



Interview &amp; portrait photo by Frances Howorth

“Be nice to people on the way up because you never know who you might meet on the way down!”

The Captain

## Colin Richardson

Age: 40 Place of birth: Liverpool, UK Previous yachts: *Amity, Gitana* (both sail)  
Current yacht: *Passion* Number of crew: 15



### What was your first taste of the sea?

My father was in the merchant navy and he took me on a few ships when I was a baby. My family emigrated to Cape Town when I was five and I lived near the beach from an early age. I did a lot of anything to do with a beach – fishing, swimming, snorkelling and surfing.

### Which ports and harbours do you most look forward to visiting?

The Krka Falls in Croatia and Bonifacio on Corsica is pretty awesome. The Similan Islands in Thailand are also very special.

### What are your favourite onshore hangouts?

My wife and I have a small vineyard and olive grove in Tulbagh near Cape Town so it is always nice to go down there and drink our own wine in the evenings around a big fire and talk long into the night with family and friends.

### What's the one place in the world you'd like to cruise to that you haven't already?

The colder regions, Alaska or Antarctica would be nice to see.

### What are the biggest changes you've seen in the industry?

The sheer amount of money being spent each year as the newer yachts get built and some of them get larger and crew numbers rise. With that goes dockage space in all the usual haunts.

### What do you like most about your current yacht?

Our owner supports us very well financially and as a result we have a great crew and a good programme all round.

### Which is your favourite on-board toy?

Golden Tee Golf, up in the games arcade on our sun deck!

### What would you change about the motor yachting industry?

It would be nice to get rid of the arrogance amongst some of the newer younger people joining up. Bring back flogging!

### What's the most curious request you have had from a guest?

Wanting to get hold of automatic weapons and shoot them at jerry cans that we towed behind. Suffice to say it never happened.

### What's the worst weather you have encountered on board?

I did a Whitbread Race in 1993-94 and we had about 60 knots across the deck near Cape Horn. The anemometer blew off the rig so we had no idea how much more the wind picked up after that. A typhoon in the South China Sea in 2001 on a previous vessel also comes to mind.

### Who is the most eccentric/strangest/funniest member of your crew?

Chief engineer Dave Shereda. He has the best redneck jokes and won't mind me telling you that he owns a leopard-skin thong!

### Who was the most troublesome crew member you've worked with?

That would be back in 1999 in the Maldives when two crew members (brothers) were fighting in the galley and I stepped in to break it up. One of them got hold of a knife and tried to stab me! We calmed him down enough to cable tie him up and then locked him in a cabin for the night and flew him out ten hours later.

### What's the most stressful part of your job?

Probably trying to get dockage in the Mediterranean for a last-minute change of plan by a charter guest.

### Any advice for an aspiring captain?

Keep your crew informed. Be nice to people on the way up because you never know who you might meet on the way down!

### Who would be your top-five fantasy charter guests?

Nelson Mandela. Growing up in apartheid South Africa we were taught that he was an evil terrorist bent on communism and the ending of capitalism. The truth quickly rose to the surface when he was freed after being incarcerated for 27 years. He is an old man now yet still wields so much respect that I hope the country holds it together when he passes away; Bill Gates – travelling extensively in yachting, we see some opulent and wealthy parts of the globe so it saddens me to see poverty, all too often on a daily basis. He and his wife Melinda have pledged an incredible \$30 billion in their philanthropic foundation, helping towards reducing extreme poverty. He would be a pretty interesting guy to talk to; John Smit, captain of the Springbok rugby team. I was in the stadium the night they beat England to win the 2007 World Cup in Paris. I really enjoy all forms of rugby and to get to meet a true legend of the sport would be awesome; Joe Bonamassa, an incredible blues guitarist. I got to meet him after one of his concerts in St Maarten a few years back and if you like blues you need to get hold of some of his music; Annie Lennox – another musician I have a lot of respect for and have enjoyed her music from an early age. Her music has been timeless for 30 years.

Captain Colin Richardson was talking to Frances and Michael Howorth. The yacht is available for charter through Neil Emmott at Yacht Zoo for \$235,000pw in low season and \$295,000pw at other times. Website: [www.yacht-zoo.com](http://www.yacht-zoo.com) Email: [neil@yacht-zoo.com](mailto:neil@yacht-zoo.com)