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YACHT DESIGN & LIFESTYLE

ISSUE 85 | AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

BILGIN 50M
CAMILA



LÜRSSEN 150 YEARS
A Reign of Shipbuilding Excellence

SUPERYACHT CUP PALMA
Wind, Waves, and Winners

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Theatrical Time Travel on a Plate

AWAKEN, DUBAI
A New Era of Transformational Wellness

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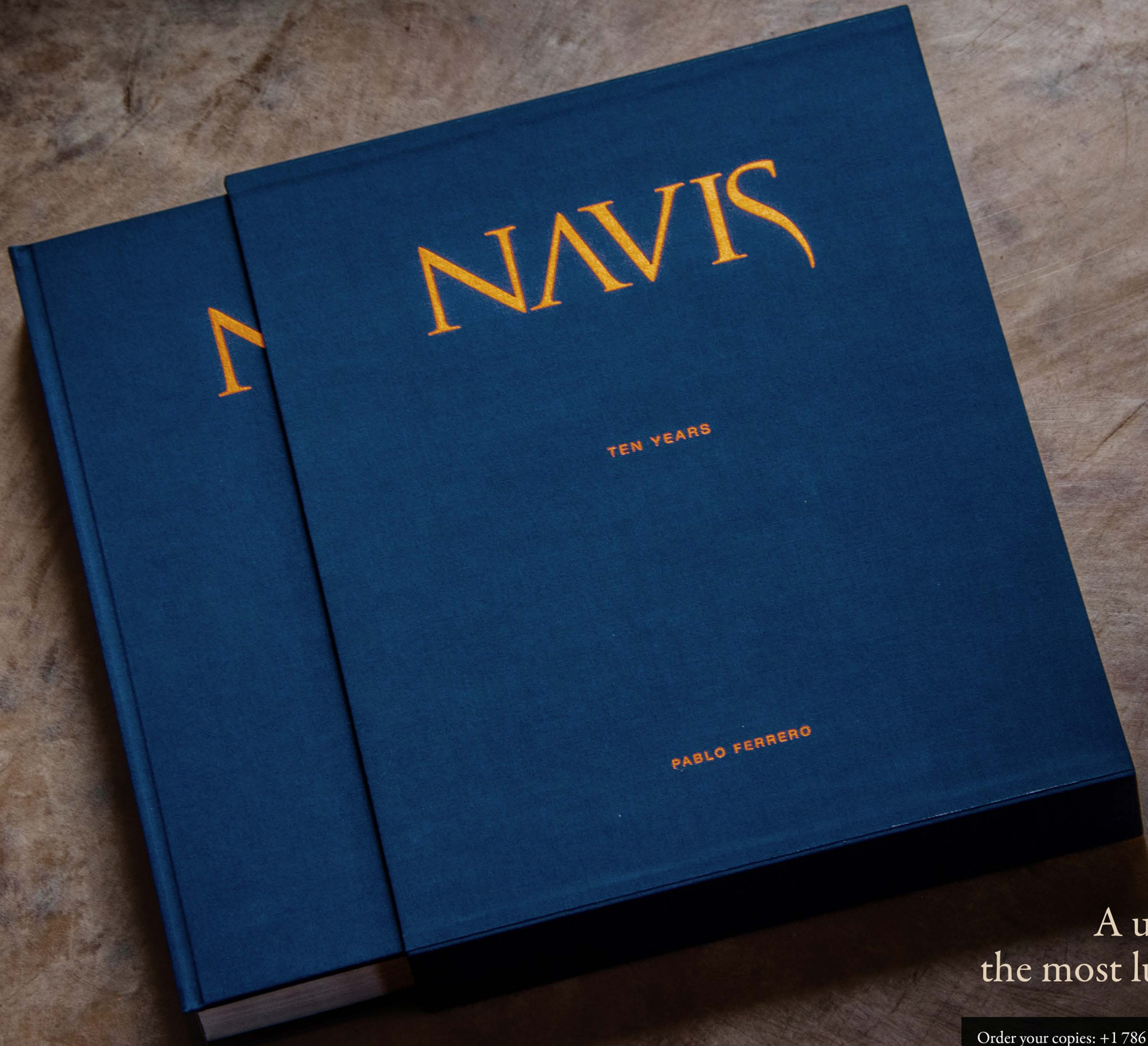

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Bilgin 50m Camila



Inside the Biggest Superyacht Regatta in Palma: Wind, Waves, and Winners



Luxury Travel, Dolphin Cruises, and Design Serenity at Soneva Jani



Lürssen Celebrates a Reign of Shipbuilding Excellence: A 150-Year Legacy

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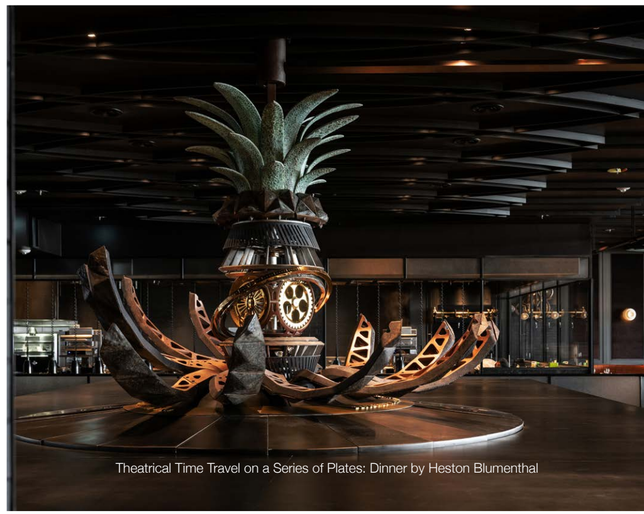
For queries or information requests about the yachts in this issue contact: enquiries@navisyachts.com



A Night at Ryokan Onomichi Nishiyama Serenity by the Inland Sea



Theatrical Time Travel on a Series of Plates: Dinner by Heston Blumenthal



A New Era of Transformational Wellness at Atlantis The Royal, Dubai



Aston Martin Valhalla

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The Italian Sea Group Delivers 78-Metre Featuring Advanced Diesel-Electric Propulsion

The Italian Sea Group (TISG) has delivered its new 78-metre Admiral flagship, a landmark project that sets a new standard for luxury yachting with its sophisticated design and advanced diesel-electric propulsion system. Announced on July 18, 2025, the vessel was developed for a discerning owner in collaboration with the renowned Sinot Yacht Architecture & Design, which created both the interior and exterior lines. This collaboration resulted in a masterpiece that embodies fluidity and dynamism, pushing the boundaries of technological innovation and environmental consciousness for the Admiral brand.

The yacht's exterior is defined by a sleek, athletic profile and an unconventional three-deck layout that creates a lower, more dynamic silhouette without sacrificing interior volume. The sculptural lines are accentuated by a stunning two-tone metallic paint scheme, with a hull finished in shimmering white and vibrant blue. This unique combination, along with the sleek, dark glazing, ensures the yacht is instantly recognizable.

Inside, the design philosophy of fluidity and elegance continues. Sinot Yacht Architecture & Design curated a refined interior with premium materials, a soft color palette, and meticulous finishes. The owner and guests can enjoy a variety of luxurious spaces, including a bridge salon with panoramic windows, a formal main dining area with a designer chandelier, and a suite of amenities for leisure and recreation. These include a six-metre swimming pool, a private spa, a modern gym, a diving area, and a Touch & Go helipad.

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, the 78-metre Admiral is a technological trailblazer. At its core is an innovative diesel-electric propulsion system designed for efficiency, quiet operation, and reduced environmental impact. The system integrates five variable-speed generators with two powerful 2-megawatt azimuthing pods, providing a top speed of 17 knots and superior maneuverability.

A key feature of this advanced system is a substantial lithium-polymer battery pack. This technology enables several crucial functions, including peak shaving to optimize fuel consumption and blackout prevention while docked. Most notably, it allows the yacht to operate for several hours in a zero-emission mode, providing silent, emission-free cruising and anchoring. The yacht's commitment to sustainability is further evidenced by its advanced emissions treatment systems, including Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) and Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) technologies on each generator. All exhaust gases are channeled to the top of the mast for optimal dispersion, improving onboard air quality.

Gianmaria Costantino, CCO of The Italian Sea Group, commented, "This delivery marks a new and important milestone for our Group. Every detail of this yacht reflects our vision of contemporary luxury where top-tier craftsmanship, timeless design, and sustainable innovation come together in perfect harmony."

The launch of this 78-metre vessel solidifies TISG's position as a leader in the superyacht industry. As the top Italian builder for yachts over 50 metres, the company continues to deliver large, complex, and innovative projects. The new Admiral flagship is a powerful statement of what is possible when a visionary owner, a world-class design studio, and a technically proficient shipyard collaborate to create a more sustainable future for large yachting.

Bilgin Yachts Delivers 80M Superyacht Al Reem, the Most Voluminous of its Acclaimed Series

In a significant milestone for the Turkish shipyard, Bilgin Yachts has announced the successful delivery of M/Y Al Reem, the third and final vessel in its highly acclaimed 80-meter superyacht series. Launched in late 2024 and officially handed over to its owner on July 14, 2025, Al Reem is now on its maiden voyage, with plans to make its summer debut in the Mediterranean's famed bays of Bodrum, Türkiye.

The Bilgin 80-meter series has been a source of industry recognition and national pride since its inception. The lineage began with M/Y Tatiana in 2020, which was the largest yacht ever built in Türkiye at the time. This was followed by M/Y Leona in 2023, a vessel that earned international accolades, including the "Outstanding Exterior Design" award at the 2024 BOAT International Design & Innovation Awards. While sharing the same 80-meter platform, Al Reem sets itself apart by pushing the boundaries of volume and design. The exterior, conceived by the talented team at Unique Yacht Design, was specifically reconfigured to maximize interior space. This effort resulted in an impressive gross tonnage of 1,758 GT—nearly 100 GT more than the first yacht in the series, Tatiana. According to Emrecan Özgün, founder and CEO of Unique Yacht Design, they "completely redesigned the superstructure, creating smooth, flowing lines and an imposing yet elegant profile." This redesign, he says, makes Al Reem the "most voluminous" of her sisters.

The exterior of Al Reem is defined by a bold and modern aesthetic. The most noticeable change is a mast that is 20% larger than those on Tatiana and Leona, finished in a contemporary gray paint. The superstructure itself is a striking combination of metallic gray-white and black. A direct connection with the sea is a core design philosophy, achieved through significantly larger glass panels in the main and upper living rooms, which immerse guests in the surrounding seascape. The aft decks were also extended, providing 20% more outdoor living space for relaxation and entertainment. A foredeck crafted entirely from teak adds a touch of classic warmth to the yacht's otherwise cutting-edge profile.

For the interior, Bilgin Yachts collaborated once again with the renowned London-based firm H2 Yacht Design, responsible for the celebrated interiors of Tatiana and Leona. However, for Al Reem, the owner's vision was for a new direction: an atmosphere of calmness, purity, and relaxation. Jonny Horsfield, founder of H2 Yacht Design, explained, "We developed a completely new interior aesthetic for Al Reem, focusing on a light and neutral palette that feels fresh yet calming on the soul." This sophisticated and timeless elegance was achieved with a meticulously curated selection of materials, including warm matt timbers, polished stainless steel accents, plush cream leather, and refined marbles. The layout itself was designed to prioritize multifunctional spaces and an open feel, fostering a strong connection with nature. A key feature is the forward-facing owner's suite, which provides an expansive 300-degree panoramic view and a private link to the environment. This design directly reflects the owner's intention to use the yacht for personal leisure and peaceful, secluded moments worldwide.

Underneath its elegant exterior, Al Reem is a vessel engineered for both comfort and capability. Constructed with a steel hull and an aluminum superstructure, the superyacht is powered by twin MTU engines. This setup allows for a maximum speed of 19 knots, a comfortable cruising speed of 15 knots, and an impressive range of over 5,000 nautical miles—perfect for extensive global exploration. The delivery of Al Reem marks a significant milestone for Bilgin Yachts, concluding a series that has firmly established the shipyard as a world-class builder of large, custom superyachts. The project is a testament to the successful collaboration between a visionary owner, a forward-thinking shipyard, and leading design studios. As Al Reem begins her life at sea, her journey will undoubtedly be one to watch.





