



## Captain Luke Humphries talks to Frances and Michael Howorth on board the Benetti built Galaxy

What made you join the superyacht industry?

I was in the Merchant Navy working on Australian flagged cargo ships. Engineering friends of mine had been working on board superyachts and had come back home explaining the industry, how it worked, where to start, who to talk to etc. My interest was piqued so I decided to give it a try. I got hired as a watch keeping officer because of my certificate and made a transatlantic crossing and I was hooked.

What was your first superyacht and when did you join her?  
The 71m Amels Boadicea (now Reborn). I joined her in Fort Lauderdale.

Which is your favourite Mediterranean port and why do you like it?  
Antibes, it's my home port and it is always nice to go home.

What is your favourite bar in a Mediterranean port and why is it special?  
Phi Beach in Sardinia. It's an incredible place, right on the rocks overlooking the ocean with great music, tasty cocktails and amazing sunsets.

Which is your favourite Mediterranean anchorage and why do you like it?  
A couple of secret spots at Ponza. Secluded, breath taking scenery and crystal clear water.

The Mediterranean is said to be crowded with superyachts. Where do you think the best spot to get away from the others is?  
I think the Aeolian Islands are a good bet.

If you could recommend a Mediterranean yacht service to another Captain what would it be?  
Riviera Yacht Support in Antibes. Ulf Sydbeck works hard to make a superyacht Captain's job a little easier when the going gets rough and tasks start piling up.

What is the most funny superyacht experience you can recall?  
I remember an incident that is funny now but was not at the time. We were in bad weather outside St Tropez with the boss on board while we waited for his guests to arrive. The girls were trying hard to serve lunch and the owner and guests also refused to admit defeat. All of a sudden a really big wave rolled in and the yacht rolled so badly that everything that was on the table slid menacingly towards the boss and landed completely in his lap. We were forced to ride out rough weather for the night and the following morning he and his guests flew home.

What is your attitude to employing couples on board?  
My wife and I have worked together on board yachts for many years so I know what it takes to be a successful couple and also the value a couple adds, but you do need a balance.

What's the best idea you've ever copied from another captain?  
Standing Orders but I have to tell you that over the years since then they have evolved and become a better product than the one I copied.

What advice would you give to someone new entering the industry?  
Listen and learn and remember, the more you put in the more you will get out of the industry.

What makes your yacht special?  
My crew and the rare breed of owner we all work for. He is a young European very much in touch with the world that surrounds him.

How would you like to be remembered as a Captain?  
Gosh I am not old enough for that one! Ask me in another 10 years.

What do your crew do really well?  
They are warm and sincere and are able to tune in quickly to what the owner and guests might need at any time.

How do you think your crew talk about you behind your back?  
Well I hope! Hard but fair and fun!

What would you like to do when you cease being in command of a superyacht?  
Maybe return to Australia and restart my merchant navy career by taking a job as a Marine Pilot.

### Quick Fire

- Favourite Motorcar Aston Martin DB9
- Favourite Motorbike Triumph Daytona 595
- Favourite Movie of all time Shawshank Redemption
- Favourite Book Digital Fortress by Dan Brown
- Favourite Movie star Anthony Hopkins
- Favourite Music type Hard Rock
- Favourite Music artist Tool
- Favourite Music track Learn to Fly by the Foo Fighters
- Favourite Restaurant Château Eza in Eze Village
- Favourite Food type Mediterranean with added spice!
- Favourite Form of relaxation Playing and/or listening to music
- Favourite Superyacht Pelorus
- Favourite City Prague
- Favourite superyacht destination Croatia

**CAPTAIN'S CV**

Name Luke Humphries  
 Age 37  
 Nationality Australian  
 Previous yachts as crew Boadicea  
 Previous yachts in command Quintessentia, Bel Abri, Serenity, Moecca, Sonka  
 Current yacht Galaxy  
 Number of crew including Captain 18  
 Charter Central Agent Burgess  
 Charter Fee per week Low season €224,000  
 High season €252,000