

Excerpts from "The Wind in the Billows", Forbes FYI Magazine

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*April 2005*

"But what gives the *Sea Cloud II* her cachet is the fact that she sails only on charter. During spring and summer her cabins fill with golf enthusiasts sailing from course to course in Europe, but most of the other trips, to the Caribbean and Europe, are organized by Academic Arrangements Abroad, a 28-year-old Manhattan company that deals exclusively with nonprofits such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Archives of American Art, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and alumni associations of liberal-arts colleges. This adds a cultural buzz: While other cruise ships try to out-glit Las Vegas with floor shows and jangling casinos, *Sea Cloud II* regales its passengers with onboard recitals and lectures (art, architecture, gardens) and shore excursions to manor houses for private garden tours or vineyards for private wine tastings."

"Then there was a memorable day that began with the square-rigged passage through the Virgin Islands, a wet landing from dinghies on Jost van Dyke's White Bay Beach for an afternoon of swimming and snorkeling and Banana Benders at the Soggy Dollar Bar, topped off with a second sunset recital in the ship's lounge. The recitalists were not your usual ship's musicians putting on airs: The Steinway was played by the distinguished artistic director of chamber music at the Spoleto Festival USA and founder of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society in New York, Charles Wadsworth, and the violin by one of the Festival's regular stars, the young and strikingly beautiful Korean Chee-Yun."

"Wadsworth and Chee-Yun, Vitali and Elgar, de Falla and Saint-Saëns—all that and 29,687 square feet of sail. As one passenger summed it up: "Life on the *Sea Cloud II* is the epitome of polite society."