

Majestic Monaco

The 24th Monaco Yacht Show will feature a number of new additions and innovations, in terms of both superyachts and other modes of luxury, as well as all the usual glitter and glamour. **Frances** and **Michael Howorth** pick out the highlights for this year's yachting extravaganza, which takes place September 24-27.

TOM VANO

Monaco is, without doubt, a princely destination and chief among Mediterranean cruising grounds. It has long been a location of choice for superyacht owners and guests, making its harbour a natural home for the annual Monaco Yacht Show.

Showcasing the world's finest in superyachts this September, the show will be the biggest ever with 115 yachts, some 30 luxury tenders and an extended exhibition that will host industry suppliers. The upgrade in size reflects the increased demand for bigger yachts to exhibit in the port of Monte Carlo, which is now able to accommodate superyachts of up to 100 metres. This annual event attracts billionaires from around the world, often inconspicuously walking the docks to catch up on the latest superyacht trends.

Of the many yachts to be exhibited with lengths ranging between 25 and 100 metres, around 40 will be unveiled to the industry for the first time. Among the outstanding superyachts attending is *Solandge*, the 85-metre, highly luxurious family-oriented vessel delivered last October by Lürssen. She has been engineered for self-sufficiency during extended voyages on the high seas.

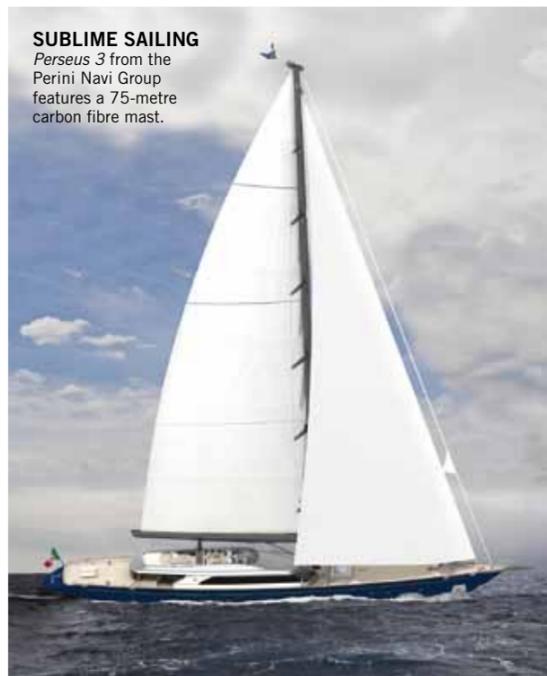
Solandge may not be brand new but *Grace E*, the 73-metre, Picchiotti-built Vitruvius yacht, certainly is. The flagship of the three motor yachts sold thus far by the Perini Navi Group, she is designed by Philippe Briand and is equipped with a diesel-electric propulsion system with twin Azimuth stern pods for a maximum speed of 16.5 knots. With a range of 7,500 nautical miles at 12 knots, she is the perfect yacht for an owner seeking to explore the far reaches of the world, while being equally suited to Mediterranean or Caribbean cruising.

Monaco will be also hosting *Como*, the new 46-metre yacht built by Feadship for the hugely experienced sailor Neville Crichton. With her modern bow and whaleback sheer, the exterior design of this new build reflects the owner's specific ideas, with large windows in the hull and glass in the superstructure offering spectacular uninterrupted views from the owners' stateroom.

Sailing in from Turkey will be the 45-metre Project Sunset from Sunrise Yachts. By the time the show starts, the super secret name of this brand new yacht will have been revealed. She is one of the standout boats to be boarded, as is the 46-metre *Blush* built for Eddie Jordan by Sunseeker. Out of the four superyachts being displayed by the Admiral shipyard, the new 47-metre *Entourage* will be their largest.

For sailors who love masts and rigging, it is worth noting the elegant and distinguished sailing yachts that will be exhibited at the show this year too. *Wisp* is the new 48-metre classic sloop by the Dutch shipyard Royal Huisman. She is a fine example of revival naval architecture by Hoek Design. The owner's brief was for a boat that would perform well without excessive heel, thus allowing comfortable cruising and the opportunity to partake in gentlemen's racing.

Perseus 3 from the Perini Navi Group will also get heads turning. The second in the 60-metre series, she is the result of collaboration between Perini Navi naval architects and Ron Holland. Equipped to offer sailing performance at the highest level and including an ultra-lightweight 75-metre carbon fibre mast for fast sail changes, she has an intelligent deck layout that features six winches for fast tacking and easy handling of halyards and lines. The interior layout was designed in-house by the Perini Navi team and can comfortably accommodate twelve guests in five staterooms.



