



## Danilo

## Captain & Engineer

NATIONALITY: USA/Italian

CURRENT RESIDENCE: Stuart, FL

LANGUAGES: English, Spanish, Italian

VISAS: USA and Italian passports

### PROFILE

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Originally from Italy, but a proud United States citizen since 2011, I always had a passion for the sea as I spent much time cruising the Mediterranean with my father in my youth before enrolling in the Italian Naval Academy where I earned first in the 1971 class.

In the Italian Navy I played piano in the orchestra, trained for special operations, was a combat helicopter pilot and in 1978 I volunteered for an extraction mission rescuing 126 American POW's from Vietnam. I finished my career with the privilege to be assigned as AID Officer to the 2nd Italian Navy Division Admiral in Chief Girolamo Fantoni.

After my service in the Italian Navy, I followed my father's footsteps and became a professional race car driver, engine developer, and designer of LeMans style prototype cars. I am a certified engine rebuilder for Ferrari and Lamborghini and have been part of the development of racing offshore marine engines assisting Lamborghini Marine and teams such as Victory Italia and GEICO with Walbro TDD and Magneti Marelli Motorsport.

Advancements in technology, specifically electronics, led me into developing alternative fuel systems for combustion engines. These systems have been used by government and private industry where alternative fuels such as Methane, Propane, Ethane, Hydrogen, and Dimethyl Ether are used.

At age 60, I promised my wife "no more auto racing" and so I enjoyed being back on the sea as Captain, working mostly with my wife Simona, a fantastic chef/stew and my unique love for over 29 years. I am a multi-tasking individual, used to being in command and possess a solid-focus in stressful situations. I have been trained to make quick decisions under pressure and I am very well fond of all Naval Engineering and procedures.

## QUALIFICATIONS

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- 200 GRT USCG Captain license
- USCG Towing endorsement
- VHF Radio Certificate
- STCW95 (Exp 08/2028)
- Naval Mechanical Engineering diploma (Italian Navy Academy)  
\*Supersedes Y2 Cert (6000Kw)
- ENG1 (Exp 08/2028)
- Endorsed by Ford, Lamborghini Marine, and Magneti Marelli Motorsport

## MARITIME EXPERIENCE

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### **81' | M/Y | 2022 – July 2024 Captain/Engineer**

Budgeted and managed a re-fit in 2022 that included cosmetics, electrical, mechanical, and safety systems. Established a chartering program in the Bahamas, and maintain the vessel for the owner's use throughout Florida.

### **| 42'- 105' | M/Y | 2000-2022 CEO-Captain/Engineer**

Operating Luna Charters on 2 yachts for Charters and Dinner Cruises. Yacht inspection and transporting. Supervise boatyard yacht maintenance and re-fits.

### **| 42'to 58' | Motoryachts | 1980-1993 Captain/Engineer**

Sea-trials and inspections for new model yachts in the Mediterranean Sea for DC boatyard.

### **| 488' | Admiral Flagship | 1978 Admiral AID Officer**

Assisting the Admiral in Chief of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Italian Navy division on daily fleet operations.

### **| 589' | Air Carrier | 1976-1977 Helicopter Pilot-anti-submarine warfare**

2,223 hours of flight operations.

### **| 283' | Motor Vessel | June 1974 Command test**

Academy test as Vessel Commanding Officer.

### **| 177' | Motor/Sailship | 1972 Navigation Officer/Engineer**

Engineering duty as Machinery Cadet, and Main bridge Cadet Officer training.

## LAND-BASED EXPERIENCE

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2000 – 2022: United States – Managed an auto-racing team, established an alternative-fuel engineering company developing fuel systems on government(police) and private(UPS, Nucor Steel) fleet vehicles, and design and build different types of race cars.

1979 – 2000: Italy -- Involved in various engineering projects for car manufacturers, car racing, marine racing, aerospace, and alternative fuel industry.

## SKILLS

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- Excellent yacht handling and navigation. (Bahamas, Florida including Keys, and ICW)
- Proficient in Naval Engineering and Yacht maintenance.
- Navy/military background.
- Calm and resolute in emergency situations.
- Very good with Crew training.
- Rarely need a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to troubleshoot or repair ship's systems.

## HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

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My wife and the sea are the greatest loves in my life and being able to spend this part of my life with both are my passion. My military education and career have etched principles of honor, loyalty, and commitment in my mind and heart.

As an “uncurable” romantic, I enjoy cooking, dancing, playing piano, studying history, and entertaining family, friends, and guests.

I have 4 adult children that I enjoy spending time: 1 boy and 3 girls; 3 in Italy and one, Sofia, in Florida. All of them are building fantastic careers, and my eldest daughter, Valentina, is in charge of the Lamborghini Racing Department in Italy, carrying on 4 generations of the Gardi family involved in the motorsport industry.

My wife Simona is an excellent Chef and Chief Stew. We, obviously, are most interested by an engagement that will involve us both.

## RECENT REFERENCES

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