the magazine













YACHT BROKERAGE AND CHARTER













Welcome to issue 007

After the redesign, this edition of IY Blue Magazine came together with some surprising content that linked it to other articles in various ways.



There are the stories of classics revamped to modern levels in both aircraft and automobile form, and even a futuristic look at "flying cars" by one artist.

This issue also sees the launch of IY Green and its upcoming magazine, showcasing electric yachts that are now available on the market. As luck would have it there's also an electric Baby Bentley based on their iconic 1929 Blower.

The classic theme continues with a feature on a company that produces stunning recreations of the legendary aircraft the P51 Mustang, but at 72% scale.

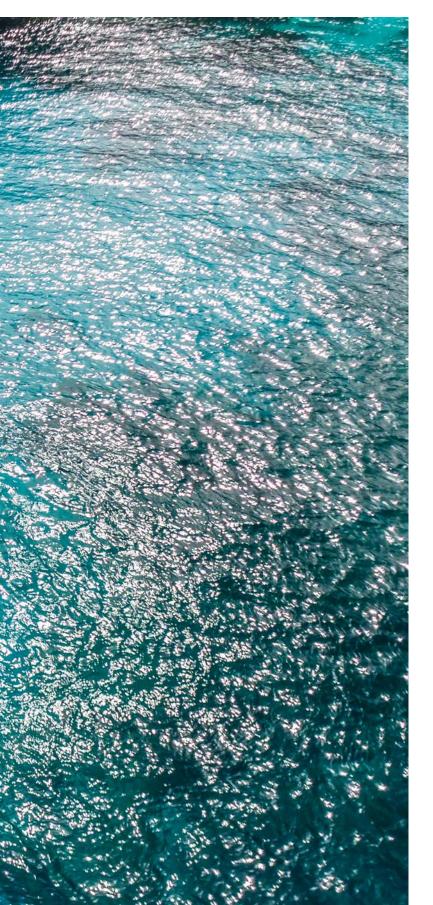
There are two full charter yacht features in this issue, with one Caribbean based and one in the Mediterranean. There's also a sailing yacht feature on a Contest 67CS that was fitted out by Bentley for a private commission.

A full magazine for sure, so I should stop talking now and let you start looking through it. Enjoy!

John Gouldson Group Publisher john.gouldson@sovrenpublishing.com

iy blue the magazine





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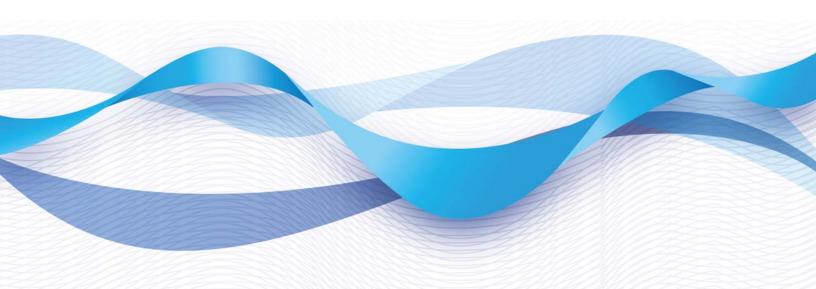
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IYR Magazine





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Stepping onboard brings you to the aft deck which offers choices of spaces far beyond a typical yacht of her size.

Worthy of a special mention, the already large swim platform has two "wings" which fold out to extend around both sides of the yacht, forming a walkaround area with completely unobstructed views and water access.



Immediately outside of the salon is the stylishly angled table that provides a wonderful nook for morning coffee or a freshly prepared lunch out of the glare of the sun. In the evening this deceivingly compact looking table easily seats eight guests in what becomes an intimately lit cove of conversation and laughter.

Not feeling at all active, then choose from one of the two massive sunbeds just aft, which are large enough to provide for lounging space in the sun or tucked back into the shade. All while watching the passage of the ocean as you head to your next destination.





The main salon offers up a variety of spaces for relaxing, or not relaxing if the mood takes you. Forward, and to both sides, are mirror image wraparound sofas that provide space to relax with a book or host a party.

The sofas are fronted by two stylish and adjustable tables that bed down for coffee or can be raised to provide a casual snack table or a wonderfully located spot for a quick session on the laptop.

The entire salon is ablaze with views through windows that run the full length of the space.



Just aft in the salon is a perfectly set up bar and upper galley area that allows for another social center.

This makes a perfect sit up area for everything from morning coffee to evening cocktails.





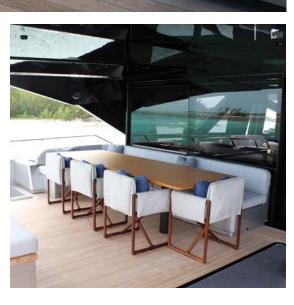


A few short steps up from the lower deck is a sundeck with twin aft wraparound seating areas for sitting back with nothing in your view except the retreating horizon and the passing scenery.

In addition to these lounging spaces, a central sunbed secretly contains a Jacuzzi. This is a wonderful place to be, under the stars, when in port or at anchor. Or, for al fresco dining and socializing, there is a wonderful, shaded table that can seat the full complement of guests.









Want to stay out of the sun and breeze? Come inside the skylounge, situated nicely between upper aft deck and the bridge.







Accessed through a private door at the front end of the main salon, the master cabin is a suite without rival in any yacht anywhere near Bad Mutha's size or far larger.

