the foot of the coconut trees, in a succession of idyllic anchorages in total harmony with nature.

Allow yourself to be pampered by an attentive crew, and

An anchorage to dream about... Fancy it?





Time to eat!

inhabited by the Taïno Indians, which harbour numerous relics still to be discovered.

West Caicos:

Still uninhabited (but not for much longer, as a Ritz-Carlton palace is being built), it is wonderful for diving, with a particularly impressive sloping reef. Diving holidays can be organised here on request.

East Caicos:

Deserted nowadays, (except for the turtles which come to lay their eggs on the wonderful north beach), it harbours the remains of bygone human presence: petroglyphs, paths snaking into the bush and the ruins of Jacksonville, the now-abandoned sisal planters' town.

South Caicos:

The most local island; it lives on fishing and conch shells, and harbours numerous British and Bermudian colonial architectural treasures.

Grand Turk:

On the other side of the Columbus Passage, where the hump-backed whales pass between January and April, it is the country's administrative capital. Its 19th century houses, still standing and restored after the passage of two hurricanes last year, are a colourful evocation of the colonial Caribbean.

Salt Cay:

Exploited for its internationally famous salt for a long time, its scenery is modelled by the salt marshes which are nowadays the favourite habitat for all kinds of rare birds: terns, frigate birds, herons and flamingos.

appreciate the magic of the tropical nights, after a lavish meal aboard, or a barbecue on the beach.

TO SEE - TO DO

Providenciales :

The most developed island, with its international airport 1h20 from Miami, it is the ideal departure point for a cruise. Shops, a supermarket and even a French 'boulangerie' allow good provisioning.

North Caicos:

The greenest of the archipelago's islands, it has nature reserves which are home to colonies of flamingos. Popular with walkers.

Middle Caicos:

The biggest island, very rocky, creeks with translucent water and limestone caves once



Iguanas are legion on Water Cay, just like the fauna in general in the Turks & Caicos.



The beaches are all beautiful. This one is on Providenciales.



Water Cay and its shallows!

PRACTICAL TURKS & CAICOS

SITUATION:

In the Caribbean Sea
Miami: 930 km
Dominican Republic: 160 km
Bahamas: 48 km

ACCESS:

International airport: Providenciales (PLS)
No direct flights from Europe. The easiest (without a night stopover) is the transfer via Miami.

From the USA: American Airlines: 2 flights daily from Miami, 1 flight daily from New York JFK, 3 flights per week from Boston. US Airways: Daily flights from Charlotte and Philadelphia. Delta Airlines: Flights from Atlanta.

From Canada: Air Canada flies from Toronto and Montreal.

From Europe: British Airways: flights from London via Nassau.

FORMALITIES:

The Turks and Caicos are a British overseas crown territory. Valid passport, no visa required for EEC residents. Be careful with the transfer in the USA which requires a biometric passport or a waiver visa.

CLIMATE:

With a hot, dry, tropical climate, there are few rainy days (around 30 days' rain per year). Temperatures are very pleasant all the year round, with an average of 29°C. The winter season, between November and May, is particularly mild. The summer season, between June and October, is hotter and wetter. The region has fewer hurricanes (between July and October) than the West Indies, further south.

AND ALSO...:

Money: US Dollar

Language: English

Many restaurants, bars and supermarkets on Providenciales, rarer on the other islands. Usual tip: 15%

LOCAL CHARTER COMPANIES:

Caicos Sailing is offering a 2008 Lagoon 440 with a skipper or a full crew to pamper you...



<http://blog.liveatbvi.com/?p=682>

Tchi Tcha : coup de pub pour les BeauFront



Je vous avais parlé il y a quelques temps [de la rencontre assez délirante avec ce couple de français](#). Et bien , ces derniers ont passé tous les barrages possibles et imaginables pour ouvrir leur société aux BVI. Et oui les miracles existent et ils en sont la preuve vivante : en moins de deux mois, ils ont réussi à toucher leur trade license, leur permis de travail et ils ont même (les fous) investi dans une voiture.

Donc je vais profiter de l'immense popularité de ce blog (pas mal la blague non) pour leur faire un coup de pub vu qu'ils lancent en grande fanfare l'ouverture de leur seconde base aux BVI.

