October temperatures in the 20s, November a mild 15° on average and with a Christmas period a lot warmer than the UK, maybe it’s time to think about moving your boat to Sant Carles Marina in Catalonia. This recently built 842-berth facility just south of Barcelona and sheltered behind its own contracting headland is a dream location for British boaters looking to relocate to the Med, offering superb facilities, a beautiful location and world-class MDL Marinas service.

LOCATION
The marina is situated at the northern edge of the pretty coastal town of Sant Carles de la Ràpita, which is equidistant between Barcelona and Valencia, with both provincial capitals just under a two-hour drive away. Backed by the Serra del Montsià mountains, the town sits at the heart of a natural harbour protected by a huge curling coastal spit called Punta de la Banya. The sheltered waters of Alfacs Bay, known as ‘the lagoon’, offer amazing dayboating and watersports potential. The nearest airport is Reus, about 45 minutes by car, which is served by Ryanair and Thomson Airways. Barcelona and Valencia, meanwhile, are accessible from most UK and European airports. The town of Sant Carles itself is quiet and tourist friendly and offers plenty of bars and restaurants for evenings ashore.

CRUISING AREA
You’re spoilt for cruising choices at Sant Carles, with most of the coastal towns within easy reach of the marina offering sheltered berthing behind breakwaters. Likewise, the Costa Dorada, which stretches away to the north, is indented with an endless supply of calas in which you can anchor and while away an afternoon or take a dip in the transparent waters. For the more adventurous, the Balearics with all their varied charms are a straightforward cruise into the Med with Mallorca around 100 miles away, an easy day’s cruise for a planing boat. You could happily spend a whole season exploring the islands, before shuttling back to Sant Carles on the mainland for winter servicing.

FACILITIES
As you’d expect of a modern marina, facilities at Sant Carles are superb. But perhaps the best thing this marina has going for it are its berth-holders, who have built a genuine community with sailors and motorboaters mixing to create a truly family friendly marina with a great, cohesive atmosphere. There’s even an active forum for berth-holders, www.scmchat.com. Plus, there’s ample boat storage available with a 75-tonne travel hoist, showers, diesel, petrol and the obligatory marina Wi-Fi. There’s a good selection of restaurants, bars and the famous Sant Carles infinity swimming pool.

BERTHING
The 842 berths at Sant Carles are mainly on pontoons fully serviced by water and electricity. There is additional Med-style stern-to mooring for bigger boats over 20 metres (65ft 7in). Annual berthing for a 12-metre (39ft 4in) boat is available from €4,534 including respective taxes. There are also competitive winter berthing options available as well as long-term leases. Contact Sant Carles Marina, Tel: +00(34) 9777 45153, Web: www.santcarlesmarina.com

You’re spoilt for cruising choices at Sant Carles, with sheltered coastal towns within easy reach of the marina.