The main bedroom area features full wraparound windows providing a panoramic view out, making the cabin feel endless. Twin vanities, a forward seating area, and a dedicated McIntosh sound system round up just some of the cabins features.

In the access passageway are two doors to the dedicated his and her bathrooms. And the view continues here with enormous windows in the shower sides ... for when the location permits, of course.





Navigate down the spiral carbon fibre staircase from the salon and enter the passage to the guest cabins.

Forward is the full beam VIP cabin. Spacious, with its own sitting area, fully en-suite with his and hers bathrooms and a dual access walk in shower.





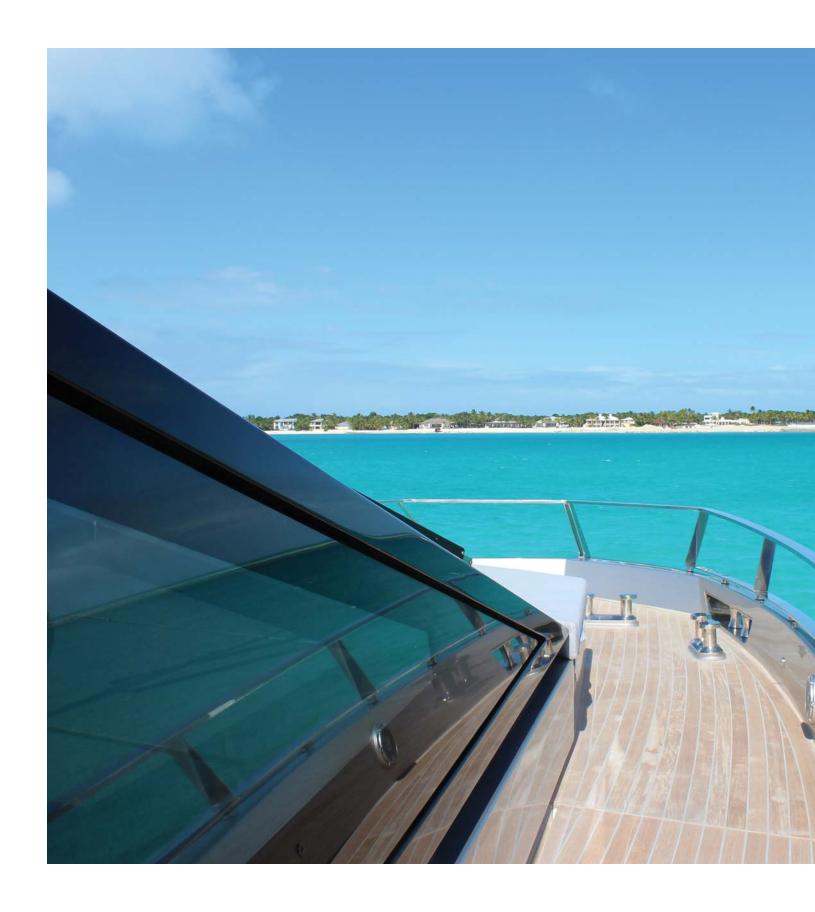




Just aft of the VIP are a pair of matching guest suites, perfectly identical in amenities and space.



Both guest cabins offer the full comforts desired for onboard living with a full en-suite bathroom, dedicated entertainment system, and masses of closet space.



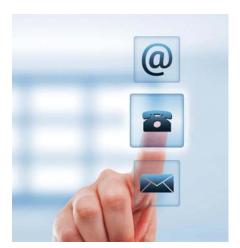


Having recently had the pleasure of spending several days cruising onboard Bad Mutha, I feel pleasantly qualified to be able to offer insights into her features and abilities.

She is available to charter, sailing among the many beautiful islands and waterways that are the Bahamas.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions I can answer in regard the yacht, and her availability in the 2025 season.





john.gouldson@iyblue.com

(1) 952.463.0969

3290 St. Croix Trail S. Afton, MN 55001



The world's most authentic recreation of the legendary P-51 Mustang.

This aircraft embodies the perfect fusion of classic allure and modern technology. With its unparalelled agility, all-carbon design, and classic aluminium ramp appeal, it's more than just a plane - it's a tribute to aviation history.



...realizing pilot dreams!



