

We are Sailing

By Rebecca Bisset

Rod Stewart's *I am Sailing* starts up.. and from the gallery, Lyn calls out, "I should use this song on my website!"

When we hired a yacht a few years ago, I found sailing rather boring and too much like hard work. This time, however, I loved it! The scenery out from Raffles Marina is not amazing – but I was enchanted by the whole experience of silently cruising through the sea with white sails up.

The 'motion of the ocean' put everybody into chill mode as soon as Turmalin left the marina. Owners, Alan and Lyn, who actually met on the Turmalin in Malta have been able to enjoy this for nearly 30 years, including sailing across the Atlantic 8 times - twice on this lovely yacht!

My day out with them included none of the hardship of my previous experience. Mus and Alan did all the hard work on board and Lyn did the hard work in the galley. All the rest of us had to do was lounge around, eat and talk – and play, in the case of the children.

An hour out, a light drizzle set in. The girls moved to the little salon below deck to play board games, while the older children played battle ships. We adults opened a bottle of red and chatted with Alan about their travels and love of yachts (he also part owns Simpson Marine). I asked him what made people buy boats.

"All sorts of people buy boats, and for many different reasons. Boats and boating definitely seem to get into your blood."

We found a place near a sandbar to drop the anchor and after a lot of hesitation about the depth of the water and the possible presence of sharks, the children swam ashore. The sun came out and it was perfect. Mus started barbecuing the satay, and the children came back to practise doing 'funny' dives off the deck while Lyn prepared their meal.



Funny jumps were on the entertainment menu.



Alan & Lyn's daughter Lauren set up operation plantation - everytime they come to the island they bring a coconut to plant. My crew helped out this time.





*Alain and Georgia
sitting on the deck doing
the hard work of
sitting! (left)*

My youngest, Georgia, had been asking if she could fish. We assured her there were no fish around Singapore but promised that she could dangle the rod in the water to get a feel for it. We had to eat our words! Armed only with raw chicken *satay*, it took her approximately three minutes to catch her first tiny, silvery fish. The next was a fairly large grouper, its capture accompanied with lots of high-pitched squeals. I was given the reel and immediately caught a good-sized but nameless fish, and then a huge catfish of which I was very proud. We kept them in a tub for a while, along with hermit crabs the children had caught on the island, before releasing them back into the sea – very impressed that Singapore waters could deliver such a fine catch, and all with chicken *satay*!

By this stage we were more than ready for dinner. The result of Lyn's time in the galley included *boconcini* with tomatoes marinated in basil oil, smoked salmon and caviar on endive, herbed cheese on endive, *harissa* and Parmesan pita crisp, blue-cheese dip with crudités, barbecued eggplant roulade with two fillings, salmon kebabs, and chicken *satay* for the kids, both young and grown-up. There was also roast pumpkin salad with feta, pine nuts and caramelised

onion, doubled-baked potatoes and a cheese platter – something delicious for each one of us, including children and vegetarians.

Later, Lyn surprised us with dessert – a late birthday cake for me and the two other January 'babies' in the group. Exhilarated by the fun of the day, but tired out

by sun, sea air and exercise - that night, fishy memories filled our dreams.

To book your own special day out at sea on the Turmalin, a champagne brunch or sunset cruise call Lyn on 9732 4501 or email boatcharters@singnet.com.sg.

