

PRESTIGE

YACHT

2016

SETTING SAIL DISCOVERING THAILAND



ALL ABOARD
POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE

JETSET LIFESTYLE
YACHTING TRENDS

BERTHS OF A NATION
WORLD-CLASS MARINAS



PRESTIGE THAILAND

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PRESTIGE YACHT

(THAILAND AHOY!

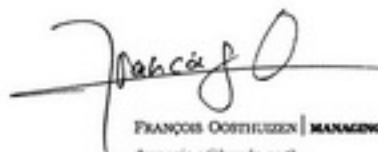
ONE OF THE MOST exciting developments on Thailand's tourism landscape is the Kingdom's rise as Southeast Asia's foremost yachting destination, joining the ranks of the Mediterranean and Caribbean as playgrounds of the beautiful, rich and famous. A delectable concoction of spectacular scenery, perfect sailing conditions year-round, a diverse choice of on- and off-shore attractions, as well as world-class marina facilities make for an alluring cocktail that any sailing enthusiast will find impossible to resist.

I'll certainly never forget my first sailing experience in Thailand... The humble, 40-foot catamaran was not much of an indicator of the experience that was to follow, as the real show-stopper proved to be the cruising grounds itself – awe-inspiring Ao Nang Bay in Krabi with the dramatic limestone karst formations of uninhabited islands. The water was warm and inviting; the colour resembling that of a dazzling, deep-blue sapphire. The Champagne, chilled to 8 degrees celsius. Pure, unadulterated bliss.

Improved marina facilities and the emergence of prominent local events like the Phuket King's Cup Regatta on the international yachting circuit have both played important roles in reaffirming Thailand's newfound status as a prime yachting destination. Meanwhile, hot spots in the south like Phuket and Koh Samui have also kept up with other global lifestyle trends like chic beach clubs.

Indeed, Thailand has it all. So set sail with us – albeit only in the pages of this special Prestige supplement – as we embark on a journey all around the Kingdom's coastline. We throw anchor at all the important stops along the way, from marinas and beach clubs to the most popular and scenic sights.

Bon Voyage!



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CALENDAR

THAILAND



30TH PHUKET KING'S CUP REGATTA

DECEMBER 3 - 10, 2016

Thailand's most famous international yachting event includes a week of racing, glamorous beachside parties, and over 1,500 sailors and guests. It is, unsurprisingly, also one of Southeast Asia's largest and most popular regattas.

Launched in 1987 to celebrate His Majesty the King's birthday, the event has since expanded and gained much momentum on the international yachting scene, successfully drawing sailors and visitors from all over the world. Azure Andaman waters, calm seas and gorgeous beaches are all part of the appeal of the week-long regatta.

kingscup.com



OCEAN MARINA PATTAYA BOAT SHOW

NOVEMBER 24-27, 2017

Held at Ocean Marina Yacht Club in Pattaya, visitors can expect not just top yacht brands, but superbikes and supercars, a show centered around the yachting lifestyle.

oceanmarinapattayaboatshow.com

ASIA SUPERYACHT RENDEZVOUS

DECEMBER 16-18, 2016

With the only stipulation being that the motor and sailing yachts are over 24 metres (78 feet), this three-day Phuket event attracts superyacht owners and guests from the world over.

asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com

PHUKET INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

JANUARY 5-8, 2017

A highlight of the season attracting thousands of yachting enthusiasts and luxury brand exhibitors, PIMEX, as it is known, has earned a permanent place on the marine calendar, attracting over 5,000 visitors in 2016.

phuketboatshow.com

THAILAND YACHT SHOW

DECEMBER 15-18, 2016

Created by the organizers of the Singapore Yacht Show, the second edition of the show follows an inaugural event in February 2016, combining the best aspects of yacht charter, boating and luxury lifestyle events. It will be staged in the biggest superyacht marina in the Asia-Pacific region, Ao Po Grand

Marina in Phuket.

thailandyachtshow.com

TOP OF THE GULF REGATTA

MAY 4-8, 2017

The 13th edition of this regatta will host a range of boats, including dinghies, keelboats and multihulls, held at Ocean Marina Yacht Club in Jomtien, Pattaya.

topofthegulfregatta.com

THE BAY REGATTA

FEBRUARY 15-19, 2017

The Bay Regatta is picturesque, with four days of sailing around and sampling the many beautiful islands of Krabi, Phuket and Phang Nga.

bayregatta.com

CAPE PANWA HOTEL PHUKET RACEWEEK

JULY 19 - 23, 2017

Four days of world-class yacht racing in Phuket are all a part of this Cape Panwa Hotel hosted Raceweek, one of Asia's fastest-growing regattas.

phuketraceweek.com

REGIONAL



RAJA MUDA SELANGOR INTERNATIONAL REGATTA

NOVEMBER, 2017
This challenging offshore race takes participants on a familiar tour of Port Klang-Pangkor-Penang Langkawi.
rmslr.com

ROYAL LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL REGATTA

JANUARY 9-14, 2017
The 15th annual event will be joined by 40 boats in a variety of classes, from racing class to club cruisers, competing for much-coveted class-specific, as well as overall awards.
langkawiregatta.com

SINGAPORE YACHT SHOW

APRIL 6-9, 2017
Luxury yacht brands, including Heesen Yachts, Gulf Craft, X-Yachts and others will be exhibiting at this show, offering guests a range of superyachts, sporty day boats, family cruisers and more.
singaporeyachtshow.com

KUALA LUMPUR 2017 29TH SEA GAMES

AUGUST 19-31, 2017
Malaysia last hosted the SEA Games 14 years ago and the 2017 event, which includes sailing in its competitions, is particularly significant as it is the year Malaysia celebrates its 60th year of independence.
kualalumpur2017.com.my/

INTERNATIONAL



SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE

DECEMBER 26, 2016 - JANUARY 1, 2017
Some 70 years have passed for this Australia mid-summer sports icon, which begins on Boxing Day in Sydney, and ends a few days later in Tasmania.
rolexsydneyhobart.com

KIEL WEEK

JUNE 17-25, 2017
Also called Kieler Woche, the world-renowned German extravaganza sees 5,000 yachtsmen and women from 50 countries participate in more than 400 planned regatta starts and 40 sailing events.
kieler-woche.de

2017-2018 VOLVO OCEAN RACE

OCTOBER, 2017
This nine-month race, considered the "Everest of sports", begins in Spain and ends with an in-port



race at The Hague in the Netherlands, with seven teams competing.
volvooceanrace.com

TRANSPACIFIC YACHT RACE

JULY 3-23, 2017
Otherwise known as Transpac, this 49th long-distance offshore yacht race kicks off from Los Angeles and ends in Honolulu, totaling over 4,000 km.
transpacyc.com

CANNES YACHTING FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 8-13, 2017
With nearly 600 boats on display in the water and on land, this leading Europe in-water boat show is hosted in three gorgeous French Riviera sites: the Vieux Port, the Port Pierre Canto and the Palais des Festivals.
cannesyachtingfestival.com



SOUTHAMPTON BOAT SHOW

SEPTEMBER 15-24, 2017
The largest on-water boat show in the UK, the Southampton Boat Show began in 1968 and alongside the London Boat Show (earlier in the year), is considered one of the major annual boat shows in the country.
southamptonboatshow.com

MONACO YACHT SHOW

SEPTEMBER 27-30, 2017
The 2015, 25th anniversary edition, saw record numbers of around 34,500 participants and over 530 exhibitors with 121 boats on show; with the 2017 event at Port Hercules sure to attract similar attention from yachting fans.
monacoyachtshow.com

PHUKET KING'S CUP
REGATTA 2015*Auspicious
Affair*

Thailand's famous international yachting event, The Phuket King's Cup Regatta, returned to the azure waters of the Andaman Ocean in December last year for a celebration of world-class sailing. After a week of exciting racing, H.E. Admiral Chumpol Pachusanon, representative of HM the King, presided over the Royal Award Ceremony. Another of the event's highlights was a candle-lighting ceremony to celebrate HM the King's birthday. The closing party was attended by VIPs and hundreds of sailors from around the world, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display over Kata Bay. The regatta's 30th Anniversary will be celebrated in 2016.



SAMUI REGATTA 2016

*Scenic
Sailing*

The 13th Samui Regatta, organised by Regattas Asia and hosted at Centara Grand Beach Resort Samui, attracted top international boats and crews from around Asia and beyond to compete in five days of world-class sailing off Samui Island. Famous for its parties on the beach, the season-ending event in the prestigious Asian Yachting Grand Prix closed with a lavish gala dinner.





THE SINGAPORE YACHT SHOW 2016

Rising Popularity

Returning once again to the vibrant atmosphere of ONE:15 Marina Club in Sentosa Cove, the 2016 event epitomises luxury lifestyle, bringing together world-class yachts and superyachts, glamorous parties, high-end entertainment and prestigious products and brands, from supercars, fine dining, beautiful timepieces, handcrafted jewellery and some of the region's most luxurious waterside properties.



THE MONACO YACHT SHOW 2016

Mediterranean Glamour

Monaco may be minute in terms of land area, but it plays host to the world's leading show in prestigious superyachts. The 2016 event ran through September 28 - October 1, bringing together buyers, owners and yacht enthusiasts for the 26th annual exhibition, with a gala dinner the evening before the show. The MYS Awards were a big highlight with several superyachts recognised for their build and design features.



AUDEMARS PIGUET ROYAL OAK OFFSHORE CHRONOGRAPH 42-MM

First introduced in 2002, the Royal Oak Offshore proved to be a pioneer, setting a new trend for large-sized watches. Today, the collection continues on the same path, with the case of the new threesome measuring a full 42-mm. Classic, signature codes are all still there, while horological substance comes from a mechanical self-winding movement and exceptional finishing.

**CARL F. BUCHERER PATRAVI SCUBATEC**

The latest member of the Patravi family – the distinctive Patravi ScubaTec diving watch – is attractive, robust and easy to read, both above and below the surface of the ocean. Precision and functionality are perfectly combined in the casual look of this timepiece; the automatic movement has been integrated into a rose gold case with a size of 44.6-mm and the accuracy of the movement is attested by a C.O.S.C. chronometer certificate.

**HUBLOT CLASSIC FUSION YACHT CLUB DE MONACO**

This timepiece above all represents a deep love for the sea – whether on the water or on land, yachting in competitions or for pleasure. The crocodile leather strap matches completely with navy blue guany croc rubber on the dial. The watch has a YMC logo at the six o'clock position and a case made of titanium. It's lightweight, guarantees shock resistance and is completely corrosion-free.