Iconic design meets 21st century technology

The SW-51 MUSTANG

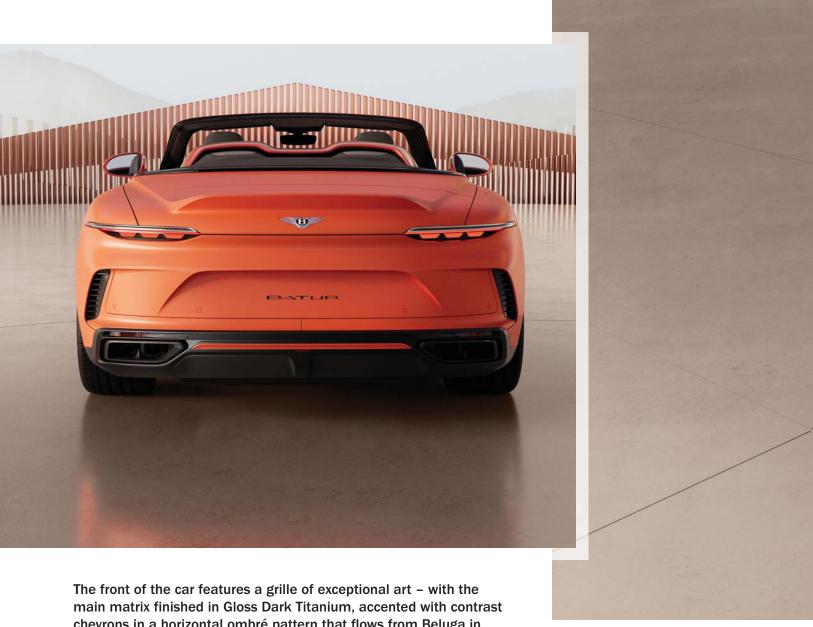


Bentley Motors has revealed the third coachbuilt Bentley of the modern era - the Batur Convertible. Created by Mulliner, Bentley's in house bespoke division and the longest standing coachbuilder in the world, the Batur Convertible follows the exquisitely hand-crafted Bacalar barchetta and Batur coupe. With the Batur Convertible, Mulliner continues its long tradition of crafting truly individual cars, tailored to the wishes of each of its extraordinary clients.





The Batur Convertible retains the most powerful version of Bentley's iconic W12, with a 750 PS, hand-assembled 6.0-litre twin-turbocharged engine that has metaphorically and literally powered Bentley's success for the last two decades. With the engine to finish production this summer, the Batur Convertible will be one of the last ever Bentleys to use this incredible powertrain.



The front of the car features a grille of exceptional art – with the main matrix finished in Gloss Dark Titanium, accented with contrast chevrons in a horizontal ombré pattern that flows from Beluga in the centre and lighten to the vibrant sides in Vermillion Gloss. The "endless bonnet" line is finished in Gloss Dark Titanium paint, as are the 22" wheels – with the spokes in Gloss and Satin Black Titanium with Vermillion Gloss accents.









The dramatic 'airbridge' behind the seats and tapered cowls at the rear hark back to the barchetta sports cars of old, whilst underlining the promise of a dynamic, driver-focused adventure in a cosseting, cocooned environment. The airbridge and tapered cowls are not only aesthetic, but also provide a semi-enclosed luggage compartment behind the two front seats.









The Batur Convertible offers further areas to personalise with the unique Airbridge, tonneau cover and roof materials being able to be specified to complement the rest of the cabin and exterior.

In the cabin, the highly exclusive option of 3D printed rose gold includes key driver touch points, such as the Bentley Drive Mode Selector, encircling the start/stop button and used to change chassis modes. The centrepiece of an exquisite cabin, the dial complements the design of the front grille. Rose gold can also applied to Bentley's iconic Organ Stop vent controls in the dashboard, as well as a rose gold insert marker on the steering wheel itself.

The designers also chose to highlight the two-seater character with a 'wraparound' cockpit inspired by the design of the Bacalar. The convertible roof delivers an aesthetic of beauty as a modern, tactile alternative to a hardtop roof. A combination of insulation material, sealing system refinements and acoustic treatments create a cossetting environment in a system which can be deployed or stowed in just 19 seconds, with the car travelling at speeds of up to 30 mph.



Mulliner's in-house design team will help co-create every Batur Convertible with a customer, working together through a specially created Mulliner visualiser that allows any part of the car to be customised in colour and surface finish. Endless samples of unique materials bring texture to the process, and the resulting designs will be truly individual and created by the customer – limited only by their imagination. Customers will be able to specify the colour and finish of practically every surface of the Batur Convertible, to create a car as individual as they are. Beyond the exterior form of the car lies an almost endless array of choices for each car's future owner to make.

www.bentleymotors.com



Paint choice is infinite – starting with the full Mulliner colour palette and travelling beyond into fully bespoke paint and even hand-painted graphics. The exterior brightware can be any mix of light and dark, satin or gloss or even titanium. Another subtle option available is a graduated contrast colour to the front grille, for a vibrant ombre effect. Each Batur Convertible will be handcrafted over the course of several months in Mulliner's workshop at Bentley's carbon neutral factory in Crewe, England. Production will be limited to just 16 pieces, each among the last ever Bentleys to be powered by the company's iconic W12 engine, in its most potent iteration.

For the W12 powertrain that the Batur Convertible shares with its coupe counterpart, a revised intake system, upgraded turbochargers, new intercoolers and extensive recalibration enables 750 PS and 1,000 Nm of torque, to deliver exceptional performance for this pinnacle grand tourer.

BUSINESS Graphic Design and Wine

A story about the evolution of a wine label, and the drinking it caused.



During a conversation between the design team at Art Technical, an Afton based graphic design house, and a Hudson winery the subject came up for the design of a special label for a very limited edition port to be created.

Upon hearing there were only to be 27 bottles in the release, the designers came up with the idea to create not one unique label for the batch but a totally unique label for each bottle.

And there the saga began. It is rumored that drinking started on day 3 of design, with progress barely 11 labels in ...







The people involved assembled to advance the portfolio being created. The reality of what they had committed to - what they had caused - was fast sinking in. However, they were confident in their abilities and so set to work creating more and more concepts - each one needing to be unique.

At around 4:00pm on that Saturday afternoon the task had been advanced, but at great cost to nerves, creativity and friendships. The decision was made - the only way forward was to start drinking.

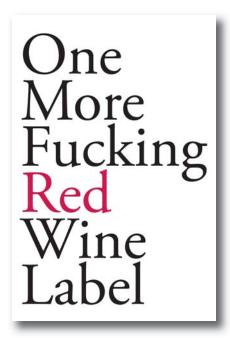
And so the office wine supply was brought into the mix - which in hindsight did not help the project as barely two hours later all retreated to the winery.











