

Saturday, June 26, 2010

Diving Retrospective / Back to La Graciosa

Inside "La Catedral" Around La Catedral The last days I went mostly diving, as you might have guessed already. I have completed 13 dives now, most of them between 25 and 30 meters deep and lasting around 40 minutes. What is interesting is that I feel a kind of anxiety just before the descend. But it is easy to fight and once I'm underwater and breath regularly it is completely gone. The dive itself is just wonderful. I check my depth, my air and my timer regularly. I stay close to my buddy, and I have no care in the world. Just floating. Once I had trouble with my mask. It kept filling with water and I couldn't blow it out. I was about 27m deep and I couldn't read my instruments anymore with the mask full of water. I was afraid I would sink down, or even worse, go up rapidly. That was pretty scary, and I started to breath more quickly. The whole idea of diving felt like a pretty stupid thing to do suddenly. Pietro from Milano. Now lives in Munich. My buddy was a little ahead of me, but Pietro, another diver, was right behind me. I signaled him that I had problems with my mask. He came to me, and I held on to his vest with one hand. That took care of my anxiety to go up (thanks Pietro!), and I could begin to check what was wrong. As it turned out my hood somehow interfered with my mask (I think it was a bubble of air that had caught in the hood) and when I took off the hood and put the mask back on without it I could clear the mask and everything was fine again. Now I'm diving without the hood. Another wreck. Lots around here. On the deeper dives, more than 30m, I also start to feel itchy when the decompression time limit approaches. Then I get a little nervous and want to ascend with time to spare. I guess that's just inexperience, because I don't have a good feeling yet for the ascend. And how the deco limit changes with the depth. And I really don't want to have to do decompression stops on the way up. It's not really rational, because the dive computer tells me how slowly I have to ascend, and it's easy to calculate how long the air will last. But well, better safe than sorry, right? So far I usually surfaced with 50 to 70 bars left in the bottle and more or less with the other teams. I think that's ok for my level of experience, and I don't want to start pushing it before I feel really confident and have more air left at the end of the dive. These will be the last diving movies for a while: And now for something completely different ... Gudrun V! Tomorrow I fly to La Graciosa again, where I will meet with Marti and his whole family on Gudrun V. They want to collect some personal things, and then we will get Gudrun V ready so that I can sail her to Las Palmas. I visited the harbor master today and managed to reserve a berth at the same pontoon that Vespina is - lucky again. I am really interested in how other people that bought boats feel towards their sellers. Either I am exceptionally lucky, or all boat sellers are the most wonderful people in the world. Ulrich and Anke, who sold me Vespina, are just fantastic and helped me a lot in preparing for the voyage. Even when I was well underway they always made time when I called with a question. Very kind and caring. Same with Marti: First he left his sailing school for three days so that I could survey Gudrun V thoroughly before buying. Three days and two nights on a boat - what more can you ask? And now the whole family is coming for almost a week to make sure that my first voyage on Gudrun V will be a success. Amazing! I guess I am exceptionally lucky. But then again it is said that "luck favors the prepared", so maybe it is not totally undeserved. Only a little. Even though: it will be sad day when I leave Vespina and move to Gudrun V. There is nothing really wrong with Vespina, she is as fine a boat as they come. I feel Vespina was just the right boat for me at the time. Certainly I couldn't have handled a boat like Gudrun V alone in November, much less could I have sailed on the rivers with 2,50m draft. Truth be told, I will be hard pushed now to do everything right, and Gudrun V will not be as forgiving as Vespina. But that's how you improve - constantly and slowly pushing your limits ever outward. Never stop, never give up.

Posted by Axel Busch in Vespina at 15:41

Good luck with the first sail! Hope it is both calm and exciting! And maybe we'll catch up again

Chris

Anonymous on Jun 27 2010, 06:25

your diving descriptions give me the willies, as i get claustrophobic just snorkeling!

say goodbye to vespina for me!

you're gonna have to change the name of your travel page soon. haha.

lots of hugs,

kym

Anonymous on Jun 28 2010, 12:01