

THE CRUISING YEAR

It's all very well sitting in your beach club reading a book, but there's a whole world of great events out there that you can cruise to this year

Words Frances & Michael Horworth



JANUARY Mustique Blues Festival at Basil's Bar St Vincent & the Grenadines, January 25 – February 8

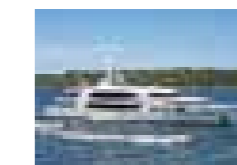
Basil's Bar, on stilts at the edge of the beach, looks at first sight like just another Caribbean chillout zone. And yet it has been the island's social focal point for 30 years, playing host to everyone from Prince William and Mick Jagger to Kate Moss and David Beckham. The bar is the go-to spot for those who come to the exclusive hideaway island to stay, play and relax in privacy (paparazzi are banned).

The fun really ratchets up during the Blues Festival, an event that was created after blues singer Dana Gillespie took to the stage with a reggae band, but found that her blues voice and a reggae soundtrack was an uncomfortable mix. When she sang blues a capella, though, the crowd loved it: in her encore, she promised Basil a blues festival. Sunday is a highlight as the festival begins early with a sunset performance. [More information](http://www.basilsbar.com) www.basilsbar.com

www.corbisimages.com



Best spot for your superyacht
At anchor in Britannia Bay, right in front of Basil's Bar.



Charter availability
Mi Sueno
57.9m Trinity
€280,000pw
Contact: IYC.
www.iyc.com

FEBRUARY Rio Carnival Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, February 17-21

Before the 40 days of Lent leading up to Easter, foods that are about to be denied have to be eaten up. Throwing a big party for the consumption of these goodies is a practice that takes place the world, but few people can throw a party like the Brazilians. The Rio de Janeiro Carnival, whose origins go back more than 200 years, is a wild four-day celebration that officially starts on Saturday and ends on Fat Tuesday, with Lent starting the next day.

It usually takes place in February, the hottest month in the Southern Hemisphere. Social boundaries disappear, and rich and poor, young and old, locals and foreigners, all mingle in the euphoria, urged on by drums, whistles and whoops.

The event takes place all over the city, in streets, squares, bars and clubs, culminating in the Samba Parade each night (the biggest are on Sunday and Monday). The carnival is about taking part: join one of the street parties, follow one of the 300-plus bands, or watch the parade in the Sambodromo in costume. You can rent one of the covered suites in the Sambodromo, which offers butler service. [More information](http://www.rio-carnival.net) www.rio-carnival.net

Best spot for your superyacht Rio has two marinas with superyacht berths, Marina de Gloria and Marina Botafogo at the Yacht Club.



Charter choice
Sherakhan
70m Verkerk
€395,000pw
Contact: YCO.
www.ycoyacht.com





MARCH
Salsa Festival
 Hong Kong, February 27-March 4

For a decade, dance enthusiasts from all over the world have flocked to Hong Kong at the end of February for the Salsa Festival. A dance form with Cuban origins, salsa is a dance for couples, but there are also solo and group variations. It can be improvised or have a set routine; however it is danced, it is charged with sensuality, energy and elegance.

The festival will see the top internationals arrive for a week of salsa including contests, street parties, workshops, performances and parties. Join in the social dancing with top DJs, take the opportunity to learn if you have never tried or just let the stars of the dancefloor entertain you. The World Salsa Championships, held this year for the first time in Hong Kong with amateur as well as professional categories, take place over the last four days of the festival. The organisers say anyone can become a World Champion! [More information www.hksalsafestival.com](http://www.hksalsafestival.com)

Best spot for your superyacht

The Aberdeen Marina Club, with easy access to central Hong Kong and 175 berths for yachts over 30 metres.