The Monday after was not remembered by anyone as a good attitude day. Some of the design concepts reflected that!

But, all realized that the project had to be completed and set to work. The designs were finished on time, with a set of 27 labels being chosen from a selection of some 34 that made it to the portfolio. (All with swear words were diplomatically excluded, but remain part of the project folder)

The project was unusual for Art Technical, to say the least, but they are now proud to use it as one of their reference pieces when displaying their work capabilities to new clients. What is never mentioned though is Saturday's total wine bill.





To contact Art Technical, reach out to them at: ph: 952.463.0970 www.art-technical.com









GUACAYA BISTREAUX

CARIBBEAN TAPAS AND COCKTAIL BAR





www.guacayabistreaux.com









Mackenszi Gulbrantson, a 22 year old native of Minnesota, is creating a platform to introduce people to the latest innovations in renewable energy generation and electric transportation in all of its forms.

Mackenszi said "There are all kinds of progress being made in this area and I think most people are unaware of it, and don't realize what they're missing out on. The New Energy Focus is intended to be my effort to conquer this lack of knowledge."

"I want to showcase the products that will appeal to people across a wide range of interests. Then, by using this platform to entertain and educate, I feel I can start to break down some of the barriers, and biases, that surround the understanding of alternative energy and its use."





The New Energy Focus will feature the use of energy in its most efficient and clean manner, showcasing products from the humble flashlight through to forms of transportation including motorcycles, automobiles, bicycles, commercial vehicles, yachts and aircraft.

In short, it will be an arena for institutions and companies both large and small to present the product of their efforts to the world, in an unbiased and constantly updated location.





It will also be a showcase for the technologies of new forms of creation and collection of energy, with the focus on both current and emerging technologies and their ongoing development. Everything will be included from solar through wind, tidal, algae, nuclear, and conceptual sources, including the ongoing development of conventional sources in the pursuit of increased efficiency.

"I have come to realize the energy available to us that is wasted or not fully utilized, and the finite nature of the conventional resources we use up at an ever increasing rate."

"Our collective future lies in our utilizing forms of energy we've previously let go to waste - and in the use of those forms of energy in the most efficient manner possible. I believe knowledge of alternatives available will cause greater acceptance of the technologies, and the products that are created from them."







www.thenewenergyfocus.com

The New Energy Focus website went live during build on October 8th, 2024. It will be closely followed in December of 2024 by the first issue of its own digital magazine, planned to be released quarterly.

AUTOMOBILE Baby Bentley Blower

Whatever it was about this issue that brought together a series of classics, some modernized and to scale, turned out to be a wonderful thing. But it would not have been complete without this Baby Bentley Blower by the Little Car Co.

Handcrafted with meticulous attention to detail, the Bentley Blower Jnr is a remarkable tribute to a racing legend that takes our heritage into the future. This extraordinary scale replica pays homage to the iconic 1929 Bentley Blower Team Car #2, driven by the legendary Bentley Boy, Hon. HS (Tim) Birkin, and captures the thunderous presence of its racing ancestor while offering a cutting-edge, zero-emission driving experience.

The beauty of Blower Jnr is in the recreation and repurposing of details from the original car. The bodywork is crafted in two sections, and while the rear body structure is crafted in carbon fibre rather than being an ash frame, it's covered in impregnated fabric, just as the original. The bonnet, with its multiple cooling louvres, is hand-crafted in aluminium using traditional techniques and fastened with beautiful leather buckled bonnet straps. The two-person cockpit is in a 1+1 layout, with a central adjustable driving position and the passenger travelling behind in the rear seat. An optional bespoke weekend bag fits behind, in the scaled down and repurposed fuel tank complete with lockable latch.







At the front of the car, the supercharger now houses the charging port that connects the onboard charger to any Type 1 or Type 2 socket. It's surrounded by the famous Bentley mesh grille, in an authentic nickel-plated radiator housing.

The Blower Junior is built around a 48V electric powertrain with a 15 kW (20 bhp) motor, meaning a top speed of 45 mph, and an expected range of around 65 miles, with tandem seating for two adults.





The frame is painted steel, to which an authentic chassis specification is attached. Leaf springs and scaled-down, period-correct friction dampers bring a comfortable ride, while Brembo disc brakes at the front and drums at the rear provide the stopping power. The electric motor is mounted across the rear axle, while the batteries and drive electronics are all housed in a hidden undertray.











The first 99 examples of Blower Jnr will be First Edition Models, and will be finished, like the model illustrated, in Blower Green, with matching painted chassis and wheels, and a Union flag hand-painted on both sides of the body as per the original, while the seats and interior are upholstered in the Dark Green Lustrana Hide used by Mulliner for the Blower Continuation Series. The side panel and radiator carry the period-correct racing number, while the steering wheel is rope-bound.



Unleash an unrivalled driving experience with the Bentley Blower Jnr's commanding performance, empowered by its robust, fully electric 48-volt powertrain. This 85% scale, fully road legal reinterpretation of the iconic 1929 Bentley Blower exudes power and luxury while embracing modern sustainability.

This is the first road-legal car from The Little Car Company and quite likely the most sophisticated city car ever built.



www.thelittlecar.co















Beneath these layers of authenticity lies the true aircraft, and it is one that is being lauded for its capabilities by all who fly in her.

