



Thailand Charter Week puts Phuket in yachting spotlight

Organised by the Thai Yachting Business Association, the first Thailand Charter Week at Phuket Yacht Haven featured 21 yachts, including 10 superyachts, and had attending brokers from four continents.

Phuket; November 25, 2019: Organisers of the Thailand Charter Week (November 16-21) hope to make next year's edition even bigger after a successful inaugural edition hosted by Phuket Yacht Haven, with yachts also hosting familiarisation cruises in Phang Nga Bay and surrounding areas.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand was a supporting sponsor of the Thailand Charter Week, Asia's first international charter show for industry professionals – a 'B2B' event for charter brokers, central agents, luxury travel agents and tour operators to meet local agencies and discover leading charter yachts operating in Thailand and the rest of Southeast Asia.

Many of the world's most renowned brokerage houses, Asia's leading charter companies and Thailand-based yacht service providers exhibited at the event, which was organised by the Thai Yachting Business Association (TYBA) and followed by the Ocean Marina Pattaya Boat Show (November 21-24).

Showcasing 21 charter yachts to attending brokers from all around the world, the opening day of the event featured a lively opening ceremony, which was followed by two days of 'yacht hopping' inspections by brokers. The last three days featured 'familiarisation' cruises aboard participating yachts to charter destinations around Phuket.

With several boats unable to exhibit due to a limit on space and numbers, Mathew Na Nagara, Chairman of TYBA, believes the second edition could grow with more space for yachts and word of mouth recommendation from exhibitors and attending brokers.

"The Thailand Charter Week was a strong first edition of what we hope will become a regular and important part of the yachting calendar in Southeast Asia. We're happy with the overall format, the line-up of yachts and exhibiting charter companies, and the wide range of attending brokers from around the world," Nagara said.

"Phuket Yacht Haven and the fam trips showed the appeal of charter holidays in and around Thailand, so we were delighted the Tourism Authority of Thailand was among our line-up of sponsors. The next step is to help develop connections made during the week, source feedback and set a date for 2020, so we can make the second edition even better."

Camper & Nicholsons, Fraser, Northrop & Johnson and Ocean Independence were among the globally renowned brokerage houses exhibiting charter yachts at the event, respectively showcasing the 41m *Ocean Emerald*, 31.6m sailing yacht *Silverlining*, 31.5m *Aveline* and 29.5m *Mia Kai*.

Northrop & Johnson also exhibited the 26.4m Sunseeker *Maxxx*, while the 32.2m *Demarest* was among 10 superyachts longer than 24m (79ft).

Simpson Marine, Asia's largest yacht dealer, exhibited two Lagoon sailing catamarans, the 52F *Blue Moon* and 620 *Jyohana*, while The Moorings, one of the world's largest charter companies, displayed a Moorings 4800 sailing cat.

Indonesia-headquartered Yacht Sourcing, which recently opened its Thailand office, displayed the 29.5m *Lady Eileen II*, the 27.4m wooden motor yacht *Maha Bhetra* and the Azimut 80 *Mirage*.

Thailand-based Asia Yacht Agency exhibited Princess motor yachts *Mayavee* and *Shard*, YCN (Yacht Charter Network) Asia represented the Riva 70 *Aria Blue*, Asia Marine showcased the Azimut 55 *Pillars Spirit*, Derani Yachts displayed the DeFever 49 *Sea Princess* and Boat in the Bay a Princess S65 *Kati*.

Other exhibiting charter yachts included the 27m Baglietto *Ajao*, the 22.6m Korea-built *Chowa*, the 20m Cheoy Lee *L'Orientale*

Companies exhibiting on land included Advance Yachting, Seawind Catamarans (Corsair Marine), Port Takola Yacht Marina, Phuket Premier Boatyard, Sevenstar Yacht Transport, Southeast Asia Pilot, Yacht Sourcing and Zodiac. Advance Yachting displayed a Technohull 999 G6 rib in the water and Zodiac showcased an open 7 model.

Burgess was among the many international brokerage houses, participating with attending brokers, along with the aforementioned charter companies.

The registered brokers also included representatives from Alor Brokerage & Chartering, Andaman Cruises, Arcon Yachts, Boat Lagoon Yachting, Central Yacht, Contact Yachts, DMA Yachting, Echo Marine, Faraway Yachting, H2O Luxury Yachts, Infinite Yachts, Levante Yachts, Luxury Charter Group, MSC Yachting, ONE° 15 Life and Platinum Charters.

The attending brokers represented offices across Asia-Pacific (Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Australia) and Europe (UK, France, Monaco, Italy, Spain, Greece, Malta), as well as the USA.

Along with the TAT, sponsors included Aries Murano, ATC Sourcing, BB&B, Galileo Maritime Academy, M/Y *Lady Azul*, Le Petit Prince and Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte, while Heart Media, Lux Inc Media, Luxuo.com and *Yacht Style* magazine were media partners.

Partner hotels included Andara, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, The Slate on the island's west coast, and Como Point Yamu on the east coast, while The Village Coconut Island hosted an evening barbecue.

ENDS

For enquiries, email: info@thailandcharterweek.com

Thai Yachting Business Association

The Thai Yachting Business Association, formerly the Thai Marine Business Association, was founded in 2014 and is a non-profit marine leisure industry association serving yacht builders, yacht charter operators and brokers, yacht sales brokerage and dealership, marinas, yacht repairs and refit, yacht management and other yachting-related companies throughout Thailand.

www.thaiyachtingbusinessassociation.com