Alors, n'hésitez pas et jetez un coup d'œil [ici](#) et [là](#) 😊

PS : Encore un grand merci à eux pour le cadal d'anniversaire qui fera des jaloux...A suivre lors d'un prochain post.

www.newswinch.com

CAICOS SAILING, EN CHARTER DES TURKS & CAICOS AUX ILES VIERGES

Posté par [Newswinch](#) le 24/6/09 • Classé dans [Locations](#), [Multicoque](#)

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ (1 votes, average: **3.00** out of 5)



[Caicos Sailing](#) vous propose de vous emmener en charter à bord d'un [lagoon 440](#) mis à l'eau en 2008. De décembre à mai, l'équipage navigue dans les [Turks et Caicos](#) un paradis sauvage et de mai à novembre dans les [iles vierges](#) et ses nombreux mouillages. Il est possible également de prendre part aux traversées des Turks aux Vierges ou dans l'autre sens pour environ une semaine en louant à la cabine.



L'équipage est constitué de Pat et Mapi (Marie Pierre) Beaufort (un nom prédestiné) qui prônent qu'il y a une vie après la télévision. En effet, Pat était producteur de cinéma et patron de chaînes de télévision (entre autre) et Mapi, productrice de d'émissions de divertissement et de comedy-show. Deux communicants donc (il y n'y a qu'à jeter un œil à leur site web pour s'en rendre compte) avec qui vous ne devriez pas vous ennuyer.



Ils ont choisis comme outil de travail un Lagoon 440, qui est vraiment adapté au projet par son confort à la mer et au mouillage et qui répond au doux nom de **KOTROTI**.

Embarquer aux Iles Vierges sur KOTROTI, tout un programme.

Marqué: [Caicos Sailing](#), [charter](#), [Iles Vierges](#), [lagoon 440](#), [Location](#), [Marie Pierre Beaufort](#), [Pat Beaufort](#), [Turks et Caicos](#)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (1 votes, average: **3.00** out of 5)

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Laisser un commentaire

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2009

[The 44' Oteka Catamaran and 120' Luxury Yacht Scott Free](#)



Built in 2008, The 44ft Lagoon [Oteka](#)

brings a touch of French sailing to the Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos.

Lay down, close your eyes and enjoy sunbathing while sailing the crystalline turquoise ocean, framed by endless white sandy beaches. As your charter yacht glides along with the rhythm of the Trade Winds. All this while your devoted French captain meticulously attending to every detail from sun-up to sun-down.

The [Oteka](#) comfortably accommodates up to passengers in 3 luxurious cabins each equipped with ensuite bathrooms.

Locations	
Summer Ports	Winter Ports
BVI	Provo, Turks & Caicos
Summer Operations	Winter Operations
Bahamas	Caribbean Virgin Islands

[Click here for more information](#)

<http://blog.bvisail.com/sightseeing/oteka-has-arrived-in-the-bvi/>

[Oteka has arrived in the BVI!](#)

This post was written by bettysien on September 21, 2009

Posted Under: [British Virgin Islands](#), [Catamarans](#), [Sightseeing](#)

Looking for an idyllic vacation this winter? The Oteka, a Lagoon 440 sailing catamaran, is ready to welcome you aboard for fun, sun, and adventures on white sandy beaches.

Captain Pat Beaufront, former french movie producer and fully licensed Boat Master (first grade) and Finalist Regatta skipper, has been navigating for over 30 years. Let his outgoing personality and expert knowledge of the seas set the stage for your Caribbean escape.

The Oteka is outfitted with light oak woodwork and holds up to 6 people in 3 large cabins (all with on-suite bathrooms) in first-class comfort.

<http://www.saildivebvi.com/charterblog/index.php?/archives/123-Yacht-Oteka-New-Lagoon-44-chartering-in-the-Virgin-Islands-and-Turks-and-Caicos.html>

Friday, October 2, 2009

Posted by [Kerry Hucul](#) in [Yacht Oteka](#)

[Comments \(0\)](#)

[Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

Yacht Oteka- New Lagoon 44' chartering in the Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos



Brand new 44' Lagoon which takes 6 guests. Cruising the Virgin Islands in the winter and the Turks and Caicos in the summer. They offer two options, either captain only or plus hostess and half board, leaving your evenings free to eat on shore or the yacht as you prefer. Their half board option includes a hostess, a breakfast cooked to order and a TAPAS style buffet (selection of small appetizers that you mix and match) It seems to be inspired by many cultures including French and Indian besides the typical spanish.