Tankoa Yachts Launches 45m Custom Superyacht M/Y Singolare

Genoa, Italy – In an emotional ceremony at its private dock in Genoa, Tankoa Yachts has announced the successful launch of M/Y Singolare, the highly anticipated second hull in its 45-metre T450 series. The South American owner and his family joined the shipyard's dedicated team to celebrate the milestone, which underscores Tankoa's growing reputation for delivering complex, highly customized superyachts.

Singolare follows the delivery of its acclaimed predecessor, M/Y GO, and solidifies the T450 platform as a formidable force in the semi-custom market. The launch reinforces the Italian builder's robust order book, with another 45-metre hull and two 50-metre T500 models already sold and under construction, signaling strong international confidence in Tankoa's engineering and craftsmanship.

M/Y Singolare is a prime example of Tankoa's "boutique" construction approach, which champions client-centric flexibility, refined detailing, and sophisticated technical solutions. The yacht's powerful and elegant exterior lines were designed by the renowned Giorgio Maria Cassetta, who skillfully balanced generous internal volumes with a sleek, athletic profile tailored to the owner's specific requests.

One of the yacht's most defining exterior elements is a sophisticated hardtop that shelters a fully enclosed veranda. This versatile space can be climate-controlled to serve as a protected salon or opened to the elements, offering panoramic views and comfort in any condition. Demonstrating Tankoa's engineering prowess, the foredeck is completely flush, concealing a watertight tender garage below deck that preserves the yacht's clean, uninterrupted lines. For enhanced accessibility, an elevator seamlessly connects the main deck to the sun deck, ensuring effortless movement for guests.

The interior design of Singolare was entrusted to celebrated Brazilian architect Debora Aguiar, who worked in close collaboration with the owner to craft a warm, contemporary, and deeply personal environment. The result is a sanctuary of elegance that reflects the owner's personality, highlighting Tankoa's commitment to partnering with international design talent to achieve a client's unique vision.

On the main deck, the salon serves as a bright and inviting social hub. Expansive, floor-to-ceiling sliding glass panels dissolve the barrier between the interior and the aft deck, creating an expansive, open-plan living area. A striking feature here is the integration of residential-style, floor-to-ceiling wine cellars—a bespoke touch that caters to the owner's passion for fine wines and adds a unique element of sophisticated hospitality.

Forward on the same deck lies the spacious, full-beam master suite. This private owner's retreat is exceptionally appointed, featuring a walk-in wardrobe comparable in size to a standard guest cabin and a generous double en suite bathroom complete with a luxurious steam shower. The remaining four well-appointed guest cabins are situated on the lower deck, providing serene and private accommodations. The lower deck also houses a professional-grade galley equipped with a walk-in refrigerator and freezer, supporting the dedicated crew in delivering impeccable service.

Following the completion of final outfitting and sea trials, M/Y Singolare will be delivered to its owner this summer for an inaugural cruise in the Mediterranean. The yacht will then showcase its long-range capabilities by crossing the Atlantic for a winter season in the Caribbean, preparing to make its official debut on the world stage.

Overmarine Group Launches 12th Mangusta GranSport 33

Italian shipyard Overmarine Group has confirmed the successful launch of the twelfth hull in its celebrated Mangusta GranSport 33 series. The event, which took place in Viareggio, Italy, on July 24, 2025, saw the sleek 33-metre superyacht delivered to an American owner who was deeply involved in the customization process. The launch marks another milestone for the model, reinforcing its consistent success and strong resonance within the discerning American yachting community.

The creation of this twelfth hull was characterized by an intense collaboration between the Overmarine Group's design department and the yacht's owner. This partnership was key to personalizing the vessel to reflect a specific lifestyle and vision. Stefano Arlunno, President of Mangusta Americas, described the project as a "strong bond, made of passion, listening and team vision, spanning the ocean." He emphasized the "intense and mutually stimulating creative process, which led to a fully customized layout and interior."

Design and Performance

Penned by esteemed designer Alberto Mancini in cooperation with the shipyard's internal technical department, the Mangusta GranSport 33 embodies a contemporary and dynamic approach to yachting. Its design elegantly synthesizes high performance with long-range cruising capability, a combination that has proven highly attractive to modern owners.

At its core, the yacht's performance is driven by a state-of-the-art Volvo Penta propulsion package. This system features four robust engines, each delivering 735 kW (1,000 HP). These are paired with Volvo's highly efficient and quiet IPS pods, a technological choice that offers significant advantages over traditional shaft drives by enhancing maneuverability, reducing vibration, and optimizing fuel consumption.

This powerful configuration enables the Mangusta GranSport 33 to achieve an impressive top speed of 25 knots while ensuring exceptional comfort. This focus on advanced propulsion is not just about metrics; it is about enhancing the owner's experience, making docking less stressful and cruising more enjoyable.An Immersive Onboard Experience

The onboard experience is defined by a seamless connection to the sea, achieved through vast panoramic windows. A key feature is the 40-square-metre (435ft^2) main deck owner's suite, a private sanctuary with sweeping forward views typically found on larger yachts. Below deck are four well-appointed guest cabins. The yacht's most iconic social space is the 56-square-metre (600ft^2) sundeck, which connects to a stunning foredeck infinity pool, creating an expansive private terrace over the water.

Overmarine Group's Enduring Legacy

The sustained success of the Mangusta GranSport 33 is a direct reflection of Overmarine Group's four decades of experience. Established in 1985 by the Balducci family and now celebrating its 40th anniversary, the company has become an international benchmark for artisanal excellence and innovation. The family-run business continues to oversee quality and maintain personal relationships with every client, managing every stage of production in-house across its 210,000-square-metre manufacturing footprint.

This launch confirms the Mangusta GranSport 33's position as a highly sought-after model that perfectly blends aesthetics, function, and brand identity into a versatile package, cementing Overmarine's reputation as "Dream Shapers."



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Lürssen Celebrates a Reign of Shipbuilding Excellence

A 150-YEAR LEGACY

Photos: Lürssen Media, Klaus Jordan, Jarmo Pohjaniemi, Elizabeth White, Guillaume Plisson, Dick Holthuis, George Duffield, Franco Pace, Giorgos Moutafis, Kyle Conlin, BlueiProd - Words: KL Turner


ONKEL FIDI II
VEGESACK


HOTEL D'ORI

One hundred and fifty years may be the blink of an eye in the origin of the universe, but in terms of operating a business, it is rather a stellar achievement. Long a highly regarded name in the marine industry, Lürssen sails through that milestone in 2025 with quiet elegance, delivering the most luxurious, innovative, and beautifully crafted yachts in the world. If yachts held royal titles, Lürssen's kingdom would reflect growth, progress, success, and a bright future.

How does a luxury-focused brand continue to remain at the top of their game? And what contributions, looking both to the past and through the present to the future, continue Lürssen's legacy as a leader in the yachting world as a cherished brand? It begins with passion. There is also an emphasis on the legions of craftsmen and women who design, build, and dream, as the next generation of yachts transition from concept to delivery.

A 19th Century Startup

Lüder Lürssen founded his shipyard in the 1830s. Not the first in his family with seafaring roots, he would also not be the last to lend distinction to the Lürssen name in boatbuilding.

Lüder's son, Friedrich, wanted to join his father's shop. The elder Lürssen advised Friedrich to open his own yard, fearing his small shop could not support two families. And so, he did.

In 1875, in Bremen-Aumund, Germany, near the Weser River, Friedrich set up his shop. Commanding both skill and determination, Friedrich passionately declared, "My firm shall be known as a leader in both quality and performance." From his very first vessel, originality and quality set his work apart, but early days were hard and work was scarce.

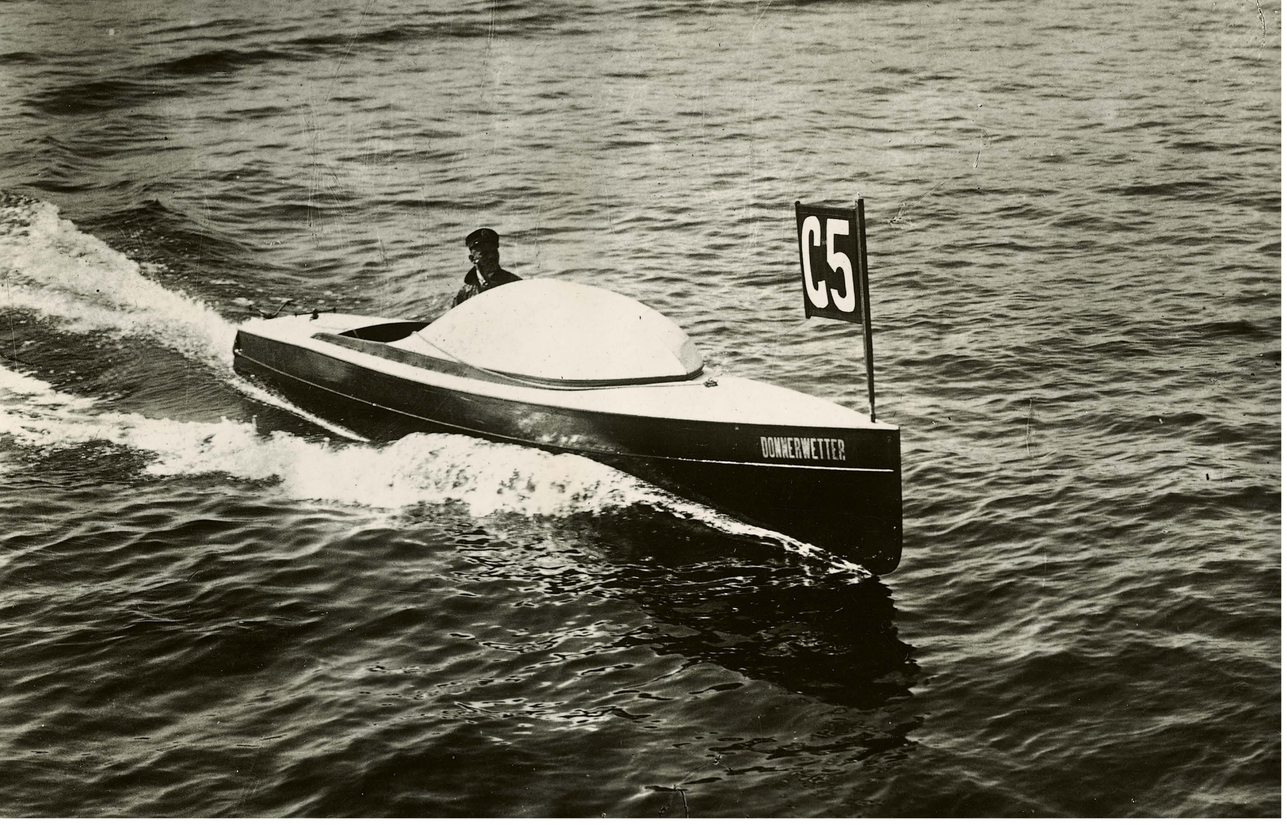
By 1882, however, the unification of Germany prompted an era of prosperity that saw Germans taking up rowing as a popular hobby. Known for beautiful design and fine workmanship, boats from the Lürssen shipyard were also lightweight, earning a reputation for placing well in regattas. Friedrich was flooded with orders, carefully selecting hardwoods and suggesting custom details that appealed to the sportsmen.

Lürssen and Daimler Collaboration Was The First of the Firsts

In 1886, Friedrich Lürssen and Gottlieb Daimler prepared for testing an internal combustion engine attached to the six-meter boat REMS. Fear was a factor as the public learned of the "explosions" about to take place on the river.

The small engine, which had a displacement of 0.462 liters, weighed 60 kg, and produced an output of 1.5 hp at 700 rpm, was fitted into a six-meter boat called the REMS. This boat, which marked the beginning of ICE-powered propulsion, was the world's first motorboat. ICE, or internal combustion engine, propulsion was pioneered by Lürssen together with Gottlieb Daimler. The REMS motorboat's successful testing marked a revolutionary first and was the beginning of a long line of Lürssen innovations.

In 1904, Lürssen operations found a home in Bremen-Vegesack. The new site gave the shipyard direct access to open water. By 1906, Friedrich had delivered 3,500 boats. He began grooming his son Otto as his successor. With training and apprenticeship through a technical school, Friedrich engineered seamless generational succession of the firm.


