

BOAT

International

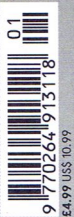
*FIVE STAR
SPAS BY
BOAT*

LIQUID ASSET

The classic that will
make you money

The
world's top 101
superyachts

How big is yours?



The Silver Bullet

Blast off with ISA's battery powered beauty

OWNERS' CLUB

INSIDE THE LIVES - AND BOATS - OF OUR EXCLUSIVE GANG

Edited by - Roger Lean-Vercoe



Join our club!

► If you're the current owner of a superyacht, have owned one in the last couple of years or are buying one, you might be eligible for entry into our exclusive network of yacht owners. To find out more about the club and the benefits available, email our editor at large: roger.lean-vercoe@boatinternationalmedia.com.

BOAT
SUPERYACHT
OWNERS'
CLUB

THIS MONTH: Meet Chapman Ducote, all-action superyacht owner, and catch up with our club-members cruising the globe ▶

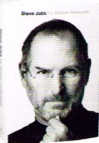
I never leave home without...



This month

Thomas Haffa
Former owner of 4H (38.5m)

The late Steve Jobs is one of the entrepreneurs who still impresses me, due to his vision and power to put it into practice. This is why his biography is one of the books I read at once; I never travel without my Kindle to read the latest books from my company dotbooks.



Time without using a watch is the time I enjoy the most. The only watch I would never sell is the Rolex Yachtmaster I bought

from the first salary I paid myself out of my own company EM.TV, in 1989.

My iPhone and iPad support both my business and private activities, and

they keep me reachable all over the world.

Leaving the harbour with a glass of red wine and listening to Julio Iglesias is always a great moment for me!

I prefer travelling

light, so always optimise luggage due to the occasion. I have no standards, but an item that I always carry are my adidas Stan Smith sneakers.



MEMBERS' LOGBOOK

Every month, you tell us where you are on the seven seas, what you can see from deck and your top trip tips

Owner of Golden Compass

LENGTH: 46m Year: 1982
LOCATION: Bahamas

• What can you see?

Right now we are anchored off Allen's Cay at the northern tip of the Exumas. It's a beautiful sheltered anchorage with clear water, beyond which lies a sickle of white-sand beach

• What's been the highlight?

Norman's Cay: we snorkelled the famous plane wreck and enjoyed the coral gardens and vast range of colourful tropical fish. We closed the day with a sunset dinner of freshly caught lobster and conch

• Have you made any discoveries?

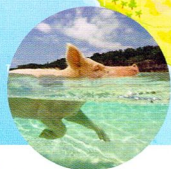
The anchorage at Shroud Cay with its turquoise creeks and clear water of the mangroves, which can be explored by kayak

• Which area of the boat are you using most?

The sundeck and the bathing platform

• Current drink of choice?

Any cool cocktail at sunset



Owner of Sofa

LENGTH: 42m Year: 2013
LOCATION: Florida, Bahamas, Mexico

• What can you see?

Turquoise water, dolphins playing, whale sharks and many islands. All create happy moments

• What's been the highlight?

When I was scuba diving with my daughter we saw a group of huge whale sharks crossing our path

• Have you made any discoveries?

The swimming pigs at Big Major Cay

• Which toy is seeing the most use?

My C-Quester three-seater submarine, by U-Boat Worx. I love the adventure of exploring for treasures and unknown sea life

• Your current drink of choice?

Definitely a 1996 Vega Sicilia Unico from Spain

• Are the locals friendly?

All over Mexico and the Bahamas everyone we've met has been friendly and helpful. They often take us fishing and show us where the good spots are

• Why do you like cruising here?

It is one of the most gorgeous and peaceful places on earth, where you can build precious family memories



Owner of Kismet

LENGTH: 95.2m Year: 2014
LOCATION: London

***What are you doing?**

I've just taken delivery of the yacht, and have been celebrating with a few parties. World Superyacht Awards Judges have also been on board. We're now preparing for an Atlantic crossing and a first charter season in the Caribbean

***What can you see?**

It's an amazing sight: Tower Bridge, the Tower of London, with its ceramic poppy display, and the iconic skyline of the City of London

***What's been the highlight?**

London by night. With its illuminated buildings shining through a winter's night it's an incredible sight

***Which area of the yacht is your favourite?**

It's winter and grey outside, so the bridge deck aft, which can be fully enclosed by glass and heated, is a very useful area



Norwegian Sea

North Sea

Black Sea

Arabian Sea

Lord Irvine Laidlaw

YACHT: *Seaflower*
LENGTH: 40m Year: 2002
LOCATION: Tunisia

***What can you see?**

Rugged cliffs with little vegetation other than olive trees and prickly-pear cactus, a few tiny towns and plenty of half-built hotels and houses

***Highlights/lowlights?**

Some architecture is attractive and the other highlights were cheap fuel and sunshine. But it was windier than we expected, there was rubbish everywhere, and attractions were not well presented. In brief, it's disappointing!

