



Captain Alex Greenson talks to Frances and Michael Howorth on board the Benetti built Panthera

What made you join the superyacht industry?

Having grown up in the seaside town of Plymouth, Massachusetts I was exposed to sailing at an early age, and developed a love for boats and boating.

What was your first superyacht and when did you join her?

Quo Vadis, a 100 foot Broward motor yacht. I joined her in Newport R.I., as chef and immediately sailed for Hyannis Port, the summer home of the Kennedys. Next we picked up the guests; John F. Kennedy Jr., his Aunt Ethel, and other members of the Kennedy family.

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

I would have to say Palma de Mallorca. Palma is a great town, and the island of Mallorca is so diverse.

What is your favourite restaurant or bar in the Mediterranean?

Sa Punta restaurant in Ibiza. It is open air, has great service, great food, and a great atmosphere.

Which is your favourite Mediterranean anchorage?

I have always enjoyed the anchorages in and around the Bonifacio Strait.

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

The Eastern Med probably has great anchorages, that are not too crowded, Croatia is one, and the Greek Islands have many anchorages where you can find some solace.

What do your crew do really well?

The full time crew works well together, and without much direction. Everyone does their job.

Do you have a pet hate and if so what is it?

Dishonesty.

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

Have it situated closer to family.

What is the most funny superyacht experience you can recall?

Hiring a violinist the night before a Monaco Rendezvous. It was in 1991. Sam Israeloff (yacht broker), from Fort Lauderdale, had arranged for our appearance at the rendezvous. He wanted us to win the Concours du Chef competition, and he thought that having a violin player playing in the background would assure a win for us. At 11:00 PM, after a few cognacs, he talked me into going to the Hermitage with him to find the violinist. It was a fun experience!

What's the most curious request you have had made of you?

To arrange a private dinner at Ephesus, the ancient ruins in Solcuk, Turkey. To pull it off we had to get a permit from the department of antiquities. The dinner was great. The budget that I had to work with allowed us to arrange 5 star catering, and a stringed quartet, that played in the background during the dinner. It was a great night, and the client loved it.

How do you think your crew talk about you behind your back?

I'm sure there are things that are said, but mostly crews that have worked for me, would want to do so again if given the opportunity.

What would you like to do when you cease being in command of a superyacht?

Write, paint, and sail around the world on my own time, and my own yacht.

Quick Fire

Favourite Motorcar Aston Martin

Favourite Motorbike Harley Davidson

Favourite Movie Good Fellas

Favourite Book Herman Wouk's The Winds of War

Favourite Movie Star Tom Hanks

Favourite Music Artist John Mayer and James Taylor

Favourite Restaurant Sa Punta, Ibiza

Favourite Food Type As a New Englander I would have to say

a clambake, but I also enjoy a good rib eye steak

Favourite City Boston Massachusetts, because it's a great town and I'm from there. Second choice is Florence for its

architecture, beauty and history

Favourite Superyacht Destination Newport Rhode Island, USA

Favourite Classic Superyacht Velsheda. I like all of the J boats, but she, like Endeavour, were originally built during the era in the 1930s

CAPTAIN'S CV

Name Alexander D. Greenson (Alex)

Age 54

Nationality American

Previous yachts in command Aile Blanche, Schooner America,

Tiziana, Walkabout, Artemis, and Liberty

Current yacht Panthera

Number of crew 8