

In this issue





A toast to good taste

Italian yard Tankoa Yachts has uncorked Vertige, a full-bodied 49m packed with flavour, for a wine-loving owner. Clare Mahon reports

Mixing business with pleasure can be a dangerous game but it's one that the owner of Genoa, bills itself as a "boutique shipyard", Vertige plays brilliantly. He was looking to move up in size to a boat he could use with his grownup family, but also one that could host business meetings and be used for charter too. And he got friendly layout, makes sure the clients are happy, and the presence of music and wine - in a boat named after his favourite white from the Rhône Valley - ensures that pleasure is plentiful for all.

Doing business with the builder, Tankoa Yachts, proved a pleasure too. Tankoa, which

was established in 2008 in Sestri Ponente, presenting top-quality concepts for vessels from 50 to 90 metres that owners can customise to suit their needs.

The genesis of Vertige backs up the yard's it: a highly customised interior, with guest philosophy: the owner saw a model for the 49 metre Tankoa S501 displacement series, fell in love with it, signed the contract in early 2015 and received his new superyacht in 2017. She is the yard's second completed build after the 70 metre Suerte, launched in 2015. It also has a 72 metre under construction. "All of the hull









models and projects we propose are engineered, tested and ready to be built," says Michel Karsenti, sales director at Tankoa. "We encourage owners to customise interior layouts and furnishings, but having the hull models ready and tested saves time for everyone."

Vertige's all-aluminium alloy hull was built in Marina di Carrara, at the foot of the marble producing mountains, because Tankoa didn't have large enough facilities in Sestri Ponente. "But we have expanded and now do the cutting and metalworking in Sestri," says Karsenti.

Francesco Paszkowski Design created the hull, superstructure and interior, the last in collaboration with Margherita Casprini. If you look at Vertige from her high plumb bow, her low superstructure makes her appear like a crouched animal that could unleash hidden power and pounce at any moment. But moving around the yacht, what looks like the top of the freeboard becomes part of the superstructure, a line that is carried fore to aft in a continuous, easy sweep.

"Vertige's hull shape has proved to be very stable and smooth," says Captain Filippo Belli. "The combination of this hull shape, slightly detuned MTU 746kW engines and Vosper Naiad zero speed stabilisers is a real plus for charters. The yacht is very quiet and stable and you can't feel vibration at all."

The interior, which Paszkowski designed to be under the 500GT threshold to help keep



Above: floor to ceiling windows on the main deck help connect the interior to the sea. Below: the aft upper deck is the owner's favourite

place to dine - and it's easy to see why. There's room for 14 guests around the table and they can all relax on sofas afterwards too

Above: the upper saloon doubles as a cinema and shows how Francesco Paszkowski has used dark polished rosewood to produce a modern take on a 1950s feel. Below: the owner's bedroom has fold-down balconies to either side for precious outside space



management costs down as per the brief, presents a cool, calm atmosphere. "Vertige was really a yacht that was created step by step by a team made up of my design studio, the shipyard and the owner, with whom we worked in harmony right from the start," says Paszkowski. "It was important to create visual continuity with the sea, so we used lots of large windows. The interiors are balanced between natural and bleached teak and dark polished rosewood. The rosewood, especially, was important for creating the sophisticated style that we wanted, a kind of modern interpretation of the 1950s."

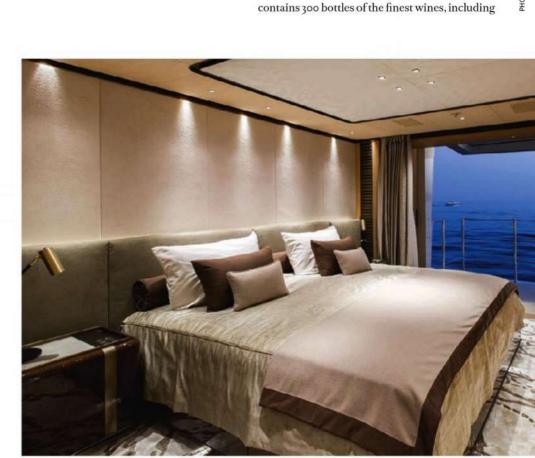
The owner wanted the outdoor spaces to be as large and comfortable as possible and he certainly got what he was looking for. On the aft main deck, sofas and loungers can easily accommodate 14 people and are shaded by awnings that admit light and air but filter out UV rays. Two coffee tables have Vertige-themed, V-shaped supports in natural teak, while a nearby teak and golden glass bar has a convenient refrigerator and icemaker. Two fold-out terraces add extra square metres of floor space and open up the view to the water even further.

The aft upper deck's 14 seat dining table is the owner's favourite place for meals. Sofas and low tables are on hand nearby for coffee in a welcoming spot that can be shaded with umbrellas. For guests who can't bear to miss a game or want to enjoy a film al fresco, a 65 inch flat screen television and speakers are hidden in the ceiling above the dining table. And a refrigerator and icemaker in a built-in cabinet at the foot of the stairs leading to the sundeck indicate careful crew service planning.

