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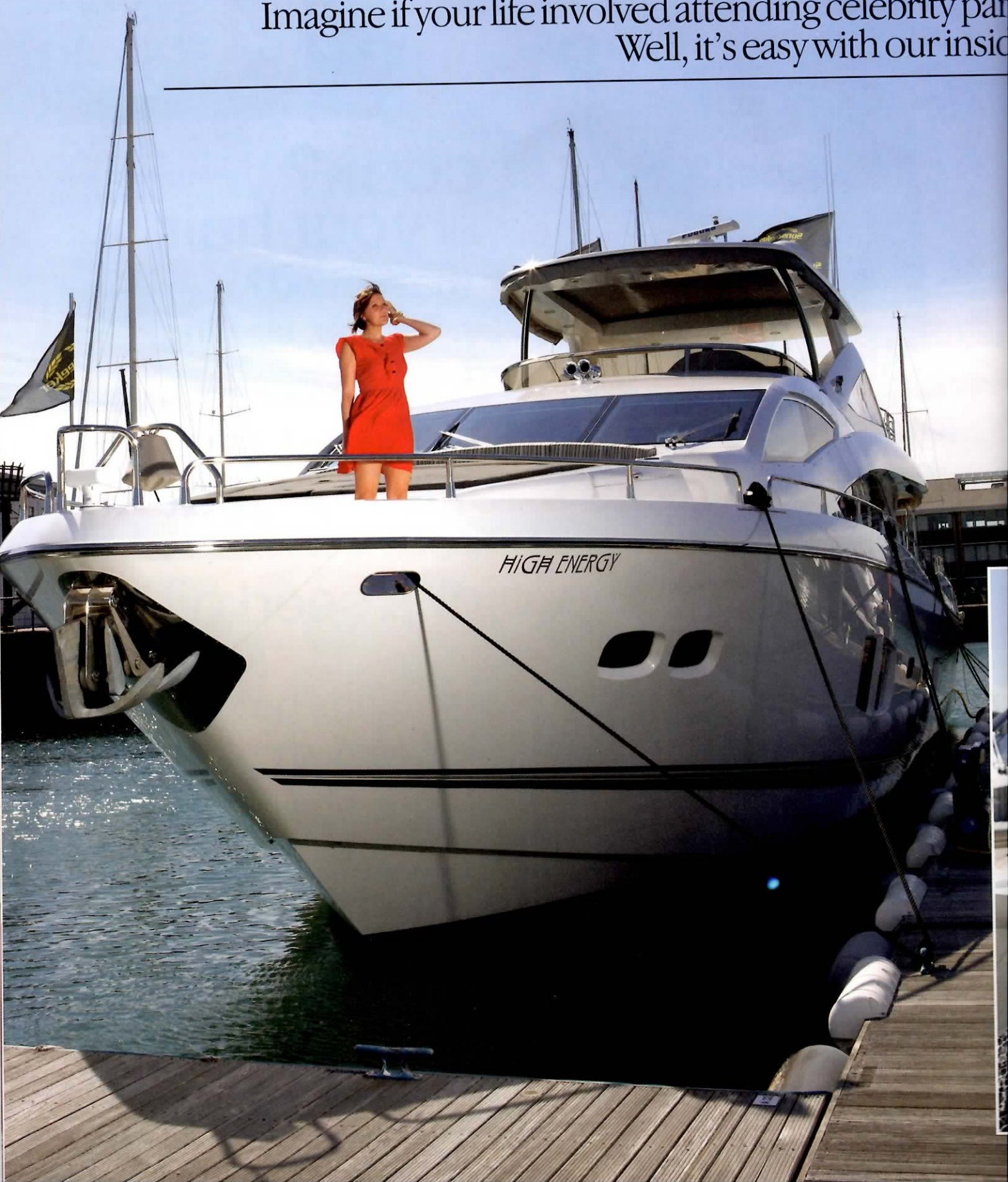
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GET AN A-LIST LIFE-

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Sailing on luxury yachts and staying in plush hotels.
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“I Cruise The World On Super Yachts!”

Nicholle Mackenzie, 33, is a stewardess on a super yacht

When I'm standing on the deck of a super yacht in the sunshine, looking out over St Tropez, I always have to pinch myself. My life is so different to how it was just two years ago, when I was living in Kent and working as an accountant. Now, I get paid to visit places I used to dream about at my office desk – the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and the Caribbean. Working as part of the crew on a huge yacht means my meals are all cooked for me by the on-board chef, and on my days off I can explore some of the most exclusive places in the world. I've sunbathed on Nikki Beach in St Tropez

and gone clubbing in Monaco, I've met some amazing people, including models and royalty, and one evening in St Tropez I even saw Leonardo DiCaprio by the marina, surrounded by fans. And if the travel and celeb-spotting wasn't enough, because I don't have rent to

worked on three different super yachts for up to a year at a time. Most have jacuzzis, pools, and gyms, and some have hair salons and masseuse rooms. One I worked on had a disco room with a projector and karaoke!

Our guests receive seven-star service, 24/7. After arriving in a chauffeured car or fresh from a private jet, they're welcomed onboard with champagne and introduced to the crew. The evenings are decadent, with 10-course meals and Mexican, Japanese or Grecian-themed nights, where everyone dresses up.

Being a stewardess is very demanding. Some days last from 6am to 1am, and you're always on the go. You have to deal with any situation that arises – from an impromptu party to a guest who can't sleep. Being away for months on end (the main season is March to October) means I miss friends and family, and as I share my cabin with the chief stewardess, I have a smaller wardrobe than I'm used to, but it's a tiny price to pay for the perks. I love my job. Waking up to a different view each morning is like moving offices every day – but much more beautiful.”

“I've sunbathed in St Tropez, been clubbing in Monaco and met celebs”

pay I've saved enough money to go travelling in the off-season and top up my tan with some winter sun, just like the A-listers do!

I was holidaying in France in 2006 when I saw my first super yacht. A crowd had gathered on the pier, trying to spot a model or Hollywood star on board. On the deck, stewardesses in pristine uniforms served champagne. It looked like my perfect career – I used to sail when I was younger, I'd worked in hospitality and I loved to travel.

At the time, I was wary of giving up my steady accounting job. However, two years later, I was feeling stuck in a rut. I remembered how excited I'd felt seeing the stewardesses in France, so I Googled 'stewardess training', found the UKSA in Cowes and signed up for the Essential Marine Hospitality course. I used my holiday allowance to spend a month learning bartending, silver service, flower arranging and table setting to the exceptional standards expected. It was intense, but fun.

Once the course finished, everything happened incredibly fast. I was so excited. I quit my accounting job, worked my notice, and headed to the South of France, where I signed up with crew agencies. Two weeks later, I got my first job, and since then I've

Nicholle has met models and royalty on board



SAIL INTO A JOB ON A SUPERYACHT:

Emma Baggett, the industry guidance trainer at UKSA, has these tips:

■ **Take the Essential Marine Hospitality course (an intense four-week course) or any of UKSA's Yachting and Watersports Careers courses. Call UKSA on 01983 294941 or email info@uksa.org.**

■ To get an idea of what it's like aboard a super yacht, you can charter a luxurious High Energy Sunseeker 88 Yacht for private use, week-long charter, weddings or dinner parties. Contact www.sunseekercharters.net or call 01202 682890.

■ **Check out specialist magazines like *Yachting World* (www.yachtingworld.com) for info and classified ads for crew jobs.**