Charter choice
 Ocean Sapphire
 41m Rodriguez
 Cantieri Navali
 €130,000pw

Contact: Floating Life. www.floatinglife.ch

T. Wright / photoaction.com



APRIL
Classic Yacht Regatta / Sailing Week
 Antigua, 19 April-4 May

If you fancy racing in warm waters under a hot tropical sun there is no better place to be than Antigua in April. Antigua Race Week began in the 1960s as an informal race for classic charter yachts to celebrate the end of the Caribbean season. Over the years, modern yachts joined in and the classic yachts split off for their own week, attracting traditional island boats, classic ketches, sloops, schooners and

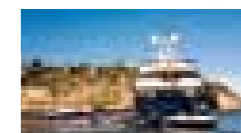
yawls, J Class yachts and Tall Ships – up to 60 yachts take part each year. Shoreside events during this year's regatta include the State of Maine Sail Party and lots of socials at the Antigua Yacht Club.

Antigua Sailing Week, starting on April 29, has become an all-class competition for racing and cruising yachts of all sizes. It is a more casual affair, attracting novices and professionals for racing and post-race fun, including fancy dress parties, wet t-shirt competitions, beach barbecues, fiercely competitive tug-of-war contests, steel bands and reggae music. This year sees the

return of the Round Antigua Race, an open event held the day before Antigua Sailing Week officially starts.

[More information www.antiguaclassics.com](http://www.antiguaclassics.com)

Best spot for your superyacht Antigua Yacht Club Marina or Falmouth Harbour Marina, which offers anchorage spaces.



Charter choice
 Sequel P
 54.7m Proteksan
 Turquoise
 From \$322,000pw

Contact: Burgess. www.burgessyachts.com



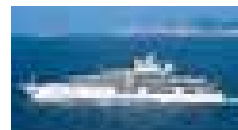
MAY
Cannes Film Festival
France, May 9-20

One of the oldest and most prestigious film festivals, Cannes is often considered to mark the start of the Mediterranean superyachting season. Held annually at the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès in Cannes, it was originally a primarily social event (it started in 1946), with most of the films entered winning some sort of award. However, when stars from around the world came to walk the Festival de Cannes red carpet and media coverage of the event heightened, it began to build an international reputation, and the festival is now taken very seriously by the industry. It is seen as an important showcase for new films, and an essential networking event where directors, producers, performers and publicists exchange notes and discuss projects.

Unusually, it manages to balance the appeal of commercial and arthouse films. It's a non-public event, but it's a great place to be for the parties and the people-watching. There is always a crowd of noteworthy superyachts in the marinas and at anchor, which acts as an ideal base for the many parties that keep visitors busy in the evening.

More information www.festival-cannes.fr

Best spot for your superyacht Choose between being at anchor off Cannes and ensuring your party is the most exclusive, or being in the thick of things on one of the 35 superyacht berths in Port de Cannes. Turn up early to ensure the best spot.



Charter choice
Indian Empress
95m Oceanco
€600,000pw
Contact: Burgess.

www.burgessyachts.com



JUNE
America's Cup World Series
Newport, Rhode Island, from June 23

It's the oldest trophy in international sport but there's not a hint of fustiness in the 34th America's Cup, when the finest racing machines and the most skilful crews in the world gear up for the finals, set for 2013 in San Francisco. The America's Cup World Series regattas are designed to allow the teams and

sailors to prepare for this event using the 13-metre AC45 racing catamarans. The new class of multi-hulled yacht has powerful wing-sails and the teams will benefit from this chance to hone their skills before they design and build the own larger AC72 boats. World Series regattas are being held in various venues in Europe and USA. Newport is a magnificent backdrop to the June series and the place is rich with racing heritage – the competition took place here from 1930 until 1983, when the New York Yacht Club lost the Cup to *Australia II* and

the Royal Perth Club, and nothing beats watching the action from your own yacht.

More information www.americascup.com

Best spot for your superyacht Newport Shipyard has space for yachts over 30 metres.



