



Sarah Edgar-Kelly Photography

High Cuisine on the High Seas

By Gretchen Allen

One thing I've learned after decades of living in the Caribbean: If you want to realise a true appreciation of being on an island, get off of it! An island is only as great as the water surrounding it, and Cayman has some of the best to offer. It's just wonderful to be on it, in it and under it.

Some people consider it a luxury to own a yacht; I consider it a luxury simply going out on one. Think of it as fractional ownership. You can own your own gorgeous captained yacht for a few hours, a day or whatever suits your fancy (and your pocketbook).

One local charter company, Cayman Luxury Charters, specialises in custom-designing cruises for its guests, many of whom come from the top hotels and resorts on the island. The outfitter offers everything from dive and snorkel trips to cruising along Grand Cayman's famed Seven Mile Beach, waterskiing and wakeboarding.

The company's craft is a sleek, swift 42-foot Sea Ray Sundancer with all possible cabin creature comforts, including a master stateroom and a WaveRunner mounted on the hydraulically raised swim platform for buzzing about the North Sound. You can spend your time on the water any way you want: be active, be slothful, splash, play, laze the day away. Your boat, your choice.



Recently, the company started charting a new course in Cayman's charter scene by offering fine gourmet dining experiences on the high seas. With the High Seas Gourmet Supper Club, you can spend the evening, from cocktail hour to after dinner, floating gently with the waves lapping, sitting beneath the stars as the breezes caress your hair.

For dinner service, professional Chef Desmond Byrne executes his culinary magic in the yacht's fully equipped galley kitchen, serving fare that's exquisitely paired with specially selected wines from *Vino Veritas* (the yacht has its own liquor licence). The staff prides itself on offering the highest class of service to the guests.

Up to eight guests can savour a gourmet dinner with a choice of menus. The Cayman Sea Harvest includes lobster and pan-fried red snapper; Ocean Breeze features classic Caesar salad and chicken stuffed with Parma ham; the Captain's Table includes a rack of lamb and sea salt cured salmon; the Admiral's Table features red snapper and beef fillet; and a Canapé Menu features appetizers. And you have to admit: Nothing gives you an appetite and a zest for life quite like being out on the open water.

Another first for the charter company, owned by local residents Christian and Jane van der Bol, is the highly anticipated Brunch on Board, a four-hour excursion replete with bubbly. It includes one bottle of

Champagne per couple and six delicious courses. Now that's my idea of a Sunday well spent! Take it from someone who lives on an island — it doesn't get any better than this. At the end of the day, you're left with delicious memories that will last a lifetime.

For more information, visit www.caymanluxurycharters.com. For reservations, call 345-938-2525 or e-mail Jane@CaymanLuxuryCharters.com.