

THE MAYFAIR

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MAGAZINE

Age of Grace

Enduring beauty
from an era
of elegance at
Somerset House

The Season awaits

From polo to the proms –
your complete guide to
a fabulous summer



An aerial photograph of a large cruise ship and a smaller motorboat on a deep blue sea. The cruise ship is in the lower right, showing its deck with blue seating and white railings. The motorboat is in the upper right, leaving a white wake. The water is a rich, textured blue.

Into the blue

Forget landing on a new piece of terra firma, the top holiday destinations are those with a distinctly watery feel. From gorgeous yachts that glide through tropical tides to cutting-edge design vessels that offer Michelin-starred adventures, there's definitely something in the waters

WORDS: ANGELINA VILLA-CLARKE





Sail the Gatsby scene

Get to grips first-hand with the setting of this month's blockbuster film *The Great Gatsby* by stepping onboard (in bare feet only, of course) Edminston's classic motor yacht *The Highlander*. She will take you along the Hamptons, stopping off at Sag Harbor and its idyllic beaches, Newport, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. You can mingle with New York's laid-back socialites or create your own scene – the colonial-styled yacht has a stunning canoe stern, perfect for afternoon tea, followed by cocktails under the moonlight. Charter available from £40,000 per week for eight guests, May to September, (edminstoncompany.com)

Adventures on-board an Indonesian Phinisi

For those yearning for a swashbuckling jaunt at sea, then *Tiger Blue* is the lady to do it with. Sailing around the remote eastern Indonesian islands, such as Komodo, Rinca and Maumere, the traditional *phinisi* schooner is a breathtaking sight. While adventure is at the heart of these trips – think diving, swimming with dolphins and climbing volcanoes – on-board comfort has an elite party set firmly in mind. There are en-suite cabins, a laundry service and chefs that cook the fish you've caught during the day. The seven-night Komodo itinerary costs from £2,180 per person, including food and activities, (ampersandtravel.com)

Boutique cruising along the Amazon

Offering the experience of a five-star hotel while cruising down the Amazon is Aqua Expedition's Aria Amazon. The custom-designed ship imagined by stellar Peruvian designer Jordi Puig boasts suites with floor-to-ceiling windows, a bubbling Jacuzzi, star observation deck and an onboard boutique. As you sail along the Amazon deep into the remote Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, top Peruvian chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, meanwhile, cooks up a storm in the galley. In fact, you can even partake in cooking classes under his tuition. You'll be rustling up the perfect ceviche and pisco sours in no time – just the thing before you try your hand at piranha fishing. Fans of the water safari experience should also keep the Mekong River in Cambodia and Vietnam on their radar when the company launches its new luxury vessel the Aqua Mekong in early 2014. It will have 20 outward-facing suites with floor-to-ceiling windows, a spa, library, screening room and observation deck with swimming pool and lounge bar.

A three-night Amazon River Discovery Cruise costs from £1,609 per person, (aquapeditions.com)

Fabulous in the Flores

Better known for their ultra-sleek resorts, Asian hotel brand Alila has transferred its design finesse to the seas. Just launched is its very own luxury wooden *phinisi*, the Alila Purnama, which takes guests on voyages of discovery through Raja Ampat and the Komodo Islands and the Flores Seas, docking at Bali. Onboard guests can tailor the itinerary according to their interests but can expect to do so in style. Oversized daybeds allow you to take in the incredible changing views as you lounge under the billowing sails, and if that isn't relaxing enough, there are on-board spa therapists to calm you further. How swell.

Seven days exclusive hire of Alila Purnama for 10 people, sailing around the Komodo Islands, costs from £35,933 per person, inclusive of all meals and activities. (alilahotels.com)

Riding the wave in the Maldives

It's no surprise that Per Aquum's glitzy Maldives resort, Huvafen Fushi, is one step ahead of the curve when it comes to yachting. With an underwater spa, a subterranean wine cave and its line-up of starry events, – think Karl Lagerfeld's sound designer as DJ and Nicolas Maillebiau perfumery workshops – it is widely regarded as one of the hippest hotels on the planet. Now Huvafen Fushi has also added a traditional dhoni sailing vessel to the mix. Check into a beach bungalow with your own plunge pool and stretch your sea legs with one night onboard the ivory-sailed lovely.

Seven nights cost from £3,000 per person inclusive of breakfast and dinner, speedboat transfers, international flights and one night on a luxury dhoni. (turquoiseholidays.co.uk)

Decked out for the Aeolian islands

Sailing can't possibly get more stylish than boarding a Lungarno yacht. Check into one of the gorgeous Lungarno Collection hotels in Rome or Florence, owned by the Ferragamo family, and you'll have access to their Swan Yacht collection. Just launched is the new Swan 90 S Alix, which is available for sailing around the Aeolian islands. The seven small islands that make up this volcanic archipelago north of Sicily include the jet-set haunts of Panarea and Stromboli, known for their pristine waters that are perfect for diving and exploring its colourful sea life. On-board it's all gleaming decks, fine linens and billowing sails.

The Aeolian itinerary costs from £35,000 per week for six guests. (lungarnocollection.com)

Making a splash in St Tropez

If there's one place to go yachting it's St Tropez. Quite fittingly, the Riviera's iconic hotel Byblos has just launched a glamorous Princess V65 yacht, the Algandra. Guests can hire it for the day (why not pop down to Le Club 55 and really make an entrance?) or spend a few days at sea to escape the party scene. You can bob along the coastline, with picnics at quiet hidden

OPENING IMAGE:
EDMINSTON THE
HIGHLANDER; LEFT:
TIGER BLUE

→bays, or plan an itinerary that will take you to Monaco, Antibes, Cap Ferrat and on to Corsica. Cream leather banquettes, sliding glass doors and a deluxe stateroom mean this is seriously sexy sailing.

The Algandra costs from £3,320 to charter the boat per day with six guests. (byblos.com)

Super fun on a super-yacht

Don't think that jaunts on an ocean wave are just for the young, hip and single. This month, uber-luxe yacht company Y.CO is launching Ocean Paradise, a 55-metre gleaming motor yacht with just about every gadget under the sun to keep you and the little ones amused. If your budget permits, you and 11 guests can enjoy an outdoor cinema, dance floor, and even a water slide from the upper deck. There's a retro arcade game table, Playstation and a veritable armada of water toys, including jet skis, sea bobs, kayaks, towables and wake skates, so there is plenty of fun and action aboard. Factor in the 12 members of the crew to take care of your every whim and it's the kind of holiday every average oligarch would enjoy.

Weekly charter of Ocean Paradise costs from £221,174 for 12 guests. (ycoyacht.com)

At your service on the high seas

One way to take the stress out of organising your yachting expedition is to let someone else do the hard work for you. Have your own private consultant from MGMT Concierge plan the trip from start to finish. Their knowledge spans further than luxury yachts and you can plan almost any activity you can think of – such as real estate purchases or super-car racing. The team had a high-profile hand in arranging for the superyachts to visit London during last year's Olympics, so rest assured that your high sea adventure is in excellent hands.

(020 7193 3206; mgmtconcierge.com) ☒

FROM TOP: ALILA
PURNAMA; IMAGE
COURTESY OF
LUGARNO; IMAGES
COURTESY OF MGMT
CONCIERGE; BYBLOS
ALGANDRA