Charter choice
Tenacious 35m
Trident From
\$65,000pw
Contact: Fraser

Yachts. www.fraseryachts.com

FULY Jazz Festival

Juan-les-Pins, Côte d'Azur, July 12-22

A cool drink in front of you and the summer sun beating down in a beautiful South of France setting – the perfect backdrop to experience a soundtrack of live jazz. The Juan-les-Pins festival is the oldest jazz event in Europe, celebrating its 52nd year, and promises to be bigger and better than ever. It's not all austere trad jazz – there's a mix of classical jazz with pop-rock and soul, so the music is accessible to everyone. And in this setting, with a stage framed by pines against the backdrop of the sea, what's not to love?

The 2011 festival saw 11 evenings of wonderful singers and musicians, playing all

kinds of jazz, under the stars each night. Highlights included the legendary BB King, Jamie Cullum, and the Keith Jarrett Trio, who performed to great acclaim on successive nights. As well as the ticketed event in the Pinède Gould pine grove there are free shows held nearby as part of the Off Festival. You can also book a VIP cocktail buffet on a private beach with private box seats at Pinède Gould. [More information www.jazzajuan.com](http://www.jazzajuan.com)

Best spot for your superyacht

Anchor close to the Pinède Gould pine grove.



Charter choice

Glaze

49.3m Trinity Yachts

€195,000pw

Contact: YPI.

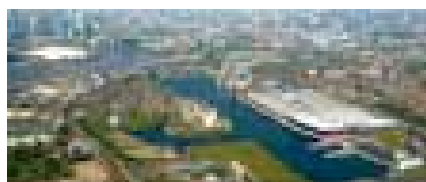
www.ypigroup.com



AUGUST Olympic Games

London and Portland, July 27-August 12

You can't beat the human drama of a big sporting event and you can't beat being there. Sporting events don't come much bigger than the Olympics, and London promises to be every bit as spectacular as Beijing. As well as the events taking place in the Olympic Park and across the capital, five huge contemporary arenas at ExCeL play host to boxing, judo, fencing, taekwondo, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. London's ease of access and multicultural population will make for a terrific

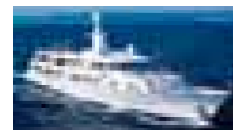


atmosphere. Yachtsmen might also want to visit Weymouth Bay and Portland Harbour on the South Coast for the sailing events.

[More information www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)

Best spot for your superyacht A limited number of superyacht berths are available in London's Royal Docks, adjacent to the ExCeL

centre. All of the capital's major Olympic venues are within easy reach of this secure area, which offers dedicated car parking and concierge services with preferential ticketing. Alternative berthing is available at Wood Wharf next to Canary Wharf and South Quay on the Isle of Dogs. On the South Coast, Portland Marina has been developed to play host to the sailing events and has superyacht berths, too.



Charter choice

Illusion

55.5m Feadship

From €196,000pw

Contact: Burgess.

www.burgessyachts.com



SEPTEMBER

Regata Storica

Venice, September 2

This annual event, which takes place on the first Sunday in September, is a festival of fancy dress and a trial of strength and boating skill for Venice's gondoliers. It is the main event in the Voga alla Veneta rowing calendar, and celebrates a sport that has been practised for centuries, dating back to when Venice was a powerful city state. There are four races: young crew, women, men in six-oared carlines, and

rowing champions. The Campioni su Gondolini – the race for the rowing championship – is the key event of the regata. Participants use special small, sporting gondolas that speed across the water to the finishing line at the 'machina', a floating stage located in front of the Ca'Foscari Palace.

The highlight, perhaps, is the procession before the racing, when scores of decorated 16th-Century-style craft parade along the Grand Canal with their crews dressed in period costume – it's like a Canaletto come to life and a memorable sight. After the racing is over, you can cruise the Adriatic and perhaps explore

the spectacular cruising grounds of Croatia, with islands galore.

More information www.regatastoricavenezia.it

Best spot for your superyacht The Venice Yacht Pier has berths close to St Mark's Square. Alongside berthing mean there is no length limit for big yachts.