**SAILING THE SEVEN SEAS**

The link between sailing and timekeeping is a bond that's strengthened every year with a fleet of new nautical wonders. Good timing is fundamental to success on the open sea, and there's a perfect watch for every sailor.





IWC AQUATIMER CHRONOGRAPH
Compared with its predecessor, the new Aquatimer Chronograph has undergone a visible process of development: not only is it more elegant but also has considerably higher pressure-resistance. From a technical point of view, the timepiece features a newly-developed external/internal rotating bezel, and ticking away inside the 44-mm stainless-steel case is a robust 70320-calibre chronograph movement with a 44-hour power reserve.



PARMIGIANI PERSHING 005 CHRONOGRAPH
Introduced in 2014 at the SIHH watch fair, these chronograph watches have 45mm-diameter titanium cases and a choice of either white gold or rose gold bezels. This particular model was designed with the colours of the Brazilian national team (CEB), and comes on a blue Hermès alligator leather strap. The partnership between Parmigiani and Italian yacht builder Pershing was forged in 2008 with the limited edition "one-one-five" chronograph.



ROLEX YACHT-MASTER II
Designed to meet the needs of professional sailors, this regatta chronograph features the world's first programmable countdown with a mechanical memory. It provides precise synchronisation with the crucial starting sequence of a yacht race. The Yacht-Master II's bold and distinguished marine character is firmly in line with the spirit of the Oyster Professional watches, while inside it is equipped with a calibre 4181, self-winding mechanical regatta chronograph movement.

**LIGHTNING SPEED**

Touted as the world's largest and fastest aluminum motor yacht, **BURGESS's** 252.6-ft *Silver Fast* boasts a top speed of 27 knots, thanks to her powerful MTU engines. burgessyachts.com

**SHARED PASSION**

A partnership between **BENETTI** and **Riton** will see the latter lend its skills to the yacht-maker, while its top clients will have privileged access to Benetti's superyacht world. benetti.com

**HOME ON THE WATER**

H2 YACHT DESIGN's 150-ft *Bilgin 152* is able to reach a top speed of 16 knots and is fitted with 11 cabins, two saloons, a sun deck area, a beach club and a garage area. h2yacht.com

HAUL OUT

Great news for owners of large trailer-able yachts, **AO PO GRAND MARINA** in Phuket has unveiled its new 80-tonne, 100-ft trailer lift designed to help members with large yachts easily haul their vessels to the boat ramp for launch, or back to the storage bay after returning to shore – normally a huge headache with large yachts. The lift allows the marina to haul boats with up to a 3.4-metre draft, which Ao Po Grand Marina manager Derek Van Deventer claims is the largest such lift found in Southeast Asia. The new piece of gear was developed and built by Roodberg, the gold standard for slipway trailer design in the world.

PERSONAL TOUCH

Custom-built for a hotelier with both a love for art and the yachting lifestyle, **FEADSHIP's** newly launched superyacht *Aquarius* celebrates her new owner's multifarious passions. Not only does the owner's expertise in the high-end hotel sector manifest in the level of luxury accorded by the staterooms and suites, his experiences and a keen eye for detail and scale has helped optimise the galleys, pantries and crew service areas. The superyacht's user-friendly layout and well-lit interiors have also proven to be the perfect gallery space for artworks from his private collection. Talk about leaving your mark.

feadship.nl



CALL ME MAYBE

Accommodating up to 12 guests in six bedrooms, the tri-deck *Maybe*, built by **METALSHIPS & DOCKS**, is equipped to reach a maximum speed of 17 knots.

metalships.com



BE OUR GUEST

Able to fit up to 10 guests in four larger cabins instead of the usual five, the *Bilgin 156* by **H2 YACHT DESIGN** also has an owner's suite complete with a hull balcony.

h2yacht.com



WINNING TOUCH

The 76-ft **RIVA Bahamas** won the World Yachts Trophies award for Best Exterior Design in the 50ft-80ft range category at the recent Cannes Yachting Festival.

riva-yacht.com

Nautical Adventurers

Prominent casual and avid yachters weigh in on the appeal of Thailand's azure waters



THE MARITIME ORGANISER

Koravit Bharubandh Na Ayudhya has been sailing since she was eight years old, learning first on a simple Optimist sailing boat. Her father, uncle and brother also sail, making yachting a family affair. Now she is a member of the organising committee of the prestigious Phuket King's Cup, as well as the general manager at her family-owned luxury boutique hotel MaDuZi. She credits the Phuket King's Cup with the growing popularity of Thailand as a yachting destination.

WHY DO YOU THINK THAILAND HAS GROWN SO POPULAR AS A YACHTING DESTINATION?

When the King's Cup started the year His Majesty celebrated his 60th birthday about 28 years ago, my father and a group of sailors petitioned the government to make Thailand a tax-free zone for yachts... Since then, if you come in and stay no more than a month, you don't have to pay any tax...

From then on, there was hard work on all the sailors' parts to promote Thailand as a cool place and to make the Phuket King's Cup really well known. We have 100 boats a year... Each year, people come – on shore and on the water – they all know about it. Over the years we put a lot of effort into making the Andaman coast a sailing destination, a marine holiday and yachting destination.

HOW DOES THAILAND COMPARE TO OTHER YACHTING DESTINATIONS, LIKE THE CARIBBEAN OR THE MEDITERRANEAN?

Our water is not very cold, the islands are beautiful and the water is clean. I think also for the boaters, the cost of travel is much cheaper on our islands than the Mediterranean. There's a lot of yachting now expanding in Asia, so many boats are trying to find destinations within Asia. Now they don't have to go all the way [to the Caribbean or the Mediterranean].



THE GLOBAL SKIPPER

Patinyakorn "Ging" Buranrom is the first Thai skipper to sail the Transpac 2013, the farthest of two of the oldest ocean races worldwide. His team (which he co-skipped) finished a celebrated third. He started sailing when a friend invited him to sail at the Ao Chalong Yacht Club – he fell in love and from then on began learning about it in earnest. The Mahasarakham native now has his own boat and a sailing team, the Sansiri Windstar.

WHY DO YOU THINK THAILAND HAS GROWN SO POPULAR AS A YACHTING DESTINATION?

There are many factors. To put it briefly, Thailand has a variety of beautiful islands and seas along with weather conditions where you can sail year-round. The people are friendly, the food is excellent, and its culture and traditions are charming in its own way. It has a complete range of venues to moor and perform maintenance on boats. In Phuket, for instance, you can build an entire boat from the parts available there at a lower cost compared to other countries, but at a comparable quality and beauty.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE YACHTING EXPERIENCE ALONG THAILAND'S COASTLINE?

I have many, but I will mention two in particular. First is the Similan Islands National Park; the water there is very clear and it has remained in its natural state. It racks near the top of the world's most beautiful seas. Second is sailing from Phuket up to Phang Nga Bay, sailing amongst Krabi's various islands and coming back to Phuket. It's truly an unforgettable experience...



THE CASUAL CRUISER

Having lived in Thailand for more than 25 years following her move from Hong Kong, Teresa Bieaty and her family long moored their 50-foot Sealine at Ocean Marina. They began boating a decade ago when their two daughters were just 10 and 12.

WHY DO YOU THINK THAILAND HAS GROWN SO POPULAR AS A YACHTING DESTINATION?

In my real estate business over the last 15 years I have seen the Thai market grow immensely in terms of sophistication and consumer expectations. People expect and demand quality services and products. The hard-working Thai families also have new lifestyle aspirations and they are drawn to the health and quality "down time" which boating offers. It is a shared experience that offers fun, adventure and relaxation, all within the space of one weekend on the water...

HOW DOES THAILAND COMPARE TO OTHER YACHTING DESTINATIONS, LIKE THE CARIBBEAN OR THE MEDITERRANEAN?

Every boating destination offers different experiences. The Med is wonderful in terms of the numbers of marinas and facilities. Visiting old cities on the coast can be magical but unfortunately the Med is very crowded and the only time you can avoid those crowds is outside the summer months, which means the weather is not too great. The Caribbean offers an equally good climate as Thailand but during their tropical storm season it can be dangerous. Boating in Thailand is still a little limited in terms of marinas but the weather is very reliable and rarely dangerous. We are happy with these limited facilities if we can enjoy safe all-year-round cruising and with no crowded moorings.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE YACHTING EXPERIENCE ALONG THAILAND'S COASTLINE?

A typical weekend means we rarely have to go further than the immediate vicinity of Ocean Marina. The area which includes Koh Kram, Koh Lan and Koh Phai is within 124 square miles and is as big as the Solent area off the south coast of England, which is renowned for sailing. We often go to Koh Samet... Koh Chang is readily accessible, where the waters are truly beautiful but that involves rather more trouble in terms of provisioning the boat and a bigger commitment to time...



THE SPEEDSTER

Foreign-educated Vittawat "Chacnp" Chinabaramee is the managing director of Niche Cars, which retails supercars and hypercars ranging from Pagani's to Lamborghini's. He ranks as the second generation in his family to helm the business. But the 33-year-old's love of speed extends to the water as well, and he counts sailing as another favourite hobby.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH YACHTING?

I began when older students took me down to the Chao Phraya to go boating. It felt strange and new. It was also relaxing to float down the river and dine by the riverside after a day's work. There are hundreds of restaurants by the riverside. I've fallen in love ever since with the ambience of boating and the water, and began buying boats since. The first boat I bought was a 27-footer, and I really liked it, so I bought another; it was a 57-foot boat, and I liked it even more. I wanted to share this nice feeling with other people so I began selling them.

WHY DO YOU THINK THAILAND HAS GROWN SO POPULAR AS A YACHTING DESTINATION?

Thailand has relatively constant temperatures and rather tame monsoons for the standard boat that is for sale on the market. We also have many world heritage sites on land and under water, so this country is the best for owning a boat, compared to other countries.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE YACHTING EXPERIENCE ALONG THAILAND'S COASTLINE?

From all my boating experiences, it would be the surprises I arranged for my parents. For instance, while we were sailing and my parents were sleeping, I headed to the Hong Islands in Krabi province. When my parents woke up, they were surrounded by these islands and it made them feel like they were in paradise.

