

Review by Tony Boas of the Cruising Association

Corsica & North Sardinia; Strobel, Madeleine and Stephan; CA 18555; ISBN 978-178679 0736; Imray; 4th ed.; £35.00; 2020; 256pp

During three circuits of Corsica we have met barely more than half a dozen UK boats north of a line between Propriano and Porto-Vecchio. Perhaps this pilot book will tempt more Brits to explore this delightful cruising area.

The Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation books need little introduction to the cruising sailor and this book follows the tried and tested format, covering yacht equipment, documentation, passages to the islands, winds, weather and forecasts together with details of ports of refuge and marine reserves.

There is a useful chartlet with details of the Corsican inshore weather forecasts, broadcast thrice daily in French. This we found particularly useful but it does refer to coastal areas which can be difficult to identify – e.g. La Chiappa to Scandola. Would a Frenchman easily understand North Foreland to Selsey Bill!? It would be very helpful if this chartlet showed the various points of reference.

Marinas are well covered but mention should be made of the website resaportcorse.com through which advance bookings can be made in several harbours.

The text covers all the main ports and a plethora of anchorages together with passage notes. There are comprehensive chartlets which usefully also give latitude and longitude together with a host of beautiful colour photographs, bringing back many happy memories.

Some history is given of the islands and major ports, enough to tempt further investigation, but this is a pilot book, not a tourist guide and there is no mention of marine life or the regional cuisine of the islands.

The alternative to this Pilot would be the two pilots – Italy and Mediterranean France – by Rod and Lu Heikell. These cover the islands well but with a little less detail of anchorages and together at £90 are much more expensive if one plans to sail only in this area.

Overall an extremely useful and well written guide to this fascinating cruising area. Highly recommended.

Tony Boas