C5
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Alleinvertreter
in allen grösseren Städten
gesucht
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AHPO

The Second Generation Set New Speed Records

As Friedrich's son Otto took the reins of the company with his wife Frieda by his side, innovation continued. With the racing speedboat DONNERWETTER, Lürssen set speed records approaching 35 knots. The boat sported a slimline forecastle, displaying low water and air resistance combined with a 40 hp engine.

In 1907, Otto Lürssen put his knowledge as a shipbuilding engineer to good use. As Otto transitioned to partner with the firm around 1911-1912, his practical and theoretical knowledge combined with proven craftsmanship and top technical skills to further establish Lürssen as an important industry leader. Innovative solutions and superior quality wove important threads into the fabric of the company.

In 1925, Lürssen and Daimler collaborated again to shake up the racing season with a 102-hp engine speedboat. Crowned the unofficial world champion, the speedboat also won both the Prix de la Côte d'Azur and the Grand Prix des Nations later that same year.

A further collaboration between Lürssen and Swiss engine manufacturer Adolf Saurer, the SAURER-LÜRSSSEN posted an average speed of 32 knots to win the Prix de Monte Carlo.

Celebrating 50 Years and 10,000 Ships, Then Another World First

The year was 1925, and Lürssen continued to establish milestones with a 14-meter yacht. The wooden ship, a sister of the ONKEL FIDI II, made history as the 10,000th build for the shipyard. In addition, the yard's 50th anniversary coincided with that count.

In 1927, Lürssen's OHEKA II became the world's fastest commuter yacht, using three Maybach engines to achieve 34 knot speeds. Also in 1927, Lürssen built the 36-meter AAR IV, the longest motor yacht in the world at that time.

Passing the Torch, Husband to Wife, On To The Third Generation

1932 saw the unexpected death of Otto Lürssen at just 52 years of age. Passionately open-minded and focused on innovation, his leadership would be missed. Frieda Lürssen, Otto's wife and the daughter of the captain of a large cruise ship, stepped up to take the helm.

In 1938, Otto and Frieda's son Gert Lürssen began exploring his passion for motorboats. Early on, his father sparked the fire that inspired Gert to bring about a design that set a diesel engine speedboat speed record of 68.2 km/h on the Weser River.

The post-WWII years brought a challenging business climate, forcing businesses to build again nearly from scratch. By 1948, Gert and his brother Fritz-Otto worked to bring the shipyard up to speed, agreeing on an equitable division of shares with their mother, Frieda. Frieda, known for her perseverance as well as her proficient technical knowledge, put the shipyard into the hands of Gert and Fritz-Otto in 1962. That same year, they delivered the remarkable 55-meter yacht PEGASUS II to her London shipowner.

Game Changer Carinthia Set A New Standard

Up to this point, marine vessel design was principally focused on boats used for military and trade purposes. That all changed with the advent of 1971's delivery of CARINTHIA V, a 67.9-meter yacht that reset all of the parameters of what a leisure yacht could be. Lürssen's exquisite workmanship was complemented by the meticulous design talents of Jon Bannenberg.

CARINTHIA V was Bannenberg's first big yacht project, showing off modern styling and a long, sleek design that proved a trendsetter whose imprint would take the industry into the next century.

The Century Mark And The Fourth Generation

Celebrating 100 years of successful business operations in 1975, Lürssen presented a historic exhibition to mark the occasion. The fourth generation of Lürssens, Friedrich and Peter, sons of owners Gert and Fritz-Otto Lürssen, were given a memorable gift of shares in the firm.

Friedrich would join the company in 1977, at 27 years of age, spending time working in all departments throughout the shipyard after receiving a degree in business. Peter joined the firm in 1987, after studying shipbuilding and industrial engineering at a German school and business administration in the United States.

Limitless Pioneered Diesel-Electric Propulsion

After acquiring the Kröger Werft shipyard capable of up to 110-meter builds in length and establishing a new yacht division apart from the naval contract division have kept the yard working at 90 percent capacity, preparing the yard for great things to come.

In 1991, Lürssen delivered the 97-meter megayacht LIMITLESS, again calling on the talents of Jon Bannenberg for breathtaking design. Paired with sumptuous interiors by François Catroux, LIMITLESS took over the spotlight not only for 25 knot speed but also for earning the title of America's largest yacht under private ownership.

The firm would go on to celebrate 125 years of quality shipbuilding in 2000. Known now not only for their substantial military vessels, but for the stylish megayachts satisfying increasing global demand for luxury.

A new profile of yacht launched in 2003 for Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen brought the explorer yacht to the attention of the industry. The 126-meter Octopus featured a professional music studio and a cinema, in addition to its forward-facing observation area, two helipads, and two submarines.

In 2004, the 138-meter yacht RISING SUN, designed by Jon Bannenberg, was delivered with an incredible array of window panels constructed with heat-insulating foil to reduce the energy and emissions in air conditioning. RISING SUN also sported custom soot particle filters used to clean the exhaust.




LIMITLESS








CYCLADES
PRESERVATION FUND





Acquisitions Increased Services and Capacity

Specializing in naval vessels and attending to maintenance, repair, and conversion, the 2004 acquisition of the Neue Jadewerft shipyard established a location on the German North Sea coast. Capabilities expanded to accommodate ships up to 150 meters in length.

In October of 2012, Lürssen took Hamburg's Norderwerft shipyard under the umbrella of The Lürssen Group. Further expanding capabilities in the commercial shipping industry meant that repair and maintenance of German Naval vessels could take place in addition to similar work on commercial vessels.

In 2013, Lürssen expanded its operations by purchasing the Peene Werft shipyard in Wolgast, Germany. This facility specializes in the construction and repair of naval vessels.

Giant Steps in 2016: World's Longest And World's Biggest

Bigger, longer, better than ever, 2013 proved an important year for Lürssen. Delivering the world's longest motor yacht, the stunning AZZAM set records for her 180.65-meter length and for her speeds exceeding 30 knots, all achieved with a build time under thirty-six months.

2016 saw the delivery of the world's largest motor yacht by gross tonnage in DILBAR. Completed in just 52 months, the 156-meter build was one of the most complex yachts built to date. DILBAR put technology at the forefront while displaying luxurious innovations in entertainment and recreation beyond any previous builds.

Lürssen also found time to seal the deal on the acquisition of the Blohm + Voss shipyard in Hamburg in 2016, further expanding capacities for yacht refits.

In 2019, Lurssen launched the legendary FLYING FOX, the 136-meter yacht with a 40-foot athwartships pool, a library, fireplace, 11 guest suites for 22 guests served by 55 crew members, and the first-ever cryosauna on board a yacht.

Lürssen Founds NVL For Defense Division

Continuing as a part of the Lürssen Group, the Defense Division received a new name in 2022. NVL spun off the defense operation into its own division, separating it from the yacht division. The Blohm + Voss and Norderwerft shipyards in Hamburg, Neue Jadewerft in Wilhelmshaven, and Peene-Werft in Wolgast all joined with international sites in Australia, Bulgaria, and Brunei, to strengthen and unite Lürssen's presence in the defense industry.

A First In Fuel-Cell Solutions

After studying fuel-cell systems for yachts since 2005, Lürssen launched the Pa-X-ell project in 2009 to find a way to use clean energy at sea. In 2022, the company opened an Innovation Lab at its facility in Bremen to test the first feasible fuel-cell system, which combines PEM technology with an onboard methanol reformer.Also in 2022, Lürssen delivered the hybrid diesel-electric propulsion yacht BLUE, fitted with an electric Azimuth Pod Drive and an impressive exhaust treatment system.

The Legend Continues in 2025

Early in the year, Lürssen acquired the Nobiskrug shipyard in Rendsburg, adding production capacity to the new build and yacht refit business. The year will also mark the first initiative of the Lürssen Foundation supporting exemplary students in clean energy research through an intensive scholarship program.

Lürssen currently has several large projects under construction with staggered completion dates. Project Cosmos, a 114.2-meter explorer yacht designed by Marc Newson, is scheduled for a 2026 delivery. The 134-meter Project Deep Blue, launched in June, is expected to be delivered by the end of 2025. Also scheduled for delivery in spring 2026 is the 107-meter Project Shackleton, a distinctive explorer yacht featuring an X-bow. Several other large builds have later delivery dates, ensuring Lürssen's shipyards remain busy and productive.

The passion that began with Friedrich, inspiring every generation that followed, is something you can hear in Peter Lürssen's voice whenever he speaks today. The Lürssen legacy is alive, permeating every aspect of today's operations, poised to continue well into the future. ⊕


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Bilgin 50m

CAMILA

Photos: Bilgin Media | Words: K.L. Turner

Bilgin Yachts unveiled the luxurious interiors of its latest masterpiece, MY Camila, which was delivered to a US owner in June. Showcasing her 50-meter exterior at a late January launch from Bilgin's Istanbul yard, Camila displayed her crisply defined curves from Unique Yacht Design. Recently, her palette of interior hues, inspired by nature, highlighted the fresh, elegant, and balanced hand of Hot Lab throughout the yacht, effortlessly blending interior and exterior spaces.

Bilgin takes great pride in a very high rate of satisfaction among clients, with many returning when considering their next purchase. Bilgin CEO, Ismail Şengün, notes, " Today, the Bilgin 163 is our most ambitious project and is a perfect example of what we can propose to the adventures of the sea." Camila, the second yacht of the 50-meter 163 hulls after Eternal Spark, offers an exciting visual explanation of such adventures.

Camila By The Numbers

As the naval architect for the project, exterior design and system design for Camila were created by Unique Yacht Design in Antalya, Türkiye. Interior design is from the UK studio of Hot Lab. Both firms also performed similar work for Bilgin's Eternal Spark, the first yacht of the 163 series.

Camila stretches 49.95 meters in length, with a 48.26-meter waterline. Her beam is 9.25 meters and her draft is 2.60 meters. Fully loaded, displacement weights in at 495 tons, with 499 GT.

She is powered by two CAT C32 1081 kW Marine Diesel Engines and three 86 kW CAT C4.4 107 KVA Marine Diesel generators, giving her a range of 5,000 nautical miles at 10 knots and a top speed of 17 knots. She is fitted with a 110-kW electrical bowthruster and a four-fin electrical stabilizer. The galley is outfitted with high-end Miele equipment. The entertainment system follows suit with a highly regarded Savant/Lutron system.

The cabins, located on four decks, include one master cabin, one VIP cabin, two double-bed guest cabins, two twin-bed guest cabins, one captain's cabin, and four crew cabins. She also has two saloons and a beach club. In all, Camila carries 12 guests in six cabins, served by 9+1 crew.

The Main Deck Saloon and Dining Area

A chic combination of Italian style and masterful craftsmanship, the main salon offers extraordinary views through large windows, slices of mirrored wall surfaces, mosaics woven with wood, and stone flooring. A subtle palette of natural soft goods in soothing neutral shades is accented by a zebra-inspired collection of loose pillows. Reflections of the room dance about the glass and narrow strips of mirror, glistening artfully courtesy of the dining room chandelier. The feeling is super spacious, and the massive views add magic and majesty to the mood.

Forward of the saloon, the dining space continues the theme, with a dozen dining chairs, placed around a slightly rectangular table. The chairs, upholstered in a soft sand, are a lovely contrast to the softly lit and beautifully sculpted glass scoops hanging from the chandelier.

Forward of the dining space, the wooden mosaics add visual texture to the doors, while a curbed glass wall surrounding the curved free-floating stair issues a contemporary note. Forward of the stairwell, a pantry and galley sit to port with lobby access to the owner's cabin and a day head to starboard. A thoughtful crew lobby, dry storage, and crew stair are tucked into the center.

The Main Deck Owner's Cabin

Entry to the fully forward main deck Owner's Cabin routes through the private office, with a standalone desk, soft sand sofa, and a pair of built-in bookshelves. Richly textured and embellished with textured woods, metal-mesh laminated glass, touches of gleaming chromed stainless steel, and deeply plush Italian carpets provide a most relaxing enclave with a slightly understated elegance that whispers, rather than shouts, ***"this is your perfect peace."***

The Owner's cabin includes an excellent array of hanging space, shelving, and storage in the spacious walk-in closet. The bath is finished in subtle marbles and matching woods, with important yet low-key lighting where it matters most. Chrome hardware brightens the look further, with a large glass shower, and separate toilet and bidet.

Generous head heights grace all living areas. Low bulwarks and large windows all contribute to the intoxicating views Camila offers her guests.


