

Spain - Portugal - Madeira - Canaries - Cape Verdes - Caribbean

Season's greetings from St. Lucia - Caribbean

After 14 days with mostly light easterly winds, with nothing but deep blue ocean 360 degrees around, we were quite happy to spot the hazy mountain peaks of St. Lucia. An indeed welcome appearance, promising tropical fruits a plenty, grilled lobster for supper and refreshing dives in crystal clear turquoise waters. Having thoroughly enjoyed all of these Caribbean delights for a couple of days, we are now moored at Rodney Bay Marina for some necessary repairs, routine maintenance and crew changes. Preparing Lady Ann for her first chartering season west of the 'big pond', her parting and coming crew take this opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy 2012. We hope to be able to welcome you aboard this coming year for you to enjoy a classic regatta, some competitive match racing, or an intimate cruise with family or friends.



South, south and further south

Our previous newsletter reported us to have reached the Spanish ria's after a wonderful crossing of the Bay of Biscay. The ria's proved to be very scenic and a breeze to sail. Reluctantly we bade Spain farewell and continued our cruise down the Portuguese Atlantic coast, calling on beautiful Porto to stock up on our vintage port collection. On we went to reach Lisbon a couple of days later, passing Vasco da Gama's statue and docking at the Expo marina. Having explored Lisbon's historic centre, partly on foot, partly by

antique tram, we crossed over to Madeira, escorted by dolphins and even a huge fin whale. On 'Flower island' we admired it's dramatic inland scenery while hiking along it's centuries old 'Levadas' (irrigation canals), before setting off once again. Having obtained a special permit to call upon the remote and inaccessible Ilhas de

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Salvagem lived up to their name.



Salvagem, it turned out that the islands really lived up to their name. We would indeed risk having to be salvaged from them, had we attempted to actually land. On we went, to Tenerife, to prepare for the ocean crossing as well as to act as spectatorship for the Transatlantic Mega Yacht Cup, with Dykstra & Partners' newest mega yacht 'Hetairos' in the spot lights. Further south we sailed, to dock at Mindelo, capital of Cape Verde island Sao Vicente. Here we experienced a little bit of Africa with streets lined by colorfully dressed ladies, selling homegrown exotic vegetables and fruits, and with a bustling fish market where huge fish were being sold under the scrutinizing eyes of scores of skinny cats. And lots more of exotic impressions, which we had ample time to digest during our following two week Atlantic crossing.

Mid Atlantic Life

At December 8th, two o'clock in the afternoon, we passed the halfway mark, with 1052 miles in our wake and with exactly the same distance ahead (as the crow flies). Life on board had by then settled into a timeless ocean routine, with us steadily working our way through Lady Ann's on board library. Arriving at page 6504 of Patrick O'Brian's masterpiece 'the complete Aubrey/Maturin novels' we were struck by the description of routine life at sea in the early nineteenth century. Nothing has changed really! Here is how the undisputed master of naval literature would have described our Mid Atlantic days:

"Quietly indeed they sailed along, with gentle breezes that wafted them generally westwards at something in the nature of seven miles in the hour, westwards to even warmer seas. Little activity was called for, apart from the nice adjustment of the sails, and although the exact routine of the ship was never too relaxed nor her very strict rules of cleanliness, these long sunny days with a sailor's wind seemed to many the ideal of a seaman's life – regular, steady, traditional meals with the exact allowance of alcoholic spirits; loudspeaker music during nightly watches, the deep melody and reverberation of the Captain's voice singing opera like (convinced the crew to be asleep), and the cheerful sound of the cook preparing dinner; the future lost in a haze somewhere west of the next meridian where the clock will have to be set back yet another hour."



Lady Ann Yacht Charters

Spirit of Tradition sailing sloop Lady Ann offers sailing with a capital 'S' of Style: a classic yacht, all modern day creature comforts, and competitive sailing due to a modern underwater design and high performance rig. She is available for charters throughout the year, alternatively in the Med and in the Caribbean.

Please refer to our website for pictures, an up to date itinerary, and for detailed info regarding the yacht. Bookings are handled by our booking agencies. Contact your charter agent to discuss possibilities and prices. Should you fail to have a charter agent, please contact us and we will direct you to the most suitable charter agent.



