

What to do in the French Riviera

We recently contacted Alex from Bespoke Yacht Charters to share his top tips for crew who may have some spare time to explore this up and coming Mediterranean charter season. From where to see the best sunsets, to his favourite local cuisine, and beaches in the French Riviera. Let's find out what to do in the French Riviera:

Wining and dining

https://www.instagram.com/p/CR0mUQ9rw_M/

Alex: I am a huge fan of [Mirazur](#) in Menton. Simply stunning food in a spectacular location on the border between France and Italy. Not to mention the views over the old town of Menton are magnificent!. And, the restaurant is regularly voted as being one of the best in the world.

I also love [Blue Bay](#) at the Monte-Carlo Beach Hotel in Monaco. Chef Marcel Ravin is a true pioneer, using only the freshest local ingredients in very inventive and creative ways. The atmosphere is very relaxed but the food truly amazing. It's much more chilled out than the other Michelin starred restaurants in Monaco, like Alain Ducasse and Robuchon – Although, they are great too!

There are also some excellent restaurants in Nice. Special mention would go to Jan, near the Port, run by South African Chef Jan Hendrik, who used to work on charter yachts! He now has his own Michelin-starred restaurant in the south of France, which is a real achievement! If you get the chance to visit the old town of Nice, you've got to try out [La Petite Maison](#). The atmosphere is always very lively and full of celebrities...

The best sunset



Photo by [Thibault Mokuenko](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The south of France perhaps lacks the amazing sunsets one gets in the Balearics and Corsica but there are still some lovely places to be as a long summer day comes to an end.

I love being on a yacht anchored in the bay of Juan Les Pins as the sun sets over Cannes and the Esterel mountains. It's a beautiful place to be and a very popular superyacht anchorage, very popular with owners that also have villas on the Cap d'Antibes.

I also highly recommend watching the sunset of the city of Nice, either from the Colline du Chateau above the old town, or even better from Mont Boron, the hillside between Nice and Villefranche-sur-Mer. There's something magical about sunsets over a city.

Local cuisine



Alex: I think simplicity is key! Anything with plenty of garlic, olive oil and fresh local ingredients. There's nothing better than simply grilled fish for lunch. I also love stuffed Courgette Flowers!

Best Beaches



Alex: I love Paloma Beach in Cap Ferrat and Plage Mala in Cap d'Ail but perhaps the best beach would be Plage de la Nartelle in Sainte-Maxime. It's very similar to its' more famous neighbour Pampelonne in St Tropez, great beach clubs, beautiful sand and you can walk out 2-300 meters without going out of your depth. There's also a company offering every possible type of water-sports that will come out to your

yacht.

Natural wonders and local sights

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BQseIoTg0Gn/>

The Island of Porquerolles, west of St Tropez has to be seen. White sands, turquoise water, and spectacular scenery! It's like St Barths has come to the Mediterranean!

We hope you enjoy your time in the French Riviera!

For the latest Superyacht travel blogs, click [here](#).

West Nautical – A Review of The Caribbean Charter Season

In this interview, West Nautical discusses the 2021/2022 Caribbean charter season, as well as how the summer 2022 charter market currently looks.

We got chatting to [West Nautical](#)'s Client Manager, [Claire Sinclair](#) about how the Caribbean charter season has played out. As well as how the 2022 Med season is looking for West

Nautical.

Read on to find out which Caribbean spots were the most popular destinations, what charter yacht sparked the most interest and a peek into the current Superyacht market.



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Overall, how has the Caribbean charter season been for West Nautical?

The season began with the yacht show in Antigua & there were several bookings over the holiday period (Christmas & NY) ...The difference in restrictions between islands and the closing of BVI's to new charter yachts proved to be off-putting to Europeans, but the USA market remained strong!

With the Caribbean charter season coming to an end, which months of the season were the busiest for West Nautical?

We were definitely busiest around Christmas & New Year, mainly the months of December and January.

In our previous chat, you mentioned that the Caribbean charter season was dying down due to various reasons, such as cost, dockage, fuel, crew costs, and difficulty getting visas for the US Virgin Islands. Was this the case with regards to this year, or did the season take a positive turn?

The season was still quiet by previous standards, however as mentioned above, West Nautical was very busy in the months of December and January, with Christmas and the New year taking place. Our team did find that for regatta charters (sailing), the interest was strong.

Everyone knows that St. Barts is the place for Superyachts in the Caribbean. Did you notice an increase in the demand for yacht charters in any other locations this season?

St Barts remained a Caribbean Hot-spot for the charters, with St Maarten and Antigua being the other two main islands in demand over the winter period.

What has been West Nautical's most successful charter yacht in the last year?

For the 2022 Caribbean season, it was the luxury 31.7 [S/Y Elton](#).

Have you noticed any real changes in the charter market since the omicron variant?

No, I haven't. Charterers are keen to get back out into the world and travel where's possible/if possible. If anything, there is a degree of apathy regarding covid and guests, captains and their crew are looking forward to their travels around the Med in 2022.

Lastly, what does the summer 2022 charter market currently look like?

West Nautical is proud to say that the Superyacht summer season has started with record bookings! Our team is all go and we're already heavily booked, with limited availability on peak season dates so if you haven't already booked your Med season charter, get in contact asap!



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If you have any questions please do get in touch with West Nautical's management team at management@westnautical.com

For the latest superyacht news, click [here](#).