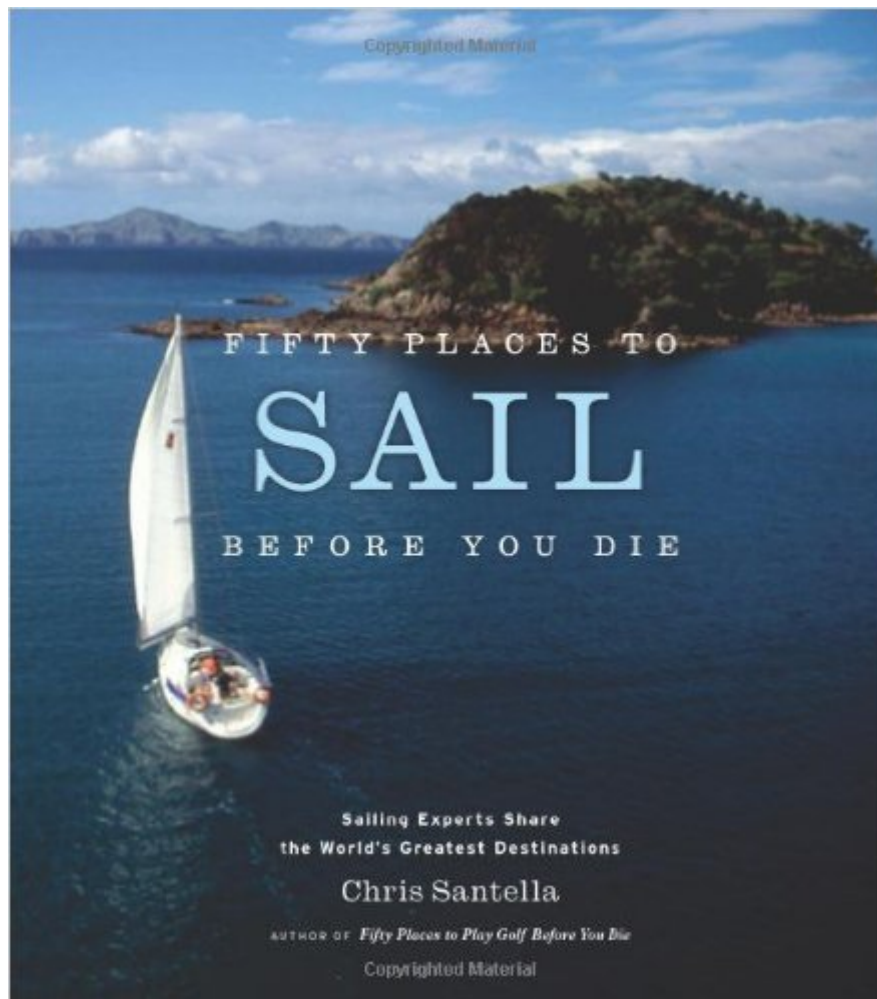


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Fifty Places To Sail Before You Die: Sailing Experts Share The World's Greatest Destinations



Synopsis

Landlubbers joke that sailors are always wanting to head off to the ends of the earth, but Chris Santella takes that life-changing desire very seriously. In this, the third installment in his immensely successful "Fifty Places" series, Santella assembles a crew of the world's greatest championship racers and professional adventurers and persuades them to disclose their favorite destinations around the globe. Interviewees include some of the best-known men and women in the sport: Tom Whidden and Gary Jobson (members of the winning 1987 America's Cup crew), Jeff Johnstone (of J-Boats), award-winning sailing writer Lin Pardy, and many others. The amazingly diverse places they've selected range from clubby East Coast ports (Marblehead, Annapolis), to idyllic tropical refuges (Ilha Grande, Brazil; the Polynesian atoll of Mopelia), to some of the most hair-raisingly treacherous waters on earth (Cape Horn). Coastlines around the world—even Antarctica and the Arctic—are represented, and the chosen spots include some spectacular inland waters, such as the Bras d'Or Lakes and the North Channel of Lake Huron. For each of the 50 places, the sailor recommending the venue spins an entertaining yarn about his or her experience there, and each description is accompanied by a "make you want to go there now" photograph.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

