



David Abramczyk is the author of the novel 'Samsara,' a work of literary fiction set in the Himalayas detailing historic events of a covert CIA operation supporting Tibetan Freedom Fighters in their fight against Communist China. He is currently writing his second novel addressing the plight of street children in Kathmandu, Nepal. Visit www.davidabramczyk.com for more info.



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Stepping Back in Time Aboard a Classic Schooner

Classic Schooners: brawny yet elegant multi-masted sailboats that conjure up images of thick-skinned fisherman, white-gloved aristocracy and pirates. They date from a bygone era when oceans were the primary means of transport, and control of them made and broke nations. Most have succumbed to the ebb of fortunes and implacability of time, but a few of these legendary beauties still ply the waters. A recent renaissance in traditional shipbuilding has significantly increased their

numbers, and many new "Spirit of Tradition" schooners have joined their ranks.

I first set foot on Mariette twenty years ago as a day worker with barely two French Francs to rub together. Although I was new to the yachting game, I knew she was special the moment I set eyes on her. Launched in New England in 1915, she was drawn by the hand of Nathaniel Herreshoff, a renowned wizard of naval architecture. Gleaming brass,

glistening varnish, a thousand antiquated blocks with lines and two massive wooden masts captivate you the moment you step on board. In her time she was one of the biggest private yachts in the world. Although several new mega yachts have surpassed her in length, she retains a certain mystique that none can touch. A siren luring veteran crew both young and old, Mariette entices us to travel far distances to rekindle the magic.