Port of Call

Kasem Chiarasomboon arrived on Phuket in the early 1970s before the advent of tourism. Fast forward a few decades and the island has grown into one of the world's premier resort destinations with four marinas, including Ao Po Grand Marina – a 300-berth facility that can accommodate superyachts of over 328 feet in length – which he founded

WHEN KASEM CHIARASOMBOON landed on Phuket in 1972, he was advised to avail himself of the island's pristine water and fresh coastal air to counteract the effects of working in the province's tin mining industry. Over the years, the Sumatra-born, naturalised Thai citizen would learn to snorkel, scuba dive and sail, finally owning a second-hand 44-foot sailing ketch.

He – and his adopted island – have come a long way since then.

Back then, due to the lack of a safe berth during monsoon season, Kasem resorted to anchoring close to an offshore island and hiring a local fisherman to look after his boat until the storm season passed.

It wasn't until after a trip to Singapore, and a visit to Raffles Marina (the only marina there at the time), that he would go on to help set up Phuket's first marina – Phuket Boat Lagoon. Nearly a decade later, however, he was forced to take an extended hiatus following a serious accident while test-driving a Ferrari.

Admittedly, sitting still isn't something Kasem is very good at, and after a few years he decided it was high time the island had another marina – one that offered 24-hour access with zero tide restrictions. Ao Po Grand Marina, named after the private bay it perches on, soft-opened on the auspicious date of August 8, 2008.

AO PO GRAND MARINA IS ONE OF TWO MARINAS ON PHUKET THAT CATER SPECIFICALLY TO SUPERYACHTS. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO FOCUS ON THE BIGGER BOATS?

It's supply and demand. We're fortunate because during very low tide at our marina there's still seven metres of draft, which naturally opens up access for superyachts. We recently had a visiting 197-foot superyacht, with 300-foot and 360-foot vessels arriving in the following weeks. There has been, and will be, more and more bigger boats visiting Thailand in the future.

AO PO GRAND MARINA HOSTED THE INAUGURAL THAILAND YACHT SHOW IN FEBRUARY 2016. CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT IT?

The focal point of the show is the luxury yacht charter business in Asia-Pacific, which mirrors the Thai government's plans to establish the country as a marina hub. As the host venue, we are showing our support for the initiative. It was highly successful for a debut yacht show, and well attended by international exhibitors.

To allow HNWIs the chance to visit the show before enjoying the rest of the holiday season on Phuket, we've decided to move it to December, which means the second Thailand Yacht Show will take place on December 15-18 this year.



TWO NEW MARINAS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR PHUKET – HOW DOES AO PO GRAND MARINA INTEND TO DIFFERENTIATE ITSELF, AND ARE THERE FUTURE EXPANSION PLANS FOR THE MARINA?

All four marinas on Phuket are running at full or near-full capacity, so there needs to be new marinas to accommodate the growth in the marine industry. We invest a lot to keep Ao Po Grand Marina constantly updated, and we may also open a hotel in the future, but in the meantime we will continue to offer world class facilities and the best services.

IN RECENT MONTHS THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED A NEW LICENSE FOR FOREIGN-FLAGGED SUPERYACHTS (30+ METRES) TO CHARTER IN THAI WATERS – HOW WILL THIS POLICY AFFECT THE MARINE INDUSTRY?

The policy is heading in the right direction, but it's still not perfect – the door is still half open. Immigration and customs issues need to be resolved. But when they are, more boats will come here and the marine industry will definitely grow.

We have the best cruising grounds in the region – to the north, we have hundreds of untouched islands off Myanmar, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the west, and the area around Sumatra, off Indonesia's 3,000-kilometre-long west coast. Bigger boats can go further, and like avid golfers seeking out different courses, keen SCUBA divers like to explore different underwater worlds and charter guests want to visit new places and experience varied cultures. Geographically, Phuket is perfectly positioned, and when the policies make it attractive for visiting yachts – much like Monaco is for the Mediterranean – Phuket will become the marina hub for the Andaman. **■**

Captain of Industry

An industry insider and yachting enthusiast who fell in love with the Thai coastline decades ago, VINCENT TABUTEAU shares his views with *Prestige*

FRENCH-BORN VINCENT TABUTEAU is a veteran yachter who arrived in Phuket 30 odd years ago upon hearing news of a skipper position, and has been in Thailand ever since. He is also an industry insider in his role as the managing director of Asia Marine, which charters yachts (with or without crews) and is the exclusive retailer of several yacht brands. An advocate of Thailand's growing yacht scene, Tabuteau has been active in promoting the cause within the industry as well.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE THAILAND ROUTES OR ISLANDS TO STOP AT?

Several routes are possible depending on what kind of cruise you are looking for. Phang Nga Bay is a very exotic and unique cruising ground with its well-known limestone islands' cliffs and their 'hongs' or caves that one explores with sea canoes. The bay is protected 12 months a year and therefore is also available during the Southwest monsoons.

Phi Phi Islands and Koh Lanta are landmarks as well. The landscape is very spectacular and they are also appreciated for their vibrant atmosphere with local restaurants, shops and also nightlife. However, because of this success, the beaches and anchorages around Phi Phi Islands are often overcrowded with day-tripper speedboats during the high season.

My favourite destinations would be the national park of Koh Rock Nock and the Butang Archipelago, at the border with Malaysia. With gorgeous coral beaches, crystal-clear water and spectacular underwater life they are the typical tropical paradises and offer the privacy sailors are looking for.

North of Phuket, the Islands of Similan and Surin are also very famous for their amazing world-class scuba diving sites. Despite the few anchorages available these islands are very popular and the main destination for diving operators.

HOW DO THE YACHTING FACILITIES IN THAILAND COMPARE TO TRADITIONAL YACHTING DESTINATIONS SUCH AS THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE CARIBBEAN?

Yacht charter activities began in Phuket some 15 years ago with the arrival of the first 10- to 14-metre bare boat charters. Today the standard of the fleets offered for charter in Thailand is similar to those available in more mature destinations.





Thailand offers outstanding marine services with very competitive and skilled workmanship.

Developing yacht charter activities in Thailand is very similar to other destinations in the world. Marinas, marine expertise and most brands of international marine equipment are available in Phuket and Pattaya.

The luxury superyacht industry (boats over 30 metres with professional crew) has started only a few years ago and is still at its early stage. However, it is growing rapidly. With the size of yachts proposed for charter increasing, the traditional luxury tourism market became involved with yacht cruising and marine tourism.

These superyachts spend millions of Thai Baht in Thailand and they should be encouraged to stay longer and develop their charter activities. The expansion of this lucrative upmarket business will depend on several factors: the development of qualified Thai yacht professionals (so far no dedicated vocational college covers this marine leisure activity), the development of marinas with large yacht facilities and the adaptation of regulations for yachts visiting Thailand.

Several boat builders are now well established and produce quality sailing or motor yachts at very attractive prices. Superyacht refitting is now well established in Thailand (for instance, in Phuket or Samut Prakan).

The number of yachts working in or visiting Phuket will continue to increase and so will the number of marinas and shipyards. The challenge, as usual, is to balance the development of the activity with the management of the destination.

WHY DO YOU THINK THAILAND IS EMERGING AS A PREMIERE YACHTING DESTINATION?

Primarily because it is one of the most exotic sailing destinations in the world, and all marine services now exist to support visiting luxury


yachts or the operation of charter yacht fleets. If we consider the profitability of their fleet, bare boat charter operators (mid-range sailing boats rented without a crew) reckon that Thailand is probably one of the most popular destinations in the world. In addition to the legendary charm of "Amazing Thailand," sailors are attracted by the variety of cruising grounds. From popular resorts to deserted anchorages and the underwater life, Thailand offers a sense of adventure that overcrowded Mediterranean and Caribbean cruising grounds have lost long ago.

However, management of the destination will become an issue. People go cruising to enjoy privacy. Keeping a low-density, high-quality cruising ground is essential to keeping this attractiveness. Some overcrowded beaches around Phuket have lost their appeal as the number of visitors [rose] above their capacity. Managing these sites will become an increasingly difficult challenge.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CAN'T-MISS YACHTING EVENTS IN THAILAND FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE SPORT?

For sportive sailors, the main event is the Phuket King's Cup Regatta every year in December. Some other regattas have been developed with success such as the Phuket Race Week in July, the Pattaya-based Top of the Gulf regatta in April and the Samui Regatta in May.

For all the boats shows, which are the events where everyone gathers to discover the newest models, the latest equipment and more, there are two established boat shows: Pirnex (Phuket International Boat Show) and the Ocean Marina Boat show in Jomtien (Pattaya).

The Thailand Yacht Show, inaugurated February 2016, is the latest addition. Taking place at Phuket's Ao Po Grand Marina, the event is predominantly a charter show with a business-to-business (B2B) focus. The event is an opportunity to attract charter brokers from around the world and introduce them to the region's enormous potential for cruising. 

All Aboard!

The postcard-perfect scenery is what brings yachts to Thailand, but they stay – and return – for the quality of marine services and onshore luxuries. TINA HSIAO-KLUK takes a look at both the offshore allure and onshore appeal of the Kingdom's favourite yachting destinations



FLANKED BY THE Andaman Sea along the west coast and the Gulf of Thailand in the east, Thailand boasts some of the most spectacular natural scenery in the region, which offers the ideal backdrop for perfect sailing. Every year, regattas held around the country highlight the Kingdom's top-class yachting facilities and stunning cruising grounds, including international yacht races in Phuket, Phang Nga Bay, Hua Hin, Pattaya and Koh Samui.

"Thailand is a perfect market for the yachting enthusiast and has been a mainstay of our Asian operation for many years," says Mark Russell, group general manager of yacht brokerage and service provider Simpson Marine. "The excellent marina facilities and established support infrastructure, combined with beautiful cruising grounds and remote islands and beaches to explore, makes Thailand an ideal destination for yacht owners or those looking for a few days chartering."

Over the past five years, Thailand has seen a significant increase in the number of yachts – and luxurious superyachts – calling on the Kingdom's shores. The result of this demand has raised the standards of the boating and emerging superyacht industry. To cater specifically to larger vessels, Yacht Solutions joined forces with Italtal Marine to open a superyacht shipyard near Bangkok and host numerous yachts for refit and

maintenance work.

"We've been in Thailand for 15 years and have seen a year-on-year increase in the number of luxury yachts in the region," agrees Gareth Twist, managing director of Yacht Solutions and Rusea Yachts. "These are either visiting the region or have been bought by Asian-based owners and are resident yachts. The demand for charters is increasing too – as the wealth in Asia rises, Thailand is an extremely popular charter destination as it offers something for everyone – both on land and at sea."