Peter Lindbergh









The Lower Deck VIP Cabin

Matching the Owner's cabin in nearly every aspect, the lower deck VIP cabin is created with curves and natural materials, inspiring a sense of calm luxury. Located amidships, the VIP is full beam. Laminated glass and metal mesh make the space seem even larger than it is, while dark mirrors add an element of infinity, translating to exceptional volumes of space.

The bath, similarly executed in marble, glass, fine woods, and subtle tones taken from nature, is one emitting relaxed sophistication. A seating area with contemporary mid-century modern upholstered chairs set in front of bookshelves and a series of windows adds to the feeling of spaciousness.

Additional Lower Deck Cabins

Just forward of the VIP cabin, two double en suite cabins match port and starboard, with similar décor and an excellent capacity to calm and soothe with soft textiles in harmonious natural palettes. Baths are located aft, against the forward wall of the VIP cabin. Entry is through the hall running forward and aft from the central staircase.

Forward of the double cabins and the stair, there are two double cabins with en suite baths set against the forward walls of the double cabins. All cabins have lovely windows offering an abundance of natural light.

The Beach Club

The spacious beach club truly shines, with a sauna, day head and shower, and ice fountain. There is a marble topped glossy white bar and cushy lounge located forward and a few steps down from the beach platform, providing an inviting entertainment space that feels intimately engaged with the sea.

The Bridge Deck and Upper Deck

Fully forward on the upper deck, the wheelhouse offers seating just in front of the captain's command station, giving guests a fantastic forward view. Aft of the wheelhouse, the captain's office and en suite cabin sit to starboard, and the pantry and drinks bar buffet sit to port, both surrounding the beautiful glassed-in central stair.

The bridge deck saloon is a comfy spot for smaller gatherings, with an angled sofa to port and a dining table for eight to starboard. A day head sits to starboard just forward of the dining area.

Aft of the saloon, the extensive 12-meter aft deck provides al fresco dining for twelve. A seated bar to port and a large, inviting sofabed sits opposite a pair of casual round lounge chairs. A U-shaped sofa sits fully aft, overlooking the beach club. Lots of seating and a lovely outdoor dining and entertaining space, there are stairs both to the main deck and the sun deck sitting to starboard.

The Sun Deck

Extending 21 meters, the sun deck is possibly the most exciting space on the yacht, providing spaces for those interested in a jacuzzi dip and quick sun pad stretch fully forward, or a relaxing lounge on the round sun beds or the inviting chaises aft. In between, a dining space benefiting from the cover of the Bimini find the perfect spot for a leisurely lunch, afternoon cocktails, or even an early cuppa and croissant. There is plenty of deck space, so a sunrise yoga session also works in perfectly.

Summing Up Camila

Truly remarkable use of space, with brilliant inserts of reflective surfaces and large windows, Camila is designed to give guests the feeling of ultimate luxury and calm. No one can say it better than those who worked so well as a team to create the masterpiece.

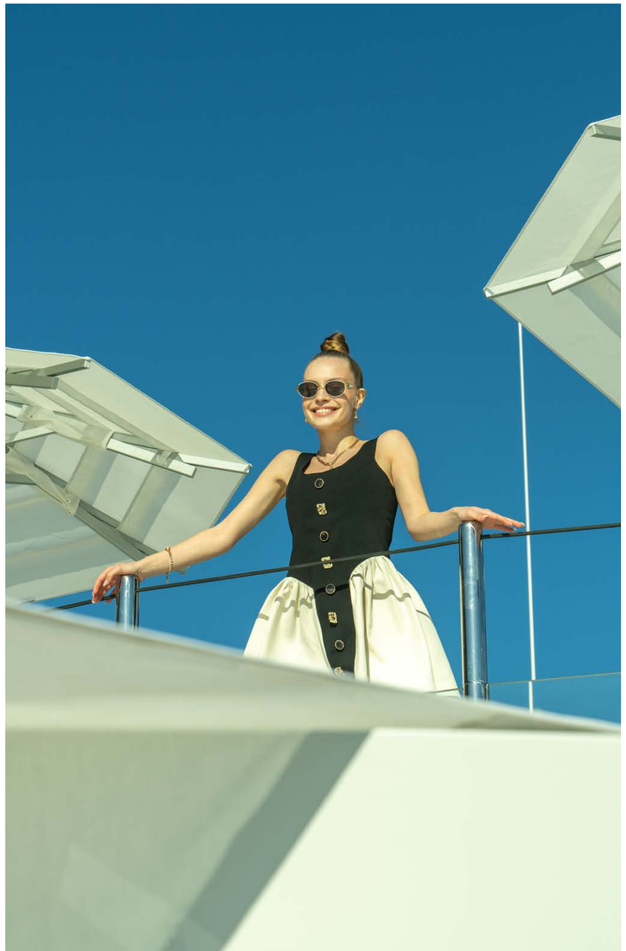
Enrico Lumini, Partner and Head of Design at Hot Lab acknowledged, ***"With Camila, we wanted to strike a delicate balance between warmth and sophistication. This is the second 50-meter yacht we have developed for Bilgin,"*** continuing, "Every element on board has been carefully crafted to offer both sophistication and comfort." In summary, Lumini adds that Camila is ***"A perfect mixture of design, craftsmanship and attention to every detail."***

Berkay Yilmaz, Commercial Director of Bilgin Yachts, adds, ***"We take immense pride in seeing this project come to fruition. Our team has worked tirelessly, and the result is a truly stunning yacht."*** Yilmaz added, ***"The distinctive elegance of Camila will undoubtedly capture attention wherever she goes. She is another stunning yacht that will cruise to US waters, and I am grateful to work with an experienced yacht owner who was heavily involved with her design process with Hot Lab."***









About Bilgin Yachts

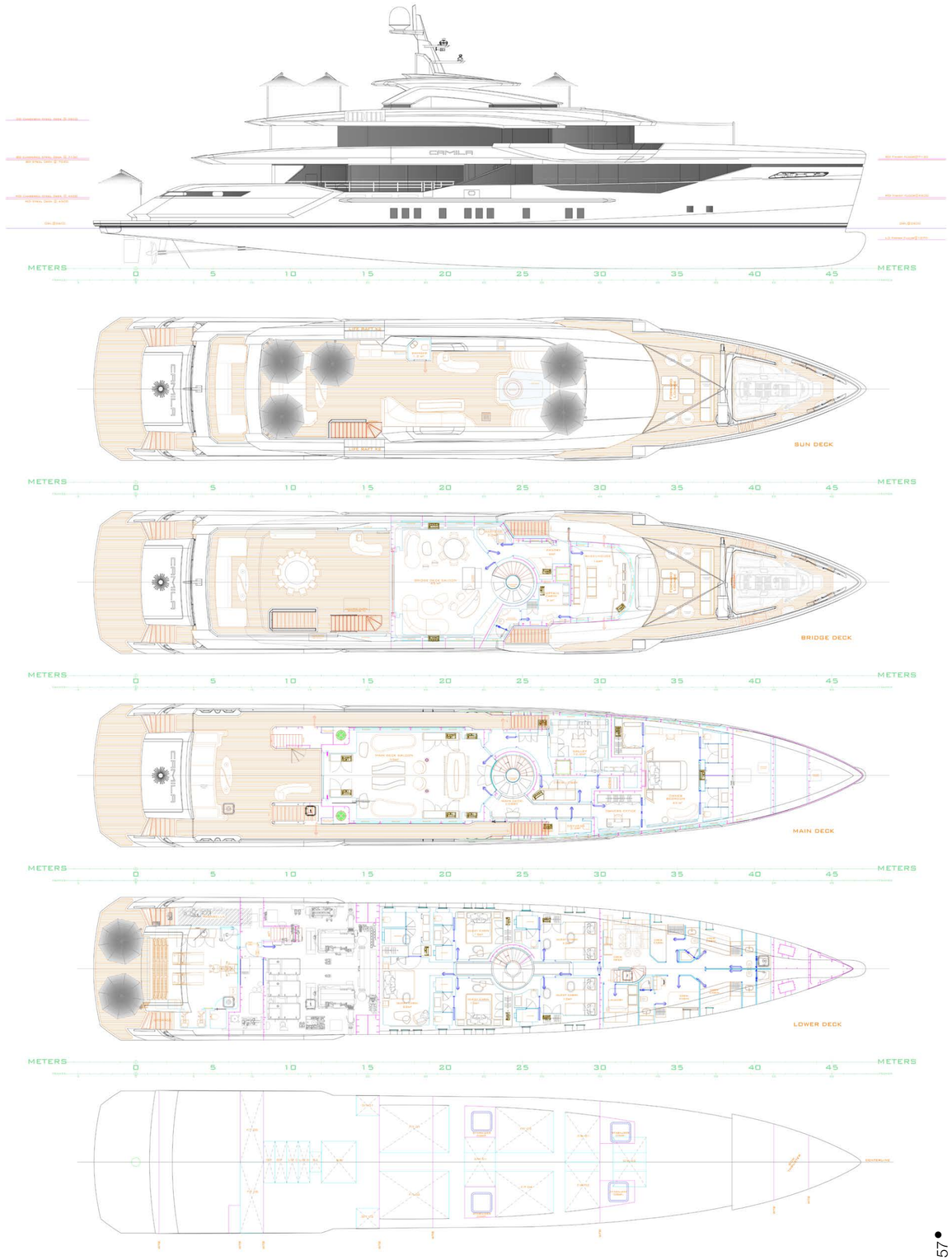
A boutique shipyard on the European side of Istanbul, Bilgin is a family business that has continued for five generations across the 1900s to today, building bespoke 50 to 120-meter luxury superyachts. Under their umbrella, 900 skilled craftsmen perform 90 percent of the work in-house in four facilities spanning nearly 80,000 square meters.

The Yalova facility is capable of accommodating five projects between 50 and 120 meters. In Istanbul, the outfitting facility can handle five projects between 50 and 90 meters simultaneously. Additional manufacturing areas, a marine furniture factory, a comprehensive mechanical, hydraulic, stainless-steel and upholstery workshop all coordinate to bring the next masterpiece from blank design sheet to launch and delivery.

Located just 40 minutes from the Istanbul Airport, the Bilgin Yachts team is at the service of those who wish to embark on the journey of building a “dream yacht to last a lifetime,” as CEO Şengün puts it.

Specifications

» LOA:	49.95m
» LWL at full load:	48.26m
» Beam overall:	9.25m
» Draught at full load:	2.60m
» Displacement at full load:	495t (full load)
» Maximum speed:	16.5
» Cruising speed:	12
» Range at cruising speed at half load:	app. 5,000 miles




CAMILA
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YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE BEGINS
WHERE THE OCEAN ENDS

Inside the Biggest Superyacht Regatta in Palma

WIND, WAVES, AND WINNERS

Photos: Sailing Energy / The Superyacht Cup | Words: Gabriel Parra



A Regatta for the Ages in the Heart of the Mediterranean

The Bay of Palma once again solidified its reputation as one of the world's premier sailing destinations, providing the perfect stage for the 29th edition of the Superyacht Cup Palma. Held from June 25-28, 2025, Europe's longest-running superyacht regatta delivered a masterful blend of high-stakes competition and relaxed shoreside camaraderie that has become its signature. This year, however, history was made as one yacht achieved an unprecedented triple victory, etching its name into the annals of sailing history.

The event, renowned for its professionally managed racing and the reliable sea breezes of Mallorca, drew an impressive fleet of the world's most prestigious sailing yachts. Owners, guests, and top-tier crew gathered for a spectacular celebration of sail, where strategy on the water was matched only by the vibrant networking and social events ashore. From the opening race to the final, dramatic conclusion, the 2025 edition was a proof to the enduring appeal of this iconic event.

The Fleet: A Showcase of Design and Power

The allure of the Superyacht Cup Palma lies in its ability to attract a diverse and compelling fleet, and this year was no exception. The entry list featured a dynamic mix of high-performance racers, elegant classic designs, and innovative new builds, creating thrilling matchups across the classes. A significant point of interest was the head-to-head competition among the Hoek Truly Classics, where the elegant 38m sloop Atalante returned to the regatta aiming to improve on its 2024 performance. Her sistership, the 42m Vijonara, a past class winner, joined her, keen to defend her bragging rights. Adding a fresh dynamic to this battle for classic supremacy was the debut of the 39m Linnea Aurora, another stunning Hoek design.

