

GULET ALBA

crew profile



CAPTAIN Mirko Pericic Croatian, fluent in English

Captain Mirko has dedicated his life to the sea. Along with all of his yachting certificates, Mirko completed his diploma of Electrical Engineering to give himself a greater knowledge base and edge upon entering the yachting industry. Mirko has 16 years' experience at sea in various roles, 5 of which he has captained ships and gulets along the Adriatic.

In 2014 Mirko attained his *RYA Certificate Yachtmaster*, and with this, took to the sea during his off season to achieve some personal highlights: crossing the Atlantic on an 18m Ketch (ironically named) *Lazy Bones* from Morocco to Ecuador. He has sailed the Mediterranean Sea, Caribbean, and West Pacific, completed 2 Panama Canal crossings and hopes to do a Pacific Ocean crossing in the near future. When speaking about his Atlantic crossing experience, Mirko recalled: *"nothing compares to being in the middle of the sea, with no land or anything in sight and being completely vulnerable to mother nature – now that's something..."*

Mirko's long-term goals are to further establish his reputation in the yachting industry and to one day have a yacht of his own; whether for charter or merely for personal use – he would love to set sail for a year across the Pacific Ocean exploring the innumerable Pacific islands.

Along with his passion for the sea, Mirko's next greatest passion would have to be music; he has a love and appreciation for almost all genres, but particularly anything on the heavier side - as for over a decade now, Mirko has been the drummer in a rock band with the same group of friends since high school.

After a season on the 38m gulet *Stella Maris*, Mirko is now the Captain on gulet *Alba* where he has the opportunity to work with his wife - hostess Tash (who he of course met on the sea) along with his favorite Chef, Zlatko. After facing the open seas of the Atlantic, it takes a lot to rattle Mirko; he is a very calm and easy going Captain, confident in his skills and knowledge. Mirko's work ethic and philosophy has always been a very hands-on approach and he leads by example. As well as care of his ship and crew, Mirko is also extremely passionate and genuinely cares about guests' satisfaction and overall experience - another reason he is highly respected and stands out in his role as Captain. Mirko expects the same commitment and work-ethic from his crew; which is why he has hand-chosen a team of like-minded individuals whose combined skills and attitudes complement each other and create a beautiful environment onboard *Alba*. They are a Captain and crew committed to making *Alba* a success and experience above all else.

HOSTESS, Natasha Pericic, English (native)

Tash has a very colorful and lively background of experience, particularly in the hospitality and customer service industry. In 2008 Tash graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Otago in New Zealand, and minored in Social Work and Psychology. During her 4 years of study she worked at an iconic local bar as a cook and then as a bar manager to help pay for her tuition. This was the beginning of her passion for hospitality and people, and led her away from a career in Law. Since 2008 Tash has managed a number of restaurants in New Zealand and Australia, the pinnacle of her career being when she moved to London and was very quickly promoted to Assistant Manager at Gordon Ramsay's Michelin starred *MAZE* restaurant in Mayfair; here she gained invaluable knowledge, skills and contacts in the fine dining industry.

During her time in London she gained a plethora of experience to add to her already growing CV; she had a hand in hosting a number of private celebrity and charity events, she worked with and was trained by Martyn Newman, a leading psychologist in Emotional Intelligence and Leadership (another passion of hers), and consulted at Goldman Sachs for their catering department - working on improving customer service standards and internal

team motivation. After 2 years in London it was time for a change, and Tash hit the road to tick off some travel goals. As well as visiting over 16 countries she was also an au pair (nanny) in Florence, Italy for an Italian family of 4 children, spent time in Turkey working for a travel company - putting together their travel magazine, blog and website; and then she ended up working as a tour guide for 2 seasons in Croatia where she inevitably met and worked alongside her husband Mirko.

In her own words: *as you can see I have a huge range of experience, but it all boils down to a love and passion for people, hospitality and travel. This is exactly how I came very naturally to be in the yachting industry; it is an ever-changing industry that pushes me to continually grow, it combines all of my passions and of course the opportunity to work alongside my husband is just the icing on the cake!*

Outside of hospitality, Tash's other passions include writing - for as long as she can remember she has always had a pen and paper nearby *ready to scribble down any arising thoughts or words*. For the last 3 years she has been dedicated to



writing a personal blog and one of her ultimate life-goals is to one day write a book. Tash is also very active and enthusiastic about health and fitness; she has completed two half-marathons in the past and loves training, Zumba and Pilates.