***Have you made any discoveries?**

The Roman coliseum in El Djem and the nearby museum of mosaics. Spectacular

***What area of the boat are you using most?**

The sundeck: it's a complete outside living area, ideal for the 25° temperatures we experienced in October



North Pacific Ocean

Coral Sea

Tasman Sea

Robert & Gudrun Cuillo

YACHT: *Livernano*
LENGTH: 29.26m Year: 2010
LOCATION: Bahamas

***What can you see?**

At the moment we are sitting on the sundeck watching the sun set over the Bahamian waters. Truly breathtaking!

***What's been the highlight?**

Tranquility. We spend time on the boat to relax and enjoy time away from the office. Thunderball Grotto at Staniel Cay is one of our favourite snorkel spots

***Which area of the boat are you using most?**

Most of our time on board is spent on the aft deck; we enjoy having most meals outside

***Which toy is seeing the most use?**

Our trampoline. I am not sure if the children or adults use it more!

***Your current drink of choice?**

Livernano Wines, of course! Our captain introduced us to the famous "painkiller" from the BVIs, which is a close second

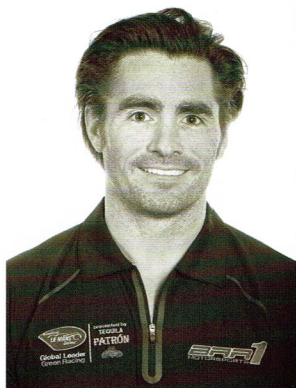
***Any encounters with sea life?**

Dolphins everywhere! It's wonderful to see the dolphins playing and running alongside the boat as we are cruising

***Why do you like cruising here?**

We thoroughly enjoy the island way of life, and exploring native foods





On board
with
**CHAPMAN
DUCOTE**



A superyacht owner who cares deeply for the heritage of classic marques – yet is also to be found regularly risking his life in the water? As *Stewart Campbell* discovers, Chapman Ducote is an enviable study in contrasts

► NO ONE CAN MAKE YOU FEEL INADEQUATE QUITE LIKE CHAPMAN DUCOTE. If it was just the house on South Beach, the successful business employing 500 people, and the beautiful author wife, I could just about stomach it. But there's more: in his spare time this tanned native of New Orleans gets into the boat at the end of his garden and blasts to the Bahamas to go spear-fishing and free-dive. He also snowboards, and is a regular visitor to the podium in the various race-car series he's involved in.

Then there are his charitable works, his seat on the board of the Miami Symphony Orchestra and his patronage of a well-respected Florida art museum. I bet he even plays the guitar. Ducote, at just 38, is a walking, talking motivational slogan, and when we meet at the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show, it is impossible not to be utterly tractor-beamed by his affable, easy-going nature. I don't want to interview him; I want to go grab a beer with him. And then go spear-fishing.

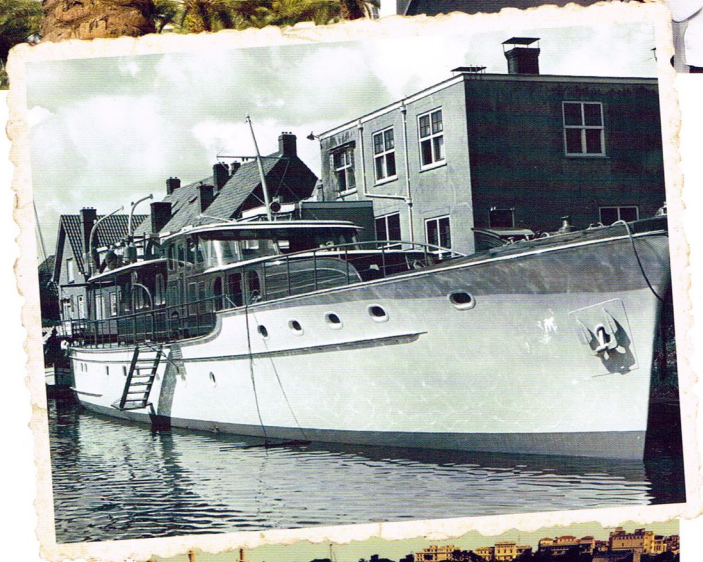
Unfortunately, he's got work to do. He's at the show with Sweden's Delta Powerboats, for which he's recently become the US importer. Deltas represent the cutting edge – razor sharp and made completely of carbon for exceptional performance and efficiency. But while undoubtedly cool, the boat I'm here to talk about is the polar opposite of these futuristic Swedes; Ducote is also the proud owner of 24.69 metre *Anahita V*, the biggest Feadship ever when she was launched in 1952, and the very first yacht from the company to be imported into the US.

