

# BOAT

International

*"I like my boats fast,  
lean and mean"*

LAPO ELKANN

*at full throttle,  
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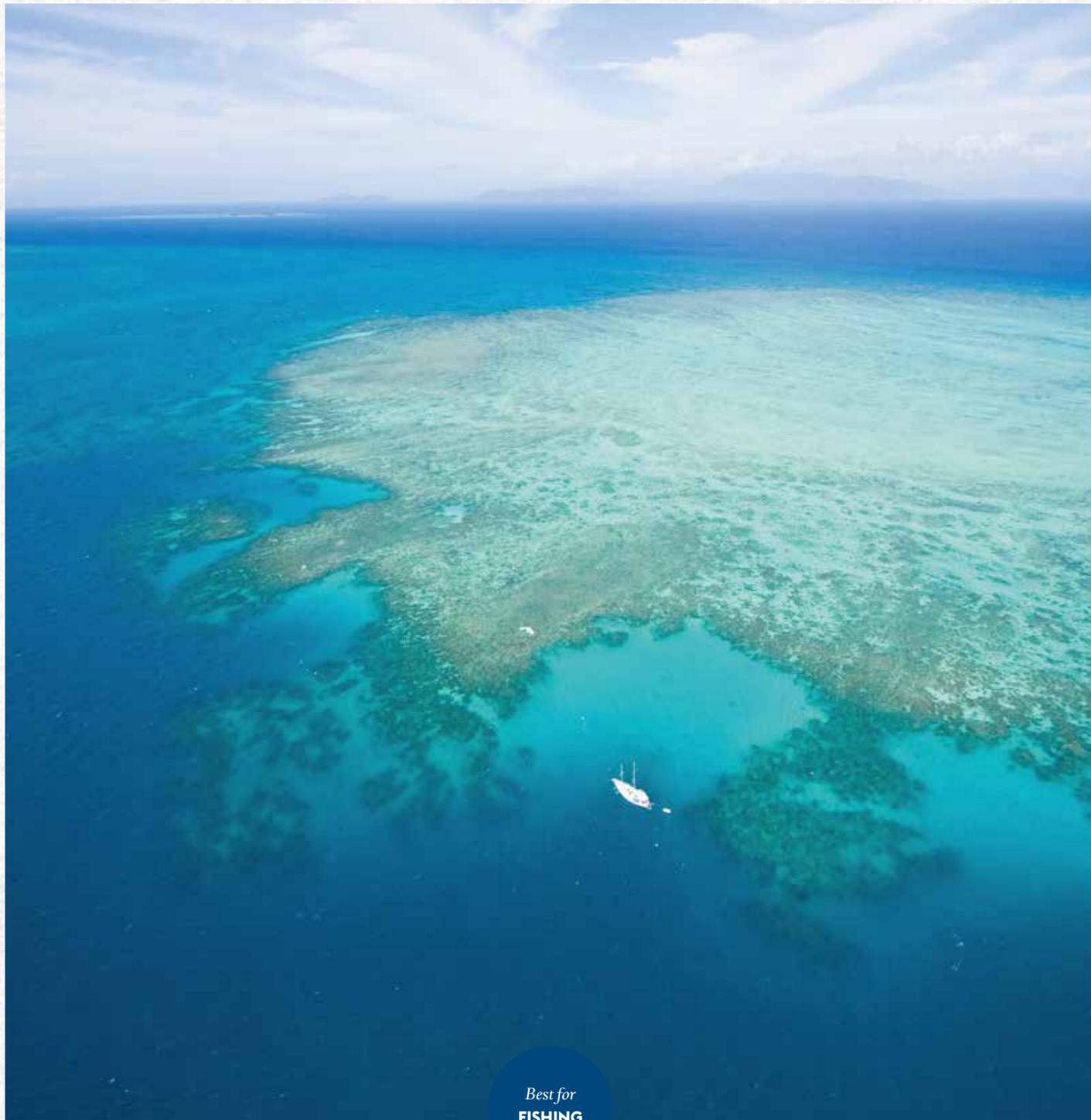
## G FORCE

**THE IRRESISTIBLE ANN G**

+ FRANK GEHRY'S SECRET SAILER

GO DEEP: MILLION-DOLLAR SUPERYACHT SUBS

CORAL KINGDOM: 5-STAR DIVING IN RAJA AMPAT



Best for  
**FISHING**

## Great Barrier Reef

Gavin Bladen, captain of the 44.2 metre Burgess catamaran *Hemisphere*, reveals the best spots for catching and tagging some of the world's biggest fish

The waters off North Queensland's Great Barrier Reef have long been recognised as the black marlin capital of the world. To catch and tag a "grander" – 1,000lb female marlins that feature on many anglers'

bucket lists – you'll need a boat like *TT Hemisphere*, the custom-built 16.4m sport fisher that accompanies *Hemisphere*, competition rods and an experienced crew with local knowledge of where to drop your line.

