



PLAYBOY POSING

LUXURY YACHT CHARTER
WITH OCEANSTYLE

The South of France has long been renowned for its luxury hotels and suitably starry clientele, but today those in the know are heading inland, away from the playboy set where the hush of the Provençal hills provides utter serenity.

The famous attractions of the Côte d'Azur, Italian islands and Amalfi coast, or the beautiful Balearics make for ideal charter destinations.

There is simply nothing quite so stylish as cruising around the Med in a floating palace, and aboard La Dea, a stunning Azimut 116, whether it be for a weekend or a week or two, you can enjoy pure escapism.

This beautiful motor yacht boasts all the luxury you'd expect from a five-star hotel – from wood-panelled interiors to suede and leather furnishings, deep-pile carpets and well-stocked fridges bursting with champagne. ►



About OceanStyle

OceanStyle offers five-star 20 to 40-metre yachts in locations across the world, from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean. As well as offering year-round yacht charter, the company also has sales and new-build divisions and offers international yacht management services.

Then there are the five cabins, elegantly furnished with en suite bathrooms, to say nothing of the deepest and most comfortable beds you could wish for. Combine these with the delights of being gently rocked to sleep by the lap of waves against the hull and you're in heaven even before you step out on deck.

La Dea is chartered by OceanStyle, and, just like the other stylish yachts in the fleet, it boasts a crew of seven who between them ensure comfort and indulgence every moment of the day. You might be sharing your floating paradise with others, but their discretion makes you feel like the boat is entirely yours, and whether you want to be left alone on the top deck for an hour or two of sunbathing or require a top-up of champagne and a tour around the harbour your wish is quite literally granted.

In the main quarters there are sofas to recline on, low coffee tables stocked with glossies, an inside driving seat for mastering the yacht in the shade, and cushions galore, enough to sit on inside or out in even more style.

The outer decks are where the true posing takes place, though, with padded sunbathing areas, reclining loungers, a bubbling Jacuzzi and tucked-away little suntraps with total privacy guaranteed. On the lower deck there's a large eating area with wooden table and chairs, and a convenient tender platform for taking those must-do trips to the mainland without even having to dip a well-polished Prada heel into the waves.

For those keen to sample the delights of ocean cruising all the more, there are snorkels and waterskis, kayaks, inflatables and a tender, with ladders leading directly down from the deck into the sparkling sea below.

Dining on board is equally first class, with gourmet food and silver service all the way. Every one of OceanStyle's boats has a dedicated chef who from a galley kitchen is able to produce top-quality food, using fresh produce that is shopped for every day.

Breakfast starts the day in style with croissants from local boulangeries and fresh fruit from quayside markets.

And meals are gastronomic affairs: dinner starts with champagne and canapés and then provides a taste of the region, with local seafood, fruit and vegetables served under the stars.

Itineraries can be tailored to suit, but La Dea is often to be found cruising the Côte d'Azur, home to some of the finest restaurants and most decadent nightlife, with its coastline of chic towns, bustling cities and isolated islands among the most fashionable in the world.

From here guests can enjoy evenings in Monte Carlo with Michelin-starred food, a flutter at the casino, dancing the night away, or a trip to the opera. Then there's the magnificent stretch of coast to Villefranche-sur-Mer past Beaulieu and Cap Ferrat and the elegant bay of Villefranche.

But it's escaping the crowds that yacht charter achieves so effortlessly and makes time aboard so very special. Anchoring off the island of Porquerolles, La Dea offers complete solitude, with trips into the restful lushness of the famous gardens of Menton, Eze or Rayol-Canadel offering direct access to the South of France's hidden gems without hitting congested roads.

Whether you want to sample the freshest of seafood in historic Antibes, or join the A-list moored off the Cap d'Antibes, there is quite simply nothing as elegant or extravagant as cruising around the Med in ultimate style. ■

Weekly charters with OceanStyle cost from €23,000, based on six guests staying aboard Be Zen, an Azimut 62 with three cabins, in the Mediterranean. This price does not include fuel, food and alcohol. For more information contact OceanStyle on Tel. 020 7766 4299. www.osyachting.com.

Princesses of the sea

Other OceanStyle yachts available for charter in the western Mediterranean include:

Benita Blue, an Evolution 110 with elegant Sam Sorgiovanni interiors and accommodation for 10 guests in four cabins. The lower deck features a full-width owner's cabin which can be converted into two double cabins and has his and hers en suite bathrooms.

Ability, a Mangusta 130 sports yacht capable of speeds in excess of 35 knots, with exotic furnishings and a contemporary interior and accommodation for nine guests in four cabins.

Von Filth, an Alfamarine 78, voted best yacht in the 60 to 80-foot category in 2005, with a new contemporary Andre Bacigalupo interior and accommodation for seven guests in three cabins.

