



Yacht CV Tips For New Crew

Ways to improve your yacht CV today and start getting more interest, calls, and interviews.

A yacht CV with the information the industry wants to see the way they want to see will make a huge difference in attracting more interest and opportunities. Below are some proven ways to make a difference in the effectiveness of your yacht CV.

Add more detail. Don't just list your job duties. Add things like:

- If you were given additional responsibilities or promoted quickly.
- Did you help train anyone?
- Did you work within, or lead, a team on a project to achieve a goal, make an improvement of some kind?
- Did you ever go above and beyond in the job in some way, or provided a higher level service?

Some land-based experience that are transferable that you could add or highlight are:

- Hospitality experience which includes restaurants/bars, events, catering, hotels, guest services, cooking, housekeeping, etc.
- Admin experience such as keeping calendars, managing timelines, inventories, personal assistant duties.
- Project management experience.
- Construction, electrical, plumbing, mechanical experience, etc. are all transferable

Do not leave off your landbased experience.

A lot of new crew think because their past jobs were not on yachts, or in the marine industry, they should not include them. That can leave problematic gaps in your work history. Employers want to see how long you were in a job, if you advanced in past jobs, and possibly picked up some foundational skills that would be a benefit to succeed in the yacht industry.

Okay, so how do I make my land-based experience relative to the industry?

For jobs that seem completed unrelated to yachts like office jobs focus in areas that demonstrate the “type” of employee you were. Did you get promoted in your job? Were you given additional responsibilities? Did you manage or train anyone? Did you reach a goal set by yourself, boss, or company? Did you work well within teams? If you do not have yacht experience but are able to show you have been a successful employee in past positions that has done well, moved up, and became relied upon, they are more willing to take a chance on you.

Drop the long profile at the top of your CV.

If you have a long paragraph profile at the top of your page it will most likely result in your CV being skipped. Stick with a simple job objective/goal first and put the profile in another area or in a second paragraph. The reader initially only is interested in what you are seeking and does not want to read a lengthy profile at first. One of the biggest complaints we here from Captains and hiring staff.

Make it two pages. Do not fall for the One Page Trap.

Unless you only have a few jobs (1-3) you should use two pages. The industry is completely fine with two pages. When you try to put two pages of info into one page the result can be an overcrowded unreadable mess, or you could leave off something important.

When you are new to the industry, even after one or two jobs on boats, you usually need to include more information on past experience, achievements, and skills to show why you would be a good new crew candidate to take a chance on.

Your CV needs to be easy to skim. Two pages gives you the room to have a well-organized CV that is easy to read, skim, and navigate to find the information they are looking for, as well as the opportunity to highlight strengths and key experience.

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Use Bullet Points.

We always recommend bullet points over narrative style. Bullet points are much easier to read and get the information the reader is seeking quickly. Long paragraphs under each job are like speed bumps in your CV that derail the reader.

Your CV Photo.

Do not look like a Newbie in your photo because you will definitely be seen that way. Bottom line is you need to dress like crew for your photo. That means a solid colored Polo type shirt with no patterns, or stripes...solid. And it does not have to be white as some will tell you. Colors are everywhere on yachts now. So best to go with a color you know you look good in. And for women, wear your hair like you would for a nice business dinner, and how you think it looks best. You do not have to have pulled straight back, as some suggest. Not everyone looks good like that, and you will not be passed over for not having your hair pulled tightly back in your photo. Do not wear sunglasses, hats, large jewelry, or street clothes.

Do not use “I, we, and me”. We see this a lot and it is a very informal and unprofessional. Use more professional sentence structure. So for example:

“I assisted with inventories and we hit sales targets every month” ...becomes...

“Assisted with inventories, and hit sales targets every month”

An easy fix and makes a big difference in your CV having a stronger professional tone.

Hobbies and interests.

The Cabinmate Factor. We started using this strategy over 5 years ago for new crew and it is still one of the most effective strategies today for new crew to get interviews and jobs. We use an About Me/Profile section on the second page of yacht CV's for new crew and recommend them to use this section to talk more about who they are as individuals, what there passions are, life goals (not professional. More like: Hope to hike to Everest base camp someday, or learn to kite board, or learn a language), what were some of the most influential moments in your life, coolest experiences, or things like volunteer work, interest in playing music, or other interests. This is because you are not just getting hired as a crew member, but also as a roommate.

And since they know they are going to teach you most of the job when you are new, how you fit in with the crew can be the most influential factor when you get hired. We have had clients get hired because of shared interest in horses, downhill skiing, and because they played guitar.

Think roommate meets dating profile. It seems counter intuitive, but it works. Over and over again.

References.

You should have at least three references. Make sure all of your references know they are references for you, and that they will be good references. You would be surprised how many people leave this to chance only to find out later one of their references has not been great for some reason.