The SW-51 is completely crafted in carbon fiber for the airframe and skin, giving a structure that is light and immensely strong. It is then fitted with a choice of modern BRP-Rotax Turbo engines which gives it a power to weight ratio close to that of the original Mustang ... ample power and an agile handling aircraft.



So agile in fact that one of the fliers of the aircraft, a retired USAF Major who flew as one of the Thunderbirds team, said "The SW-51 feels like a fighter. It is the most intuitive aircraft next to the F-16 that I have ever flown."





The best feedback though came during our visit to the 2024 Oshkosh Airshow to view the plane and meet with the company co-founder, Christian von Kessel. While we were there, we had the opportunity to meet and speak with several owners of the aircraft and that is where the true magic of flying the SW-51 comes to light.



The enthusiasm of the owners, all pilots by career or hobby, comes through loud and clear as they tell tales of their flying the SW-51 and their experiences. One shared his joy of being able to take his SW-51 out and, when the coast is clear, fly over the surface of a lake at low level and feel the speed and precision of the aircraft,

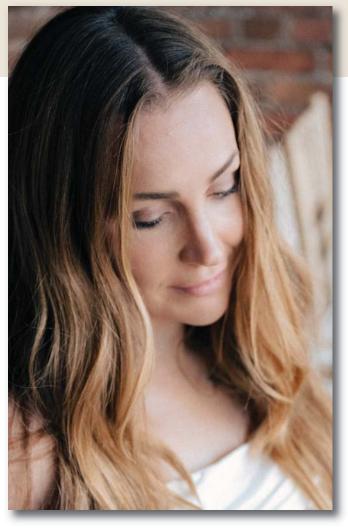
Built to order and customized to the owners specific wishes, owning one of the SW-51 Mustangs will make you a member in an exclusive club of true enthusiasts.

www.scalewings.com











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Figurati is an extraordinary 110' Riva Dolcevita yacht that exudes boundless beauty and enviable performance. Its ultra-sporty, elegant, and sleek Italian design seamlessly merges with cutting-edge technology, providing an unparalleled elite cruising experience.

Powered by twin MTU engines, she comfortably cruises at 13 knots, reaches a maximum speed of 26 knots with a range of up to 430 nautical miles. Figurati also features at-anchor stabilizers providing exceptional comfort levels even when stationary.



Figurati is available in the Mediterranean to provide you with an unforgettable yacht charter experience. A charter where every detail has been meticulously crafted to exceed your expectations.





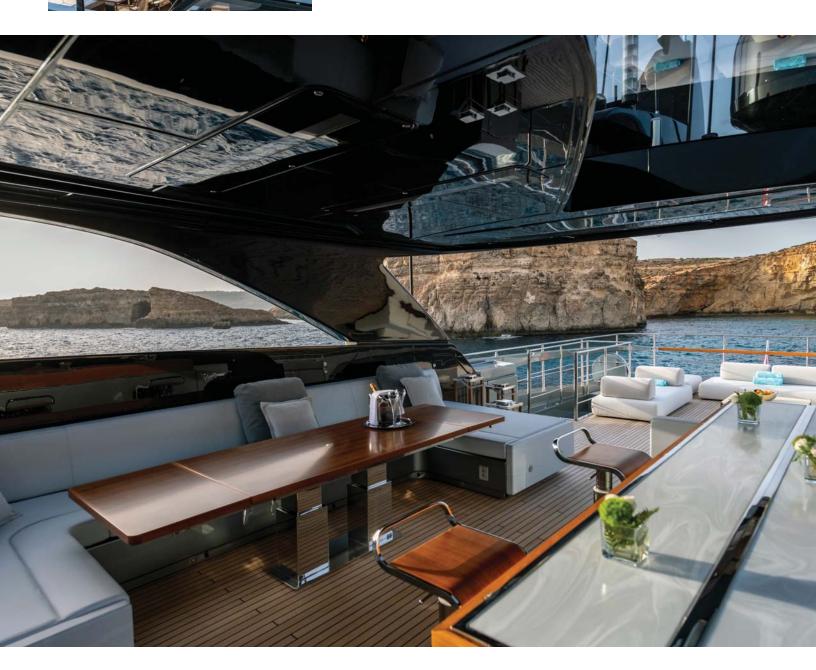




Onboard, guests will be spoiled for choice when trying to decide where to lounge outdoors.

The spacious flybridge offers a covered area with a large social dining setup facing a sit-up bar and counter. Just aft is a lounging area for the true sun-worshippers and a place to feel the breeze.

Forward is a multi-level seating and sunbed area capable of accomodating large social groups, with a hidden Jacuzzi under the forward bed. Aft on the main deck is a wraparound seating area for hosting cocktails and conversation, or outdoor dining.











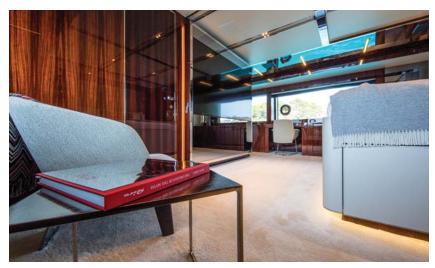




Walking in from the main deck aft, guests are welcomed into the salon. The space is a wonderfully open and stylish lounge area that is flooded with daylight through enormous floor to ceiling windows.

