

CAPTAIN'S PROFILE



Captain Russell Reid talks about his job on board Parvati to Frances and Michael Howorth

What made you join the super yacht industry?

In early 90s I took part in Chay Blyth's first transatlantic rowing race in 1997. 29 teams began the race and 18 finished and we were one of them. It took us 63 days to get across and was a very hard race, and not just physically. At the finish only 3 of the boats had crew who were still talking to each other and again fortunately I was on one of those. It was then I realised my career path was to stay at sea

What was your first super yacht and when did you join her?

I did a lot of dinghy sailing as a boy but my first real super yacht was when I was 16 in a tall ships race aboard **Lutine**, which was owned by Lloyds of London. We sailed from Denmark around Norway and Sweden ending in Greenock, Scotland.

Which is your favourite Mediterranean port and why do you like it?

I like going to ports and harbours I have been to before when I have guests on board. It is, I believe, far less stressful knowing where everything is. I enjoy St Tropez, Capri, Turkey, and anywhere on the Dalmatian coast.

What makes *Parvati* special?

The owners, they enable me to do the best I can. They leave managing the yacht to me without any micromanagement from them. This enables me to look after the crew and be responsible for their jobs and shaping their careers. The boat is operationally mine and the Owners come aboard as guests. Many Captains would kill for that level of autonomy!

In a perfect world what would your next yacht be?

I would love to go back to commanding a large sailing yacht. I love the space on motor yacht but I love sails too. I am quite surprised and shocked at the number of crews and captains who have no idea about sailing and do not appreciate the effects of wind on their boats. None of my crew have had any sailing experience so recently I chartered a 50 foot sail boat and took them all out for the weekend to show them what it was about. It was a fantastic form of team building experience and was enjoyed by all.

Do you have a pet hate?

I loathe jet skis they are too fast and are very dangerous a fact that many people do not appreciate. Now on the other hand a stand up jet ski is much better, to handle it correctly it requires skill, and riding it well can be a challenge.

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

All crew should have to spend some time working on a sailboat before they are allowed to work on motor yachts. From a captain's perspective I would like to see job rotation being accepted in much the same way that engineers have achieved this.

How does being a Captain affect your family life?

Many Captains with seniority and experience are married or have been, and it can be very difficult to hold a marriage together with a full time job aboard a yacht. My own wife is at home with our 6 year old daughter. Sometimes it feels like crew have to sacrifice either their marriage or their job and this prompts the question should we live to work or work to live?

What's the most curious thing that has happened to you as a Captain?

Being pulled out of bed in the middle of the night by charter guests who wanted to party. I could see instantly it was going to be a fun occasion because they were both in fancy dress. He was dressed up as a penis and she as a vagina!

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

Support your crew, have faith in them, coach them, but let them make their own mistakes and learn from them. Most importantly make sure you are always the same person, don't be unpredictable.

Quick Fire

- Favourite Motorcar:** TVR Griffith 500 it's hairy!
- All Time Favourite Movie:** Close Encounters of the Third Kind
- Favourite Book:** Any mind-bending thriller
- Favourite Movie Star:** Robert De Nero
- Favourite Music Type:** Easy listening, soul, instrumental,
- Favourite Restaurant:** Cecilia's, Antigua
- Favoured Relaxation:** Cycling, reading, a decent bottle of wine
- Favourite City:** Vancouver
- Favourite Super Yacht Destination (in the world):** Antigua
- Favourite Classic Super Yacht:** Velsheda

Captain's CV

Name: Russell Reid
Age: 44
Place of birth: Hertfordshire, England
Previous yachts: Lutine, Oceana, Maria Alba, Double Up, Avella,
Current yacht: Parvati, joined 5 years ago
Number of crew: 8
Charter Central Agent: Camper & Nicholson International
Charter Fee per week: Low season US\$75,000,
High season US\$80,000