TransientChef

Your first day on a boat

There is no handover

Courses will sell you a handover guide. In my experience there was no handover. The last chef was gone before I got there. You get whatever the stew or the captain gives you, and from what I saw that was the guest preference sheet and nothing else.

Ask whoever has the information

It depends on the boat. On one it's the chief stew, on the next it's the captain. Find the one who knows and ask them:

- [ ] **What did the guests eat last trip, and what came back?**
- [ ] **What does the owner not want on the boat? Not allergies. Rules.**

They'll tell you when guests arrive, where the boat is going and how the food gets paid for. You shouldn't need to ask.

The preference sheet is not the whole story

Owners have rules that never make it onto the sheet. I've heard of one who wanted no cans on the boat at all. No canned tomatoes, no canned beans, nothing. On some boats you don't cook bacon during a trip because the whole boat smells of it, so you cook it ahead and reheat it in the microwave at service. Bacon is still on the menu; you just can't cook it while they're aboard. Nobody writes that down. You find out by asking, or by getting it wrong.

Open every cabinet

Every fridge, every freezer, every dry store, every drawer. You will find strange things. Unless it's spoiled or out of date, do not throw it out. The odd jar at the back that makes no sense is often there because the owner asked for it. Ask before anything else goes in the bin.

While you're in there:

- [ ] **Write down what's on board and what's finished.**
- [ ] **Turn on every piece of equipment once.**
- [ ] **Find the last provisioning invoices. They tell you who the boat buys from.**