



## **FAQ's Meridian Charters Ltd**

### **Do we get the boat to ourselves or share it with other groups?**

You will always have the boat to yourselves. Meridian Charters never organise shared cruises.

### **How is the alcohol arranged?**

Firstly, you need to work out your budget for the cruise. Then we look at the ratio of men to women and beer to wine drinkers, and organise any specific requests (eg Moët rather than Lindauer or vice versa). When your group arrives, I will have on board and on ice, the entire alcohol package you have ordered. As the cruise progresses, if the pre-ordered amount is looking like it may run out, I will liaise with you to decide if you would like to extend the budget or simply let it run its course.

At the end of the cruise, we tally up what has not been drunk and subtract it from your bill. You won't pay for alcohol that has been budgeted for but not consumed.

### **Can we bring our own alcohol?**

No, Meridian has a full liquor licence. We don't mind if you have a special bottle of something that is particular to the occasion, eg a present for the guest of honour.

### **Can we pay for our drinks individually?**

Unfortunately, no. We have no facility to run individual accounts on board. One account per cruise please.

### **What happens if we have less than the minimum number of 15?**

The minimum number of 15 is only for package price per head. You can have as few people on board as you wish. If you have less than the minimum number but still want the package menu then that's ok too. The price will be worked out at \$225 per hour (min 3 hours) plus catering plus alcohol plus GST.

### **Can I hire the boat for only one hour?**

You certainly can, but I have a minimum chargeable period of 3 hours. This is to make it worthwhile for the captain and crew to come in, set up, do the cruise and clean up afterwards.

I can only make exceptions if I have another booking immediately after your planned hour.



### **What methods of payment do you accept?**

Cash, direct credit or cheque. I require a \$200 deposit in advance to secure the booking. On the night you will receive an invoice for the balance. This can be settled on the spot, or by arrangement, payable within seven days.

### **Do you have music on board?**

Yes. There is a music system on board with speakers throughout the boat. There will always be quiet areas no matter how noisy the party gets. If you want to bring your own music I can play CD/MP3 or you can bring your own iPod if you wish. I do have a fairly extensive music collection but please check if there is a particular song you require for your occasion.

### **What time does the boat leave and where from?**

You can arrange to depart the berth at any time you wish. There are no set times. Meridian is berthed at the very end of B Pier, Chaffers Marina, off the Overseas Passenger Terminal, Herd St, Oriental Bay. If you would like to organise an alternative pick up point, that can be done by arrangement.

### **What happens if the weather is bad?**

Cruises are not cancelled due to weather, unless the captain decides that it would be unsafe to proceed. As we all know, the weather in Wellington can be quite boisterous at times, but there is usually somewhere in the harbour to find shelter.

If in the unlikely event that the captain does deem it too rough to leave the berth (it has happened only once in 6 years of operation) then you have two choices:

- 1) continue with the function alongside the berth (a reduced charter rate will apply) or
- 2) cancel the function. In this case, the food will be the only item charged for and you may take it away with you.



### **If I cancel, can I get my deposit back?**

Generally, no. Deposits are required to secure a date, and I will frequently turn other people away who want the same date. If I am able to secure another booking I will be happy to refund you the deposit but if I don't, the \$200 won't even come close to covering my loss.

### **What happens if we wish to extend our cruise on the night?**

Cruises are generally booked for three hours only, however may be extended at the captain's discretion, at a pro-rata hourly rate.

### **Can we go fishing?**

Meridian is a luxury boat and not really set up for the messy activity of fishing. There are other operators in Wellington with boats that are far more suited to fishing – so, no.

### **The package menus don't suit my needs. Are there other food options?**

The package menus are simply a selection of most commonly requested food options. If you would like something different then I am happy to discuss other options with you, and tailor something to suit.

If you are planning to have alcohol on your function, the law requires that I have substantial food available on board.