Superyacht support service providers Asia Pacific Superyachts (APS) brought over 50 superyachts to Phuket this year alone, plus eight superyachts that extended their stay in Koh Samui. "There are thousands of these floating palaces in Europe and there are no berths left for them at marinas," says Gordon Fernandes, general manager of Asia Pacific Superyachts (APS) Phuket and Myanmar. "Another excellent reason to bring their yacht over to Asia for the winter."



PHUKET

Long renowned as one of Southeast Asia's top sailing locations, Phuket is the hub of a region that is widely touted as the "third destination" after the traditional cruising grounds of the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. The island hosts a number of regattas and marine expos every year, including the high-profile Phuket King's Cup Regatta, which was inaugurated in 1987 under royal patronage, and the the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous held every December.

As the number of superyacht berths continues to rise throughout Southeast Asia, Phuket, in particular, has emerged as a hub for visiting superyachts, leading to more marine industry professionals making Thailand their base of operations.

"While figures can be blurred due

to the various comings and goings, as a general guide we had a total of 64 yachts around 100 feet pass through in the 2013/14 season, compared to 25 four years ago," says Zara Tremlett, half of the marina management duo at Yacht Haven, which also reported regular 100 percent berth capacities last season.

With four full-service marinas and gorgeous cruising grounds, Phuket is Thailand's most developed yachting destination, with a large selection of bigger and more luxurious charter boats. "We have seen significant growth in all our markets over the past five years," confirms Rico Stapel, charter manager of Princess Yachts Southeast Asia, "but the most popular and fastest growing market is Phuket."

OFFSHORE ALLURE

The range of cruising grounds around Phuket and within easy reach of the island is as vast as it is stunning; top day sail destinations from Phuket include the Racha Islands, Rang Islands, Kai Islands, Naka Islands, Coral Island, Phi Phi Island and the picturesque Phang Nga Bay.

Larger sail and motor yachts can strike out for the famed natural wonders of the Similan and Surin archipelagos, located further offshore. "For guests with at least a week," says Princess Yachts' Stapel, "I'd suggest they explore the Mergui Archipelago off Myanmar, or head south to Langkawi in Malaysia as there are lots of beautiful islands to visit on the way."

The cruising grounds around the island - ranging from dramatic limestone-studded bays to uninhabited pristine islands - is a geographical asset that has made Phuket one of the region's most popular charter choices. The increased interest in chartering has also led the team behind Singapore Yacht Show to launch the Thailand Yacht Show, which made its debut in February 2016.



PHI PHI ISLAND EXCURSION BY TRISARA

ONSHORE APPEAL

As yachting takes hold in Asia, Phuket is fast becoming a mecca for marine-based leisure with boat owners, crew and charter guests not only converging to enjoy the island's diverse choice of offshore attractions, but also onshore luxuries - including world-class resorts and fine dining. In addition to comprehensive pleasure boating facilities and services, Thai culture and food remain a big draw for visitors.

The island is home to numerous accommodation options, ranging from quayside hotels situated in marinas to secluded high-end resorts that offer guests the best of tropical luxury living. Combined with the growth in holiday villas, visiting yachts and charter guests enjoy countless overnight options when they are off the boat.

Similarly, dining options on the island run the full gamut - from seafood eateries serving freshly caught fare to white linen fine dining establishments headed up by renowned Thai and international chefs.



PHUKET KING'S CLIP (PHOTO BY GUY NOWELL)



ANDAMAN CRUISES

PATTAYA

Thanks to its proximity to the Thai capital, Pattaya is Thailand's most visited tourist destination and a popular weekend spot for Bangkokians. The thriving beach resort city, which in recent years has reinvented itself as a family-friendly seaside getaway with a mature tourism infrastructure and a world-class marina complex, also plays host to the annual Top of the Gulf Regatta, one of the largest multi-class sailing events in Asia.

"Pattaya is fortunate to have some incredible islands just an hour's cruise away," says Scott Finster, harbour master of Ocean Marina Yacht Club. "Although it is generally known for its nightlife and shopping, very few realise the crystal-clear waters and white sand beaches we have in this area." The seaside city's

reputation is slowly changing with the recent arrival of a Cartoon Network-themed water park and other family-friendly venues opening up.

In the last five years, Pattaya has seen a marked growth in yachting interest, expansion which led Ocean Marina, the region's only full-service marina, to grow from 230 berths in 2012 to over 370 today, and also to install a new 75-tonne travel lift.

The marina also hosts the annual Pattaya Boat Show, which offers interested guests from Bangkok the opportunity to touch, feel, and experience the yachting lifestyle.

OFFSHORE ALLURE

Escape the bustling eastern seaboard and head for the horizon. Speckled in the Gulf of Thailand off the coast of Pattaya, lesser-known islands provide perfect day cruises or extended overnight getaways, including Koh Phai, Koh Larn, Koh Man Wichai, Koh Rin and Koh Khram.

There are plenty of day trip options too, depending on whether guests wish to go ashore to explore islands or stay anchored off a secluded island and enjoy the

onboard privacy and luxuries. A typical day, shares Finster, could start off at Koh Phai for a swim, followed by lunch and snorkeling at Koh Rin or Koh Khram Noi. On the way back, a stop off at Koh Phet to feed the monkeys is a popular option.

Koh Samet is another popular two- to three-day itinerary from Pattaya, and for guests with a week or more, Koh Chang and Koh Samui are just a day or two's sail away.

ONSHORE APPEAL

Pattaya has benefited from decades of development, resulting in a strong tourism infrastructure. As such there is no shortage of leisure distractions on shore to complement the yachting lifestyle. In addition to a robust nightlife, charter guests and boat owners have a good choice of luxury resorts, shopping and delectable dining options at their fingertips.

KOH SAMUI

Sitting pretty in the Gulf of Thailand, Koh Samui is roughly half the size of Thailand's largest island (Phuket) and a true tropical gem, blanketed with lush, forested interiors and arches of sandy shore peppered with swaying coconut palms.

The lack of a modern marina on Koh Samui has limited the yachting industry's growth, but visiting yachts can easily source essentials like water and fuel.

"Samui is unique as there is nothing else in the area – the market is young and fresh," says Marie-Elisabeth Rumens, owner and partner of Hip Horizons who has been operating on the island for four years. The island's geographic location, she adds, is supported by the proximity to world-renowned dive sites such as Sail Rock and Chumphon Pinnacle. What's more, a range of tourist-oriented businesses on the island offer a variety of water sports and side excursions to complement a yachting holiday.

"By relocating from Phuket in March and April to Koh Samui and the Gulf of Siam," reveals Captain Charlie Dwyer of APS Koh Samui, "superyachts have discovered their cruising itinerary can be extended up to nine months." A number of superyachts visited Koh Samui in recent months, he said, and once the owners sampled the natural beauty of this virgin cruising ground, many decided to extend their itineraries.

The island is also the proud host of the annual Samui Regatta, comprising the final races of the annual Asian Yachting Grand Prix season. Since the first event in 2002 with just 11 boats, the regatta now attracts an impressive 500 competitors hailing from 22 countries.

OFFSHORE ALLURE

The calm waters of the Gulf of Thailand provide yachting enthusiasts with ample opportunities for smooth sailing. The nearby islands of Koh Phangan, Koh Tao and Koh Nangyan are popular for day trips, but the most scenic destination is perhaps the Angthong National Marine Park, a stunning collection of 42 emerald islands and islets whose striking beauty inspired the book *The Beach*.

"Koh Samui holds her own," comments Rumens. "The island offers fantastic options for day sailing, especially with places like Angthong National Marine Park so easy to reach, which is beautiful to cruise with an untold number of deserted beaches."

Guests with a longer multi-day holiday can set a course northwards into the Gulf of Siam, where the choice of destinations to anchor off is vast and varied, from the peaceful



and pristine Koh Kood to the vibrant seafaring city of Pattaya. A cruise along the mainland coast, either north towards Chumphon and Prachuap Khiri Khan, or south towards Khanom and the beaches of Nakhon Si Thammarat, reveals a whole host of lesser-known coasts and swathes of untouched sand.

ONSHORE APPEAL

The island's limited air connectivity has allowed Koh Samui to carve out a defined niche as a high-end tropical destination, featuring a sprinkling of luxury resort hideaways nestled amongst the forested oceanview interiors. World-class wellness retreats and indulgent day spas invite guests to detox and rejuvenate, while leisure pursuits such as golfing offer a scenic way to

enjoy the lush surroundings.

The island has enjoyed swift growth in the number of upmarket resorts and luxury holiday villas providing exclusive lodging options, while better infrastructure for visiting boats and superyachts, as well as a choice of onshore services, mean the potential for luxury yacht charters is also expanding.

Koh Samui boasts an exotic yet sophisticated tropical air; the culinary scene features world-class restaurants as exquisite as those on offer in larger destinations. Every two years, the island's finest eateries come together to organise the Samui Fine Dining Festival, a month-long event which sees top restaurants present a special fine dining menu to highlight Koh Samui's gastronomic offerings.

KRABI

Located a short drive from Phuket, Krabi is renowned for its sea and mountain scenery adorned with sheer limestone karsts. The coastal province is one of the most popular yachting destinations from Phuket, but with the recent opening of several large marinas, Krabi is poised to become a world-class yachting destination in its own right.

The region's mesmerising seascape of limestone pinnacles, hidden beaches and sea caves make the waters off Krabi perhaps the most scenic in the Andaman region. The dramatic landscape has provided the backdrop for a number of high-profile events, including the grand finale of the 2013 Red Bull Cliff-Diving World Series. Krabi also joins Phuket and Phang Nga to make up a trinity of sailing events that together form The Bay Regatta, held in the first quarter of every year.

OFFSHORE ALLURE

Situated on the opposite side of Phang Nga Bay from Phuket, Krabi shares a lot of the same cruising grounds. Right on its doorstep is a majestic bay, where over a hundred limestone outcrops make for one of the most breathtaking on-water experiences in Asia. Krabi also includes the Radlay peninsula – which connects Krabi and Ao Nang – and features thick forests and twisted rock faces that dive down into a sea painted the colour of postcards.

There is no shortage of offshore islands off which to drop anchor for an onshore excursion, kayaking through picturesque hidden lagoons and sea caves before enjoying a

picnic on a deserted island. For a more leisurely cruise, the sun deck or flybridge of a superyacht provides a perfect front row perch to watch the passing scenery, embellished with interesting ocean silhouettes including the chicken head-like island known as Koh Gal.