Bringing a new level of performance-focused racing to the event was a striking lineup of four Baltic 68 Café Racers. This new class, designed by Javier Jaudenes, included Ganesha, Hormar, and Open Season, which had already made a strong impression by winning a race at the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup. The squadron was rounded out by Pink Gin Verde, a yacht boasting impeccable green credentials with a zero-emission, all-electric propulsion system. Beyond these focused class battles, the fleet was stacked with other formidable contenders. The 39m Bill Tripp-designed sloop Cervo returned with a score to settle after being denied a class win by a single second on corrected time in the previous year.

In comparison, the 35m Farr-designed Southern Wind 108 Gelliceaux made its debut with a formidable reputation after claiming overall victory at the 2024 St. Barth's Bucket. All eyes, however, were on Rose. The 24m Wally 80 had won back-to-back titles in Palma, and her crew arrived with one goal in mind: to make Superyacht Cup history and secure an unprecedented third consecutive victory.



How the Regatta Was Won: Three Days of Sun and Strategy

The regatta unfolded over three days of tactical racing under Palma's famously reliable sea-breeze conditions. The Pantaenius Race Day kicked off the event, with Cervo and Open Season firing the opening salvo and claiming top honors in their respective classes, signaling their intent for the week.

As the competition intensified, the fleet saw a shuffle in the standings. On the second day of racing, the Hoek Truly Classic 128 Linnea Aurora delivered a masterful performance, turning the tables on her rivals and tightening the points at the top of the leaderboard. This victory showcased the unpredictable nature of the racing and set the stage for a dramatic final day.

The St. Regis Race Day served as the grand finale, and it did not disappoint. In a historic conclusion to a spectacular regatta, the 24m Wally Rose sailed a flawless race to clinch the overall victory. This marked the yacht's third consecutive win at the Superyacht Cup Palma, a feat never before achieved in the event's 29-year history. The win cemented Rose and her crew as legends of the regatta, surpassing the back-to-back wins of Kokomo in 2000 and 2001.

The Spirit of the Cup: More Than Just a Race

While the racing is fiercely competitive, the Superyacht Cup Palma is equally defined by its unique and relaxed atmosphere ashore. For the 29th edition, the regatta relocated to the prestigious Club de Mar-Mallorca, which provided an exceptional venue for the event's renowned social program.

Each day began with a social breakfast and concluded with dockside Happy Hours, allowing owners, sponsors, and crew to mingle informally with the superyachts moored stern-to. A highlight of the social calendar was the Owners' Midsummer Barbecue, an exclusive event held at the regatta's preferred hotel partner, the St. Regis Mardavall.

This blend of serious racing and a fun, convivial atmosphere is what participants highlight year after year. As sailing legend Mike Sanderson notes, the event is "the full package - good sailing and good fun." This ethos is further supported by the inclusive Corinthian Spirit Class, which offers owners a simplified racing format, broadening the event's appeal.



A Legacy of Excellence, A Future of Innovation

Since its inception as a simple dock party in 1996, the Superyacht Cup Palma has evolved into the premier superyacht regatta in the Mediterranean. Now under the ownership of Kate Branagh's Aquamarine Events since 2013, the event continues to innovate while staying true to its core values.

The move to the Real Club Náutico de Palma in 2021 and now to the Club de Mar-Mallorca for 2025 demonstrates a commitment to providing world-class facilities. Furthermore, the introduction of new classes, such as the Baltic 68 Café Racers, shows that the event is constantly looking forward, enhancing the experience for all stakeholders.

As the sails are lowered on another successful edition, the Superyacht Cup Palma has once again proven why it is a "must-do" event on the global sailing calendar. With its unique combination of ideal conditions, intense competition, and a renowned social scene, it remains the heart of superyachting in the Mediterranean.

Christian Roth™

by eric domège and christian roth



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A Mirror of Sky

There are journeys that take you from one place to another, and then there are those that take you out of time altogether.

Our speedboat moved across water so smooth, it became indistinguishable from the heavens above. No ripples, no wind, no sound beyond the low hum of the engines. Just a stretch of infinite blue, blending sea and sky into one seamless horizon. We were floating, not sailing, through a weightless realm, suspended between what is real and what might be imagined.

Crossing from the Baa to the Noonu Atoll in the Maldives required a passage over open ocean. There, the boat began to cradle softly with the rhythm of the swells. Something shifted. Conversations faded. The few other guests on board each retreated into their own thoughts. The gentle rocking, the vastness around us, the absence of landmarks, it all conspired to lull us into a quiet trance.

Schools of flying fish scattered like silver brushstrokes across the surface, and dolphins danced distantly on the horizon. But what caught me was the color, the water, in its purest state, took on hues I cannot name. A palette of celestial blues, reflecting the sky so perfectly that the horizon dissolved. We were gliding over a liquid sky, the boat itself seeming to float on light.

Slowly, almost imperceptibly, the dream began to take form.

A thin line appeared on the horizon, softened by haze and distance, gradually resolving into structures impossibly poised above the water. From afar, Soneva Jani didn't look constructed, it looked conjured. Villas and pavilions drifted over the turquoise lagoon, untethered to land, as if an entire civilization had quietly surfaced from the sea.

We arrived at a jetty carved of sun-bleached wood and sweeping organic curves. Our barefoot guardian awaited us with a quiet smile and a glass of fresh juice, guiding us gently into this world between water and wind. I stepped ashore and immediately felt the change, not just beneath my feet, but within. The dock itself felt sculpted, more art than architecture: a blend of minimalism, ecology, and elegant impermanence.

Awe. Amazement. Excitement. These were the first emotions I could name, though even they seemed too earthly to contain what this place stirred in me. In the water's impossible clarity, in the hush of our arrival, in the sense of entering not just a resort but a new plane of being, the dream had begun.

A Resort in the Ether

There is a point, as you walk the curved boardwalks of Soneva Jani, when you realise that what you are standing on is not land but a suggestion of it. The entire resort, suspended across a sapphire lagoon, feels less like it was built on the water than grown from it. With two vast overwater sections, joined by a narrow isthmus green with mangroves and delicate vegetation, Soneva Jani unfolds like a quiet archipelago of wooden dreams.

The first impression is one of scale. The overwater villas stretch in two sinuous arms across the sea, each connected by a zigzagging wooden spine that disappears into the horizon. But despite the immensity, the design never feels imposing. Everything, from the curve of the boardwalks to the wind-sculpted rooftops, seems to breathe in rhythm with the surrounding sea. The resort's structures rise gently from shallow sandbanks, creating the illusion that they are simply an organic extension of the reef below.

Soneva Jani is surreal luxury. Serene, peaceful, and deeply quiet, yet charged with an undertone of wonder. There's something cinematic in the way the villas emerge, spaced just far enough to grant total privacy, with uninterrupted views into a liquid infinity. Each walkway, each roofline, each natural timber element plays its part in a larger composition, a design language that feels both playful and profound.

The presence of land, though minimal, creates an intriguing contrast. On the central strip, home to the spa, watersports centre, and open-air cinema, the lushness of native plants and the architecture's sinuous curves create a seamless bridge between sea and soil. Even this core, though, is understated, nearly hidden behind the grandeur of the surrounding water.

What binds it all is intention. Soneva Jani's commitment to sustainability is the foundation. The villas are built using repurposed and sustainably sourced materials. Solar panels warm the water, sea breezes cool the rooms, and every effort, from coral nurseries to glass recycling, is part of a holistic mission to tread lightly. The sea turtles, the reef, the salt air itself, all seem to be in gentle dialogue with the place. This is architectural mastery in perfect conversation with the living nature of the lagoon.

Personal Sanctuaries Above the Sea

At Soneva Jani, accommodation is a sanctuary, a floating world of its own. Set within the resort's South Jetty enclave, Villa 88 offered an experience so immersive that it became difficult to tell where architecture ended and the lagoon began.

The moment you step inside, space itself seems to open. Floor-to-ceiling windows frame a panoramic view of the sea, every line of sight drawing your gaze outward toward endless hues of turquoise. The villa's layout was intuitive, each area flowing seamlessly into the next, from the dining space to the lounge, bedroom, studio, and vast outdoor terrace. A freshwater infinity pool mirrored the sky, while a private water slide curled playfully into the lagoon below. There was even a wide staircase descending discreetly from the bathroom, offering direct access to the sea for those rare moments of spontaneous solitude.

The architectural language of the villa was defined by natural wood, soft ivory tones, and subtle accents of violet and lagoon blue. Every texture, weathered timber, polished concrete, glass, felt tactile and intentional. Even the furnishings seemed to exhale serenity. A glass panel set into the floor offered a glimpse of the marine world below, a constant reminder of the delicate, liquid world supporting it all.

It was luxurious, yes, but not in the way of excess. This was a kind of luxurious minimalism, cozy and measured, where nothing shouted and everything whispered. One thoughtful detail led to the next: an expansive pillow menu, hand-finished joinery, the gentle rhythm of ceiling fans spinning above wide, open rooms. The villa's private studio offered the rare pleasure of working with a view over the shimmering lagoon, arguably the most beautiful workspace in the Indian Ocean.

From the bed, facing east, the sunrise would pour in each morning through sheer curtains, a soft awakening lit by the sea. At night, the retractable roof transformed the bedroom into an observatory, offering a ceiling of stars above the linens. Sunset was best from the rooftop's shaded nook, watching the light retreat across the water in gold and violet bands. There was no hour here that didn't feel like a moment stolen from somewhere sacred.

There was a sound, the soft, constant murmur of water against the pillars below, a kind of marine lullaby. For those who have slept at sea, this is the closest sensation one can find ashore. The villa enveloped the guest. It gave privacy without solitude, openness without exposure. In this house above water, you were right in the elements.







Dining in a Dream

Dining at Soneva Jani is about immersion. Each meal is a layered sensory encounter, choreographed with quiet elegance and set in places where the horizon feels within reach.

At Overseas by Mathias Dahlgren, an overwater pavilion at the edge of The Gathering, dinner unfolds like a meditation. The tables are positioned over glass panels, allowing guests to gaze through crystal-clear depths while dining—schools of reef fish drift below, and the occasional blacktip reef shark glides silently through the sand channels beneath. Here, the cuisine matches the theatre of the setting. With a focus on oceanic purity and seasonal ingredients harvested from the island's organic gardens, the menu blends refined Scandinavian restraint with Indian Ocean abundance. The Chef's Choice tasting menu, an elegant progression of delicate plates, shared courses, and indulgent desserts, is designed to be savoured slowly, each bite echoing the lagoon's serenity.

Nearby, the Director's Cut transforms dinner into cinema. Suspended above water beside the overwater screen, this experience pairs Japanese precision with silent film and starlight. A curated set menu—featuring black cod, contemporary sashimi, and delicate composed bites—is served with discreet elegance as each guest tunes in through individual headphones. The only soundtrack is the soft lapping of the sea and the occasional burst of laughter from the screen. The chef's appearance at the end feels like a final bow, concluding a meal as theatrical as it is refined.

Then there is The Crab Shack, a rustic hideaway of reclaimed wood, sand floors, and driftwood charm. Nestled on what may well be the most beautiful beach in the Maldives, its location is nothing short of sublime. Towering palms arc overhead, casting shifting shadows across white sand, while the turquoise water laps gently just meters away. The atmosphere is at once intimate and expansive, the kind of place that feels discovered rather than designed. At midday, the light shimmers across the shallows, and dhonis pass in the distance like slow-moving brushstrokes. The cuisine captures this unhurried beauty: Sri Lankan mud crab curry, crisp rosé, wood-fired flatbreads, and the scent of spice drifting on the salt air.

Across every venue, there is a quiet commitment to sustainability. Fresh catches, local produce, compostable materials, minimal waste, it's not an ethos that's advertised, but one that's felt. Like so much at Soneva Jani, it's simply in the air.

From Stargazing to Seclusion

Some places are designed for rest. Others for play. Soneva Jani is made for wonder.

Each day opens with possibility: sunrise yoga above the palms, a slow paddle across the lagoon, or a barefoot breakfast beneath the shade of sea-almond trees. But the memories that remain are those where nature, luxury, and quiet astonishment converge.