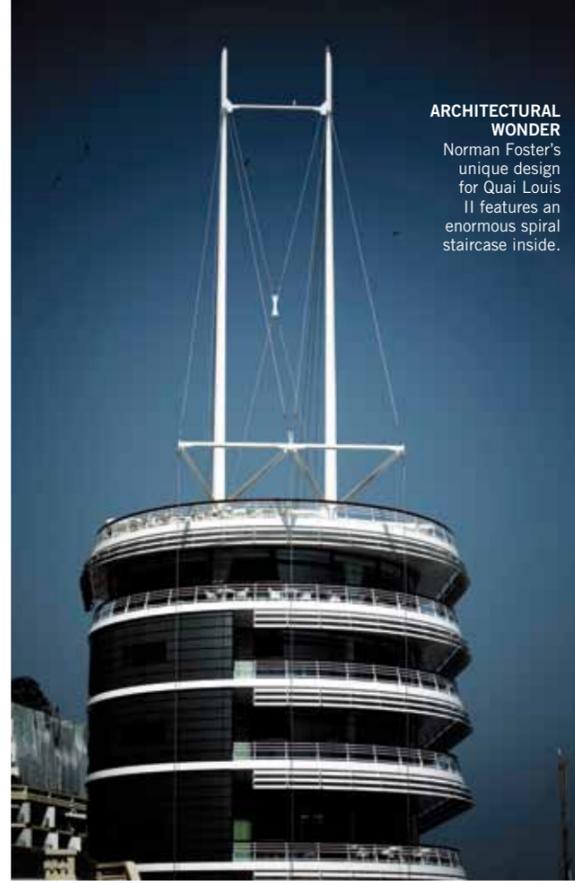
SUBLIME SAILING
Perseus 3 from the Perini Navi Group features a 75-metre carbon fibre mast.

exclusively for the executives of exhibiting companies – areas where they can talk with their customers in confidence.

On display in the lounge will be timekeeping jewellery manufactured by the Swiss luxury watchmaker Ulysse Nardin, official sponsor of the show for the sixth consecutive year.

The new Yacht Club de Monaco (YCM) has a new venue, having moved across the harbour to Quai Louis II, an extension of Quai des États-Unis. Inaugurated earlier this year, it is located close to the Fairmont Hotel and next to the Société Nautique. Designed by architects working for Sir Norman Foster, it features an atrium occupying the heart of the building and a monumental spiral staircase linking all the club's new spaces, including an exhibition hall, ballroom, swimming pool, terrace, library, fitness room and five spacious 'cabins' for guests on stopovers. Designed to be both aesthetically pleasing and hi-tech, it is built to Haute Qualité Environnementale (HQE) standards and therefore has low impact in terms of building and design.

GUILLEAUME PLISSON / CARLO BORLENIGHI



ARCHITECTURAL WONDER
Norman Foster's unique design for Quai Louis II features an enormous spiral staircase inside.



FLY BUYS
Helicopters fly directly to the show from Nice Côte d'Azur Airport. Right: Quai Louis II is Yacht Club de Monaco's new venue for the show.



SERVICE WITH STYLE

This year, as always, the Monaco Yacht Show is set to attract industry leaders and ultra-wealthy clientele from around the world. First-class services are therefore offered to meet the demands of this elite clientele. VIP passes, luxury courtesy car services, helicopters, bus and boat shuttles are all available. Time is, as always, the one thing visitors lack in giving a show of this magnitude the attention it deserves, and cutting back on travelling time can be well worth the cost. Consider, for example, flying directly to the show from Nice airport by helicopter. Heli Air Monaco offers such a service that ends in Monaco with a free minibus shuttle from heliport to show. Their scheduled service takes seven minutes between Monaco

and the Nice Côte d'Azur Airport. A helicopter takes off every 15 minutes from Nice or Monaco with a total of at least 50 flights every day the show is operating.

In the heart of the show area, the Upper Deck Lounge is designed to be a place where businessmen can hold their meetings, or maybe invite their favourite clients to dine in the restaurant catered with private dining by Fairmont Monte-Carlo, or simply enjoy a glass of champagne by Taittinger in a luxurious setting designed by interior decorators Sabrina Monte-Carlo in collaboration with Italian designer Paola Lenti, the French crystal manufacturer Baccarat and the art gallery Opera Gallery.

The Upper Deck Lounge also includes several reception areas reserved

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conferences, debates with market leaders, and friendly happy hours at stands. Cocktail or evening parties onboard the yachts, yacht awards or gala dinners in luxury hotels are also some of the many highlights that enable formal and informal networking and attract those that can afford and do buy superyachts.

For Gaëlle Tallarida, the show's managing director, the connection between the show's superyacht offering with haute couture collections is obvious.

"In superyachting, as well as in haute couture, everything is possible, harmonious and luxurious with only the best of the best materials being used," she says. "Designers enjoy saying that the only limit to creating a yacht is the limit of the owner's imagination. Each yacht is made possible by the work of hundreds of specialised and passionate employees. By listening carefully to the expectations and requests of both market professionals and yacht owners, the show strives to bring the two together in a befitting business ambience."

