

VA BENE

No. Crew: 13

Captain's Name: Cameron Smith

Crew profile

Name: Cameron Smith



Position: **Captain**

Nationality: South African

Description:

Cameron grew up in South Africa where he did all of his schooling and studies. He graduated with a Bachelor's of Commerce from the University of Cape Town in 2006. Cameron then found himself on the ski slopes straight after university and this was his first taste of the international world and he has never looked back.

After having learned snowboarding and how not to get frost bite on the mountains of Aspen, Cameron ended up doing more travelling and found himself in France, where his yachting career started.

Since then, Cameron has worked on many yachts of varying sizes such as LADY MARINA, AL MIRQAB & NEWVIDA. Cameron has extensive cruising experience on the French Riviera and Italian coast. In his spare time Cameron loves to play golf and tennis. This will be Cameron's fifth year with VA BENE.

Name: Ben Hetzel

Position: **First Officer**

Nationality: British

Description:

-

Name: Deborah Vol Brecht



Position: **Chef**

Nationality: South African

Description:

From a small town in South Africa on the east coast, Deborah grew up in a big family surrounded by animals and living a farm-life. Having fresh crops readily available, and a big family to feed, Deborah was naturally integrated into a life and love of food and cooking.

When Deborah isn't in the galley, her love for adventure and the outdoors thrives.

Name: Chantelle Crofton**Position: Chief Stewardess****Nationality: Australian****Description:**

Growing up sailing on the northern beaches of Sydney, Australia, Chantelle has always had a love for the water. She has been working in the superyacht industry for the last 8 years on private & charter yachts. Travelling the Pacific, Mediterranean, Caribbean, Bahamas and the Americas. Before yachting she worked for exclusive resorts within Australia from the Great Barrier Reef to the middle of the Red center.

Chantelle is very passionate about the industry and enjoys practicing her studies in project management, yacht design, gastronomies and wine. She continues to develop her skills in the Spanish and the Thai languages.

Chantelle spends her time off, exploring on her own sailing yacht, hiking and practices yoga.

Name: Andrea Marx**Position: Stewardess****Nationality: South African****Description:**

Andrea grew up in a small farm town in South Africa. She has always been surrounded by a big family as she is one of four daughters. After leaving school, Andrea graduated with Business degree in Stellenbosh, South Africa.

After finishing her degree, Andrea decided to follow her sister into the yachting industry after all the wonderful stories

that she had shared. Andrea joins VA BENE for her second season on board. Her passion is running and her contagious smile is a great asset to the team.

Name: Claire Veenhuijsen



Position: **Stewardess**

Nationality: New Zealander/Dutch

Description:

While growing up in New Zealand the ocean has always been a part of Claire's life as each childhood holiday was spent at the beach.

After university Claire started travelling, she ended up in Canada for a year where she worked as a housekeeper in a ski resort in the Rocky Mountains. She then travelled to London and worked as an assistant.

As a child she always thought that she would be a flight attendant but when the time actually came to it a friend of Claire's introduced to her the idea of being a stewardess on a Motor Yacht. She joins us for this season as her second season as a stewardess.

Name: Claire Proud



Position: **Stewardess**

Nationality: British

Description:

Claire grew up in England, with a love for travel she has worked all around the world. Recently in New Zealand.

Claire, enjoys playing badminton and watching rugby! She loves to keep fit and trying out new sports. Claire practices calligraphy and makes her own greeting cards. Last winter she set up her own Etsy shop online selling a selection of cards all over the world.

This will be Claire's third season on board VA BENE.

Name: Richard Smyth



Position: **Chief Engineer**

Nationality: New Zealander

Description:

Richard joins VA BENE with extensive Marine Engineering experience. After 9 years of keeping New Zealand safe in the Royal New Zealand Navy and travelling to 18 different countries such as South East Asia, America, & the Pacific, Petty Officer Marine Technician Smyth (Richard) decided he wanted to do more travelling to the places he had not yet been.

He has been a very important part of the family over the last 6 years. During his time off, Richard spends his time doing his Helicopter training, he is only 5 hours away from getting his pilot's license. He is also a vivid car lover and can be found and the track watching the cars go by. Richard's sense of humour is a wonderful asset to the VA BENE family.

Name: Daniel Peek



Position: **2nd Engineer**

Nationality: British

Description:

Daniel left school at 16 and started an apprenticeship in Marine Engineering at Pendennis Shipyard in the UK building and refitting superyachts. He completed the 4 year apprenticeship in 2014, and then worked as a fully qualified tradesman for almost 2 years before getting his job as 2nd engineer on VA BENE.

Daniel was introduced to sailing at the age of 7, when his parents bought their first boat. He took a keen interest and began sailing lessons once a week throughout the summer. A couple of years later his parents bought a bigger yacht so they would sail up and down the UK's South Coast. This is when Daniel realized he wanted to take up a career in the marine industry.

Name: Ben Hiller



Position: **Bosun**

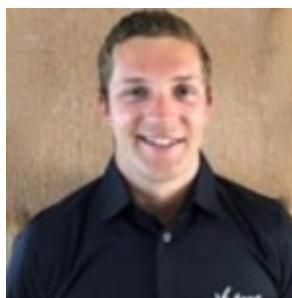
Nationality: British

Description:

Ben was born in the UK where he spent time holidaying in Cornwall with his family. After school he attended the Hotel Institute of Montreux. Before he ventured into yachting, he worked as a cocktail barman in a Boutique hotel as well as a restaurant manager in London.

Most of his yachting career has been based in the Mediterranean with one season being in the BVI's and Bahamas. His big smile and eagerness to please guests is a great addition to the VA BENE family.

Name: Richard Wood



Position: **Deckhand**

Nationality: South African

Description:

Richard comes from South Africa and at the age of 19, he started yachting career. Since then he has worked on various yachts from 23m up to 52m as a deckhand, and is currently completing his training to become an Officer of the Watch.

He enjoys a range of watersports, including wakeboarding, scuba diving, spear fishing, and is currently trying to improve his surfing skills. His way of living is being outdoors, relishing activities such as trail running, camping and hiking.

Name: Peter Heath



Position: **Deckhand**

Nationality: South African

Description:

Peter grew up in Cape Town, South Africa, but believes firmly his heart is located somewhere in Swakopmund, a small fishing town in Namibia, where he spends his time off, fishing.

After school, Peter played provincial rugby in Cape Town, until a knee injury caused him to rethink his career trajectory. Having completed a marketing diploma and a certificate in financial planning, Peter dipped his toes into the arena of wealth management, but soon realized he preferred working with his hands. At this point Peter set about becoming a qualified plumber, which lead to him starting a plumbing business which he owned and ran for 8 years. However his love for the ocean soon overpowered his love for land and the journey into the yachting industry began.
