The Superyacht Industry in the Mediterranean Booms Post-Covid!

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With restrictions lifting across Europe, we’re checking in on what it means for those looking to take advantage of the yacht charter season from the Balearics to the Ionian Islands. Fortunately, superyachts are an ideal holiday location as they are naturally socially distanced with hygiene being a top priority on board - so it simply makes sense!

Beginning with Croatia, the ideal yacht charter getaway with some of the most beautiful islands and coastlines in the Mediterranean, it offers the tranquillity everyone has been desiring and it’s as easy as a simple PCR test within two days of travel or proof of vaccination. Croatia is absolutely one of the most desirable locations for a luxury superyacht getaway with its blend of history and culture, complemented by rugged landscapes and incredible cuisine.

The Spanish islands beckon visitors who want to experience the gorgeous islands without the crowds. Ibiza can finally be explored without the craze of the nightclubs and you can anchor your yacht around Formentera to enjoy utter relaxation knowing you’re one of few there. There are still restrictions in place in Spain and masks are obligatory to wear outside, however it remains a fantastic option for superyachts as guests can experience the beauty without the chaos.

In the French Riviera, from Marseilles to Nice, though the post-Covid re-opening has proven quite slow, the chic restaurants and bars dotted along the beaches are now ready for guests. Greece is now allowing both European and non-European visitors to enter with a negative PCR test, vaccination or even simply proof of having had Covid and then recovered. The Ionian region is very safe as well having hardly been touched by Covid with most islands reporting little to no cases. Greece is welcoming visitors with open arms and its bountiful beach bars and restaurants await.

Finally, Italy, with its sublime villages and glamourous resorts has just announced quarantine is not required for tourists from the EU, UK or Israel who hold a Green Pass, with Americans potentially being added to the list from mid-June. The Green Pass is a document proving full vaccination, a negative PCR test within two days *or* proof of recovery from Covid within the past 6 months. The particularly good news about the Green Pass is it also allows people to move between red and amber zones in the EU without fuss.

Interestingly, in the past year the sale of superyachts has increased exponentially as individuals are looking to avoid land and get away from travel restrictions. Many yachts also moved their typical cruising locations from the Western to the Eastern regions of the Med as Greece and Croatia have generally had fewer restrictions in place. This past year has been such an unexpected time and we’ve seen demand for superyacht and superyacht charters quickly rise as people seek freedom and space in the sunshine and sea more than ever.

We have all been missing the European Superyacht shows that were cancelled in 2020, but luckily most of these are back in action. Palma de Mallorca was just host to the first European yacht show of 2021 which took place on 3-6 June. The 51m schooner Borkumriff IV along with the 31m Wally Alexia were two of the 227 total exhibitors showcased. 16,000 visitors attended the four-day event, proving to be an absolute success given the circumstances and an indicator of life is finally getting back to a semblance of normalcy.

Next up is the Cannes Yachting Festival on 7-12 September, which has proven to be one of the primary platforms for yacht designers, builders and brokers to present everything from multihulls and motor yachts to day boats. Yacht accessories and toys will also be showcased for those looking to kit out their superyacht. It’s estimated 200 new yachts will make their debut this year which is sure to attract a plethora of interest at the festival.

Following Cannes, the Monaco Yacht Show will take place 22-25 September. MYS is considered one of the most prestigious yacht shows globally and this year the concept has been rejigged so the client is at the forefront with a new registration and badge system put in place so superyacht buyers can be matched with the best people for their needs. 500 exhibitors are expected to attend this year so it will be an amazing opportunity for charterers, buyers and brokers alike.

The Barcelona Superyacht Show has been cancelled for this year but we are looking forward to its 2022 appearance.

This unexpected time has given us the opportunity to practice more patience, resilience and adaptability. This is equally true for the superyacht industry in the Mediterranean and across the world, as flexibility has been key in travel planning. There is light at the end of the tunnel as we can see that the world and its shores are truly opening up for those of us looking for peace, relaxation and a bit of a getaway with our loved ones. Here’s to a much brighter remainder of 2021 spent in the sun and sea!

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