Forbes

Even For The Ultimate Vacation Real Estate Developer, Superyacht Vacations Are The Ultimate Escape



When Discovery Land Co founder Mike Meldman wants to get away, he heads for a superyacht in the Med. [-] MONACO YACHT SHOW

Discovery Land Company founder Mike Meldman is known for developing a special residential resort communities that offer owners and guests more than just a home with a view. And as anyone who's been to Chileno Bay in Cabo, or Silo Ridge in upstate New York or the Yellowstone Club in Montana or any of his other developments can attest, his communities are known for having the best golf, skiing, fishing and yachting as well as a laid-back vibe that owners rave about.

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Discovery Land Co founder Mike Meldman DISCOVERY LAND CO

But, Meldman didn't really want to talk "business" when I interviewed him recently. He wanted to talk about a subject that's near and dear to my heart—yachts.

"I always like being on a yacht," he says when we start talking about where the guy who builds the ultimate vacation communities goes on vacation. "It's like being at one of our properties. It's a controlled environment where you're with a great group of people. We love building private clubs where people know each other, enjoy one another, and have the best services. It's just like what we do."

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Many Discovery Land Co developments have a huge yachting component. DISCOVERY LAND CO

Even for Meldman, a yacht is even a bit better than that because a yacht has all the things he offers at his properties (great locations, stellar services, fun activities) PLUS the ability to move around and dock at some of the most exclusive destinations in the world.

"I love chartering in the Med," he continues. "We love going to the different beach clubs and eating at some of the best restaurants the world."

He usually charters two yachts a year, ranging in size from 150- to 350-feet long, usually with groups of 12 friends and family. "Cruising around Capri is probably one of my favorite trips. My favorite restaurants are there. And it has one of the world's great beach clubs," he says.

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A superyacht charter in the Med is the ultimate escape AMELS

"I also like to cruise between Sardinia and Saint Tropez. That's a little more fun, little crazier type of trip. I've chartered around Bahamas and Caribbean, but it's always more fun to do summer in Europe. It's a true getaway. I'm away from work. I'm away from my projects. I'm away from people. It's a good way to recharge."

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Golf is big at Discovery's Silo Ridge community. DISCOVERY LAND CO

That's why many of the communities he's developing now, like the Barbuda Ocean Club, are designed to have a large yachting component.



Large sport fishing yachts are lined up at a Discovery Yacht Co ocean club. DISCOVERY LAND CO

"Barbuda may have a marina, he says. "We're working on that right now. A marina would be great because a lot of the big yachts stay in the Caribbean in the winter and then go to the Med in the summer. And Barbuda is right smack in the highway of the superyachts that cruise the Caribbean back to the Med and the Med to the Caribbean."

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"Yachting is big on Baker's Bay in the Bahamas and Playa Grande in the Dominican Republic too," he says. Owners there have large sport fishing boats that are more like mini luxury yachts. These big sport fishing boats are a big, big deal nowadays."

And who knows, Meldman may build a floating luxury resort community too. Watch this space.

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