Further from the coastline, yachting enthusiasts can visit the Poda group of islands or island-hop to the Malaysian border over several days, stopping off at Koh Lanta, Koh Muk, the Koh Rok islands, Koh Lipe, and the Tarutao National Park.

ONSHORE APPEAL

With Krabi International Airport increasingly connected to international destinations, the modest coastal town is slowly but surely stamping a mark on the upscale tourism and yachting scene. Part of its charm is its relative underdevelopment, which leaves nature to impress visitors.

The collection of exclusive five star resorts around Krabi, nestled amongst nature's finest assets are second to none – no stone has been left unturned to provide world-class luxury experiences unsurpassed anywhere in the world.



PICTURE COURTESY OF RAYAVAJEE





PICTURE COURTESY OF PRINCESS YACHTS SOUTHEAST ASIA

NORTHERN GULF OF THAILAND

In addition to the more well-travelled tourist destinations of Koh Samui and Pattaya, the Gulf of Thailand's warm waters also lap up on the shores of several tropical gems.

Situated approximately 200km from Pattaya, Koh Chang is a popular stop-off for yachts setting

sail from other more developed coastal destinations. To cater to this increased interest in the tropical marine lifestyle from residents and visitors, the island has in recent years welcomed its second luxury marina.

Off the northeastern shores of

the Malay Peninsula, the coastal town of Hua Hin has long been a favourite resort with Bangkok weekenders seeking a tropical reprieve in a relaxed and low-key beachfront area which still retains a regal air due to the fact that the royal family maintains an official residence here. Hua Hin also hosts an annual friendly regatta organised by the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand in conjunction with the Royal Thai Navy.

OFFSHORE ALLURE

With over 50 islands in the same archipelagic national marine park, yachts casting off from Koh Chang needn't go far to find picturesque cruising grounds. Blessed with fine sailing conditions year-round, visitors can cast off from one of the marinas along the crescent coastline of the northern Thai gulf and spend several days island- and beach-hopping around the azure waters, making port calls at Koh Hood, Koh Mak and Pattaya before basking in the regal resort atmosphere of Hua Hin.

ONSHORE APPEAL

A firm favourite with Bangkok weekenders, Hua Hin is considered Thailand's oldest seaside resort town, boasting a smattering of high end accommodation and dining options. Similar luxury hideaways can be found on Thailand's second largest island of Koh Chang, where award-winning resorts are tucked away amongst the coconut groves overlooking its pretty bays. **12**

Postcards from Paradise

A myriad of marine-based activities and a whole host of unique experiences on land showcase Thailand as a leisure destination like no other

TROPICAL SUNSHINE. STUNNING cruise grounds and world-class marinas. On shore, excellent value for money, great shopping and even better food. There are numerous reasons why Thailand is so well established as a tourist destination, and increasingly, a yachting destination too.

It's not just one aspect of the Kingdom, but rather an inextricable combination of assets that makes the allure of Thailand impossible to beat. Everyone will have their own to-do lists to cross off while visiting the Land of Smiles, and visitors do not even have to dig particularly deep to find incredible experiences. Here are some of Thailand's finest attractions to get you started on curating an itinerary that will make for lifelong memories.

CULTURE

Bangkok might be a global metropolis, but Thai cities and towns – including the Thai capital and its citizens – are still inherently and undeniably Thai. The local culture is intertwined with everyday lives, existing alongside contemporary advancements that offers a best-of-both-worlds itinerary – a morning long-tail boat tour of ancient temples, a Champagne brunch at a luxury hotel and an evening Muay Thai kickboxing match, followed by nightcaps at a classy watering hole to toast a day well spent. You can enjoy a week exploring the region's marine treasures aboard a superyacht – then on disembarking, visit a local eatery where fishermen have just dropped off the catch of the day for a seafood feast as scrumptious as it is fresh.

CUISINE

One of the most tangible and well-known aspects of Thai culture is the one that is edible, and indeed delectable. Easily among the most

beloved cuisines in the world, Thai food has rightfully earned its spot in gourmands' hearts with a winning blend of fresh ingredients and aromatic spices. As anyone who has experienced Thailand's flavours can attest, street food Kingdom-wide gives Michelin star-worthy establishments a run for their money, while well-stocked wine cellars at fine dining restaurants elevate gastronomic creations to another level altogether.

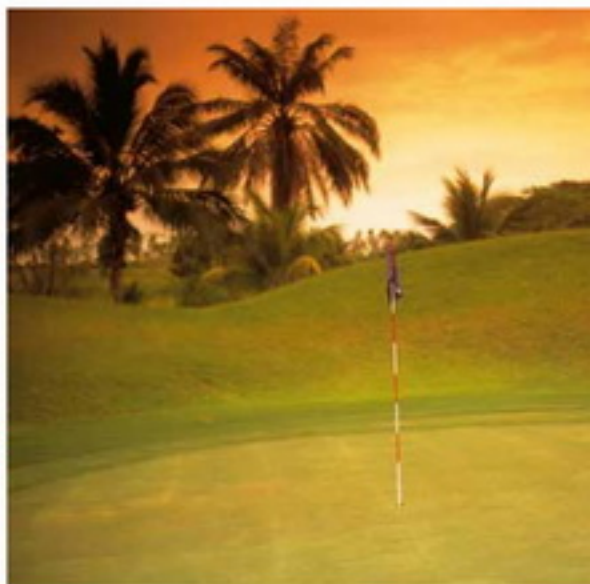
SHOPPING

The range of retail pursuits in the Kingdom has undoubtedly bolstered Thailand's reputation as a world-class leisure destination. Swanky malls – and there are a lot of them, with ever-increasing launches – shimmer with window displays by





PICTURES: TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND



PICTURES: TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND



world-renowned luxury brands. When the sun goes down, vendors across the nation set up their stalls in night markets – an ultimate blind date shopping experience that offers a range of hand-made goods and unique crafts to entice the passing pedestrian.

Spellbindingly chaotic flea markets offer shoppers the thrill of a treasure hunt, where players have to battle the tropical heat and countless distractions to find the holy grail of souvenirs, whatever that may be. For a true cultural shopping experience, floating markets blossom from the country's countless waterways at the crack of dawn as they have for generations, with vendors vying to attract the attention of quayside browsers.

ENTERTAINMENT

Thailand's main cities and resort destinations offer varied entertainment options for residents and visitors. The cities and main resort destinations come alive with vibrant nightlife that pulsates with the beats of international guest DJs and home-grown spinners. Sophisticated urban dwellers head to glamorous rooftop bars for a bird's eye view of the capital, the energetic gather at nightclubs, celebrating their youth. In coastal destinations such as Phuket and Samui, the jet-set and yachting crowd congregate at beach clubs, indulging in the vibrant social life against the stunning ocean backdrop.

Families are also well catered

to with a number of child-friendly facilities across the country, including water parks, amusement parks, zoos and entertaining cultural shows. The country's natural playgrounds lend themselves to a whole new set of activities for the whole family, including ziplining, rock climbing and river rafting.

WELLNESS & GOLF

Whether visitors have it down as a daily activity or a holiday wrap-up indulgence, a Thai massage and spa treatments should be on everyone's Thailand bucket list. Options range from a curb-side foot massage at a night market to a beachside knead under the palm trees or a luxurious treatment at a high-end spa hideaway. Luxurious holistic health and yoga retreats offer multi-day experiences to detox and refocus without sacrificing on the luxe factor.

With hundreds of perfectly manicured courses nationwide, it's no wonder Thailand is a golfer's dream. Gorgeous seaside links and championship courses draped over wooded undulating terrain provide the ideal canvas for a day out on the greens, complemented with warm tropical weather and extremely competitive green fees.

YACHTING & WATERSPORTS

Thailand's beach and island destinations offer a whole set of marine leisure activities that take full advantage of some of Mother Nature's finest characteristics. Long tail boats and speedboats ferry visitors out on day trips to pristine offshore islands, while private yacht charters offer personalised marine excursions with the ultimate exclusivity. The warm waters of the Gulf of Thailand to the east are increasingly popular, as are those of the Andaman Sea off the western coast. In either locale, snorkelers and divers in search of brightly coloured tropical fish, coral reefs and large marine mammals will not be disappointed.

A number of offshore islands are within easy reach of the country's main beach destinations, and day trips to these locations are a popular option for those who are a little less inclined to dive into the big blue. For visitors with more time and a sense of adventure, liveaboard and longer yacht charters allow guests to explore more of the region's multiple marine attractions, whether close to the coast or out in the open sea.

Those wishing to stay next to the shore can opt for watersports including kiteboarding, for which the main season runs from October to May. Kayaking is another popular activity for different age groups, whether exploring uninhabited islands or manoeuvring through coastal mangrove forests. Though the Thai islands do not often see large waves, around the months of June to September, surfers can be seen riding the waves off the west coast of Phuket. Paddle boarding has also taken off in recent times – for beginners, the relatively simple sport is best attempted on days with calmer seas.

FESTIVALS

Colourful and exotic festivals are a staple on the Thai calendar year-round, and offer an ideal opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in the cultures and traditions of Thailand. These vary from the famous Songkran (Water Festival) to ring in the Thai New Year and Loy Krathong (Festival of Lights), to lesser-known festivals that take place in all the provinces.

HOSPITALITY

Famous for the high standard of hospitality, the Land of Smiles presents visitors with a wide selection of world-class choices when it comes to hotels and resorts. Recent years have seen a massive rise in particularly the luxury accommodation sector, with almost all international five-star hospitality brands now represented in Thailand. For those seeking something unique from a design perspective, boutique and traditional Thai experiences abound too. ■



B oat Havens

Marinas in Thailand vary in terms of size and facilities provided; while some focus on providing a luxury lifestyle with onshore amenities for visiting motor cruisers and superyachts, others cater to recreational sailing enthusiasts and refit and repair work.



THAILAND, AND PARTICULARLY Phuket, is one of the best places in the region for refit, repair and maintenance services, thanks to skilled local craftsmanship combined with lower labour costs. More than just a safe haven to berth a boat, marinas offer yacht owners and captains in-water repair and maintenance, while haulout facilities allow more extensive work to be done in a hard-stand area.

Two of the main yachting destinations – Phuket and Pattaya – are both home to world-class marinas which offer full haul-out and refit services. Yacht Haven Marina and Ao Po Grand Marina are Phuket's main superyacht marinas which are able to accommodate large private vessels of up to over 100 metres in length. Royal Phuket Marina can also accommodate small superyachts of up to 35 metres.

