



GETTING STARTED • CAREER GUIDE

The First Knot *your path into superyachts.*

A clear, honest route to a first contract, or the next step up, in the 40 m+ fleet. For chefs, hospitality professionals and serious career-changers.

INTRODUCTION

Breaking the surface of *the yachting world*.

From the outside, the superyacht industry can look closed. Opportunities seem to travel by word of mouth, and talented people, from Michelin-trained chefs to five-star hospitality professionals, stay on the dock simply because nobody has shown them how it works.

This guide sets out the path. It is not a generic career guide: it is a practical route to a first contract, or to the next step up, on 40 m+ yachts, with particular attention to the Mediterranean circuit and to French-speaking candidates.

Who it is for

THREE PROFILES

- ◆ **Crew members:** ambitious professionals looking for their next contract in the galley, the interior or on deck.
- ◆ **Captains and recruiters:** the people who hire, looking for well-prepared candidates who understand the standards of luxury yachting.
- ◆ **Career-changers:** people serious about moving into the superyacht world, and ready to prepare properly.

Three pillars

WHAT GETS YOU HIRED

PILLAR	WHAT IT MEANS	WHAT YOU GAIN
Your network	Opportunities shared inside the yachting community, often before they reach the public boards.	You hear about roles early, and people can vouch for you.
A yacht-ready CV	A CV written the way a captain reads: target role, dated certificates, sea time.	No red flag that makes a captain stop reading.
Industry truths	Honest conversations about salaries, seasons and certificates.	You avoid the classic first-season mistakes.

Give yourself a 90-day horizon: it lines up with the hiring peak before the Mediterranean season, when demand is highest.

PILLAR 1

Network is *everything*.

Many of the best roles are filled before they reach a public board. Your network is your first currency, and LinkedIn is where captains, heads of department and agents check a name they have just received.

Three steps

THE FREELANCE YACHTING GROUP

1

Join the group

Join the Freelance Yachting group on LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/groups/17620033](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/17620033)

2

Be present

Don't just read. Taking part in discussions shows recruiters and captains that you are ready to work.

3

Watch the flow

Look out for listings and seasonal updates shared by members, and answer quickly.

What it changes, by department

GALLEY · INTERIOR · DECK

- ◆ **Galley:** a recommendation from a chef who has worked on yachts often carries more weight than a line on a paper CV.
- ◆ **Interior:** direct contact lets you show the discretion and communication that interior roles require.
- ◆ **Deck:** your network tells you where yachts are moving and who needs a deckhand at short notice in high season.

Agencies and your network work together. Register with the established agencies of your hub (our free agency directory lists them) and keep your network active at the same time.

PILLARS 2 AND 3

A yacht-ready CV, and *the realities of the job.*

Standard CV or yacht-ready CV

THE EXPERT LENS

A STANDARD CV

A YACHT-READY CV

Written for hotels or offices, full of general wording.

States the target role and yacht size in the first lines.

Lists certificates without dates.

Shows every certificate with its issue and expiry date.

Hides sea time in long paragraphs.

Puts sea time in a table: vessel, length, role, dates.

Treats languages as a detail.

Turns languages, such as French, into a clear advantage.

Three honest conversations

BEFORE YOUR FIRST SEASON

1

Salaries

Know what a fair first contract looks like in your department, so you are not underpaid.

2

Seasons

The calendar drives hiring: spring for the Mediterranean season (Antibes, Palma), autumn for the Caribbean season (Fort Lauderdale). Being in the right port at the right time matters as much as your skills.

3

Certificates

STCW basic training and an ENG1 seafarer medical are the gatekeepers. Without them, nothing else counts. Since 1 January 2026 the STCW safety course has new content: our free guide **The 3 essential documents** explains it.

YOUR CHECKLIST

The 90-day *horizon*.

Freelance Yachting was founded by Aber, a former yacht chef with 30 years in the yachting industry. Following this path, you are not just looking for a job: you are joining a professional circle that knows how the fleet hires.

The success path

- ☐ **Join the hub.** Enter the Freelance Yachting group on LinkedIn today.
linkedin.com/groups/17620033
 - ☐ **Make your CV yacht-ready.** Target role, dated certificates, sea time in a table.
 - ☐ **Learn the realities.** Salaries in your department, and the seasonal calendar of the Med and the Caribbean.
 - ☐ **Secure the gatekeepers.** STCW basic training and ENG1 valid, and clearly listed on your CV.
 - ☐ **Register with the right agencies.** The established agencies of your hub, from our free directory.
 - ☐ **Stay active.** A few minutes a day on your network, especially in the weeks before the season.
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Network is everything. Your first contract depends on your skills, and on being in the right circle at the right time.

THE NEXT STEP

You know the path. *Now get your route.*

THE ROUTE turns this guide into your personal plan: which certificates you need, in what order, by when, and what each one costs.

FOR CREW NEW TO YACHTING

THE ROUTE

Right tickets, right order.

- ◆ Where you stand today, read from your CV
- ◆ The right certificates in the right order, with timing
- ◆ An indicative cost for every step
- ◆ Your next 90 days, in plain words

Personal licence roadmap

Ready within 48 hours · one-off

€40

Deck, engine, interior or galley: the roadmap follows your department.

Get my Route · €40

Secure checkout · Stripe

Card, Apple Pay or PayPal, no PayPal account needed. After payment, send your CV to contact@freelanceyachting.com.

Yachting careers, built by experts.

QUESTIONS

contact@freelanceyachting.com