



CREW PROFILE



Captain – James Ollemans, South African

James has been a part of the Odessa fleet since 2010 and in the yachting industry since 2004. He started out during his gap year before he was due to return home to study architecture in Natal, South Africa. Now, 12 years later, he finds himself reaching for different career goals as Captain, leading an energetic and professional crew on board Odessa. He has cruised on Yachts ranging from 50m-74m in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, Baltic, North American Atlantic, the English Channel, the Panama Canal and the Suez Canal. Off duty, James is a keen squash player, loves all water sports, snowboarding, having a round of golf with mates and spending quality time back home with friends and family.



Chief Mate – Shaun Frith, South African

Shaun grew up in the city of Johannesburg, South Africa where he had careers in both real estate and computer programming before getting a taste of the Ocean in 2009. After a day spent sailing around Cape Town's Table Bay he has since committed to a life at sea working on Yachts. Shaun is a qualified Chief Mate up to vessels of 3000 gross tons working his way towards his Captain's licence. Still in his early 30's you can find him playing all sorts of sports from Rugby, Squash, Golf, Kite surfing and tumbling down mountains on a snowboard. He is the principal for Jet Ski operations on board and responsible for the maintenance of safety and security equipment around the vessel. He also assists in navigating you to your next magical destination.



Chief Engineer – Silviu Marchidanu, Romanian

Silviu was born in Constanta, Romania, one of the busiest ports in Eastern Europe. After finishing in the Romanian Naval Academy in 2007, he started his career as an Engineering Officer in the commercial navy. He progressed in the navy until he was ready for a new challenge and joined the yachting industry. Compared to the commercial navy culture, Silviu enjoys the tightknit crew on smaller boats. His interests are science, technology and mechanics. He enjoys family time, skiing and travelling.



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OR ...

Chief Engineer – Oddie Begazhev, Bulgarian

Oddie was born in Varna- a beautiful city on the Bulgarian Black sea coast.

He graduated in 2000 from the renowned Bulgarian Naval Academy and since then has been on the sea for 16 years. He lives in his home city and is married, with two amazing kids. While building up his career he used to work on cargo, offshore and large passenger vessels before making his way to the yachting industry. He is very passionate about his job, he loves being at sea. He says; “you can only enjoy sunrises from the sea”. He is a big fan of rock music, fishing and football.

Second Engineer – Stephen Williams, British

Stephen is our Second Engineer and is from the Cotswolds in the UK. He completed his Engineering Officer of the Watch training at South Tyneside College in South Shields before going on to work for Cunard line. He spent 5 years working on their flagship, RMS Queen Mary 2, completing two world voyages and more than 30 trans-Atlantic Crossings before joining Odessa in January 2016.

OR ...

Second Engineer – Ricardo ‘Ricky’ Negri, South African

Ricardo is 29 years old and was born and raised in South Africa. He attended university in Cape Town where he received his BSc Mechanical Engineering in 2011. Since then he has worked on various sailing yachts, ranging from small to very large. In early 2016, he obtained his Y3 Certificate of Competency at Warsash University in Southampton, and shortly after joined Odessa. Ricardo has a passion for sport and outdoors and also has a great interest in how things work which is what drove him to become an Engineer.





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Bosun – Colm Costello, South African



Colm grew up in the remote town of Port St Johns, South Africa. Having grown up only a few meters from the ocean, he grew up surfing, fishing, kayaking, participating in as many water sports as possible and then later on joining the National Sea Rescue Institute. After high school Colm went on to pursue a career as a chef and later on joined the super yacht industry in that role. However, his love for the outdoors brought him on deck instead. Colm has been in the yachting industry since 2011.

Deckhand – Ash Edwards, New Zealander



Ash is from Tauranga, New Zealand. Ash spent the first 10 years of his professional career in viticulture, where he worked in Wineries in NZ, Australia and America. He's an outgoing guy, so seeking the next challenge as always, he turned to Yachting. Having started his yachting career on board Odessa, he has now completed 3 busy charter seasons, and he's incredibly keen and enthusiastic about the new experiences that are to come.

Ash is passionate about music. He writes music himself and plays the bass guitar. He was in a band in his home town for 4 years where he performed at local bars.

Deckhand – Charles 'Chuck' Bass, British



Charlie is from Essex in the UK and is in his first year of yachting. Previously Charlie spent many years as a sailing instructor on the Essex coast before heading to the Mediterranean to work in resorts as a water sports instructor. From this Charlie wanted to find his next challenge which has led him to this industry and he is looking forward to progressing in his career. He has a passion for anything active and you will find him playing any sport possible whether its rugby, cricket or football but most probably cricket.



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Chef – Sean David Ballington, British

Sean's passion for food started at a very early age; He was already working in kitchens at 15 and was Head Chef by 23. Acclaim came shortly afterwards, as he was awarded a two Rosette rating within four months. With dedication and passion, a Michelin Star and three Rosettes followed in due course. After many years of tutoring Chefs who had gone on to have successful careers on superyachts, Sean too decided to make the transition to a life at sea, and has never looked back.

Sean brings with him an impressive working experience on board superyachts having worked on board the 85m MY AIR, the 74 MY DRAGONFLY, the 54 MY SKY and the 45MY HARBOUR MOON.



Chief Stewardess – Genevieve Fletcher, South African

Gen joined Odessa, after previously worked on Odessa II, and has been on yachts since 2012. Prior to this, Gen studied and worked as a chef in the Cape Wine-lands of South Africa. She was born in Durban and moved throughout her formative years to coastal towns and cities, which is where she gained her love for the ocean and passion for travel. Gen has cruised the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Bahamas, Florida, Panama Canal and has completed one Atlantic crossing. Gen is passionate about food and loves to bake. She has also completed her PADI Open Water and will take up any opportunity to scuba dive in new locations.



Second Stewardess – Charlize Marais, South African

Charlize was born in South Africa and was raised on a wine farm near Cape Town. She attended Isa Carstens Academy prior to yachting where she studied to become a Health and Skin care therapist. After graduating she joined the yachting industry in 2013 and is looking forward to continuing her career working on yachts. Growing up on a farm she has always had a sense of adventure and a love for the great outdoors. Charlize enjoys cooking and being active with a love for hiking, tennis and horse riding.



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Third Stewardess – Taylor Browne, New Zealander

Taylor is from the North Island of New Zealand. Prior to joining the yachting industry, Taylor completed her studies in Travel, Tourism & Hotel Management. In her spare time, you can find her photographing a sunrise or sunset, exploring new places and of course being by the sea, she absolutely loves to swim.



Fourth Stewardess – Betty Magee, New Zealander

Taylor is from the North Island of New Zealand. Prior to joining the yachting industry, Taylor completed her studies in Travel, Tourism & Hotel Management. In her spare time, you can find her photographing a sunrise or sunset, exploring new places and of course being by the sea, she absolutely loves to swim.