

After growing up on the Sydney Harbour waterfront, a career in yachting was a natural progression for Captain **Angus Biffin**, and working on **Silencio** has seen him take the popular charter yacht around the world to exciting destinations.

Word on the bridge

Where are you now?

Silencio is currently in Auckland, New Zealand, as she has just spent the summer season cruising here. Before that she was in Tahiti, the Galapagos Islands and the Caribbean. This is a very adventurous yacht which has been in the Pacific three times now.

How did you first get into yachting?

I grew up on Sydney Harbour and have always been on the water. I started sailing when I was six, in the Manly Junior class, and I've never really stopped. I sailed skiffs and racing yachts, and now have my own boat as well. I first started my yachting career as a skipper on the Sydney Harbour ferries, before moving to work on superyachts in 2007. I became a captain in 2008, and have worked all around the world on both motor and sailing yachts, joining Silencio in 2011 just after she was sold to her current owners.

What are the best and worst parts of your job?

The best part for me is that I love boating and being on the water, so I really do get paid to do what I love - I'm very lucky. The worst part, which I think many crew will relate to, is being away from home for so long. I'm looking forward to being able to spend time at home in Australia during the yacht's tour in the Southern Hemisphere.

Silencio is a hugely successful charter yacht - what do you think makes her so popular with charter guests?

Of course, there's the boat itself, which is beautiful and spacious, but also the crew, who are definitely the most important element. We have a fantastic crew; they are rock solid. Most of them have been on board for at least two years. They all love what they do, which means that

guests also have a great experience. We try to sail Silencio as much as possible, hopefully giving both crew and guests a great time. The boat is very active, and we get to race her a lot in regattas around the world - in fact we won the Perini Cup in 2013, and finished first in the New Zealand Millennium Cup earlier this year - both events were extremely proud moments for the owner, yacht and crew.

What is your favourite cruising ground?

That's too hard. Silencio has been to so many places over the last few years that there's almost too much choice. I would say anywhere tropical, but then that's probably biased as I haven't cruised anywhere like Antarctica or Alaska - yet.

Silencio has already visited so many places in the world. Where are you looking forward to cruising most?

The crew and I are looking forward to spending more time cruising around the South Pacific, as there is such a diverse offering of coastlines, waters and attractions. Our owner really appreciates visiting different places and making the most of all that is on offer.

Where next for Silencio?

Once we leave New Zealand we will sail on to French Polynesia for the season before heading to America for the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. After that we will be spending time in the Caribbean and racing in the 2016 St Barths Bucket Regatta, which we are really looking forward to.

For more information on chartering Silencio, contact your nearest Camper & Nicholsons charter broker, see page 6.

Silencio

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Length
50m (164')

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Beam
10.27m (33'8")

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Draft
3.39 (11.1)

—

Builder
Perini Navi

—

Year+ refit
2001, 2012

—

Guests
10

—

Crew
9

—

**Winter + summer
cruising areas**
New Zealand + South
Pacific

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Charter price
from US\$175,000
per week