The owner paid special attention to the large saloon on the upper deck and the relaxation area forward. "This is the quiet area aboard, the place to come to just enjoy the view," says Captain Belli. Adjustable-height tables can be adapted to make the area a huge sunning (or napping) platform shaded by the same UV-filtering awnings found on the other decks.

The sundeck is the perfect place for cocktails, in the owner's view. The area is protected by a wraparound glass partition that reduces the breeze while keeping views to the water free and open. Forward is a spa pool surrounded by loungers, while aft are chaises longues that can be repositioned at will. The hardtop conceals a retractable awning and has louvres in the centre so that the banquettes and convertible tables beneath it can be shaded if necessary.

Also in the hardtop are built-in Bang & Olufsen speakers, just part of the state-of-the-art, iPad controlled sound equipment that this music loving owner has installed throughout the yacht. There is a golden glass and teak bar to starboard similar to the one on the main deck, but with not



only a refrigerator and icemaker but also

living options, but there is more. The transom

opens to become a large beach platform with

easy and direct access to the sea. When the

transom is open, guests use the symmetrical

staircases that lead down from the main deck aft

to access a gym, complete with the latest

Technogym equipment, and a dayhead with a spa

steam shower. In port, the gym can be screened

All of this would certainly make the charter

vacation of my dreams, but it is when Captain

Belli shows me the refrigerator in the gym -

another one! - that I discover what makes Vertige

such a special yacht. The trail of refrigerators and

icemakers - four spotted so far, and I haven't even

entered the interior yet - is leading me to the

Captain Belli beckons me to follow him

through the main saloon's living and dining

areas. I barely have time to admire the views

through the huge windows, or the Jerusalem

stone wall with burnished brass accents, before

we pass through the dramatically lit entrance

hall and open a door. The entire inboard wall of

the corridor we are in is lined with a retro,

illuminated, floor to ceiling wine cellar - or rather

showcase, since this is not hidden away. It

from view by light curtains.

heart and soul of this boat.

These three decks offer plenty of outdoor

a teppanyaki grill and a 42 inch television.









Clockwise from above: the distinctive hull design with its modified plumb bow; the study in the owner's suite; the curved teak staircase starting from the lower deck





PHOLOGRAPHS: BLUEIPROD

a generous cache of the owner's favourite, Vertige from Domaine Yves Cuilleron. This very aromatic dry white from the north Rhône region is made from 100 per cent Viognier grapes. "Constructing this cellar was a bit of an engineering feat," says Karsenti, "because the different compartments contain wines that have to be kept at different temperatures. The owner's real passion is for whites but he also stocks reds and wants them all stored correctly." Hence coolers and icemakers everywhere.

But this is just the beginning of the story. A door from the wine corridor leads to a beautifully appointed VIP cabin with a Mies van der Rohe chair, leather fronted wardrobe, woven leather headboard and silver silk curtains. It has a 55 inch television and a mini refrigerator, naturally. The en suite is lined in precious onyx.

Another door leads to an equally beautiful, full beam owner's suite that is a larger version of the VIP with the addition of a study, dressing table, an Eames lounge chair with ottoman, a magnificent en suite with his-and-hers basins and spa shower, and a walk-in wardrobe. As a bonus, it also has spectacular opening side terraces. And, yes, there is another refrigerator.

Why have the VIP cabin so close to the master suite? "This layout was the owner's decision," says Karsenti. "He said he would be using the yacht for business meetings and couldn't imagine entertaining an important business contact and then sending him or her down to a lower deck to

The crew of nine was also chosen with chartering in mind. They come from the owner's native France, Italy, Ukraine and the Philippines and can speak nine languages between them. However, crew and guest areas are kept separate. "The yacht is organised so that crew use the port staircases and corridors and the owner and guests use the starboard ones," says Belli. "It

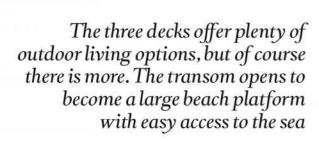
works well for everyone because it keeps work paths free and protects the privacy of guests."

En suite crew quarters are on the lower deck and the captain's cabin, also en suite, is on the upper deck next to the wheelhouse. The crew staircase connects their quarters to a large

pantry on the main deck and a pantry just off the bar on the upper deck. Guests, meanwhile, can get to the various decks using the dramatically lit curved teak staircase with leather lined walls and floors. When the doors to the crew passage are closed, they are so well integrated into the panelling and walls that no one would ever notice them, making this a boat built for privacy as well as business and socialising – and the owner will surely want to drink to that.