Oteka is showing at the fall boat show in Tortola, at which time I will have more details and my own pictures to share with you. A yacht cruising the Turks and Caicos will be a popular option, we seem to get quite a few requests from guests who want to go there after the BVI lately.

I have put up some preliminary information on [our webpage on OTEKA](#)



<http://www.saildivebvi.com/boats/oteka.php>

Sur Facebook – Gilles Verlant

Patrick Beaufront est un vieil ami, l'un des premiers producteurs de télévision avec lesquels j'ai été en contact quand j'ai commencé à travailler en France, en 1984, à Canal+.

Depuis quelques années, il a complètement changé de vie et j'aime bien cette idée (moi-même je me prépare, je vous en parlerai un jour...).

Il a un beau bateau et propose désormais des croisières dans les îles Turks et Caicos et les îles Vierges. Je sais pas vous, mais moi ça me fait rêver.

Allez-y de ma part et racontez-moi !

6 Mai 2009

Sur : <http://www.lifeinbvi.com/> - le 10/06/2009

Une rencontre passionnante

Il y a des rencontres que l'on fait qui sont simplement délicieuses et passionnantes. C'est le cas hier soir en rencontrant Pat et Mapi qui m'avaient contacté sur ce même blog. Ces marins d'eau douce sont à quai sur les BVI depuis 10 jours après la traversée de l'atlantique (encore respect Pat pour cette folle aventure dont je serai simplement incapable) et six mois passent à Turk and Caicos où ils ont décidé de se lancer dans le chatering ([cliquer ici pour découvrir leur site web](#)).

Anciens producteurs tv/Cine (inclus l'aventure Canal), ces deux là m'ont fait à cheval rêve en me contant leurs ex-aventures professionnelles (pour celles et ceux qui n'ont pas compris, je suis un peu fan de cine) mais aussi leurs nouveaux périples caraïbéens qu'ils peignent déjà [sur leur blog Oteka](#).

Par ailleurs, retrouver des compatriotes dans des endroits aussi reculés que les BVI, bah ça fait plaisir. Pour peu que ces derniers deviennent accros au fameux Pain killers, ça promet d'autres grands moments avec comme option leur première visite à Smuggler cove prévu (si la météo est clémente) samedi 😊

juin 10th, 2009 | Tags: blog, Promo | Category: BVI, Et ailleurs, France | One comment

1 comment to Une rencontre passionnante



• [Denis](#)

[juin 10th, 2009 at %H:%M](#)

Tout simplement génial leur blog, j'ai adoré. Quelle vie!!!

www.charterwave.com

Sailing Cat to Charter in Turks & Caicos

Written by Kim Kavin

Friday, 11 September 2009 08:11



I know that waters this clear seem too good to be true, but they're exactly what I remember from the two trips I've made to the Turks & Caicos Islands, which are southeast of The Bahamas and due north of the Dominican Republic. I learned to scuba dive in the Turks & Caicos and was so amazed by the underwater clarity that I got home from my first trip, booked another plane ticket, and immediately went back to dive some more.

Thus my excitement about a new 44-foot sailing catamaran, *Oteka*, that plans to offer charters in the Turks & Caicos from May through October (spending November through April in the Virgin Islands). The boat was launched just last year and is being run by her owner/skipper, Pat Beaufront, a former movie producer in France who is now taking his 30-year passion for sailing and applying it to the charter industry.

I have yet to meet Beaufront or to get aboard *Oteka*, but she is working with [CharterPortBVI](#) as a clearinghouse, and that's a company I know well and respect. *Oteka* also is registered to be on display at November's industry-only charter show in Tortola, British Virgin Islands. That's a sign that Beaufront is aware of regional charter standards and is interested in making a good impression on brokers, which in turn is an indication that *Oteka* just might be a good, new charter option in a location where few reputable, crewed charter yachts are available.

Stay tuned for my personal opinions after the Tortola show, and contact any [reputable charter broker](#) in the meantime to learn more about *Oteka* and cruising in the Turks & Caicos archipelago. You also might visit [Oteka's own website](#) for additional information.

Comments (0) 

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