



SON DE MAR

CREW PROFILE



CAPTAIN MATE VITALJIC

Captain Mate Vitaljic, from Komiža on the island of Vis, has dedicated his life to the sea. A graduate of Maritime High School and the Faculty of Maritime Studies in Split, Mate quickly earned his Master Mariner license, allowing him to command ships of any size globally. His career spans cargo ships, passenger vessels, and senior maritime management roles.

In 2011, Mate returned to hands-on yachting, co-owning, and operating the luxury yacht Korab with his wife, Antonia. Since 2019, he has captained Son de Mar, bringing his easygoing yet professional approach to every charter. With a deep knowledge of the Adriatic and strong community ties, Mate ensures his guests' safety, comfort, and unforgettable experiences.



FIRST OFFICER IVAN VITALJIC

Born into a family of seafarers, Ivan gained his first maritime experience working on his father's yacht during high school summers. With a degree in Economics, he now combines his professional skills with his love for the sea as a vital crew member aboard Son de Mar. Attentive, personable, and efficient, Ivan ensures guests feel welcome and cared for. When he's not on board, he works as a project manager in a yacht charter agency and enjoys traveling, basketball, and family time.



HEAD CHEF ANTONIA TOMIC

Antonia began her career as a Chief Stewardess and Chief Purser but found her true passion in the kitchen. Encouraged by her husband Mate, she became the chef aboard their yacht Korab in 2011, quickly earning acclaim for her Mediterranean-inspired fine dining. Antonia pursued formal culinary training to hone her skills and worked alongside renowned chefs during the off-season. Her dishes, crafted from fresh, local ingredients, are as visually stunning as they are flavorful. Always prioritizing her guests' preferences, Antonia creates memorable dining experiences aboard Son de Mar, pairing artistry with heartfelt hospitality.



SOUS CHEF

NENA DUMANCIC

Nena is a passionate sous chef who has spent over seven years aboard luxury yachts like Korab and Son de Mar, working closely with Captain Mato and Chef Antonija. Fluent in English and proficient in French, she combines her love for the sea with expertise in Dalmatian-Mediterranean cuisine, crafting simple, flavorful dishes like paštica and brudet. Known for her teamwork, adaptability, and ability to anticipate guests' needs, Nena helps create a welcoming, familial atmosphere on board. With 15 years of prior experience as a waiter and a cheerful, hardworking nature, she is dedicated to delivering exceptional service and unforgettable experiences.



1st STEWARDESS INDIA BIREK

Fluent in German and Croatian, India's love for the Adriatic was inspired by childhood summers in Vis and Biševo, where she developed a strong connection to the sea. With a year as a stewardess on AIDABlue, another as First Stewardess on AIDAMar, and a season on Son de Mar, India's experience spans yachting, restaurant service, and winter tourism in Austria. Known for her creativity, she delights guests with themed evenings, exquisite cocktails, and a deep knowledge of Croatian wines, often crafting personalized experiences that leave lasting impressions. India's most cherished moments include creating romantic settings or seeing guests wake up happy along Croatia's stunning coastlines, especially near Biševo, which she holds dear. A true team player, India values spreading positivity and believes exceptional service means anticipating guest needs while maintaining harmony with the crew. Outside of work, she enjoys reading, horseback riding, and time with loved ones, always striving to grow professionally and personally.



2nd STEWARDESS

LEA ILIC

Raised on the enchanting island of Vis, Lea's deep connection with the sea was evident from an early age. Fascinated by boats and maritime life, she naturally chose to pursue her passion academically, enrolling at the University of Maritime College in Split, where she graduated in 2016. Lea began her professional journey aboard M/Y Korab, later gaining over three years of valuable experience on M/Y Alessandro. Her exceptional work ethic, creativity, and dedication made her an ideal addition to the Son de Mar crew. Known for her warm and professional approach, Lea combines attentiveness with genuine enthusiasm to ensure every guest's experience goes above and beyond expectations. Fluent in Spanish and always eager to expand her linguistic and professional skills, Lea continually strives for growth. Outside the maritime world, she channels her creativity into running a fashion business, another reflection of her artistic spirit and drive. With her combination of elegance and heartfelt service, Lea perfectly embodies the spirit of luxury yachting.



DECKHAND NIKOLA SIMIC

Nikola is a skilled and dedicated Deckhand with five seasons of experience aboard luxury yachts. Known for his responsible, cheerful, and helpful nature, Nikola prides himself on anticipating guest needs and delivering exceptional service before being asked. His organizational skills, attention to detail, and ability to create a positive environment make him an invaluable team member. Passionate about ensuring both guests and crew are happy, he brings enthusiasm and precision to his role. Outside of work, Nikola enjoys football, hiking, and traveling, reflecting his adventurous and active spirit.



DECKHAND

LUKA STIPANOV

Luka Stipanov is a young and enthusiastic deckhand on Yacht Son de Mar. A graduate of the University of Maritime Studies in Split, Luka combines academic knowledge with hands-on experience gained over the past two seasons working as a deckhand on yachts along the Croatian coast.

Energetic and driven, Luka takes pride in maintaining the yacht's exterior – from the decks and rigging to all on-board equipment – ensuring Son de Mar is always in pristine condition and ready to welcome guests.

Outside of his maritime career, Luka is passionate about sports and fitness. An avid cyclist, he dreams of one day completing an Ironman triathlon. He brings this same level of discipline and determination to his work on board, constantly striving to improve and excel in his role.

Luka is thrilled to be part of the Son de Mar crew and looks forward to contributing his skills, dedication, and positive spirit to the team.



As we approach the new season, additional crew members are still to be confirmed. Thank you for your patience as we complete our hiring.