"Constructing this cellar was a bit of an engineering feat... The owner's real passion is for whites but he also stocks reds and wants them all stored correctly"

> Guests are spoilt for choice when it comes to outdoor spaces on Vertige. Choose from forward on the upper deck, above, or aft on the main deck, right

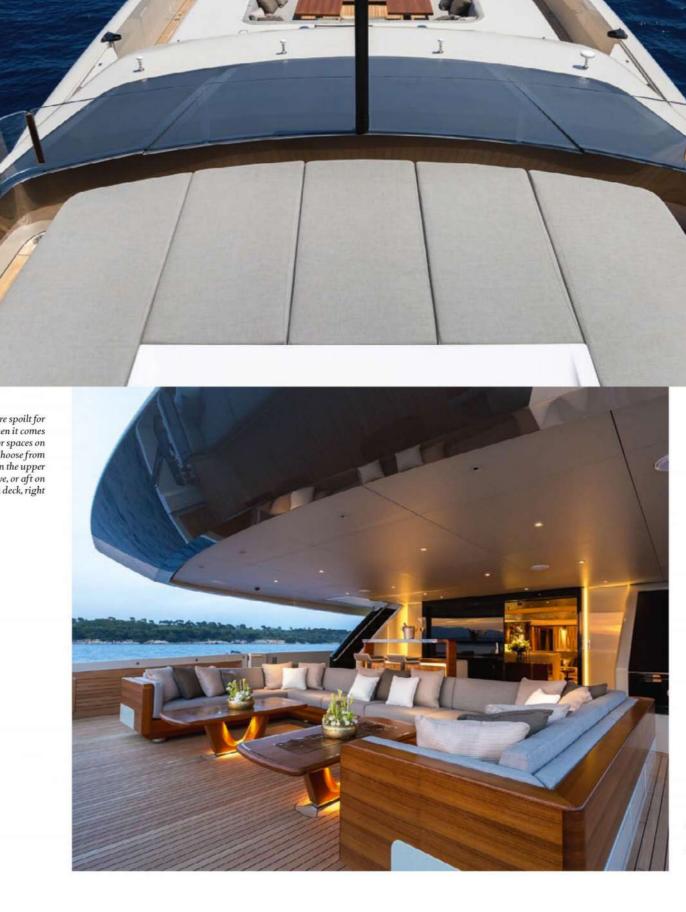


sleep. It just didn't sit well with his idea of hospitality. Two very top suites also work well on the charter market."

So the picture becomes clearer: the owner loves music, wine and people. He uses his yacht both for and as a business, and when he is not hosting private meetings and entertaining clients, he charters. The layout includes four lower deck guest cabins – three doubles and a twin that can be converted to a double, or even a triple by pulling down the Pullman berth. There's another mini refrigerator behind the teak panelling in the guest foyer.





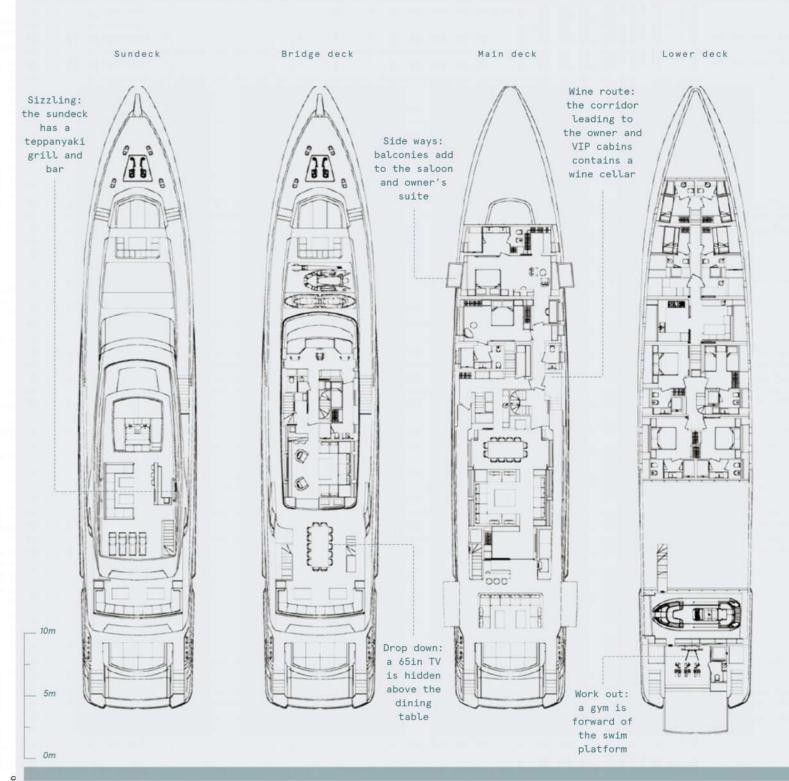






SPECS

VERTIGE TANKOA YACHTS



LOA 49m
LWL 49.41m
Beam 9.4m
Draught (full load) 2.2m
Gross tonnage
499GT

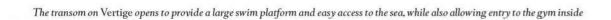
Engines
MTU 8V 4000 M54R
Tier III
Speed max/cruise
16/14 knots

Range at 12 knots 5,000nm Generators
2 x 125kW
Fuel capacity
65,000 Litres
Freshwater capacity
16,600 Litres
Tenders
1 x 7m

Owners/guests 12 Crew 9 Construction Aluminium Classification Lloyd's Commercial Yachts, MCA LY3 Naval architecture
Visibelli/Tankoa
Yachts
Exterior styling
Francesco Paszkow

Exterior styling
Francesco Paszkowski
Interior design
Francesco
Paszkowski/
Margherita Casprini

Builder/year
Tankoa Yachts/2017
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