Elegantly styled, it is a showcase of Italian design elements and architecturally beautiful rosewood cabinetry and ceiling insets. The whole space is finished off with a perfectly placed dining table forward, with opening doors to both sides.





Figurati can accomodate up to 10 guests across her five cabin layout, the largest of which is the owners suite.

This suite is located forward and is accessed by a portside lobby which houses a walk in closet. The cabin itself is full beam and brightly lit with large windows on both sides. Just aft is access to a large en-suite bathroom with double sinks and a walk in shower enclosure.













Guests are accomodated in four cabins located on the lower deck, all beautifully appointed and finished to the same level of quality as the master. The accomodations consist of two double cabins, and two cabins capable of being set up as double or twin cabins, allowing greater flexibility for guests with families.





On your charter, you'll find plenty to keep you busy and entertained. Figurati benefits from some excellent features to improve your charter, particularly the underwater lights, adding spectacle and style after dark. And with W-Fi connectivity you don't have to lose contact with the outside world, unless you want to, of course.

Should you feel energetic you can take advantage of the large selection of water toys and accessories onboard.

Figurati features two main tenders, and is also available with an 11.5m/37'9" Axopar Chase Tender.

Figurati and her crew are available for charter this summer for cruising within the Mediterranean. She is also accepting bookings this winter on request.



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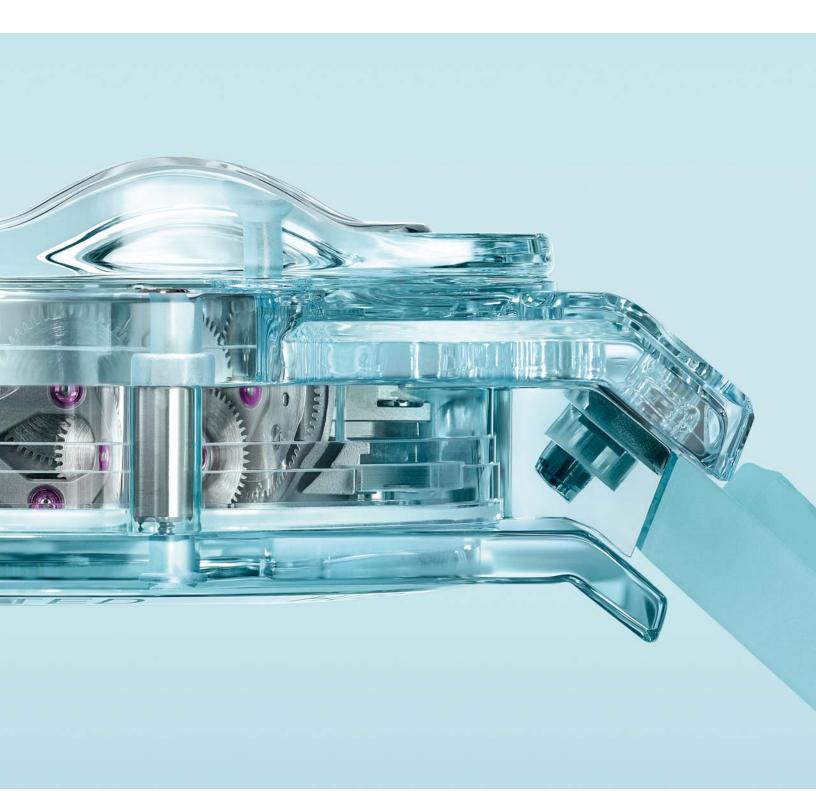
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WATCHES Hublot MP11 Water Blue Sapphire

The Hublot MP-11, featuring its sculptural 7-barrel movement with a 2-week power reserve, makes its debut in a brand-new sapphire colour: a radiant and translucent water blue.



This new shade is based on a new chemical formula, a custom development, and an exclusive transparency index, yet still boasts all the usual properties of sapphire: brilliant, luminous, perfectly inalterable, and resistant to knocks and scratches. The case is also subject to an intense and exemplary polishing, a very delicate operation usually completed by hand. The result required compliance with a very strict set of specifications, and took several years to develop and test, in particular to simulate accelerated ageing and guarantee flawless water-resistance.



To maintain a conventional height to the watch body the seven barrels of the are coaxial and vertical. They are not integrated into the thickness of the movement. They are physically in front of it, set at 90° to it.





To allow their 336 hours of power reserve to reach the movement, Hublot had to design a tailor-made device: a 90° transmission which uses a helical worm gear, following the principle of an endless screw. The wheel in question is clearly visible between 9 and 10 o'clock. To ensure harmony with this mechanism, Hublot has taken care to place the balance opposite it at 2 o'clock, with its rate at 4 o'clock. The Hublot HUB9011 calibre, with 270 components, is also distinguished by its patented index- assembly system and silicon escapement which protects the movement from any electromagnetic or thermal interference.

A very slowly rotating disc (one revolution every two weeks) indicates the remaining power reserve as close as possible to its energy source, directly at the head of the seven aligned barrels. Furthermore, by echoing the shape of the barrels, the sapphire crystal naturally creates a magnifying effect on this signature element of the watch. The Big Bang MP-11 can be wound manually using the large, fluted crown with a worm screw type relief that echoes the helical gear, or an electric Torx stylus.





Pluma Hidalgo, Oaxaca Nestled in the Sierra Madre del Sur, EstéLoco's 100% Arabica coffee thrives in harmony with nature's rhythms. Each bean is handpicked at peak ripeness, dried under the protective shade of ancient trees, and roasted to perfection.