We boarded the Sunset Dolphin Cruise one golden afternoon. The boat slipped from the dock and glided past deserted islands and through translucent channels, eventually reaching the deeper waters of the atoll. This is where saline concentrations rise and dolphin families gather. We watched in stillness as communities of up to twenty or more dolphins danced around us, leaping and swirling in curious harmony. It felt spontaneous, yet somehow choreographed, as if the dolphins had been waiting for us. As the sun burned low on the horizon, delicacies appeared on trays: champagne, fresh juice, exquisite canapés. The experience was elemental, cinematic, and deeply human.

Back in the calm of the lagoon, the resort offers a range of non-motorised water sports, stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking, windsurfing, but the real luxury is the setting: warm, clear water over a soft sandy base, with no coral to harm or stub your feet on. The visibility is dreamlike. Rays pass below, reef sharks trace their paths at a distance, and schools of fish flash through the light like sequins. The lagoon accommodates your movement; it invites you in.

Of course, some experiences slow the pulse rather than raise it. The Soneva Soul wellness center is perhaps the most breathtaking on the island, both in philosophy and design. Suspended above the forest canopy and overlooking the sea, the treatment pavilions feel as though they float on air. The architecture mirrors the villas' organic minimalism, elevated yet earthy, refined but free of pretension. Here, wellness exceeds a concept. It's embodied. Treatments unfold like rituals, deeply relaxing, intuitively delivered, and enhanced by the natural soundtrack of wind and waves. At sunrise, yoga sessions are held above the treetops, as the first light spills across the lagoon and the day begins in gentle harmony.

Days at Soneva Jani have a rhythm unbound by schedules. You can do everything, or nothing at all. The villa becomes your sanctuary. Reclining on the net above the water, with a book from the curated in-villa library, time blurs into stillness. The sea, always present, becomes both soundscape and companion.

In this place suspended between sea and sky, the outside world dissolves. Experience isn't measured by hours or itinerary, but by the moments that fill the senses so completely they leave no room for anything else.







Waking from the Dream

Leaving Soneva Jani begins long before the seaplane arrives. It starts with the quiet act of packing, a reluctant ritual performed more slowly than usual. Clothes folded, belongings tucked away, all while glancing out at a view you've come to know as a daily companion. You leave your luggage behind and wait, not rushed, not ready, but gently guided.

Your barefoot guardian arrives in silence, an electric cart humming softly along the timber paths. Soon you're back at the Gathering, where the resort team offers one last indulgence: delicate bites, cool drinks, and unfettered access to the ice cream and cheese rooms. Below, reef fish glide through the clear shallows. Above, the sky hums. In the distance, the seaplane's engine cuts through the stillness like the first sentence in a farewell letter.

When the aircraft touches down, your guardian returns for one final escort. You step onto the launch boat and head toward the floating airport. A small sign reads Soneva Jani International Airport. It feels both playful and poignant. The staff line the dock, waving as you board. Gratitude radiates from both sides.

From your seat in the seaplane, the window frames the dream you've just lived. The propellers blur, the engines surge, and then lift, your villa, the boardwalks, the gathering space, the dolphins' favorite channel, all shrink beneath you. You search the water below, trying to pick out the villa that was yours, the curved jetty you walked each morning, the coral gardens that welcomed you.

Then the island begins to recede. It becomes a shape, then a blur, and finally a memory. The ocean and sky blend into a single shade of infinite blue. Clouds roll by, soft and slow, and there is no longer a clear horizon, only a seamless palette of water, air, and longing.

In that suspended moment, above the atolls and beyond the world of time, you're not sure if it all truly happened, or if Soneva Jani was just a beautiful mirage. A sanctuary not found on maps, but in the hearts of those who seek silence, wonder, and something far deeper than luxury.

You close your eyes and carry it with you. The sea, the sky, the dream. ⊕



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A Night at Ryokan Onomichi Nishiyama

SERENITY BY THE INLAND SEA

Photos: Ryokan Onomichi Nishiyama Media | Words: Janine Devine




Ryokan 尾道西山





We live in an era where luxury hospitality often defaults to gleaming high rises promoting a near-surfeit of equally glossy, mostly insubstantial features described as “amenities.” In our recent journey to Onomichi, a port town in the Hiroshima Prefecture, the Ryokan Onomichi Nishiyama stands in quiet rebellion of this trend, embodying a meditation on what it means to truly honor the soul of a destination.

Onomichi itself holds centuries of trading importance yet still manages to retain a therapeutically relaxing atmosphere. Surrounded by mountains and facing the Seto Inland Sea, Onomichi is famous for its many unique stores housed in refurbished old private houses as well as exceptional examples of temples and shrines. This remarkable ryokan, which reopened in April 2023 after inheriting the culture of the 1943 original Nishiyama Bekkan teahouse, which once reigned as the city’s finest, catering to only the most distinguished guests. In its newly reimagined state, Ryokan Onomichi Nishiyama represents something increasingly rare: a thoughtful, authentic hospitality experience that treats the past not merely as décor, but as living memory.

Design Philosophy that Whispers

From the moment of arrival, the ryokan reveals its philosophy through thoughtful contradiction. Where other properties might simply preserve historic elements behind glass, Nishiyama transforms them into functional poetry. Wood from the original tokonoma alcoves now become room keys, while centuries-old roof tiles have been reimagined as entrance décor, speaking to a deeper understanding of how history might co-exist energetically with the present. This is not preservation for its own sake, but rather an intimate dialogue between past and present that honors both without sacrificing either.

The property’s eleven accommodations, most housed in freestanding buildings, mix classic Japanese tradition with varying amounts of contemporary Western furniture and design. They rest within tranquil gardens that breathe with the rhythm of the seasons. Each suite carries its own personality while orchestrating the coherence of the whole in a delicate balance that speaks to confident design philosophy. The interiors achieve something remarkable: spaces that feel both ancient and immediate, wrapped in the simplistic quietude that modern life has trained us to forget we crave.

Dining as Regional Dialogue

The culinary experience here centers on Yosoro, the glass-walled restaurant whose name draws from nautical tradition to mean both “steady” and “welcome.” Headed by MICHELIN-starred chef, Kota Tanaka, Yosoro’s French-infused cuisine embodies a duality that captures the ryokan’s own essence. The views here are accented by the ripples of the inland sea, which serves a purpose yet recedes in favor of the real drama of culinary preparation. Here, the open kitchen becomes theater without spectacle, where each course emerges as part of ongoing dialogue between chef and guest. The cuisine reads like correspondence from the Setouchi region itself: local scallops paired with canola flower and Mihara blood orange, Ehime abalone, regional flounder, and Onomichi wagyu prepared with poetic precision and carefully paired with the finest vintages. This is not fusion for its own sake, but rather a confident interpretation of place through the dual lens of seasonal availability and ancestral technique.

Recognition and Philosophy

The property’s recognition in 2024 as a One MICHELIN Key hotel secures it within Japan’s most distinguished hospitality tier. Similar to MICHELIN’s coveted culinary Stars, its Key designation evaluates properties across five criteria: architecture and interior design, service quality and consistency, overall personality and character, value for price, and contribution to guest experience within its setting. Ryokan Onomichi Nishiyama excels precisely because it understands and actively imbues these elements as interconnected rather than discrete achievements, embodying what the Japanese call omotenashi, a hospitality that anticipates need before it’s expressed. This isn’t the performative attentiveness found in luxury chains, but rather the intuitive care that emerges when staff understand their role as custodians of authentic experience rather than simply providers of service. As a guest one consistently notes the exceptional warmth and professionalism of the team, with descriptors like “transformative,” suggesting something much deeper than satisfaction.



Thoughtful Amenities Equate Cultural Connection

The property offers five inclusive hospitality features that reflect this philosophy: a welcome service of matcha and traditional sweets, a complimentary lounge for alcohol and refreshments, locally-made NAGI bicycle rentals, access to the Nishiyama Library with borrowable books, and on-site parking. These amenities avoid the trap of excess, instead offering meaningful experiences to connect guests more deeply to both the property and the surrounding community.

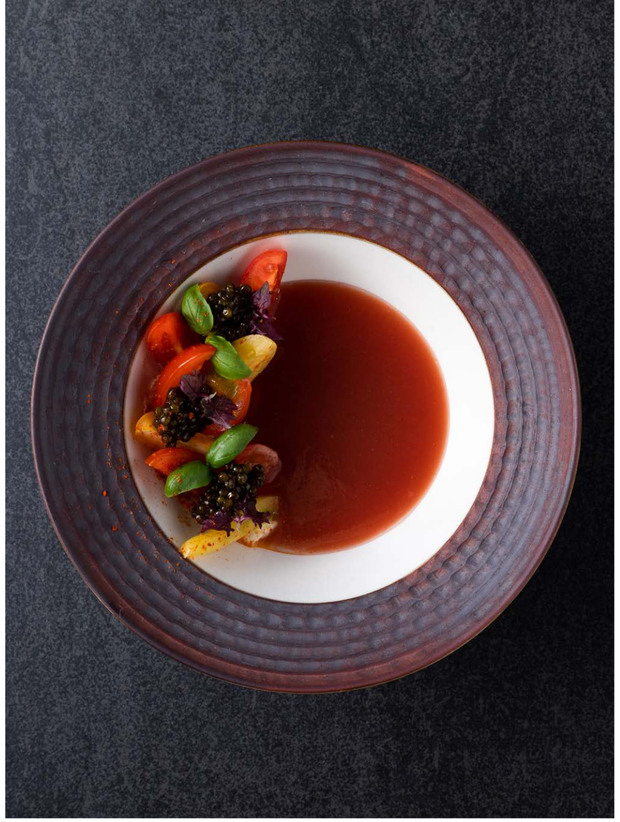
Authenticity Without Nostalgia

What distinguishes Ryokan Onomichi Nishiyama from Japan's countless traditional inns is its dedication to authenticity without nostalgia. The ryokan preserves not just the physical remnants of its predecessor, but the spirit of generous hospitality that made the original a cherished destination for merchants and travelers. This is hospitality as cultural practice rather than commercial transaction, an approach that transforms a single night's stay into something approaching pilgrimage.

The morning departure carries particular poignancy, as the property's breakfast service extends the same philosophical approach as dinner. Traditional Japanese morning cuisine prepared with Onomichi and Setouchi ingredients, centered around carefully selected rice cooked in clay pots, serves as both nourishment and final gesture of care. It's a meal that acknowledges departure while celebrating the simple perfection of presence.

In the landscape of contemporary luxury hospitality, Ryokan Onomichi Nishiyama achieves something increasingly rare: transformation rather than simply accommodation. This is not a property that overwhelms with amenities or dazzles with innovation, but rather one that invites guests into a different relationship with time, place, and possibility. For travelers seeking not just comfort but meaning, Nishiyama represents hospitality at its most essential: a space where the act of staying becomes, however briefly, a way of being.

