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CATALINA ISLAND **GETAWAY**

By Eric Stotz

WITH THE
KARMA FOUNDATION

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Make-up: Alicia Carbajal
Models: Shannon, Laura, Morgan, Kate, Johanna with Sillis Models, www.sillismodels.com



[TOP] On the girls, tops from ZARA and pants from Banana Republic, jewelry by LI
[BOTTOM] Blouse by BCBG and pants from ZARA, jewelry by Linda Rose



On the girls, dresses by Be Seduced available at www.seduce.com.au

Southern California weather was made for wonderful exotic weekend excursions. One Saturday late morning after having a wonderful brunch at the Ritz Carlton Marina Del Rey my good friend Ted and I could not help but take advantage of such beautiful weather and take his beautiful 82 foot Sunseeker Predator, fondly known as "Blue Steel", out for the perfect island getaway. This weekend, our getaway is to a little known Mediterranean-style haven of Southern California's elite yachtsmen and beautiful socialites – Catalina Island. Our captain, Brad, made sure every detail was organized including stocking the ship with the essential caviar, fancy cheeses, exotic fruits and several cases of Veuve Clicquot champagne to accent the weekend. We boarded the vessel along with a few lovely ladies and we're off for another decadent weekend of top-shelf dining, drinking, relaxation and revelry.

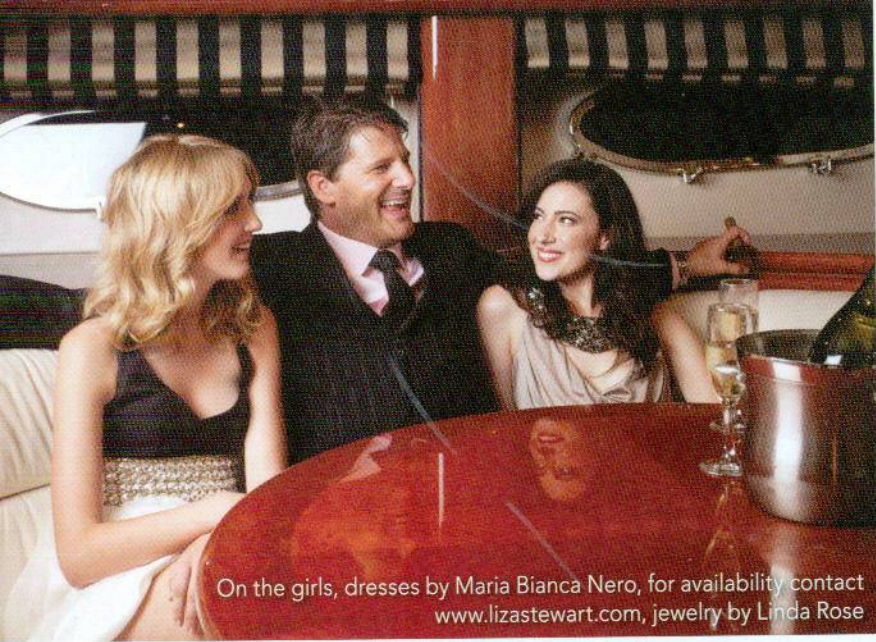
On our way out of the Marina we had one final stop before blasting out to Catalina - fuel. Blue Steel is quite a hoss with its 3 engines each generating nearly 1,750HP and burning a total of 200 gallons of gas an hour to propel the yacht to about 50 exhilarating knots. The Predator is an express performance yacht, which basically means it's a giant luxury speedboat with all the bells and whistles. Including 4 staterooms, 3 bathrooms, flat screens everywhere, you name it. Underway we bump the hottest new

grooves through the ship's thumping sound system while smiling from ear to ear and trying not to spill any more bubbly on the Predator's swanky teak back deck.

After a 60-minute sprint to Catalina we anchored a few hundred feet away from Avalon Bay. We were one of the largest boats in the harbor so the harbormaster took some time to make room for Blue Steel...allowing us more time to sip champagne and vibe with the music. There are myriad sailboats, fishing boats, day cruisers, paddle craft and express ferries from the mainland on which we could have come to Catalina but arriving on a Predator is more our style.

