



Arne Hinz and wife Kati Mund with their two children.

*You can always spot newly arrived yachties by their effortless suntans and the way they angle their bodies into the slightest gust of wind.*

Fiji's yachting season loosely runs from April to November. As one of Fiji's four ports of entry, Savusavu on Vanua Levu enjoyed a bumper 2007 season. I investigated the phenomenon with visiting yachties.

Arne and Helene Martensson left Sweden in June 2006 to broadly mimic Captain Cook's epic voyage around the world.

Their dazzling journey had taken them across the Atlantic and down the east coast of South America all the way to Antarctica.

From Chile, they struck west across the Pacific to French Polynesia and the Cook Islands.

They paused to snorkel with humpback whales in Tonga before continuing to Fiji where they planned to stay for two months.

Sitting on their beautiful, custom-built yacht, Yaghan, the Martenssons told me why they'd chosen to clear Customs and Immigration in Savusavu.

"We read about Savusavu," said Helene. "It sounded like it would be easier than Suva." She smiled in wonder.

"Clearance only took two hours; in Brazil it took two days!"

Arne also pointed out that as well as the rumoured ease of entry, their decision was influenced by the winds. "And Savusavu looked nicer," he added.

Savusavu is currently serviced by three

marinas: Curly Cruising Bosun's Locker, Waitui Marina and The Copra Shed Marina.

All the marinas offer moorings, assistance with Government clearances and a wealth of extras. Visitors with yachts requiring engine repairs, welding, marine electronics repairs or servicing can obtain help through the marinas.

Shareena Singh, from Curly's, said she was already receiving enquiries from Australia and New Zealand for the 2009 season.

Liti Dickson, from Waitui Marina, thought it was too early to make predictions for 2009, but she was quietly confident.

Dolly Singh, from The Copra Shed, thought

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