Ducote found her completely by chance, sitting anonymously in a California boatyard. "It's kind of a funny story," Ducote says. "My wife does most of her writing on boats, and while we live on the water, she can't write a word at home. So she told me she wanted an old tugboat that we could put at the end of the garden to act as a writing studio and guest house.

"I realised that it was going to be a hell of a lot of work to gut an old tugboat, so I thought to myself, 'I wonder how much old Feadships are?' I started digging around and ended up on a website chat room. I was just like, 'click, click, click, then boom' - there she was. The yacht wasn't advertised, and the guy didn't know what he had," Ducote continues. "It was the first Feadship superyacht ever built and the one where they realised their business model. So to say my boat is historically significant is an understatement! It's like owning the first Ferrari ever built or the first Rolls-Royce they ever raced."

A racing Rolls-Royce with a shady past, that is. *Anahita V* spent the first part of her US life cruising the East Coast, before her owner was lured to California by the sun and sparkling seas. There he sold her to a local, who cruised her between San Diego, southern California... and Mexico. "A lot. A little too much, if you know what I mean," Ducote hints. The owner was eventually indicted for smuggling and the Feadship became a ward of the state for years before being sold at auction in the 1980s to its next owner; he lived on board her for the next 30 years, until Ducote saw her mentioned in the chat room.

"And it was a gem. I had some boys from Holland fly over to take a look at it and they were shocked at how good a condition it was in. All the mill-work, all the bulkheads, the shafts, engines and generators – all of it is



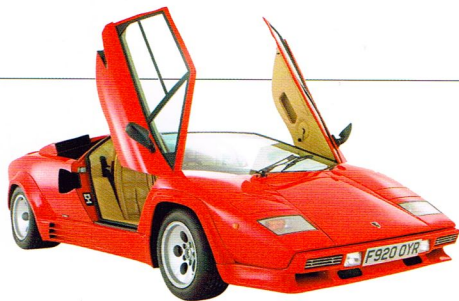
Opposite and above: Ducote's 1952 Feadship *Anahita V* was one of the first yachts built by the Dutch boatbuilding collective. He will ship her to Holland next year for a major refit at Feadship.

Right: with wife Kristin, a successful author and writer of *Naked Paddock* – currently garnering strong reviews on Amazon. Top: South Beach, Miami is the couple's home





Left: Ducote makes a pit stop at Sebring, Florida. Above: He has an enviable car collection, including a Ferrari Testarossa. Below: favourite beach Manjack Cay in the Bahamas. Bottom: favourite designer "bar none", Tom Ford



original. And the whole boat is teak, it's like a brick. Feadship built a sistership two years after this one, in mahogany, and it's gone," Ducote says. "When I called Feadship and told them about the boat they couldn't believe it. They thought it was dead. I'm surprised there hadn't been a bigger hunt for it, because the people who love these boats are fanatics."

The yacht remains in California, a long way from Ducote's Miami home. He plans to totally refit her, and is in discussions with Feadship to book a slot, likely in late 2015. Mechanically, though, *Anahita V* is running sweet, which Ducote discovered for himself on a seven-hour passage out into the Pacific and back. He expects the yacht to be with Feadship for a year before she's ready to be relaunched, sometime in late 2016. "I never thought about getting it refitted in America," Ducote says. "I really wanted to be partners with Feadship on this. I want them involved, I want their blessing."

Once complete, *Anahita V* will stay in the Med, acting as Ducote's European escape – and hopefully appreciating in value, he says with a twinkle. "In 10 years or so classic boats are going to feel much more special. I said to Henk de Vries (Feadship CEO): 'Henk, why would somebody pay \$20 million for a Ferrari when they could pay much less for a classic Feadship of which there's only one?' They made 10 or 20 of these Ferraris and there's only one of these boats; it's pretty special. So I do think the market for classic yachts, in particular classic Ferraris, is going to skyrocket."