An hour later Blue Steel is situated in the most prominent mooring in the harbor and even sitting still it boldly faces out of the harbor with an air of sleek and sexy style. With music bumping and gorgeous ladies dancing on the bow it's clear from the pointing fingers and cameras that we are the envy of the shore-bound onlookers and sailors on smaller pleasure craft surrounding us. There isn't another

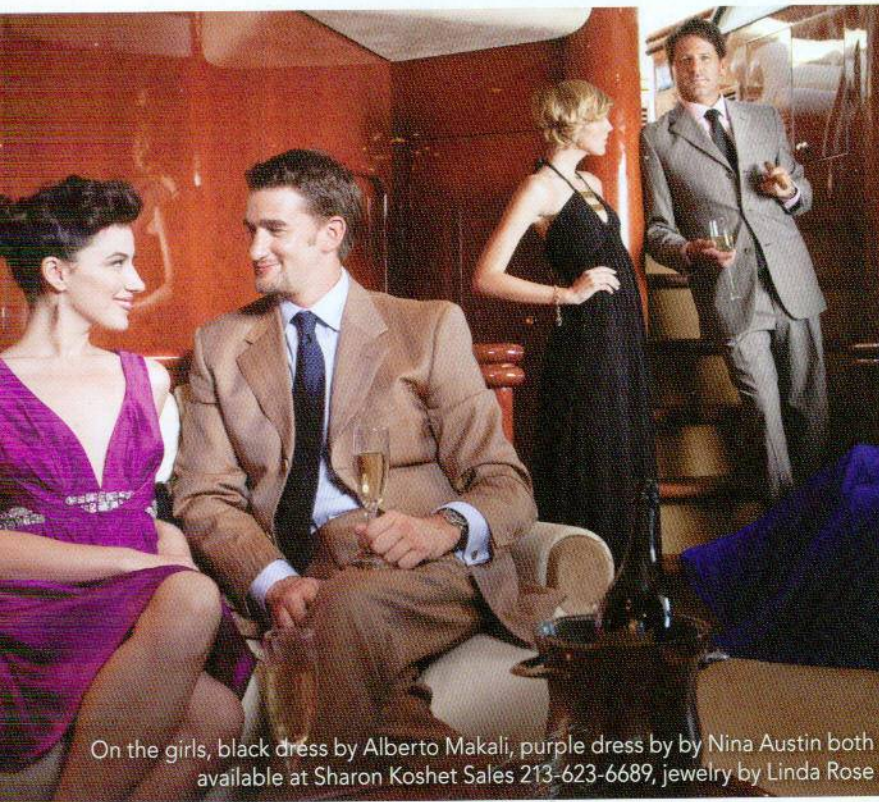
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On the girls, dresses by Maria Bianca Nero, for availability contact www.lizastewart.com, jewelry by Linda Rose

[After a 60-minute sprint to Catalina we anchored a few hundred feet away from Avalon Bay. We were one of the largest boats in the harbor...]

place within at least 1,000 miles that I'd rather be. The upbeat dance music transitions to a mellow ambient house beat that hypnotically induces us to lounge on the front of the yacht as the sun sets and leaves us at a comfortable 72 degrees. We trade in our board shorts for casual linens while the girls slip out of their bikinis and into their pretty summer dresses. It's time to cruise the town for the evening so we climb in our mini speedboat from underneath the ship to take us to shore. Everyone seems to be feeling Italian so our Karma One-Call concierge books us at Ristorante Villa Portofino.



On the girls, black dress by Alberto Makali, purple dress by by Nina Austin both available at Sharon Koshet Sales 213-623-6689, jewelry by Linda Rose

We get to shore about 9PM and find it calmly bustling with bronzed girls, city slicker sailors, tourists and families visiting from the Carnival cruise ship parked outside the harbor. Carnival's Paradise, the same cruise ship we chartered for our second Kandy Kruiise and will likely charter again for our third Kandy Kruiise event Summer 2010.

Villa Portofino turns out to be a fantastic choice. Just opposite the waterfront with a dramatic view of Avalon Harbor, gracious staff and a warm Tuscan décor, Villa Portofino is easily the finest restaurant in Avalon. It was refreshing to be able to find some delectable dining in this quaint town but the nightlife of Avalon is more subdued. The mood on Catalina is that of a remote serene village so the sporadic bars, souvenir shops, ice cream parlors, glass bottom boat tours and a golf cart population that exceeds cars seems to jive just right. Several bottles of wine and champagne later we are compelled to return to the yacht. The laughter and carefree attitude of our group created an inviting magnetism that attracted others to come back to Blue Steel with us. It was easily the best place to party in all of Catalina. Somehow we managed to revel until sunrise and have just enough time to get the girls back to the cruise ship before it left that morning.

Sunday and Monday came and went like a pleasant breeze and all of a sudden it was nearly 6PM and time to cruise back to the mainland. By now my weekend desires were all well satiated and we could not have timed our departure any better. The water was like glass all the way home, we were the only boat as far as the eye could see and the sun was slowly sinking into the horizon directly astern Blue Steel.

The vibe on the ship that weekend is best expressed as a rare fusion of joy, freedom, boldness, relaxation, gratitude, power, harmony, abundance and pleasure. It was the kind of weekend that proved to me I have good Karma.

By Eric Stotz
 Founder & Chairman, Karma Foundation
TheKarmaFoundation.com



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14

