



FROM SØRVIND'S LAUNCH IN CAPE TOWN TO A BUSY CHARTER SEASON IN THE MED IN 3 MONTHS.

Tim, you are the proud Captain of SW 105 Sørvind and in charge since before her launching which took place in March 2022. You and your crew were in Cape Town at Southern Wind Shipyard to follow the last four months of construction Sørvind: How did this experience go?

I first went to Cape Town in September '21, two of the crew started in November and the other two started in January '22. During this period we had time to create a good bond and become more and more familiar with Sørvind before stepping on board.

The crew and I really enjoyed our time in Cape Town, the city and the surrounding area was fun to explore in our down time. We collaborated really well with the shipyard from the beginning, sharing a common goal for the owner. It was quite a seamless experience, Southern Wind Shipyard would listen to what I had to say, listen to what the owner had to say and make it happen to the best of their abilities.

Sørvind was delivered in April 2022 in Cape Town, just one month after her launching when did you start your first cruise/charter in Med?

The maiden voyage from Cape Town to the Mediterranean (about 7,500 nm) took more or less 30 days, we left Cape town on April 24th (just 12 days after acceptance). We arrived into Europe on May 27th before finishing our voyage in Palma on June 1.

On arrival we had a tight turn around to be ready for charters and with the help of the Southern Wind Shipyard Customer Care team who made sure everything we needed was there waiting for us when we arrived, we were ready for our charter season on June 28th.

“ IT'S NEVER STANDARD, YOU CAN'T JUST RINSE AND REPEAT EACH CHARTER. YOU HAVE TO MAKE EACH CHARTER UNIQUE TO THE GUEST. ”

New boat, new crew, first charter season: how did you make all this work so smoothly?

I put a lot of effort into recruiting the crew at the beginning, about 10 to 15 interviews for each position being selective not just in their abilities but also their personalities.

My plan was to frontload the work and to get a good crew so that once the season started, we would have already generated the culture on board, with everyone competent in their departments. I believe that this was the basis of our success.

The owner and I had a tough but achievable plan: launching the boat in Cape Town, delivering it and going straight into a charter season. If you looked at it on the calendar there weren't many spare days, but it was achievable. So with the expectations set, everybody on board knew what was required of them.

TIM ANDERSON

Interview by Clare Mahon



Which have been the nicest and the hardest moments so far aboard Sørvind?

One of the best and most rewarding moments onboard this summer was when we sailed into Mahon harbour under full sail this was a testament to the crews skills managing a powerful boat under sail in a confined space. The enjoyment that we all got out of it was also thanks to the enjoyment of a charter guest on board. We sailed up to the harbour mouth and I didn't say that I was thinking of sailing in, then as we started sailing in, he was like 'are you really going to do this?' And I said, yeah, we're doing it. He absolutely loved the experience and I think it's something he'll never forget. It was a real reward. With the same guest we also cruised Ibiza and sailed between the islands of Es Vedra and Vedranell a narrow gap between the islands in windy conditions. Another moment we will all remember.

The hardest part for me was being away from my wife, my 6 year old son and 3 month old daughter for a long time, missing their day to day life.



But I did manage to be there for the birth of my daughter amidst the busy charter season.

Can you give a tip to a young Captain who would like to become a Charter Captain?

My advice would be to prepare the yacht, her crew and have a great itinerary for the week because planning and preparation make the trip run smoothly. But there's some intuition involved too. Once the guests come onboard I try to read what each guest wants from the charter and I try to offer that to as many of them as possible so that each person will have their unique experience to remember.

It's never standard, you can't just rinse and repeat each charter. You have to make each charter unique to the guest. For example we had guests this summer who's son had special needs and it was lovely to see him so happy, so entertained on the charter. With him happy the parents could have some time for themselves to enjoy their time together as a couple and with their friends.

The crew took him under their wing, on the sea bob, to beaches, swimming, floating, keeping him entertained and occupied. He didn't stop smiling the whole trip and that made the trip for the parents. His happy place was theirs and ours too.

“ **...WHEN WE SAILED INTO MAHON HARBOUR UNDER FULL SAIL THIS WAS A TESTAMENT TO THE CREWS SKILLS...** ”

ABOUT TIM

Irish, born in 1984

Tim is a qualified and highly experienced sailor, having sailed every type of yacht, from the finest superyachts in the industry to competitive one-design classes and grand prix racers, full time since 2007, and in the role of captain since 2013.

He is at the helm of Sørvind since September 2021, when the yacht was under construction in Cape Town.

Any tips for Charter Guests to get the most from their charter experience?

Put the effort into the preference sheets. Think about what you write, share them with the other guests and don't leave room for surprises for the crew. Plan before you board and don't be afraid to contact the Captain because even if you have a question that may seem irrelevant, you don't want to come on board and find that something missing. Before you step on board we can be in a place to make your trip better, afterwards it's more difficult.

There will always be a few surprises and there will always be things like the weather that you just have to adapt to, but the more the crew knows about you and the guests, the better job we can do once you step on board.