There's clearly a fine business mind behind that big smile. Ducote's day job is running Merchant Services, a credit card processing business. He also makes money from his racing career through sponsorship deals, and nowadays races exclusively in endurance events – 24 hours at Daytona, for instance, or 12 hours at Sebring. It amounts to about four or five events a year. "You have to have a good programme," he says. "The old rule in racing is spin, win or crash. You have to get your sponsorship exposure, and deliver for them

QUICKFIRE

Chapman Ducote

SAIL OR POWER?

Power

SPEED OR STYLE?

Speed

IDEA OF LUXURY?

Speed!

FIRST THING YOU PACK?

My free-diving watch. It tells me my depth on every dive and also logs it. Since I'm diving wherever I go in my boat, this is the first thing in the bag

FAVOURITE BEACH?

I'm not that much of a beach guy, but the one that stands out is the west-facing beach on Manjack Cay in the Bahamas. It's only accessible by boat, of course, and pretty remote so you rarely see another person

HOW MANY WATCHES?

Maybe four or five; I'm not a huge watch buff

FAVOURITE DESIGNER?

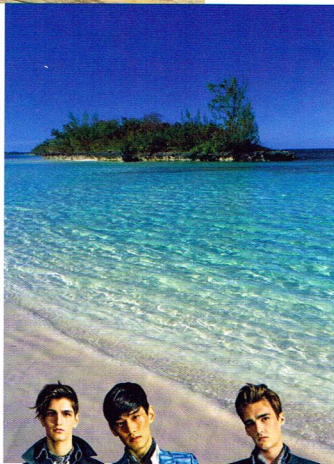
Tom Ford. Bar none

FAVOURITE CAR?

Ferrari

FIRST BOATING MEMORY?

Rolling around the saloon floor of my dad's Hatteras in a storm



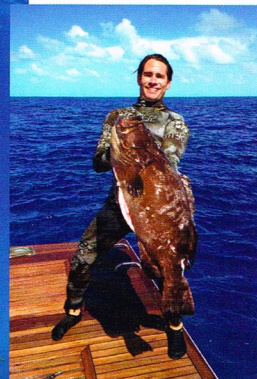
Ducote's single biggest love is spear-fishing, despite its dangers. He's had more than a couple of close shaves with sharks, and often has to fight them off with a swift punch to the nose!

mainly in a business-to-business capacity."

Somehow he even finds time to act as the US agent for Delta Powerboats, and it's one of that company's models, the triple IPS-powered, all-carbon 54 that he's got sitting at the end of his South Beach garden. He's long desired to be in the boat business and despite the joy he gets from whipping a car around a racetrack at breakneck speeds, it's really always been about the boats. "My first conscious memory is rolling around the saloon floor of a Hatteras sportsfish boat, which my father had at the time. There was a storm and I was looking through the back door. I couldn't walk. I couldn't speak. But I remember rolling around that floor," he says.

The experience clearly engendered some kind of desire to push the limits when it comes to water. In his weekend trips over to the Bahamas in his boat, he regularly dives for his lunch, speargun in hand. "It's a challenge, mentally and physically," he says. "You're in an environment you're not supposed to be in, combating currents and winds and fighting sharks - literally." Sharks? "Yeah, it's happened many times: I've had to hit sharks. You punch them in the nose, or use one of your spears and put it in their eye or gills or whatever. I never feel more alive than when I'm spear-fishing." His hunting is done in about 18 metres of water, but he goes much deeper when he free-dives, his record being about 39 metres. This means he holds his breath for about a minute and a half.

"Sometimes I go so deep I lose consciousness," he says, deadpan. "That's happened to me before. I had a friend who helped get me back. But it's a cool sport. It takes a lot of training, a lot of fitness and a certain type of personality to want to do it." It's hard to reconcile this daredevil side of his personality with the desire to travel sedately at 12 knots on a 60-year-old classic in the Med, but part of Ducote's charm is that there are no borders to his enthusiasm, no single stream that he swims in. It just makes him, irritatingly, that much more interesting. ■



“
Why pay \$20 million for a Ferrari when
you could pay much less for a classic
Feadship of which there's only one?
”



Ducote is a successful motor racing driver, but given time constraints now competes exclusively in four or five endurance events a year. The sponsors like "spin, win or crash", says Ducote - for him racing is a business