The property stands as proof that luxury's future may lie not in reinvention, but in the patient work of honoring what already exists while making space for what might emerge. In a world increasingly disconnected from both history and place, Ryokan Onomichi Nishiyama offers something more valuable than amenities: it offers belonging, however temporary, to something larger than ourselves. ⊕















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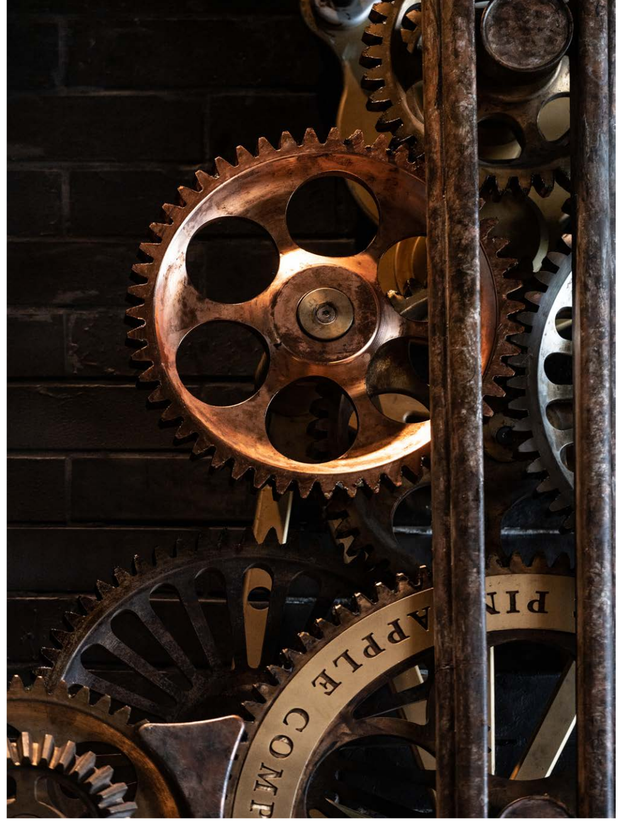
Theatrical Time Travel on a Series of Plates

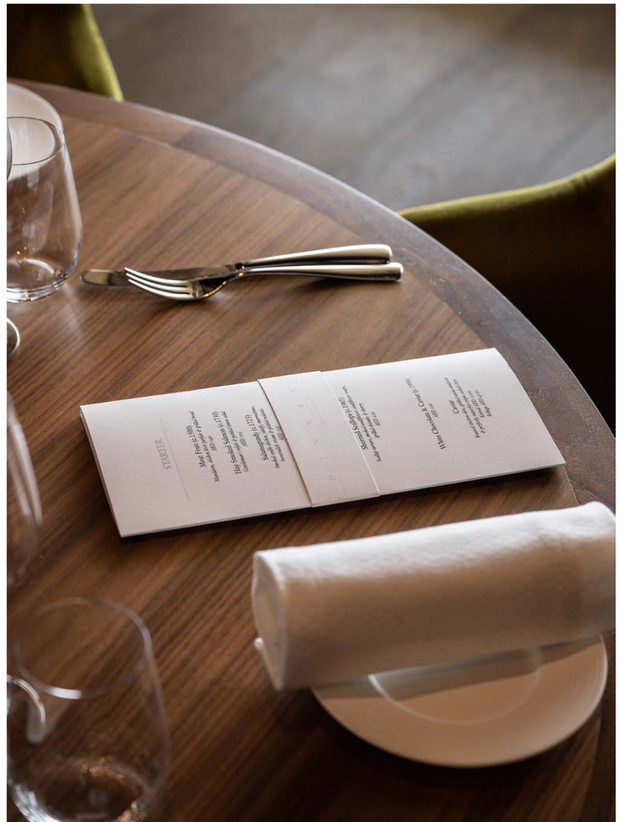
DINNER BY HESTON BLUMENTHAL DUBAI

Photos: **Atlantis The Royal Media** | Words: Janine Devine









Dining in Dinner by Heston Blumenthal Dubai begins long before one samples a single morsel. Located within the Atlantis The Royal on Dubai's Palm Jumeirah, itself a culinary cosmos with 36 world-class food & beverage offerings in addition to luxury accommodations in a destination famed for its opulence. This one MICHELIN-starred sanctuary is a drier and hotter – in terms of weather – and more theatrical version of its Knightsbridge, London sister.

Merely accessing this restaurant requires a theatrical entrance worthy of its well-established reputation. Debuting at the already dramatic Atlantis the Royal in 2023, Dinner by Heston Blumenthal Dubai earned its first MICHELIN star a mere four months after opening. Now in its third year, dinner here remains one of the hottest reservations to score in town and certainly within the Atlantis resort complex. We dined here on the last night of our stay at Atlantis and it made for a final, fittingly memorable conclusion.

Dinner As Theater

Taking the water elevator from the main lobby, guests arrive at a grand black wooden door where the culinary adventure truly begins. Stepping beyond the doors reveals a spacious hall entirely clad in black wood, with shadowy figures, dim lighting and an eerie silence that creates an almost mystical atmosphere. This deliberate design choice signals that one is crossing into a different realm, one where culinary history beckons.

The restaurant's interior design is equally moody yet invitingly comfortable. Set against a palette of bronze, black, and deep gray with splashes of orange and lime, the expansive space houses just 120 seats, evoking a traditional English kitchen with Tudor references in the plethora of wooden carved panels. Tables feature views of the kitchen or the Dubai skyline, and from its terrace, enchanting views of the resort's popular fountain show. Then there are the almost steampunk Victorian twists. At the venue's heart is the massive clockwork pineapple dominating the room. Beyond merely decorative, gears extend from the structure across the space to the open kitchen, powering a custom grill that slowly rotates pineapples over an open flame, caramelizing them in honey to garnish the restaurant's signature dessert, Tipsy Cake, inspired by classic Victorian brandy trifle from the 1830's. The mechanical marvel opens every half-hour, adding to the drama of the dining experience.

Edible British History Reimagined

The ground-breaking Heston Blumenthal had long been fascinated by the culinary history of England even from his early iconic Fat Duck days in Berkshire. Not just a passion, it results in story-telling cuisine at its finest. Each dish bears a historical date, as far back as the 13th century, offering diners edible history through storytelling. From its full realization at Dinner by Heston in Knightsbridge to Dubai, this cuisine answers the challenge of how to please demanding, but bored, modern palates. Who'd be more demanding -- and deadly, if displeased -- than an eternally catered-for and ego-massaged British Royal? The Dinner by Heston menu itself transports historical discoveries and fascinations into a modern dining experience, featuring iconic dishes such as the popular Meat Fruit, circa 1500, a parfait of foie gras and chicken liver first frozen then gloriously robed in a mandarin orange jellée, exemplifying Blumenthal's playful approach, hinting that things aren't quite as they seem and challenging expectations while delivering exceptional flavors.

The kitchen's superior skill shines through in dishes like the Beef Royal (circa 1821), which takes inspiration from a dish served at King George IV's coronation, incorporating Claret, truffles, beef tongue, and anchovies. These aren't mere reproductions but contemporary reinterpretations that honor their origins while embracing modern techniques.

Behind the stoves stands Chef de Cuisine Tom Allen, the British-born chef who has spent over 16 years honing his craft within Blumenthal's culinary empire. Allen joined the development team for the original Knightsbridge restaurant within the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park in 2009, working alongside food historians and museum curators to bring Heston's vision to life. His journey from Berkshire's The Fat Duck, then to Dinner in London, and finally to Dubai represents a masterclass in culinary evolution.

Service Excellence and Ambiance

The flawless service at Dinner by Heston Dubai is integral to the overall experience, representing months of intensive training. The team's knowledge extends beyond mere table service, they evolve into storytellers who enhance each course with historical context and passionate explanations; guests can choose the amount of information they receive about each dish through a menu option, allowing for a personalized experience.

Dinner by Heston Dubai represents fine dining at its finest. It is unapologetically positioned at the premium end of Dubai's dining spectrum, but it delivers an unparalleled experience beyond mere palate-pleasing that justifies every dirham. This is destination dining that transforms a meal into a journey through culinary history, making it a must-dine for any serious food enthusiast visiting Dubai. ⊕









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NAVIS CURATED

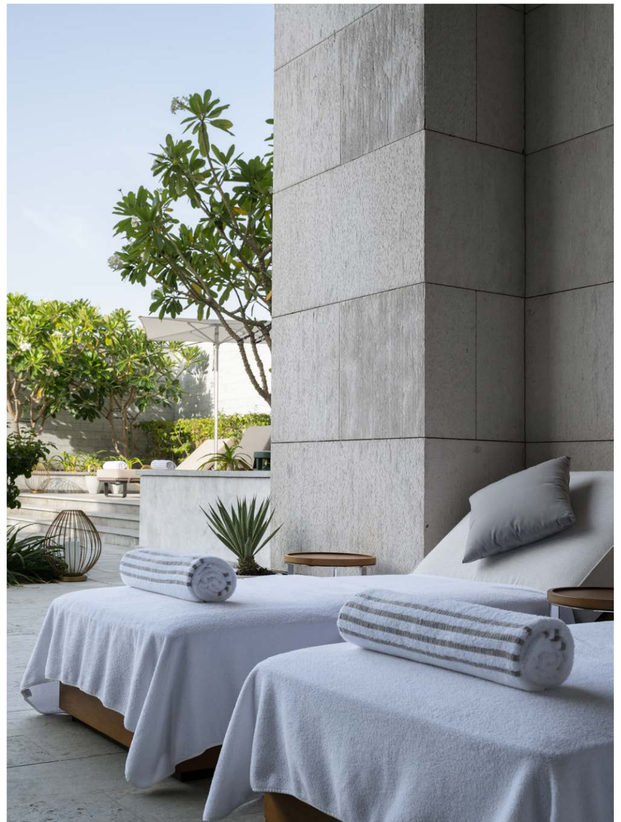
A New Era of Transformational Wellness at

ATLANTIS THE ROYAL, DUBAI

Photos: Atlantis The Royal Media | Words: Maria Donadio







“Where ancient wisdom meets cutting-edge innovation, wellness becomes an art form.”

Rising from the golden crescent of Palm Jumeirah like a vision from the future, Atlantis The Royal is a symbol of architectural audacity and opulent living. Yet within its shimmering facade lies a haven of calm, meticulously crafted for those seeking relaxation and profound transformation. AWAKEN, the signature wellness destination of Atlantis The Royal, is a sanctuary where ancient rituals, high-performance science, and intuitive design converge to offer a wellness journey unlike any other in the Middle East.

AWAKEN is a philosophy, an invitation to realign, recharge, and rediscover the self. Set across an expansive 5,000 square meters and curated with reverence for both global healing traditions and pioneering therapies, this wellness destination redefines the boundaries of self-care in Dubai’s ever-evolving luxury landscape.

A Design for Stillness

AWAKEN’s interiors echo the sensuous elegance of the resort above. Earth-toned travertine, organic textures, and warm diffused lighting create a sanctuary of serenity, masterfully designed to support stillness and introspection. Every corridor, every treatment suite, and every water feature has been considered to reinforce the journey of inner calm.

The spa’s architectural rhythm balances minimalism with elemental richness. Silence reigns. Each surface reflects light gently. The result is an immersive atmosphere that soothes from the moment one steps inside, inviting guests to leave the velocity of Dubai behind.

At the heart of AWAKEN lies a curated selection of transformative rituals rooted in time-honoured practices. Whether drawn from Eastern philosophies or Middle Eastern heritage, these experiences are reimagined through a modern lens to serve both mind and body.

Among the most sought-after is the AWAKEN Hammam Sensorium: a multisensory ritual that fuses traditional cleansing techniques with contemporary aromatherapy and sound therapy. Set within a private marble-clad hammam suite, a deeply restorative purification, physical, emotional, and spiritual.

The AWAKEN Sound Journey, led by skilled practitioners, uses frequency and vibration to move energy and deepen states of awareness. Here, crystal bowls, gongs, and breathwork converge to support mental clarity and emotional release.

Elsewhere, a poetic fusion of astrology and advanced massage science, the Celestial Therapy series draws inspiration from planetary rhythms, offering bodywork aligned with lunar and solar cycles.



High-Performance Meets Holistic

AWAKEN honors ritual and tradition, while also embracing the frontier of biohacking and performance wellness. The Longevity Clinic, led by a team of medical professionals, offers consultations in hormone health, gut function, cellular rejuvenation, and personalized nutrition. It's a space where cutting-edge diagnostics and integrative medicine come together to create highly tailored health roadmaps.

For those seeking visible renewal, the Aesthetic Dome offers a discreet setting for advanced skin therapies, anti-aging treatments, and light-based modalities. Inside this discreet suite, beauty is nurtured as an extension of vitality and inner balance.

Meanwhile, the Fitness and Recovery Zone integrates performance training with high-tech recovery tools. Cryotherapy, infrared saunas, and compression therapy are on offer, allowing guests to push limits and recover with precision.

Every aspect of the AWAKEN experience has been designed with privacy, discretion, and depth in mind. The spa's Personal Wellness Suites are fully self-contained havens, complete with thermal facilities, private plunge pools, and panoramic sea views. These suites serve as sanctuaries for multi-hour journeys, whether focused on detox, sleep restoration, or emotional reset, all guided by a personal wellness advisor.

A highlight for many is the Royal Suite Ritual, which unfolds across several rooms and stages: starting with a mineral-rich soak, followed by aromatherapeutic bodywork, crystal healing, and sound therapy, culminating in a private tea ceremony overlooking the Arabian Gulf.