Other marinas such as Phuket's Royal Phuket Marina have used the marina as a launching pad to create a lifestyle enclave anchored by a marina and complemented by residences, boutique stores and a number of quayside restaurants and bars along its boardwalk. Ocean Marina in Pattaya and Phuket Boat

Lagoon both offer hotel accommodation for guests who enjoy the marina lifestyle, as well as providing temporary homes for charter guests, boat captains and crew.

The recent growth of the boating industry in Thailand has also seen the addition of smaller marinas along the country's scenic coastlines, including an up-and-coming yachting hotspot Krabi. In addition to a handful of smaller marinas and boatyards, Thailand is now home to six main marinas – four on Phuket and one each in Pattaya and Krabi. Eight new marinas (two each in Phuket, Phang Nga, and Koh Samui, and one each in Chonburi and Trat provinces) have also been recently announced as part of the Thai government's initiative to develop Thailand into a regional marine leisure hub.

PHUKET

AO PO GRAND MARINA

Located at the entrance to the picturesque Phang Nga Bay on the northeast coast of Phuket, Ao Po Grand Marina is sheltered within a private bay, providing 300 berths and a hard stand area for 120 vessels. With a capability to accommodate boats of 100+ metres, the marina is popular with superyachts for its zero tide restrictions and 24-hour access. On-shore leisure facilities include a restaurant, clubhouse with swimming pool and fitness centre. The master development also includes newly-finished waterfront condominiums and future plans for a quayside hotel.

aopograndmarina.com

Eight new marinas (two each in Phuket, Phang Nga, and Koh Samui, and one each in Chonburi and Trat provinces) have also been recently announced as part of the Thai government's initiative to develop Thailand into a regional marine leisure hub.



ROYAL PHUKET MARINA

Located on the east coast of Phuket, the 5 Golf Anchor award-winning marina complex combines sailing, sports and leisure with luxury residences and oodles of island sophistication. Access for boats to the sheltered marina is via a natural protected channel – once in, there are 100 wet berths accommodating vessels up to 115 feet, and 60+ dry berths including a new dry stack facility and a state-of-the-art forklift. On shore, a world-class health club – complete with floodlit tennis courts – offers yachties a chance to reenergise and find their land legs, while Kids Mania provides ample opportunities for family fun at its indoor soft play area and outdoor shaded playground. An 82-foot boardwalk is dotted with restaurants, offering diners a million-dollar view (literally) of the yachts on display.

royalphuketmarina.com



PHUKET BOAT LAGOON

Also situated on the east coast adjacent to Royal Phuket Marina, Phuket Boat Lagoon holds the distinction of the island's first full-service marina. Facilities include 173 wet berths to accommodate vessels with a maximum LOA of 137 feet, and a large hardstand area with space for up to 127 boats, plus an additional 20 in stack storage. The number of on-site contractors, along with numerous chandleries and marine-related service providers, make Boat Lagoon a perpetual hive of activity for refit work. An adjoining mid-range resort may lack the glitz of jet-set luxury, but its comprehensive facilities – two swimming pools, tennis courts, fitness centre, spa and restaurants – making it an ideal choice for crew members working on a boat. Other facilities within the waterfront community include an on-site supermarket plus a handful of cafés and restaurants.

phuketboatlagoon.com



PHUKET YACHT HAVEN

One of two superyacht marinas on Phuket, Yacht Haven is a popular deep-water choice for large motor and sailing boats. The marina can currently accommodate over 320 vessels measuring up to 328 feet in length. The unpretentious marina is located on the island's quiet northeast coast, a fair distance from the main tourist hotspots, but on-shore facilities – accommodation, pool, gym, restaurant, showers and changing rooms – ensure all the needs are met. As Yacht Haven runs perpetually at near-full or 100 percent capacity, there is always a buzz of activity in the air and friendly banter to be had at the communal areas.

pyhmarina.com



KRABI

KRABI BOAT LAGOON

Opened in late 2011, Krabi Boat Lagoon is a sister property of Phuket Boat Lagoon, located approximately 15 minutes from Krabi International Airport. The inland marina is surrounded by coastal mangrove forests, protecting its resident and guest yachts from the sea elements. The marina offers over 80 serviced berths (including six covered berths), a hardstand area with a capacity to accommodate over 100 vessels, and a travel lift capable of 50 tonnes at the lifting bay. Current on shore facilities include a restaurant, supermarket, club house, sailing school and offices for yacht charters; future additions also include a beach club and resort.

krabiboatlagoon.com



PATTAYA

OCEAN MARINA YACHT CLUB

Located in the Gulf of Thailand, Ocean Marina is the largest marina in South/Southeast Asia and the heart of a Pattaya marina resort complex that also includes a hotel, sports complex, restaurants, residences, and MICE facilities. Protected by a sea wall, the marina offers 380 floating berths for vessels up to 65 metres in length, a hardstand area, dry storage and travel lift of up to 75 tonnes. A staunch supporter of the kingdom's yachting scene, Ocean Marina has been the host venue for the Top of the Gulf Regatta, the largest regatta in Asia by number of boats, since the race started 13 years ago and is the home of the Ocean Marina Pattaya Boat Show.

oceanmarinayachtclub.com



PICTURE COURTESY OF PRINCESS YACHTS SOUTHEAST ASIA

Life is a Beach

Beach club culture is an attractive part of what many see as Phuket and Koh Samui's style makeover. It offers poolsiders and oceanistas a chic alternative to mass tourism mediocrity with fabulous food, fine views and a non-stop party vibe. TINA HSIAO-KLUK pays a visit to the best beach clubs in the Kingdom





PHUKET BEACH CLUBS



A GORGEOUS SEASIDE setting is breathtaking in its own right, but when you sweeten the scene with appetizing food and a heady mix of bubbles, booze and beats, the result is one convincing reason to stay on the seashore from brunch to way past sunset.

By day, sun-kissed beach clubs provide a casual haven for families, couples and high-spirited holidaymakers sipping Champagne on ice and whiling the day away with occasional dips in the sea. As the sun makes its way toward the watery horizon, sunset cocktails fuel a gear shift into dinner mode, which then seamlessly melds into a rollicking evening orchestrated by resident and guest DJs.

With tourist arrivals continuously increasing and both Koh Samui and Phuket's beach lifestyle holding upmarket appeal for visitors and residents, it's not surprising that more beach clubs have become the place to be when visiting Thailand's islands, whether with a family over brunch or at one of the club's swanky parties.

For now, here's the low-down on the islands' current coolest ocean-side offerings.

BLISS

Boasting 60 meters of direct beach frontage, one of Bliss's main draws is its family appeal: from the 45-meter-wide wooden deck, parents can keep an eagle eye on young ones playing in the kids' corner and/or swimming pool off to the side. Fret not, there are also spaces-a-plenty to commandeer a private adults-only spot for the day.

Most guests prefer to hang out beachside, lounging in one of the oversized circular sofa enclaves which dot the casuarina tree-lined alfresco deck, or on the large beanbags plonked on the strip of beachfront lawn. When the relaxing gets tough, beachfront massage therapists on the edge of the lawn will knead any knots and help you unwind even more.

The music ranges from Louie Vega to Frankie Knuckles and Eric Kupperts, with ear-perking rare mixes courtesy of Resident DJ Chedi (ex-Q Bar Bangkok and Koh Samui). Past guest

DJs at Bliss include The Evil Twinz and Boy George, and every Sunday, Bliss is a proud host venue to Soundwave Sundays (weather permitting).

There's a 300 Baht fee for a sunbed for the day, which includes a beach towel, and unlimited sand between the toes.

Bliss Beach Club, Bangtao Beach
Hours: 11am - Midnight
blissbeachclub.com

HQ BEACH LOUNGE

Newly opened in July 2016, HQ Beach Lounge is chic simplicity with a contemporary edge, part of Twinpalms hospitality group. Upmarket residential resort, the MontAzure stretches down to the beach and into the beach club.

The sophisticated look and stylish design of the beach escape is set to attract discerning beach club fans with its cool, fresh appearance and atmosphere.

With resident international DJs every night and guest musicians and performers, you can enjoy a laid-back vibe, with light beachside fare in the daytime and a more club-like atmosphere in the evenings. Yet to make its mark on the Phuket landscape, the destination is a prime position.

Beach mattresses start from 400 Baht and a cabana starts at 1,000 Baht, all including towels and pillows.

HQ Beach Lounge Club, Kamala Beach
Hours: 9am - 1am (weekdays) /
2am (weekends)
facebook.com/hqbeachloungephuket



DREAM BEACH

On the site of the former Nikki Beach, Dream Beach opened at the end of 2015 with a refurbished site and new management, style and brand in the upmarket Laguna area, this close to the pristine sands of Layan Beach.

In just a short time, the luxurious club has become renowned for its modern vibe, F&B offerings such as the Dream Beach Sunday Brunch and world-class pool parties, as well as top nightlife events with resident live musicians and dancers.

With four full bars and guest mixologists, you can groove the right away with tunes from Resident DJ Bradley Hart, a rising star in the Phuket and Southeast Asia scene. An exclusive partnership with Ministry of Sound and Hed Kandi brings in some banging deep house headliners which have included world-renowned DJs Pete Tong, Joey Negro, Barbara Tucker and many more big, international names.

Sunbeds start at 3,350 Baht to up to 15,000 Baht for a VIP poolside bed in high season with bottles of Champagne and spirits included, while Dream Phuket Hotel & Spa guests can enjoy complimentary sunbeds, and VIP shuttle ride to the hotel that is, along with Dream Beach, part of the Dream Hotel Group, with its regular celebrity clientele, based in New York.

Dream Beach, Layan Beach
Hours: 11am - 2am (earlier out of high season)
dreambeachclub.com



RE KÁ TA

If there's one Phuket beach club that has all the corners covered for an all-day affair, RE KÁ TA is it. Bar, restaurant, swimming pool, spa, boutique, cafe, a seasonal surf school presented by Quicksilver and surf shop means all your seaside persuasions are catered for.

Little luxuries, such as valet parking, cold towels and fruit skewers for poolside and beach guests, plus well-equipped changing rooms complete with amenities and towels, make a day spent at RE KÁ TA all the more pleasant.

In the evenings enjoy a lounge-style, laid-back vibe. Depending on the season, a day pass ranges from 500 to 1,500 Baht per person for a sun lounger or a day bed, including full use of facilities. The fee is redeemable against spa treatments and F&B purchases (except during happy hours).