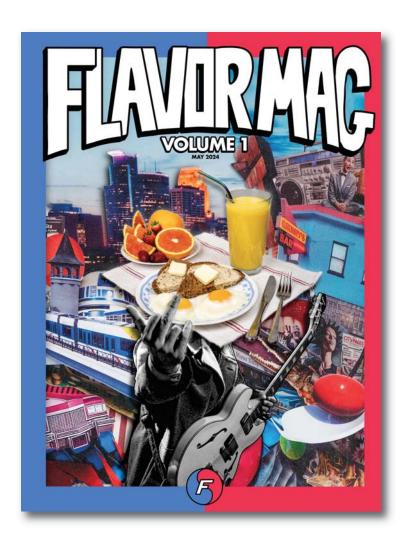
This process reveals smooth, balanced notes of cocoa, malt, and raisin in every sip. Where tradition and excellence come together to create a truly unforgettable cup.

Visit esteloco.com to discover our collection of premium coffee, along with the finest cocoa and raw cane sugar.











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SOVRENPUBLISHING



By no preconceived decision, this issue seems to have taken in part a theme of classic forms of transportation having been modernized. This theme continues sewing its thread through this feature with a display on the art of Renaud Marion.

Taking cues from his childhood imaginings and inspired by science fiction films and artists, Marion depicts his vision of futuristic transportation of wheel-less cars serenely suspended above the ground, nut with a neat twist: While the vehicles' levitation most smacks of sci-fi, the cars are in fact modified vintage classics, including Chevrolets, Mercedes, Jaguars, Aston Martins and Porsches. The images that emerge are a throwback blend of retro style with futuristic imaginings. Iconic cars from the glory days of automobile production are transformed into airborne transport.











Growing up in the 1980s, Marion thought that by the year 2000 everyone would be piloting flying cars. Marion's dream of one day propelling a floating vehicle has not yet become reality but in this series he has brought to life the 'hover' vehicles of his childhood fantasies.

In his quest to create the flying cars of his boyhood imagination, Marion developed the unique concept for his Air Drive series and chose to shoot classic automobiles because they most closely resembled his childhood idea of what a flying car should look like. The first vehicles he photographed included a Chevrolet El Camino, Mercedes 300 SL Roadster and Jaguar XK120.



Finding the appropriate environment to shoot the autos meant seeking out spaces devoid of people and recognizable buildings to let the cars take centre stage against backgrounds of varying textures and muted or neutral colours.

To achieve the look of "flying" cars, Marion had to apply a digital assembly technique to remove the tyres and wheel wells from the classic beauties and merge the cars onto different backgrounds, eventually settling on the right scene for each futuristic portrayal.



The artist would like to drive a flying car before he dies, while the child in him hopes that the technology from science fiction stories will one day become reality.



www.renaudmarion.com

tthe world of renewable energy yachting







The renewable energy industry as a whole is expanding daily, and the yachting sector is now a thriving portion of that growth. With IY Green our aim is to be at the forefront of this yachting sector by keeping you in touch with the latest information and choices available.

We are dedicated to bringing you information on renewable energy powered yachts of all sizes and types. Yachts we can make available to you right now, those in final build, and those available in the very near future. We will also feature the existence and progress of yachts in concept, design and development from builders expanding and pushing boundaries.

The growth of the availability of renewable energy yachts now provides options to many individuals who would not typically purchase boats for a number of reasons. Whether it be environmental restrictions on their waterways, or in not wishing to consume the enormous amounts of fossil fuel typical in boating. A growing realization is also the noise, smell and maintenance free qualities of electric voyaging. Now all concerns are removed, and you have choices for a cleaner and less restrictive alternative.





IY Green is an agency that was formed to bring renewable energy watercraft to the marketplace. A dedicated dealer, and brokerage, with a singular focus on, and dedication to, renewable energy powered watercraft of all sizes and types.



www.iygreen.com



ELECTRIC Laneva Vesper



In building the Vesper, Laneva went for full iconic status. She shows her true Monaco style, with looks befitting a launch ferrying around movie star passengers in the glamour of a bygone era.

No compromises have been made in the creation of the Vesper. She has been designed and built using optimised, lightweight, sustainable, bio-based materials. The structure is created from natural wood approved by the Forest Stewardship Council, guaranteeing that the wood used comes from forests managed responsibly and sustainably.

The decks are made from flax cultivated in Europe, using environmentally friendly techniques, and volcanic rock fibres. The flooring is cork oak bark, a very light and water resistant material. Upholstery is carried out utilizing a leather-like synthetic material from Switzerland with exceptional abrasion resistance and unparalleled flexibility.







Laneva designed the Vesper's hull specifically for electric motors, combined with quiet, iconic technology make the Laneva Vesper a unique vessel; a combination of beauty and technical prowess that push the boundaries of sailing today. For her propulsion she is equipped with 2 ultracompact, high-performance axial flux engines, tried and tested in aviation installations, taking power from a series of high-density battery cells with more than 2,000 1C/1C charge cycles.

The interior spaces of the Vesper complement and enhance the style of her lines. Comfortable and luxurious seating and lounging areas surround the passengers and provide an elegant platform for silent cruising.



