

Thursday, November 5, 2009

### **My story so far**

My name is Axel Busch, I'm an entrepreneur from Ulm, Germany. I have left my last venture, TRANSPOREON, after nine years as CTO for a sabbatical in June 2009. The idea was to get proficient in an area very different from the software business, and to spend some time away from the computer screen, from airports and from meetings before my next venture. I choose sailing. I have been sailing for many years, but I have never owned a sailing yacht myself, or lived for longer than two weeks in a row on board of a ship. So first I had to educate myself about sailing yachts, sailing routes and voyaging in general. I read a lot of blogs and books, made plans, and talked them over with people that had done it before. In August I felt ready to start looking for a ship. Because I wanted to take only a relatively short break from regular life and work, I was looking for an inexpensive ship that I could get under way quickly. Six weeks later I found and bought Vespina. Vespina was in good shape and had most of the electrical, navigational and security equipment which I wanted already on board, if somewhat basic. As a strong believer in "keep it simple", this suited me fine. Maybe as importantly, I liked her owners (Anke and Ulrich Winter) a lot. They sailed Vespina for two years in the Mediterranean Sea, and both have been of great help since I bought Vespina. I spend two days on the ship and compiled to-do and shopping lists. After placing the orders and applying for the necessary official documents I went charter-sailing in Thailand with friends. Not ideal, but we had booked it half a year ago. When I returned after three weeks, most of the stuff had arrived and I could get to work. Now, three more weeks later, packets are still arriving daily. Looking at the ship I could easily spend many more weeks and a lot more money before she would be the ideal ship in all aspects according to the books I've read. But there is nothing vital that needs to be done for the first part of the voyage. So she is for now as ideal as she will ever get and I can safely depart in two days. The last three months were already very educating and fulfilling. Even should I sink Vespina in the first lock, which is just 300m downstream from her mooring, it was definitely worth the time and effort. But it's more likely that I'm looking ahead to a year at sea, and I'm very excited about what I will encounter.

Posted by Axel Busch in Vespina at 01:30