

# Biographical Sketches

## Melissa & Francesco



### Introduction

Melissa and Francesco are a husband and wife team of experienced ocean sailors and the co-founders of OMBRE BLU. They met for the first time in 2003, when they were competing in a Regatta in Fiji on opposing yachts!

Melissa travelled with Francesco to Italy for the first time in 2004, it was then that they decided on a new career direction. They couldn't resist the opportunity to launch their own yacht and explore Italy with guests.

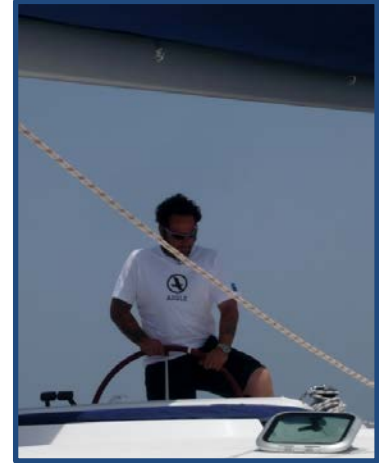
Their wish is to give you a truly local experience in unique and special places, a voyage of discovery similar to the one Francesco shared with Melissa when she first came to live in Italy.

They are passionate about good food and wine and this is one of the focal points of the 'experience'.

Together Melissa and Francesco bring a unique combination of experience, skills and expertise (not to mention languages!) to your cruise.

## Biographical Sketch

Name: Pierfrancesco  
Position: Captain, Head Chef & Dive Instructor  
Born: 27.09.1969 – Milan, Italy  
Nationality: Italian  
Languages: Italian & English



Francesco is a native of Venice. After studying law in Milan and at the University of California, Berkeley, he practiced in Italy for several years, before his love of the sea drove him to change careers.

In 2003, he moved to the Pacific, where he worked on a variety of yachts.

Francesco has sailed many thousands of miles in the course of his yachting career.

### His maritime qualifications include:

- MCA Master of Yachts Captain 200 gt/OOW 500 gt (Maritime Coastguard Agency, UK)
- RYA Ocean Yachtmaster - Sail (commercially endorsed) (Royal Yachting Association, UK)
- Master 5 Skipper – Power (Marine & Safety Tasmania, Australia)
- Unlimited Italian sail/motor to 24 metres

An accomplished cook, Francesco is your Head Chef aboard, following in the tradition of his two sisters, who are both Chefs in the Veneto region. Like everyone in his family, he is passionate about good food!

Certified as a PADI Diving Instructor, one of Francesco's passions is to explore the magical 'underwater world' with guests. He is qualified to teach courses from beginner to advanced and specialty levels.

## Biographical Sketch



Name: Melissa  
Position: Captain, Co-Chef & Massage Therapist  
Born: 01.10.1967 – Tasmania, Australia  
Nationalities: Australian & British  
Languages: English & Italian

Melissa was born in Tasmania, an Australian locale famous for sailing. She eventually moved to Sydney, where she studied business and human resources management.

During her corporate career she accepted the challenge to manage the start-up of a professional football team. After four years of handling player contracts, sponsorships, publicity and special events, she decided on a change of pace and accepted an offer to crew on an ex-Sydney-to-Hobart racing yacht from Australia to Fiji. The experience led to a permanent career decision.

### **Melissa's maritime qualifications include:**

- MCA Master of Yachts Captain 200 gt/OOW 500 gt (Maritime Coastguard Agency, UK)
- RYA Ocean Yachtmaster - Sail (commercially endorsed) (Royal Yachting Association, UK)
- Master 5 Skipper – Power (Marine & Safety Tasmania, Australia)

A fully qualified massage therapist, Melissa combines this expertise with her love of the sea, in the form of 'Wellness'.

Melissa has been living in Italy permanently since 2007. Fluent in the language, she has a deep understanding of the culture and the people and enjoys sharing this with guests!