



Cyd Mansell

YACHTING CONSULTANCY
ANTIBES, FRANCE. +33 603 29 04 07
WWW.CYDMANSELL.COM

Search,
Placement
& Training
of Professional
Yacht Crew

So You Want To Work On A Yacht.....?

To get the job, you need the interview, and that's not easy in yachting!

Reading CVs and recruiting crew is just one time consuming task amongst the duties of a Captain.

The following points should help get your CV to the top of the pile.

CV & Job Hunting Checklist

Your CV is Your Sales Brochure

- The all important photograph
- Relevant qualifications
- Information relevant to position
- Clear presentation
- Check spelling
- Get a friend to check everything

Job Hunting Hints

- Present yourself at your best
- Captains also frequent bars!
- Dress suitably at all times
- Dayworking is good experience
- Gather as much info as possible

In applying for any position, you will always be up against others with varying depths of experience and skills. But to build a career and experience on professionally run yachts, you need to be selected for interview first.

Make sure you get the opportunity by taking time over your CV.

If several CVs are presented to an employer, yours could be rejected by the end of the first page unless the information is relevant and clearly presented. CV reading really is boring, and after 1 or 2 it is easy to glaze over and miss things.

The information must catch the reader's interest and hold their attention.

A little extra effort in getting your CV right, could result in an interview then a job offer. A poorly written and presented CV, not only shows that you haven't bothered, but makes you look unsuitable, and therefore unemployable.

A good photograph is essential.

This is the hospitality industry as much as it is sailing, and personal presentation is very important.

Show yourself to be friendly, approachable, happy and welcoming. A dour prison style mug shot or a professional model shot are unlikely to convince a crew that you will fit in with them.

Someone dressed in surf gear is as unlikely to get the interview as someone dressed as a bank manager. Likewise, party clothes do not give the impression that you expect to work.....only to play! If you are trying for a job on a professionally run yacht, with 6 star clientele, don't look like an unshaven rugged ocean racer!!

- Dress appropriately
- Hair neat and tidy
- Clean shaven - boys
- Minimal jewellery and makeup - girls!
- No jewellery or makeup – boys!

Relevant Information

➤ Qualifications

Get the name of your qualification right. A Yachtmaster, is not the same as a Master of Yachts. Also check the Issuing Authority – the MCA do not issue Power Boat Level 2!

If you have a yachtmaster, don't bore your potential employer with Competent Crew and Day Skipper details. You are now above that level.

➤ Tailor your CV

Different jobs require different CVs. A flotilla skipper would have to emphasise different strengths and skills than a Superyacht crew member.

What extra skills can you bring to a yacht, her owner, and her crew?
Languages, massage, magician????



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CVs – A Captain's Checklist

- Who is this person?
- Are they qualified for the job?
- What's their background?
- Will they fit with my crew at work?
- Will they fit with my crew at play?
- Will the owner like them?
- Could I share a cabin with them?
- Could I eat every lunch and dinner with them for the next year?
- Do they have a proven hard work ethic?
- What else can they contribute?

Your CV is the sales brochure for your career and your future.

The product you are marketing is yourself.

Good Luck,
&
Happy Sailing.

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Telephone: +33 603 29 04 07 • Email: cydmansell@wanadoo.fr
CYD MANSELL SARL, ANTIBES, FRANCE

Some Ideas for Writing Your CV

First Page

◆ Personal Profile

About you, who you are, what you can bring to a crew and maybe what you want from the industry.

◆ Relevant skills

Yachting or relevant land based skills – not qualifications yet.

◆ Yachting and Other Marine Qualifications

Your STCW, RYA, MCA or other certificates. Include others such as health & hygiene, engineering, nursing.

◆ Relevant yachting experience,

Professional then leisure. Include duties and responsibilities along with skills applied, but don't waffle.

Follow Up With

◆ Education

Schools, and colleges or university. Keep this quite brief.

◆ Work experience

Can be called land based employment, other employment etc. Keep non relevant details brief, and do not overstress enormous budgets (these can be reintroduced when you are a Captain with a \$3m a year budget and a yacht) Do emphasise skills that are transferable, but make it clear, concise and to the point.

◆ Interests

These will say a lot about you, so keep it interesting. Avoid things that could become crew politic issues, such as 'fox-hunting' (which you can't do on board anyway!), politics, (debating society president makes you look like you enjoy a good argument) & another I have seen, 'abortion councillor'!!! Not relevant and depending on the personnel (Captain?) person's views, could rule you out immediately.

◆ Referees

Reference checks are legal requirements for many yachts under recent security legislation. They will be checked, so ask permission from the referee before handing out their details. References must be relevant, from people who have known you in a work environment. Personal friends will obviously be nice (even if you're not!) and are of little help to your cause. Two or three references would be ideal. State in what capacity they will be referencing you. e.g. manager with company name and contact details. Always include email and telephone numbers.

No Checkable References = No Job