### DAY 1

► We start at the Cairns Marlin Marina, 15 minutes' drive from the airport. The first anchorage is at Opal Reef, 40nm to the north east. We then head to Linden Banks, for young black marlin and sailfish.



### DAY 2

► The morning is spent cruising the 2,000-metre deep contour on Linden Banks, which has its fair share of monster blacks in peak season. Lunch is served en route to Low Isles for a kayak or paddleboard trip, before heading ashore to explore Port Douglas.



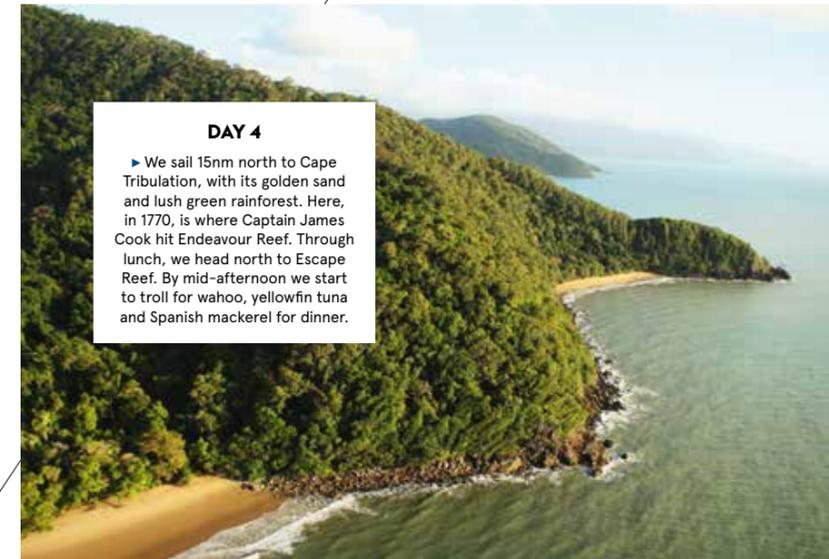
### DAY 3

► A 10-mile hop takes *Hemisphere* to Snapper Island for an "outback experience" with an abundance of wildlife. We fish for barramundi with casting rods and a combination of live bait and hard lures (the chef will prepare the catch for dinner). Take your camera to snap the crocs from the safety of your tender.



### DAY 4

► We sail 15nm north to Cape Tribulation, with its golden sand and lush green rainforest. Here, in 1770, is where Captain James Cook hit Endeavour Reef. Through lunch, we head north to Escape Reef. By mid-afternoon we start to troll for wahoo, yellowfin tuna and Spanish mackerel for dinner.



### DAY 5

► *Hemisphere* relocates to Ribbon Reef #3, 25nm to the north. It is something of a wildcard reef during the Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic competition but it's worth investing a day fishing the 2,000-metre line just off the reef to target tuna, wahoo, Spanish mackerel, marlin and sailfish.



### DAY 6

► As the mothership anchors at Ribbon Reef #8, attention turns back to black marlin and guests fish along Ribbon Reefs #7, #8 and #9. Speculating fishermen troll these ribbons, which are less popular than #10, sometimes with great success. Last year, *TT Hemisphere* caught a 950lb black marlin, the largest fish tagged during the 2015 Lizard Island Classic, in the middle of Ribbon #8.



### DAY 7 & 8

► The legendary Ribbon Reef #10 commands two days' attention. At virtually all the Lizard Island competitions, more than half the black marlin are caught to the east of this 18-mile stretch of reef. Day seven's attention is focused on the southern and central section of reef. On day eight the mothership relocates to the top of #10, while the sport fisher concentrates on the central and northern zones.



### DAY 9

► Jewell Reef is one of the best places to try your hand at casting for giant trevally, in the region of 25-35kg. Lizard Island provides the last night's anchorage, just off the boutique island resort. The yacht's underwater lights prompt the friendly potato cod, which soon appear at the back of the boat.



### DAY 10

► Climb the 356 metres to the summit of Lizard Island and Cook's Look, where the intrepid explorer came to find a way out of the reefs. Guests enjoy a beach barbecue before an hour-long scenic flight back to Cairns Airport.