Tash's passion for life is absolutely contagious. With such a varying range of experiences, Tash has gained a number of invaluable qualities: she is easily adaptable and unflappable, has superb attention to detail, a genuine heart-felt approach to customer service and always strives to go above and beyond mere service by creating a lasting impression and overall experience. Like her husband Mirko, she has a strong work ethic and is determined to continue her personal journey of learning and self-improvement within an industry she loves.



CHEF Zlatko Poljak, Croatian, fluent in English

High school for tourism and hospitality Sinj; Professional chef -2003School for tourism and hospitality Split; Master chef program (Cum Laude) –2011Croatian Chamber of Trades and Arts Split; Master chef title–2015

Being a Chef was never a choice for Zlatko, it was a calling, the only job he could ever see himself doing.

During his initial school years, Zlatko gained valuable work experience alongside his qualifications; for four years he worked in a local Konoba preparing local cuisine, he also worked a season as Head Chef in *Hotel Arena*, a 4-star ski resort in Slovenia, where he was preparing local cuisine with a modern-French take. However in these various roles and experience Zlatko was always searching for the perfect environment and job which would provide him the opportunity to continue to develop professionally, to expand his knowledge and experience, and to give him the freedom to experiment with new ideas and approaches - going beyond the confines of a typical restaurant menu. He found all of the above cheffing on charter

yachts; in 2006, Zlatko joined his first charter yacht and hasn't looked back since.

Zlatko enjoys the challenge of having to prepare meals for guests in an intimate setting, needing to understand their preferences and adapt to their requirements in a much more detailed manner than chefs typically have to do in a restaurant. His wealth of experience combined with his passion for food and service makes him extremely versatile and adaptable, on a number of occasions he has whipped up something *off the cuff* upon guest request to their absolute delight, it is very clear to see that he enjoys preparing food just as much as his guests enjoy eating it!

Zlatko's favorite style cuisine is Ottolenghi's: *"fresh ingredients, clear texture, meaningful combination of flavors with a Mediterranean twist, carefully decorated, and above all, delicious."* The seasonal nature of his job allows him to continue to work on his professional goals, grow, travel and explore. Having recently attained his Master Chef Title, Zlatko's next goal is to attend one of the most prestigious Thai Culinary academies in Bangkok this coming winter to further his knowledge and experience with a different style cuisine, adding yet another notch to his already impressive belt.

Zlatko's demeanor, attitude, passion and overall outlook on life are an absolute asset to any crew, he is the ultimate epitome of: *"If you do what you love, you will never work a day in your life"* and you will be hard-pushed to find this man without a smile on his face. As with all the other crew members, he has a strong work ethic and also doubles up as a valuable crew member around the ship - which is a very rare skill in such an acclaimed Chef and speaks highly of his team spirit. Zlatko was just as excited to join this team as they all were to work with him.

DECKHAND Stipe Babic, Croatian, English, German

Stipe finishes off this crew as another excellent addition to the team. Stipe was born in Switzerland where he spent his early childhood years, before returning to Croatia where he continued his higher education gaining qualifications in construction and surveying. Stipe worked in this industry for 6 years, working within a team of 12, travelling all around Europe, measuring formations and infrastructure stability of tunnels. It was a high-risk job that provided an environment of adventure and challenge; Stipe gained many valuable skills in this role, placing teamwork above everything else.

However when Stipe grew restless in this role, it was only a matter of time before he turned his heart and his eyes to a career at sea. In his words he has: *“always loved the sea (after spending childhood years at his family’s summer house on the sea), adventure and travel – working on yachts provides all of this, it also gives me the opportunity to meet people from all around the world and learn about new cultures and ways of life”*.



This is Stipe’s second season aboard charter gulets and he is already recognized as a valuable, hardworking and committed crew member, which is exactly why he was hand-chosen by Alba’s Captain and crew to join their team. Stipe hopes to build a strong career in the yachting industry, and is dedicated to pushing himself to grow, learn and gain the necessary skills and experience required. Stipe’s long-term goal is to one day Captain a charter yacht, and intends to spend this winter gaining further qualifications towards this.

Stipe has an adventurous spirit and outside yachting, he is also passionate about nature and hiking - growing up in Switzerland was definitely an influence in this passion. Since moving to Croatia he has hiked many tracks around Dalmatia, Croatia and Bosnia. He also loves swimming (another bonus to working on a yacht), was coached for 4 years during his high school years and won various competitions and medals in Split.

Along with Stipe's attributes, which make him a valuable deckhand, he also contributes to the overall ethos and atmosphere of the boat and crew with his excellent team spirit, sense of humor and highly likeable personality.