We cruise extensively in Australia and on the Med. We bought the book hoping that it would introduce us to new, exciting sailing grounds. Sadly, the book largely fails to do so. To start with, it lists the locations in alphabetical order: California, China, Chile, Colorado etc instead of

geographical grouping. The individual sections are crammed with general information to fill the pages. Twenty percent of each section is typically dedicated to the writer's CV! Very little information is specific to sailing conditions. For example the Antarctica section doesn't say a word about the special cruising challenges. The Fremantle/Australia section describes how the US won the America's Cup here - but not a word about the magic beaches and crystal clear waters.

Obviously, Chris is not a sailor and was not intending for this book to be purchased by sailors. There is not much information that sailors would find of importance such as the coordinates, good anchoring spots or even the nearest harbor. I received this as a gift, I never would have purchased it for myself. Photos are great, but lacking good information.

Chris Santella's "Fifty Places to Sail Before You Die" is an interesting but ultimately disappointing book. Although the idea of a collection of unforgettable places to sail is an excellent idea, this book is one of unrealized potential. The author contacted and interviewed famous sailors from around the world - racers, charterers, instructors, photographers, etc. - for their favorite places to sail. For each great sailing area, he wrote a 3-4 page blurb about the area, and included a small bio of the expert along with some basic information about how to travel to the area, when the best sailing season is, and information about local accommodations and charters. Unfortunately, Santella does not sell these sailing locales. I expected a book on great sailing areas to include numerous dazzling photographs of each area, but most of the sections include only one picture from the area (some none). Too many of the write-ups focus on the history of sailing an area or other trivia instead of the reasons to sail that area now, and there are no maps to give one a flavor of the area - another must, to me, in a book about sailing locations. Despite these drawbacks, there is still some interesting information in this book and the sailing locales are a nice sampling of different types of sailing locales. Ultimately, although this book did not give me a burning desire to travel to many of these places, this book is still a worthwhile purchase for anyone with a love of sailing.

I am an avid sailer and dream of sailing around the world or being a crew member of an America's Cup team. I thought this book sounded fascinating and ordered two (2) copies: one for myself and one for my brother, another water warrior. I was disappointed in the lack of images. How can you talk about Hong Kong Harbor and not have an image? I assumed this was a coffee-table book which I think with added imagery would make it all the more enjoyable. Reading the passages was informative, but you had to read the bio of the author first to understand why the place they chose

was important to them. Am finding it slow to get through - and disappointing.

This has snippets by some of the greatest living sailors, but has some glaring omissions. Also, the editing seems to have taken the life out of many of these characters. The book is arranged in alphabetic sequence. It would have been more useful to have it in sequence by continent. This would have been more interesting with stories about things that happened in these beautiful places. As it is, it's just a - here's a nice place, here's another nice place, and on and on. A cruising guide to the various regions would be a more entertaining read.

This book is supposed to identify 50 places you should have sailed before you die. As a sailor I expected to read about great places to sail, a good picture of that particular place, some inside tips, and maybe a small map to identify the location easily. Instead, some places don't even have any picture, others show a sailboat that could have been on any water. The author rattles on about the accomplishments of the person who told him about this place. On one occasion (and this is where I stopped reading!) The author quotes the person recommending this place: "The only drawback to Ilha Grande (Brazil) is the fact that there are very light winds. You CAN'T count on finding exciting sailing here!" (page 42) Really???? Too bad the author didn't deliver what the title suggested. This is not a book for sailors!

We received this book as a gift after crossing the North Atlantic in our own boat. It was intended to inspire us to keep going, which we seriously plan to do. It's not intended as a sailing reference, yet it does keep the dream alive with places still on the list. What's interesting is how many of the places we've already ticked off. The brilliant aspect of this book is the choice of legendary sailors whose opinions were solicited. I only wish that I had thought of this concept. It would have been a great opportunity to meet all the folks who inspired the dream to shove off in the first place.

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