



# FREE Press

ISLAMORADA

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## business news

### Islescapes combines cooking, boating

BY ROBERT SILK  
Free Press Staff

ISLAMORADA — If you think you are seeing double while on an Islescapes dinner cruise, don't bother to check your eyes. That chef who you thought was the boat captain a few moments ago — they're the same guy.

Capt. Alex Aller began offering the dinner cruises on his 33-foot cabin cruiser about a month ago, and he gets to wear all of the hats.

"I am combining three of my favorite activities in the world," said Aller, 49, "boating, cooking and entertaining."

Newly retired from his first career as a Ph.D.-trained cancer researcher, Aller moved full-time to the keys in May. In Islescapes he thinks he has found a niche in the market that will be both profitable and fun.

The concept of the cruise is simple. Show up at Robbie's Marina about an hour before sunset ready to eat and relax. Then let Aller do the rest.

Typically, he said, he will motor out about 20 minutes to just beyond Lignumvitae Key.

That's where he puts the chef's cap on and begins preparing a gourmet meal.

In the meantime, his customers will be eating appetizers, sipping on water, iced tea or whatever alcoholic beverage they bring aboard, and watching the sky go pink as the sun softly sets into Florida Bay.

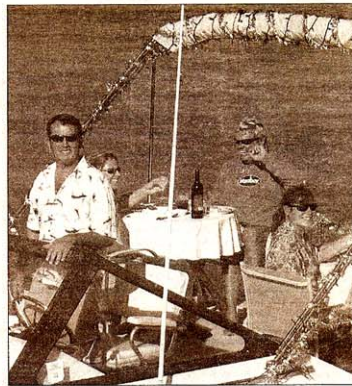
During the summer, Aller said, he will encourage his customers to add swimming to the mix.

"It is going to be very romantic," he said.

As for the food, Aller plans to put to use the skills he has picked up from a lifetime of cooking, as well as the tricks he has learned from Dani Lee, a well-known yacht chef for the mega-rich.

The fare will combine European, Mediterranean and Southern cuisine. And one desert will come directly from Lee's Creme Brulee recipe, which Aller lustfully describes as "the best on the planet."

Fresh lobster, warm mushroom salad, brandied teriyaki grouper and potato goat cheese tarts are among the items listed on a sample



Contributed photo  
Capt. Alex Aller has begun offering dinner cruises aboard his 33-foot cabin cruiser. The business, Islescapes, is based out of Robbie's Marina on Lower Matecumbe Key.

Islescapes menu. But Aller said he will discuss the night's servings with his customers when they sign up for the cruise. Main course options, he said, will include beef, fish or fowl.

A typical Islescapes cruise will last three hours and cost \$300 for up to four people. Aller can take up to two additional people for \$75 extra per head. And if less than four people want to go but \$300 is too much, split parties

can be arranged in order to reduce the per person cost.

Longer cruises as well as wedding and lunch outings can also be arranged.

"The food is going to be delicious, but we are going to have a lot of fun too," Aller said.

For more information, call Islescapes at (305) 923-3319 or view the Web site at [www.islescapes.com](http://www.islescapes.com).  
rsilk@keysnews.com



Contributed photo  
Islescapes features a grill mounted aboard the dinner cruise vessel.

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