

Robb Report

The 10 Best Charter Yachts for Winter

Illusion V

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Michael Verdon

The phrase “barefoot luxury” might sound like an oxymoron, unless you spend a week aboard *Illusion V* seeing the most beautiful islands of the Caribbean. The 190-foot [Benetti](#), launched in 2014, is a study in simple elegance, from the climate-controlled winter garden on the skybridge with full glass panels that can be opened to the elements or closed for formal dining, to the interior by Green and Mingarelli that combines walnut, onyx, Lalique crystal, parchment, and silks in a refined way. Full-height windows in the saloon provide stunning views of the surrounding waters, while the master suite with study is one of the largest in its class. *Illusion V* also has an unusually sizable, full-beam VIP suite, and four other large staterooms to accommodate 12 guests. The yacht has a gym, cinema room, wine cellar, and humidor. The exterior is designed for outdoor living, with a sundeck that boasts a large Jacuzzi, bar, lounges, and sunpads. The water toys include scuba, water slide, flyboard, and a Jetovator—in other words, the latest and greatest toys for every age. *Illusion* has a crew of 13. ([camperandnicholsons.com](#))



Length: 190 feet

Beam: 35 feet, 10 inches

Guests: 12

Crew: 13

Weekly Rates: from \$350,000

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Lamima

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Michael Verdon

At 214 feet long, **Lamima** is on the larger end of wooden sailing yachts. The Indonesian *phinisi* ketch design may look like it first set sail a century ago, but *Lamima* was launched in 2012, with the most modern superyacht features. Noted yacht designer Marcelo Penna, who conceived *Lamima*, wanted to combine the best of old-world sailing with contemporary yacht design, with no compromise on comfort. The fusion includes a bright interior with a voluminous saloon and seven large guest staterooms. Asian influences in the furniture, fittings, and artwork are apparent. Like the unusual style, *Lamima's* cruising grounds in Indonesia are some of the most unspoiled in the world. Guests can kayak secluded coves in the Raja Ampat archipelago, sit on virgin beaches, chase dragons (or be chased by) in the Komodo archipelago, and snorkel or scuba (the yacht is a certified PADI training center) in the most pristine waters in the region. The boat is also perfect for alfresco dining and often features fresh vegetables or fish from local waters, while the onboard therapist can extract modern-day stress through massage and other spa treatments. The 20-person crew includes a tour guide, who has worked with *National Geographic*, to provide access to Indonesia's most remote areas. (camperandnicholsons.com)

Length: 214 feet

Beam: 37 feet

Guests: 14

Crew: 20

Weekly Rates: from \$175,000



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The 10 Best Charter Yachts for Winter

Legend

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Michael Verdon



Looking for the adventure of a lifetime? **Legend** will certainly get you there and back again. The enormous 254-foot expedition yacht from **Icon Yachts** has a 7,000-mile range and completed an equally mammoth refit last summer. The result: It is now officially the toughest charter vessel on the water, but with luxuries that make daytime adventurers look forward to their evening comforts. With a Class 1 ice-breaking hull and equipment like snowmobiles onboard, *Legend* was designed to navigate the extreme waters of the Arctic and Antarctic—in extreme comfort. Icon Yachts, which did the four-year refit project in Holland, built in a full gym, Balinese spa with sauna, a movie theater, and an enormous Jacuzzi. The Dutch yard also lengthened the swim platform by 14 feet and added a swimming pool. In addition, *Legend* has a full commercial helipad, not just the touch-n-go on most other yachts, as well as a three-person submarine. The yacht will be heading to Antarctica for the winter season, along with up to 26 very fortunate guests in 13 staterooms. Beyond its normal 19-person crew, *Legend* can carry 10 expedition crew (doctor, ice-pilot, expedition leaders, and naturalists, among others). The expedition yacht's very long range means it can cross the Atlantic and come back again on a single load of fuel.

(camperandnicholsons.com)

Length: 254 feet

Beam: 45 feet

Guests: 26

Crew: 19-29

Weekly Rates: from \$500,000