

Yachts Emirates....Alysia
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Liveras Yachts

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Luxury Yachts in the World's Richest City

Abu Dhabi is widely regarded as the world's richest city due to its oil wealth. Burgeoning marina projects, taking advantage of some of the 400 kilometers of Abu Dhabi coastline, are attracting the attention of the world's yachting community. In November 2008, one of the world's larger charter yachts, the 85m (280 ft) Alysia, anchored in front of the seven star, Emirates Palace, the costliest hotel in the world.

The steel hulled yacht was designed to custom specs by Alpha Marine and built by Neorion Shipyard in Greece in 2005 with the SOLAS classification. With a cruising range of over 7,000 nautical miles, Alysia is a most familiar presence on the coast of France, Monaco, and Italy during the summer months, and Asia, the Caribbean and the Maldives during winter. By adding Abu Dhabi to its ports of call, Alysia has brought to this area new opportunities to experience a luxury charter.

"I am most happy about being able to come to Abu Dhabi," said Andreas Liveras, the energetic head of Liveras Yachts. "I am very excited at the possibility of the marinas here. It will make such an impact on the yachting community."

Sam Al Abassi, Managing Partner of 4Yacht, Inc., specializing in yacht sales and custom yacht charters, was responsible for bringing the Alysia on her first charter to Abu Dhabi waters. "This event was a big responsibility", said Al Abassi. "The date had been set that required a mega-yacht for a gathering of 200 guests. Liveras had only a short notice, and on my first inquiry to him for this event he replied, 'I think I would like that'. He had just sold a sister ship to this area and he was impressed with this country."

With little more notice than the 14 days to make the passage, Liveras instructed Alysia's Captain, Alexandar Topalov, to motor the yacht from Monaco to Abu Dhabi. The vessel arrived on time as promised. Al Abassi and Liveras tackled headlong the challenges involved with being the first and largest chartered mega-yacht to dock in Abu Dhabi waters. Although there are two marinas under construction with dock space large enough to accommodate a yacht the size of Alysia, the choice in November was slim. Al Abassi made arrangements with the management at the Emirates Palace to berth Alysia alongside another private mega-yacht. "It took some doing," admitted Al Abassi, modestly. "But the group was delighted with the party and it was a huge success."

The largest and most wealthy of the seven United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi is spending \$100 billion on new infrastructure over the next five years to position itself as a year-round tourist and boating destination. Hotels and berthing facilities are being built along the Abu Dhabi coastline and on many destination islands in the near vicinity that will allow boating enthusiasts to take advantage of the temperate climate and clear azure waters.

As more charters come to this area, guests will be able to visit upscale tourist attractions such as the world's first and only extension of Paris' Louvre Museum as well as the world's largest Guggenheim Museum on Saadiyat Island, only a 20 minute motor away from the downtown waterfront. The largest developer in Abu Dhabi, Aldar Properties PJSC, has recognized this emerging market and will open its first flagship marina on Yas Island. The marina will be capable of accommodating yachts to 120m, and will provide premier views of the November 2009 Formula One Grand Prix race from berths bordering the racetrack. Yachting guests will also be able to view the race from the exclusive Yas Marina Yacht Club. Aldar has identified another fifteen marina projects representing approximately 2,000 berths, including accommodations for mega-yachts.

Alysia is a 7 Star experience with a professional crew prepared to indulge its guests. Cruise Director Ramesh Cherovoth can arrange for a helicopter to deliver guests to Alysia's heli-pad, have oysters flown from New England to be served with French champagne at midnight, have fresh flower petals floating in the spa and deliver home-made ice cream while you sunbathe. With a nearly one-to-one ratio, the multi-lingual crew is available 24 hours a day. There are 10 guest staterooms, all with ensuite marble inlaid bathrooms, which can accommodate 36 overnight guests.

A charter experience should appeal to all of the senses, including visual, taste and touch, and Alysia ticks off all of the boxes. Oriental carpets grace the main salon, stateroom carpets are custom made, curtain fabrics are silk. Fine woods and Michelangelo marble are standard throughout. Liveras had the boat designed to assure a client's security and privacy. Of course there is a private cinema theatre, and the main salon features a giant TV with 15 surrounding screens. The 1,300 sq ft master suite with double jacuzzi bath has panoramic views. A beauty salon and spa can prepare a guest for a night on the town or a relaxing massage. Fine dining includes a wine cellar stocked with 500 of the finest vintages, and two Chef's pleased to serve abalone to zabaglione. A lift runs from the lower deck to the sun deck and the garage is fully stocked with water toys.

Liveras' goals fit well with the mega sized projects of Abu Dhabi. He began his yacht charter career when he retired at age 50 from his European patisserie business. "I am the Daddy of the Black Forest cake," Liveras said proudly. After reaching the pinnacle of patisserie, Liveras decided to enjoy his success. "I retired when I was 50

and I said to my son, 'I'm going to buy a boat and go around the world'. Well, that could not happen because we were in the winter in Greece. I was so accustomed to working all day in the factory, first in the morning, last out at night, that I didn't know what to do. So I bought another yacht and we started to charter them. Twenty-six and a half years, later, I'm still here. My company is a family company and we are leaders in this industry. We are also the longest running company in business for charters."

With the main office in Monaco, Liveras Yachts boasts two of the largest charter yachts in the world, Alysia and Lauren L at 90m. Lauren L was built by Cassens Werft in Germany and has had a major refit to host 40 guests.

Always looking over the horizon, Liveras has ordered four additional yachts for the fleet. In 2011, two 100m yachts will commission, and two 120m yachts in 2014. These will be the largest charter yachts worldwide," he said.

Alysia is scheduled to return in March for the Abu Dhabi International Yacht Show and be on hand for the Formula One Grand Prix race week on Yas Island in November 2009.

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The day after this interview, Mr. Liveras, Greek born and holding a British passport, sailed aboard Alysia to Mumbai, India, en route to the Maldives. He was killed at the Taj Mahal Hotel during the recent terrorist attacks. Ramesh, the Cruise Director was wounded. The crew made it safely back to the ship. Yachts Emirates magazine would like to express its condolences to the family and friends of Andreas Liveras. He will be missed.