Culinary Wellness and Nutritional Intelligence

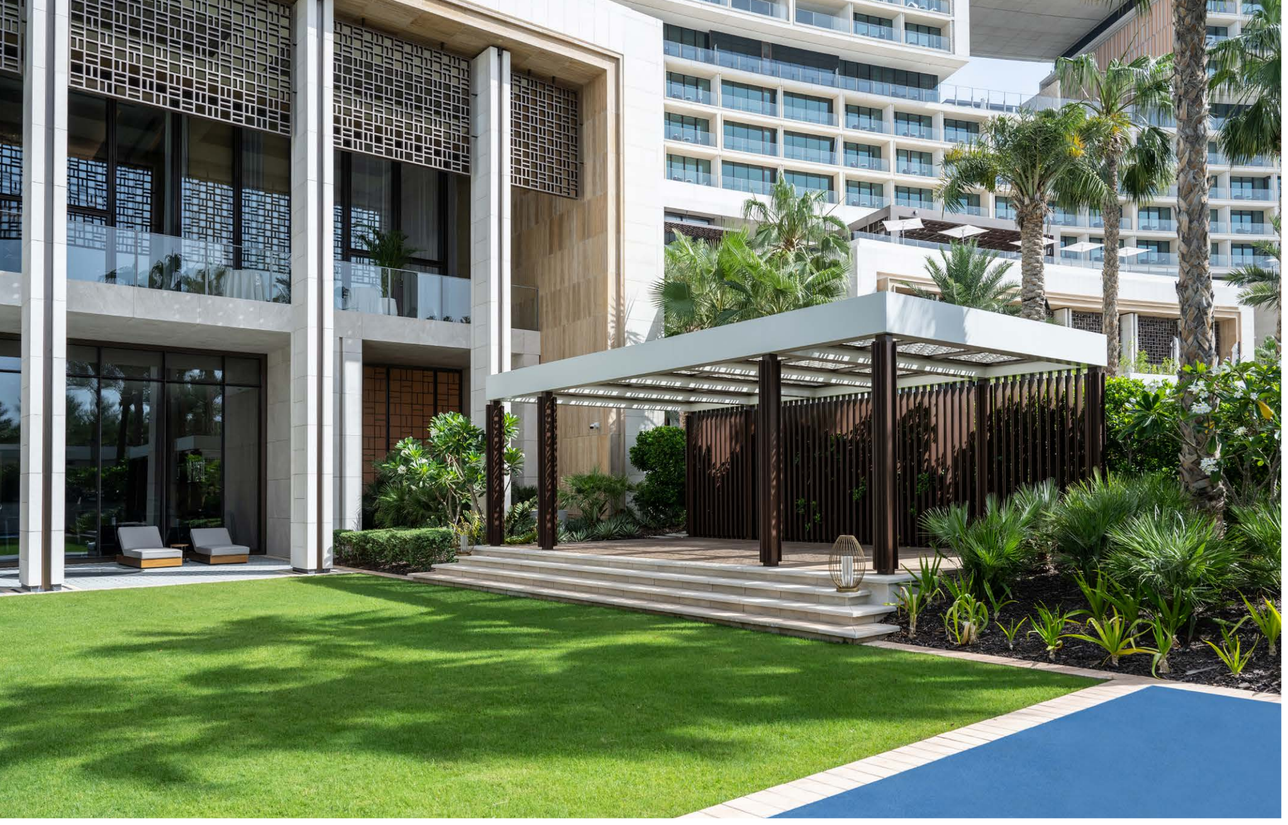
True transformation is nourished from within, and AWAKEN's approach to nutrition is intelligent and indulgent. Spa cuisine is available through bespoke menus designed by Atlantis The Royal's nutritionists, focusing on gut health, anti-inflammatory ingredients, and adaptogenic support. Guests can also consult with specialists for long-term nutrition planning or simply enjoy the healing power of beautifully plated, plant-forward dishes post-treatment.

A Retreat Within a Resort

While Atlantis The Royal is a world unto itself with Michelin-starred dining, private infinity pools, and sky-high penthouses, AWAKEN acts as its soul. It's a space apart, yet intricately woven into the resort's identity. Guests can book a day experience or embed AWAKEN into a multi-day retreat, offering options for solo travelers, couples, and curated group journeys.

As wellness tourism continues to evolve, AWAKEN stands as a multisensory, medically grounded, spiritually attuned, and unapologetically luxurious wellness destination.

In a city defined by spectacle and scale, AWAKEN offers something far rarer: stillness, inviting her guests to relax and to transform. In doing so, Atlantis The Royal has secured its place among the world's finest resorts and remains at the forefront of wellness innovation. ⊕









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Precision as Provocation

ASTON MARTIN VALHALLA

Photos: Max Earey, Aston Matin Media | Words: Pablo Ferrero

Let’s take a moment to appreciate where we are. The year is 2025, Aston Martin has its own Formula 1 team, a lineup of turbocharged grand tourers, and now, finally, a proper mid-engined supercar that doesn’t exist solely to adorn a billionaire’s garage but is actually being built for the road. Valhalla, a car whose name implies heavenly reward for those slain in battle. If that sounds like overkill for a plug-in hybrid, it probably is. But Aston Martin, now in full transformation mode under Lawrence Stroll’s regime, is less concerned with subtlety than with making noise, in every sense of the word.

Valhalla is a statement. A carbon-bodied declaration that Aston Martin will no longer be relegated to pretty GTs and soft-shod tourers. This one snarls through a flat-plane V8, pivots through pushrod suspension, and can be driven in pure EV mode, at least until the batteries run out and all hell breaks loose.

Still, for all its engineering theater, Valhalla matters not because of what it is, but because of where it sits. Between Valkyrie’s track-bound lunacy and the still-distant electric future, this is the car Aston hopes will cement its legitimacy with the clientele who buy Koenigseggs on Thursday and yachts by the weekend.

The Shape of a Statement

If Valkyrie was a spacecraft disguised as a car, Valhalla is the sculpture that followed. The proportions are dramatic but balanced, measured with a designer’s eye rather than a wind tunnel’s brute logic. This is Aston Martin’s first production mid-engined supercar, and it shows. The cabin is pushed forward, the hips are swollen with intent, and the body is draped in carbon fiber like a Savile Row suit molded over a sprinter’s physique.

There are dihedral doors, naturally, and they rise like wings to reveal a cockpit framed by a carbon monocoque tub. But there’s more substance than theatre here. Cutouts in the roof make ingress surprisingly elegant. The sills are low enough that you don’t need yoga to get in or out. Even the door inner surfaces serve aerodynamic purposes, channeling airflow to hidden radiators that cool the V8 and transmission more effectively than traditional scoops.

From the side, the car reads like a continuous gesture. There are no extraneous lines, no ornamental clutter. Every element is working, every crease speaks the language of airflow and pressure. The rear is a mechanical cathedral, its quad exhausts perched atop twin venturi tunnels that extract air like they’re pulling it from the vacuum of space. The rear wing, a two-element active T-profile, lies flat at rest and lifts only when commanded. The active front wing hides just ahead of the axle, completely invisible until Race mode brings it to life. This interplay of hidden force and restrained aggression is what elevates Valhalla beyond mere performance and into the realm of collectible design.

This car was shaped to survive at 217 miles per hour while carrying 600 kilograms of downforce with a poise few road cars have achieved. And yet, despite all this function, it remains unmistakably Aston. Not just in its curves, but in its posture and restraint. It looks expensive because it is, but also because it understands that elegance is the product of everything left out.

Heart, Brain, and Voice

At the center of Valhalla sits an engine that feels more like an act of vengeance than propulsion. Built exclusively for this car, the 4.0-liter twin-turbo V8 is flat-plane crank, dry-sumped, and completely unfiltered. It delivers 828 PS and revs to 7,000 rpm with an urgency that suggests it's still angry about emissions regulations. But this isn't just a combustion play. The V8 is surrounded by three electric motors, two up front and one at the rear, pushing total system output to a frankly ludicrous 1,079 PS.

This arrangement allows the car to operate as a front-wheel drive EV, a full-bore hybrid, or a torque-vectoring monster depending on your drive mode and throttle position. There is no reverse gear. Instead, the front motors rotate backward. That tells you everything about the car's intent. Even reversing is dictated by packaging efficiency and control, not convention.

The rear motor lives inside the eight-speed dual-clutch transmission, another bespoke piece. Shifts are hydraulic, aggressive, and tuned to support load balancing between electric and mechanical systems. When the batteries are depleted or you're in full attack mode, the system uses e-boost and torque-fill to mask turbo lag, responding with immediacy that would embarrass naturally aspirated rivals. The brakes, too, are hybrids in their own right. Carbon ceramics sit behind the wheels, but regenerative systems on both axles feed a 400-volt battery with energy otherwise wasted.

From the helm, all of this complexity fades. You don't feel the battery managing its cooling circuit or the front motors adjusting torque vectoring thresholds. What you feel is clarity. Aston's engineers have taken a powertrain that should require a white coat and made it respond like an instinct. The result is a car that, even at low speed, feels coiled and precise, never vague, never casual.

It is this powertrain, more than any other element, that underpins Valhalla's claim to be the most advanced Aston Martin ever built. But it also represents a shift in philosophy. No longer content to borrow V12s and leather their way into relevance, Aston Martin is building cars that operate on the same level of engineering seriousness as any other elite manufacturer. Valhalla is proof of that seriousness.













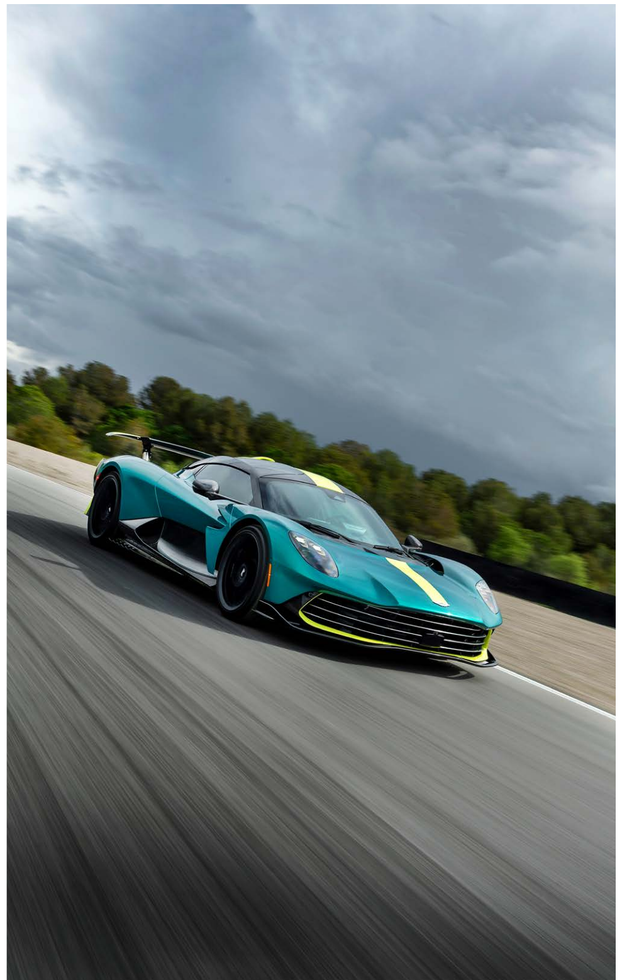

Aston Martin’s Axis Shift

Valhalla is the pivot point. A car that connects Aston Martin’s storied past with its electrified future, not through marketing spin but through material commitment. Carbon, kilowatts, software, and combustion are all deployed in deliberate harmony, forming a machine that no longer relies on nostalgia to justify its existence.

This is also the first production car where Aston’s Formula One affiliation genuinely shows up in the product. The Valhalla was developed with Aston Martin Performance Technologies, a division with direct lineage to the F1 team. The result is a road car that benefits from wind tunnel hours and telemetry analysis previously reserved for Sebastian Vettel’s weekend job.

For collectors and connoisseurs, this matters. Not just because of the limited run of 999 units or the bespoke personalization available through Q by Aston Martin, but because Valhalla marks the moment when Aston stopped playing catch-up and started writing its own brief. This car won’t age like most supercars. It won’t become irrelevant when the next horsepower war breaks out. It has too much intent in its bones, too much engineering density, and too much of a story baked into its monocoque.

It’s the kind of car that fits naturally alongside carbon-fiber tenders and custom-built expedition yachts. Not because it mimics those values, but because it shares the same clarity of purpose. Valhalla is precise, deliberate, and unflinching. It’s also beautiful, not in the delicate, bygone way of vintage Astons, but in the aerodynamic, restrained elegance that only a car with real function can pull off.

If Aston Martin holds its course, Valhalla will be remembered not as an outlier, but as the blueprint. ⊕


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