Charter choice
Oxygen
42m Baglietto
From €135,000pw
Contact: Camper & Nicholson's. www.cnconnect.com



OCTOBER

ICC World Twenty20, Cricket

Sri Lanka, 18 September - 7 October

Traditionalists may mutter into their MCC blazers at the terrible things that this all-action format has done to undermine the beautiful spectacle of five-day test cricket, but there is clearly much appeal in a form of the game that lasts as long as a Wagner opera (rather than all of Wagner's operas put together). It's knockabout stuff, with never a dull moment, and there's always something to cheer.

The fourth World Twenty20 organised by the International Cricket Council takes place this year in Sri Lanka, at Colombo, Pallekele and Hambantota, and features the ten test cricket nations and two associate teams (which could

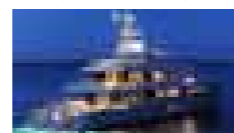
see Afghanistan line up against the USA in qualifiers). The last event took place in the West Indies in 2010, when many superyachts went island-hopping to watch the matches. There are certainly some remarkable, unspoilt cruising grounds around Sri Lanka to explore. **More information** icc-cricket.yahoo.net

Best spot for your superyacht

There are no superyacht marinas in Sri Lanka, but Colombo Harbour is one of the biggest artificial harbours in the world and capable of taking even the largest superyacht.

Charter availability
Big Fish 45m
Aquos Yachts,
McMullen & Wing
From \$195,000

Contact: YCO. www.ycoyacht.com



NOVEMBER

Total Eclipse of the Sun

Northern Australia and South Pacific
2209 UT, November 13



If you've only ever seen a partial eclipse, it's worth seeking out the full experience, a much rarer occurrence when the world really does take on a unique strangeness as the celestial bodies trundle into alignment for a few brief moments. A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon is close enough to Earth to cover the sun completely. The next occasion will be on Wednesday, November 13, along a narrow corridor across the southern hemisphere. The path will start over land in north Australia, east of Darwin, continuing over Cairns and then offshore over the Coral Sea, crossing the

South Pacific above New Zealand and ending some way off the coast of Chile. The place to see the longest duration of the eclipse, four minutes, is in the middle of the ocean. But off Cairns and offshore, where the view will be best, the duration will be a respectable two minutes in the centre of the path. It happens at around 0630 local time, an hour after dawn, depending upon your actual location.

More information eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov
Best spot for your superyacht Anywhere off the coast along the centre of the path heading east from Cairns.



Charter choice
Exuma
50m Perini Navi
€175,000pw
Contact: Fraser Yachts. www.fraseryachts.com

DECEMBER

Old Year's Night

Foxy's Bar, Jost van Dyke, British Virgin Islands, December 30-January 1

According to certain sacred Mayan and Mesopotamian texts, the world is coming to an end on December 21, 2012. (Fortunately, that's just after the deadline for *SuperYacht World 30*, so we'll be feeling fairly chilled as the Grim Reaper comes a-calling.) Should predictions be wrong, however, head for Foxy's Bar in

Great Harbour. Shun the glitz on St Barths and Sydney's fireworks and instead welcome the New Year with some true yachties on the tiny Caribbean island of Jost Van Dyke.

Forget shoe baskets overflowing with Louboutins: on this island it is bare feet and casual clothes all the way. Expect non-stop music from dusk until dawn and make a reservation for the Caribbean feast or take advantage of the beach barbecue. Order Foxy's own brew, made with Caribbean water and served from its microbrewery, and sample one of the legendary cocktails: the 'Pain Killer'

comes recommended but they're potent, so go slow to avoid next-day Armageddon. **More information** www.foxysbar.com

Best spot for your superyacht To be in the thick of it opt for Great Harbour; anchor off Sandy Cay or Green Cay for smaller crowds.

Charter choice
Lady Britt
63m Feadship
From \$470,000pw
Contact: Edmiston.

www.edmistoncompany.com