Foodies will be delighted to learn that earlier this year Nobuyuki 'Nobu' Matsuhisa, the acclaimed and highly influential celebrity chef and owner of Nobu restaurants, opened his latest venture in Monaco. Recognised worldwide for amazing cuisine, mixing traditional Japanese dishes and South American spices and aromas, the newest addition to the Nobu collection opened at the Fairmont Monte Carlo, making it yet another good reason to stay in this luxury hotel. ○

www.monacoyachtshow.com

WARM WELCOME

New for 2014, the organisers of the Monaco Yacht Show are to host superyacht captains in an exclusive lounge for the four days of the show. Located inside the show venue, beside the new Monaco Yacht Club, the C&C Lounge will offer services of high quality, including a relaxation area with massages, creating an area where captains and crew can meet up and chill out.

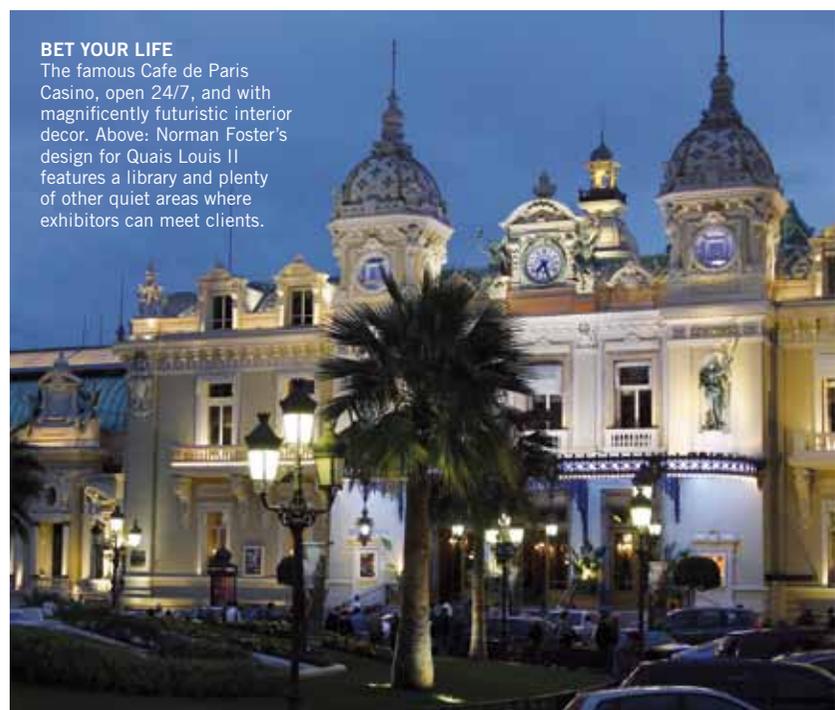
In July this year the Monte-Carlo Cafe de Paris Casino became the only casino on the Riviera where show visitors can play day or night following a decision locally to open the casino 24 hours, seven days a week for 365 days a year. The Café de Paris Casino is the largest slot machine casino on the Côte d'Azur and has close to 500 slot machines including roll machines, video poker and multi-game machines. The terrace alone holds over 90 machines where players can bet to their heart's content. The décor is worthy of a science fiction movie. Gigantic arches diffuse coloured lights creating different moods and atmospheres. The casino also houses the famous Brasserie du Café de Paris where guests can dine day or night on traditional brasserie dishes.

Culture vultures might like to visit Villa Paloma, part of the new National Museum of Monaco. Over the period of the show and until November, it will house 46 unique creations by the controversial artists Gilbert & George. Curated by the artists themselves, the exhibition will extend over three floors of Villa Paloma and will feature both historical and more recent works of art by the duo. With a career spanning 40 years, Gilbert & George's creations represent reality in the 20th and 21st centuries in a visually unique way and belong to a genre of their own. Gilbert & George met at St Martin's School of Art in London in 1967, and since then, they have been living and working together as a single artistic entity that is fiercely independent and entirely devoted to creating art. They do not follow any other fashion or artistic movement, doctrine, theory or artistic style but are widely known for their brightly coloured graphic style, photo-based artwork.

HAUTE COUTURE AND NETWORKING

By far the most convenient of hotels for show visitors is the Fairmont Monte Carlo. Close to the show and the yacht club where many of the better evening parties take place, it allows show visitors the luxury of walking back to their room to change clothes between daytime and evening events

What makes Monaco so special during the show is the hundreds of social events organised by the exhibitors, such as press



BET YOUR LIFE

The famous Cafe de Paris Casino, open 24/7, and with magnificently futuristic interior decor. Above: Norman Foster's design for Quais Louis II features a library and plenty of other quiet areas where exhibitors can meet clients.