



YOUR HOME AND YACHT

Some Basic Principles

Once again the Med season is underway and a large number of yachts and their owners descend to the region en masse. Lured by the favourable climate, spectacular scenery and the ostentatious lifestyle, the Mediterranean is the summertime 'mecca' for most yachts. Superyacht security expert Ed Hill gives us tips on how to protect your home and yachts in the Med.

The annual pilgrimage of superyachts to this part of the world brings a welcome boost to the local economy, an economy that practically lays dormant during the winter months. The return of spring and the arrival of so many yachts signifies a considerable spike in activity.

The arrival of some of the world's wealthiest individuals to the Med also has a disturbing downside, for wealth has a tendency to attract criminal gangs who are highly organised, increasingly sophisticated and difficult to track down. It's certainly no coincidence that every year, the Med season also sees a considerable increase in crime.

Each year, the summer season is centred around the principality of Monaco. Regarded as being one of the safest cities in the world, Monaco has an exceptionally low crime rate. However, the same cannot be said when venturing across the border into neighbouring France. Burglary on the French Riviera, particularly property belonging to foreigners, has long been a problem and there's no immediate sign of that relenting.

Whether on board your yacht or inside your home there are few things more unnerving than confronting a stranger in your property. Some intruders are more than prepared to use violence if and when challenged. Prevention is always better than a cure so denying them access in the first place is paramount. However, a lot of the basic home security principles are often overlooked. Using a layered security system, as described below, is one of the most basic yet effective principles to follow when securing your home or your yacht.

Layered Security System

The idea is to create a layered security system with the outer layer being the external perimeter to your property or yacht. Each layer is designed to deter, detect or delay an intruder's attempts to gain

entry to the main building or superstructure where people are accommodated thus affording precious time to retreat to a designated safe room and call for help. Think of the construction of a mediaeval castle with a series of outer walls used to obstruct and delay an invading enemy.

Outer Layer

This is the outer perimeter of your home or yacht that identifies and distinguishes your property. This is your first line of defence and all physical measures to deter, detect or delay any potential intruder should be considered. These may include fencing, CCTV, sensors, lighting and the employment of security guards. Access control is an important factor so consideration must be given to gates, passes and the verification of ID to those who are allowed access.

Secondary Layer

The secondary layer of protection is around the main building of the home or the superstructure of the yacht where if compromised, the intruder is now inside the building or inside the yacht. The principles for the protection of this layer remain the same as before however serious consideration must be given to doors, windows and any other potential places of entry. All doors and windows should meet the LPS 1175 security standard specification. These standards are set by the Loss Prevention Certification Board (LPCB) which works closely with the police, Government, insurers, risk consultants and architects to monitor its standards. Windows should be fitted with reinforced glass or covered with a protective film. An intruder alarm should definitely be fitted.

Final Layer

Assuming that the intruder(s) are now inside the building or the yacht, the final layer of protection is

with the safe room. The safe room or panic room is a fortified room that is installed inside a building to provide a safe shelter or hiding place for the inhabitants in the event of a break in or unwanted intrusion. A safe room can be specifically built into a new-build project or existing rooms such as bedrooms, en-suites, bathrooms and even wardrobes can be converted. As a minimum, the safe room should be fitted with a robust security-rated door and come equipped with external communications with a telephone landline or a panic button. Ideally, the delaying measures created by the two previous layers would have given the occupants sufficient time to retreat to the safe room, alert the security services and help is now on its way.

Conclusion

The principles explained in this article are the very basic principles designed to deter, delay and detect intruders, they can be applied to both buildings and yachts. These principles should be employed as a minimum baseline of protection along with the enforcement of a rigid security culture amongst staff and crew. A strong and visible security posture not only displays a professional image, it sends out a powerful message to any potential intruder who may well be forced to seek an easier target.

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