RE KÁ TA Beach Club, Kata Beach
Hours: 8am - 7pm
rekataphuket.com



XANA WITH ATTICA

Managed by Singapore-based nightlife specialists Attica, XANA is affiliated with, and located within, the Angsana Laguna Phuket resort.

Guests can choose their preferred setting for tropical bliss - on an oversized day bed on the wide sandy shores, in the 35-metre-long swimming pool, or perched at the bar, sipping on a cocktail, with a restaurant open all day too.

When the sun goes down, XANA transforms into a sultry bar and al fresco club, known for hosting regular parties including Ministry of Sound bashes and has welcomed guest DJs such as Frankie Knuckles, Paul Oakenfold, and Black Eyed Peas member apl.de.ap, the latter hitting the stage to raise money for Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts in 2013.

Spend the day in a XANA Pod on the beach or on a sun-lounger by the pool with a minimum spend from 900 Baht up to 15,000 Baht for VIP cabanas (which can accommodate up to 10 people).

XANA Beach Club with Attica, Bangtao Beach
Hours: Poolside bar 10am - midnight (later for events)
xanabeachclub.com

KOH SAMUI BEACH CLUBS



BEACH REPUBLIC

Beach Republic is a micro-universe of contemporary tropical living with a dash of Mediterranean swagger.

The launch of pool villas, pool penthouses and suites, a spa and Ocean Club opened in 2008 made it the first beach club to open on Koh Samui. A beach club which all others following have been measured against.

Whiskeys, the chain that seduced Bangkok with fine whiskey and cigars is also part of Beach Republic. The 'Ultimate Sunday Brunch', is part of the Sunday Sessions, for which Beach Republic is known far and wide.

Ease guests gently into the day with live performers, followed by a live DJ serenading 'citizens' frolicking in the ocean-side pool or lounging on beachfront cabanas. DJs play Wednesday - Sunday from 1pm until 7pm. Entry is free on condition that a minimum of 1,000 Baht per person is spent on F&B or the spa, with no minimum spend after 4pm.

BEACH REPUBLIC, Lamai Beach
Hours: 7am - 11pm
beachrepublic.com



NIKKI BEACH KOH SAMUI

In addition to being the debut destination in Asia, Nikki Beach Koh Samui holds the honour of being the first destination in the world to boast a branded resort component. The beach club is not the closest to the main tourist drags (for better or worse), but once you get there, it's a day - or night - worth spent.

The décor is unmistakably Nikki, with contemporary white sunbeds dotting the outdoor poolside deck, signature hand-carved wooden pieces, raised daybeds, and the Nikki trademark outdoor shower taking center stage.

Every Monday there is a fire show at the club restaurant and Tuesday is Sushi Blues night. On Wednesday, Hollywood takes over the beach for its Cinema on the Sand weeklies. Nikki Beach is known worldwide for putting on spectacular Sunday brunches, and at Koh Samui it's no different.

Depending on the season and type of seating, a coveted perch will set you back between 1,700 Baht to 10,000 Baht, inclusive of brunch and/or Champagne perks.

Nikki Beach Koh Samui, Lipa Noi Beach
Hours: 11am - 11pm
nikkibeach.com/kohsamui



PICTURES COURTESY OF SVENELLSWORTH

Shining Emerald

In a country where the yacht charter business is booming, the magnificent superyacht Ocean Emerald ticks all the boxes for distinguished luxury travellers with a desire for freedom and a thirst for adventure

ASK ANYONE WHO HAS attended the Monaco Yacht Show and they will tell you how fiercely competitive the superyacht industry can be. Each year, the world's premier yacht builders and designers push their creative and technical limits to maximise the deck space, speed, beauty and interior amenities of these massive ocean-bound machines. But this competitiveness also makes the yachting scene rife with noise, and creating a truly avant-garde vessel that stands out from the crowd becomes more and more difficult every year.

But these boats do exist, and since 2009 Thailand has been

home to one of the most striking superyachts in the world, the Ocean Emerald. The 134-foot vessel features a stunning exterior design that challenges even the most innovative entries at this year's Monaco Yacht Show. Designed by renowned naval architect Norman Foster and built in Italy, the vessel's beautiful space-age appearance made it one of the most talked about vessels in Thailand when it was unveiled – and it was also the first superyacht in the country to receive a 12-month charter license.

The luxurious four-deck vessel accommodates up to 12 passengers through five elegant suites tastefully sprinkled with minimalist décor from renowned brands Cassina and Schifano. The yacht's entire interior boasts the same comfort one would expect from a luxury villa – floor-to-ceiling windows, soft luxury furnishings and

state-of-the-art entertainment devices. Its master suite features gorgeous full length windows and two private balconies to maximise those coveted ocean views Thailand is so well known for – allowing you to gaze, at any time, into the full scope of the region's lush surroundings.

Each of Ocean Emerald's four decks are connected by a winding spiral staircase, deliberately designed to fill each area with soft natural light. Sitting at the top of the boat is a generous sundeck, equipped with a full bar, gym and retractable hardtop Bimini – making it a one-stop location for



lounging and entertainment.

The upper deck feels somewhat reminiscent of a beachfront hut with its beautiful coconut wood husk fibre flooring and completely unobstructed panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. The main deck includes elegant furniture and a home cinema

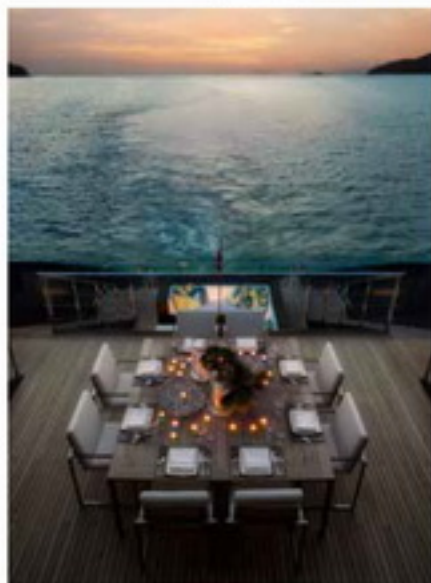
screen, cleverly tucked away in the ceiling, and the lower deck is where you will find the guest accommodations as well as a garage that stows two Jet Skis and a rescue boat.

Speaking of toys, the yacht comes packed with all the tech you need to enjoy the water – including fishing equipment, four full sets of diving gear, a jet boat, kayaks, wake boards and water skis.

All of this is great on its own, but the real reason people charter these mega vessels is for unforgettable travel experiences, which is another area Ocean Emerald shines. The company specialises in bespoke charter adventures. The vessel is moored between Pattaya and Phuket year-round, but it can meet you and take you almost anywhere – although it is more often chartered to its staple locations throughout Thailand, Southeast Asia, Taiwan and Hong Kong. The Ocean Emerald's crew is also prepared to curate special luxury experiences on-board, such as crafting personalised menus, teaching yoga and showing you the ropes on the vessel's plethora of water toys.

It feels like Ocean Emerald's entire existence is geared towards turning experiences into lifetime memories and letting guests revel in completely unobstructed travelling freedom. Challenging the might of some of the world's best superyachts is a tall order, but, from stern to bow, Ocean Emerald can clearly battle with the best – a shining star in Thailand's world-class yachting scene. **E**

oceanemerald.com



SUPERYACHT FEATURE

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The Best of Monaco 2016

When it comes to cutting-edge superyachts and luxury tenders, the Monaco Yacht Show is the *crème de la crème* of exhibitions each year. While the expectations are always high, the 2016 show lived up to the hype and was undoubtedly one of the best in the event's history

AFTER WALKING AWAY from the 2016 Monaco Yacht Show, one thing is certain: this was one of the best years in the show's history. Over 120 of the world's best superyachts were on display with a total estimated value in the billions of US dollars.

Around 40,000 visitors took in the sights at this year's show, witnessing some of the craziest design displays we have ever seen – with boats sporting everything from vintage motorbikes encased in glass to deployable submarines.

Here are the seven must-see vessels from Monaco 2016.



Galactica Super Nova

It would be a mistake to start with anything other than the best-in-show. The Galactica Super Nova wowed everyone this year, earning the show's top prize, in addition to several other honours. The 230-foot vessel features a beautiful exterior designed by internationally acclaimed

designer Espen Øino and is the largest yacht ever built by Heesen. It boasts a revolutionary fast displacement hull, fixed-pitch propellers and a Rolls Royce central booster jet. On board you'll find a six-metre swim jet infinity pool with a glass-panelled bottom, 146-square-metre beach club and helipad.

Arrow460-Granturismo ▶

Not a superyacht by a long stretch, but this stunning collaboration between yacht maker Silver Arrows Marine and Mercedes-Benz Style – the non-automotive side of Mercedes – can't be missed. What it lacks in opulent deck space and personal pools it makes up for with raw speed (38 knots) and Bond villain appeal. The 45-foot yacht boasts a beautiful interior, too – looking more like a comfortable lounge than a typical cabin.





Lady May ▶

Hailed by Boat International as one of the most innovative 46-metre superyachts ever built, Lady May by Feadship is a 151-foot custom boat that looks like it could substitute for a naval destroyer in a heartbeat. The vessel's structure is the work of internationally acclaimed naval architecture firm Dubois, and has won several design awards since first entering the world in 2014. The yacht comfortably hosts 10 guests over five cabins – one master, one double and two twin rooms.



Okto ▲

For our money, the Okto from Moran Yachts is one of the most beautiful luxury vessels we have ever seen. It is a fully custom 217-foot yacht that went on sale right after the Monaco Yacht Show ended – still available as of writing. The yacht features six cabins to accommodate 11 guests, and requires a whopping 17-person crew to keep everything running smooth. But if you have over 2 billion Baht laying around to buy this thing that's probably not an issue.





131 Yacht

131 Yacht from Sunseeker was a major contender for best exterior design at this year's show – an award won by the overall winner Galactica Super Nova. The interior of the vessel comes in a wide range of configurations thanks to Sunseeker's Bespoke division, and can accommodate up to 12 guests over five cabins depending on what configuration you choose. The 131-foot yacht maxes out at an impressive 25 knots, making it a solid choice for long journeys.



Flying Dragon ▲

As far as we know there is no "Best Name" award at the Monaco Yacht Show, but if there was Flying Dragon would get our vote. The 147-foot yacht combines classic Italian style with a dash of Oriental charm. The stunning blue exterior is accented by an interior flooded with onyx, marble and lacquered Tabu-Lati wood. The vessel's 93-square-metre deck includes a Jacuzzi, sunpads, a bar and dining area.



