

CAPTAIN'S PROFILE



Captain Peter Chisholm talks about his job on board Sealyon to Frances and Michael Howorth.

What made you join the super yacht industry?

Chance, I was on holiday in Turkey and ended up doing some yacht deliveries for Sunsail, then I worked for a season as deckhand/steward.

What was your first super yacht and when did you join her?
Too Easy, in 1994.

Which is your favourite Mediterranean port and why do you like it?
Monaco – my family and friends all live in the area.

What is your favourite restaurant or bar in the Mediterranean and why is it special?
No one particular favourite, it depends on the occasion and country.

Which is your favourite anchorage and why do you like it?
I have a soft spot for Formentera, it saved our bacon once during a February crossing from the Caribbean. A Cruise ship had her windows knocked out and a few people died that night.

The Mediterranean is said to be crowded with super yachts. Where do you think the best spot to get away from the others is?

Rather than place, I suggest a time. Plan a September trip while the waters are still warm and even the Cote d'Azur has emptied out.

If you could recommend a Mediterranean yacht service to another Captain what would it be?
Catalano Shipping Monaco.

How does being a Captain affect your family life?
I find it very hard to strike a balance. I enjoy being at sea; yet as a father and husband I have a commitment and a strong desire to spend time with my loved ones. Fortunately I married the right lady. My wife completely manages our shore side family life.

What makes your yacht special?
She won first prize in her category both at the World Superyacht Awards and at the International Yacht Awards. Another reason is the crew, most of us have worked together for more than 8 years through a number of owners and boats, some for as long as 11 years. Now and then we get crew who don't fit into our way, but most stay with us for 2 or more years.

What do your crew do really well?
Exceed expectations.

What is your attitude to employing couples on board?
I am happy to employ couples as long as they can convince us that they have a strong stable relationship that will last.

Do you have a pet hate and if so what is it?
Crew playing loud music in a marina, usually during wash down while we have guests onboard.

If you had a magic wand what would you change in job?

I would like to see a non – profit crew only investment/pension scheme that provides for crew, controlled by crew. There are a lot of poor financial products with eye watering fees being sold as "Crew Pensions". We need to do something for ourselves.

How does the confidentiality concept in the industry help or hinder you?

It's vital for owners and guest comfort. I would like to think that our guests consider the yacht their home for their time onboard and as such not be concerned that their privacy in any way will be compromised.

What advice would you give to someone new entering the industry?

Presuming you found that 1st position. Forget the money, focus on career path and building a good CV that shows longevity with excellent references. This will pay off in the long run, when boats are looking for senior crew your CV will float to the top. Far better to spend your career an averaged salaried officer/master than a well paid deckhand.

What have you ever learned from your crew?

Plenty over the years, the crew are at the coal face so to speak, input from crew is vital.

Quick Fire

Favourite Movie: Ben Hur

Favourite Book: Lord of the Rings

Favourite Music Type: Current pop/rock and classical on occasions

Favourite Music Artist: U2

Favourite Restaurant: Sealyon crew mess - our chefs are exceptional

Favourite Food Type: Seafood

Favourite Form of Relaxation: Family time

Favourite Super Yacht: Sealyon of course

Favourite City: New York

Favourite Super Yacht destination: Monaco, it is home

Captain's CV

Name: Peter Chisholm

Age: 44

Nationality: South African

Previous yachts as crew: Helios, Globana, Jenny May, Too Easy

Previous yachts in command: Lady Christina, Candyscape II

Current yacht: Sealyon

Number of crew: 17

Charter Central Agent: Y.CO

Charter Fee per week: Low season US\$300,000

High season US\$350,000