Scorpion ▲

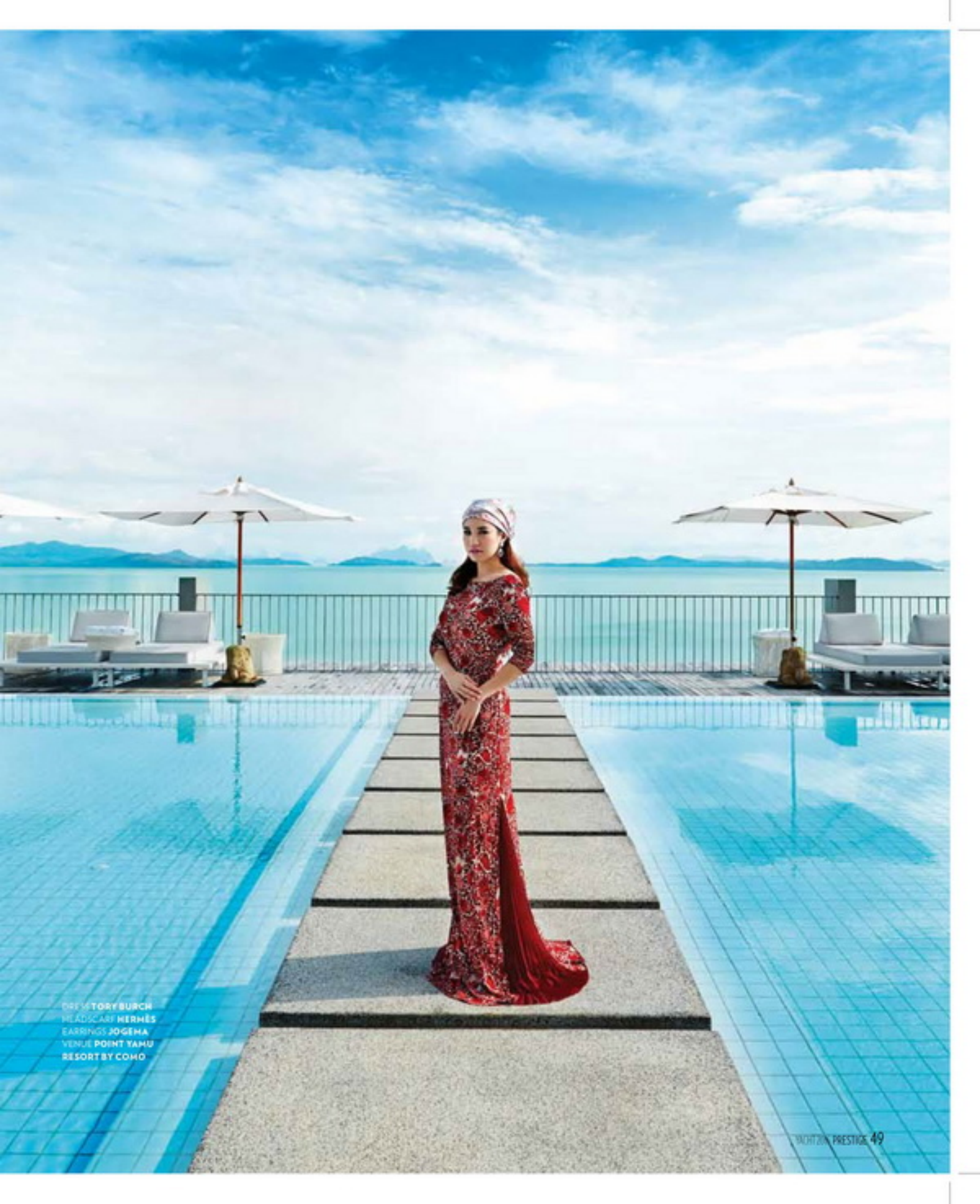
The 150-foot Scorpion from Sanlorenzo is a simply stunning boat, and is currently the manufacturer's flagship vessel. Its spacious stern area houses a beach club, fitness gym and personal spa. One of the hallmarks of the yacht is the addition of an entirely new deck below its lower deck – never seen before in a boat of its size. The yacht is designed for long journeys with total self-sufficiency – lasting 3,500 nautical miles between refuels.

WHEN IT COMES to business, the Yongsakuls seem to see it as a family affair. Lek's four siblings are all involved in one way or another in family businesses. Though solely focused on the nautical world, the Yongsakul business interests are extensive and offer a comprehensive service to sailors. Their license for Princess Yachts Southeast Asia allows them to retail luxury boats; their charter business offers guests bare-boat and fully-crewed yachts; the Boat Lagoon Marina is an iconic place to moor boats as one of the first marinas in Phuket; and their nearby hotel allows visitors to fully enjoy their yachting lifestyle.

With a foreign-educated background, youngest daughter Lek spent years studying in Switzerland, England and the United States, where she interned with luxury industry behemoths

such as Louis Vuitton for a year. She was also studying fashion at the time, making her an informed, chic darling of the fashion-conscious circle.

The nautical world sets the background for her family's business, but it's also a way of life for the fresh-faced beauty. She is health-conscious and sporty, enjoying scuba-diving and, this year, rock climbing, counting Railay in Krabi as her favourite destination. She is healthy inside and out, practicing meditation, attending intensive meditation camps, and also doing yoga when she can. Otherwise, she divides her time between Bangkok and Phuket, while admitting she is more of a city girl. As for the future, though Lek is content in her current roles, she reveals that she is considering the possibility of helming her own business. ■



DRESS TORY BURCH
HEADSCARF HERMÈS
EARRINGS JOGEMA
VENUE POINT YAMU
RESORT BY COMO

FASHION



SCARF **HERMÈS**
SKIRT **HALSTON HERITAGE**
FLATS **CHANEL**
EARRINGS **JOGEMA**
VENUE **PHUKET BOAT LAGOON**

DRESS MALSTON HERITAGE
BRACELET CHANEL
EARRINGS JOGEMA
FLATS CHANEL
VENUE POINT YAMU
RESORT BY COHO



FASHION

SCARF HERMÈS
NECKLACE CHANEL
VENUE POINT YAHU RESORT BY COHO



DRESS DIOR
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RESORT BY COMO





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Areas of Responsibility: Udon Thani, Nong Khai and Bueng Kan

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Loei Office (TAT Loei)
Email: tatloe@tat.or.th
Areas of Responsibility: Loei and Nong Bua Lam Phu

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Surin Office (TAT Surin)
Email: tatsurin@tat.or.th
Areas of Responsibility: Surin, Buriram and Si Sa Ket

SOUTHERN REGION

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Songkhla Office (TAT Hat Yai)
Email: tatsongkhla@tat.or.th
Areas of Responsibility: Songkhla (Hat Yai) and Phang-nga

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Nakhon Si Thammarat Office (TAT Nakhon Si Thammarat)
Email: tatsiam@tat.or.th
Areas of Responsibility: Nakhon Si Thammarat

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Narathiwat Office (TAT Narathiwat)
Email: tatnara@tat.or.th
Areas of Responsibility: Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Phuket Office (TAT Phuket)
Email: tatphuket@tat.or.th
Areas of Responsibility: Phuket and Phang-nga

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Surat Thani Office (TAT Surat Thani)
Email: tatsurat@tat.or.th
Areas of Responsibility: Surat Thani

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Trang Office (TAT Trang)
Email: tattrang@tat.or.th
Areas of Responsibility: Trang and Satun

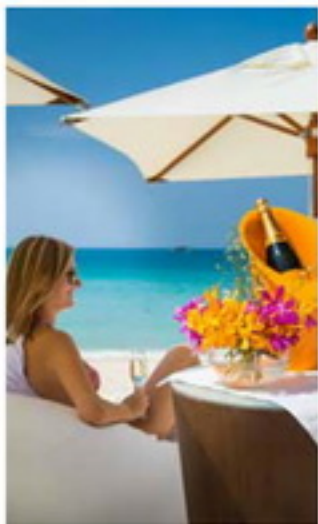
Tourism Authority of Thailand, Krabi Office (TAT Krabi)
Email: tatkrabi@tat.or.th
Areas of Responsibility: Krabi

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Chumphon Office (TAT Chumphon)
Email: tatcum@tat.or.th
Areas of Responsibility: Chumphon and Ranong



ILLUSTRATION BY PHENWISA SAVIGAMIN

YACHTING IN THAILAND: SERVICE PROVIDERS



MARINAS

PHUKET

Ao Po Grand Marina
aopograndmarina.com

Royal Phuket Marina
royalphuketmarina.com

Phuket Boat Lagoon
phuketboatlagoon.com

Phuket Yacht Haven
pyhmarina.com

KRABI

Krabi Boat Lagoon
krabiboatlagoon.com

PATTAYA

Ocean Marina
oceanmarina.asia

BEACH CLUBS

PHUKET

Bliss
blissbeachclub.com

HQ Beach Lounge
facebook.com/hqbeachloungephuket

Dream Beach
dreambeachclub.com

REKÁ TA
rekataphuket.com

Xana With Attica
xanabeachclub.com

KOHSAMUI

Beach Republic
beachrepublic.com

Nikki Beach Koh Samui
nikkibeach.com/kohsamui

YACHTING EVENTS

30th Phuket King's Cup Regatta
kingscup.com

Ocean Marina Pattaya Boat Show
oceanmarinapattayaboatshow.com

Asia Superyacht Rendezvous
asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com

Phuket International Boat Show
phuketboatshow.com

Thailand Yacht Show
thailandyachtshow.com

Top of the Gulf Regatta
topofthegulfregatta.com

The Bay Regatta
bayregatta.com

Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek
phuketraceweek.com

YACHT CHARTERS

Asia Marine
asia-marine.net

Asia Pacific Superyachts
asia-pacific-superyachts.com

Boat Lagoon Yachting Charter
boatlagooncruises.com

Cross To Yachting
x2yachtcharter.com

Gulf Charters
gulfchartersthaialand.com

Northrop & Johnson
yachtcharter-asia.com

Princess Yachts Southeast Asia
princessyachtssea.com

Seal Superyachts
superyacht-charters.com

Simpson Marine
simpsonmarine.com

Sunsail
sunsail.com/destinations/southeast-asia

Yacht Solutions
yachtsolutions.com/yacht