To maximize the raw power of the Lanéva Vesper, she is equipped with a telemetry system and a digital switching infrastructure. This allows temperature, voltage, amperage, charging and discharging data, as well as all the essential data from the powertrain, to be monitored in real time from the boat's navigation displays or in remote. The boat is also capable of being updated as newer battery technologies become readily available, to provide even better range and performance.

www.laneva-boats.com

57:50



On a beautiful June day in Troy, New York, I sat at the streetside table of a coffee shop eating breakfast. I'd flown into Troy purely to view up close and test drive the Solar Sal 24, a boat reportedly able to run purely on solar power. The weather was cooperating, having been kind enough to drop from its spate of ninety degree days to a more pleasant, forecast 80's.



My first sight of the boat was as I approached it from atop a seawall on the Hudson River. From this viewpoint my first reaction and conscious thought was that it's just sitting there, fueling itself up. Its entire roof of solar panels did not look out of place, in fact they added a nice contrast to the traditional look of the vessel.

My hosts were the Borton family, Alex Borton, and his parents David and Harriet, the builders of the Solar Sal 24. I met them all down on the dock, and introductions were carried out all around and conversation made while the boat was given a quick washdown and readied for the day. On completion I was invited onboard and given a quick tour.



Access to the boat from aft is via a surprisingly deep and uncluttered swim platform which gives you easy boarding access to the cockpit.





The spacious interior area features a pair of pilot seats at and across from the helm. Forward are bench seating areas to port and starboard with a central table, with storage lockers located under sturdy seat base lids.

Fully forward is a separate compartment which allows for further storage, or for the fitting of an optional head in its own forward compartment. A new model just launched by the company reduces the size of this compartment and extends the seating forward in a wraparound design.



I was invited to take the helm and take her out. Lines were retrieved and I eased the throttle forward slightly with an initial but very short feeling of trepidation as no noise was emitted, yet we promptly gathered speed and steerage and made our way out into the Hudson River for the day.

The experience of smooth operation was enhanced by an older Trojan flybridge cruiser moving away from the dock just ahead of us ... spitting exhaust fumes and noise as it lumbered away from its berth with a few panicked and gearbox crunching manoeuvers. To be honest, in comparison it was kind of distasteful and I realized I was almost instantly becoming a renewable energy boating snob.



The nicely positioned and equipped helm station is rather simple due to not being cluttered with gauges. Speed was shown. and a pair of compact little monitors showed power charging/discharging and battery level. Currently 99%.

This disturbed me at first. Why not 100%? But then the realization that the battery charging system monitored and controlled charge and gently ramped down the charging as the batteries closed on full. The gauge was just being technically unbiased and unerringly truthful.

We set off cruising easily, crossing to each side of the river, circumnavigating several of the islands. Pleasantly taking in the views with my hosts acting as local guides and pointing out places of interest during breaks in the conversations. The day passed in wonderful peace. The scenery on the river, the back and forth conversation and stories. Still powering away at a nice cruise.

99%.





Initially I had some doubts, I'll admit. Was the technology and system sound I thought. Were there to be glitches or problems that were explained away as growing pains, and excuses made? Not a one. With the system's simplicity shining through the boat simply cruised as it was supposed to.

In fact the only issue of the day was a little bit of an amateurish panic on my part when, cruising at a steady speed, I noticed the monitor go from charging to slightly discharging. Had I done something wrong? Was this a fatal flaw in the system? Before I could speak, thankfully, we came out of the shadow of the bridge and charging went positive again.

It was quite some time later, after an extended cruise, that I asked my hosts about when we should head in. The day was beautiful, company entertaining, boat calming to drive. There seemed no reason to end the day, which typically on a smaller boat occurs due to the need to visit the gas dock to top off. But not us, we were at 99%.



Upon our return to the dock, as we approached and came alongside, it was a welcome novelty to realize the throttle could be gently eased to reduce the boats speed and then smoothly halted with a small nudge of astern. No need to drift, no clunks as ahead and astern were engaged, just totally proportional control of speed from 0 on up.

Upon docking, the throttle was returned to neutral and I looked down at the gauge. 99%. While cruising the whole day, apart from one stretch where we went up to full speed (and that unnoticed bridge structure) the Solar Sal 24 was actively charging its batteries, constantly topping itself off. We arrived back at the dock with the same reported amount of "fuel" as we left with, 99%. I could not help but think that after the boat was hauled onto its trailer it would be charging as it rode along the road. Sitting in the driveway at home, charging. It would always be ready to go.



panels for over 24 hours at a gentle cruise of four knots, or nine hours at five knots. More than enough for night cruises around the lakes, rivers, or waterways of your choice ... all in pure peace and quiet.

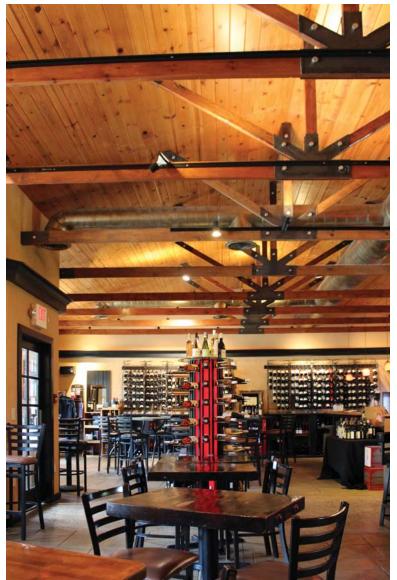
The further attractions of the Solar Sal 24 go further than its facets as an electric boat.

Equipped with its solar panel package and an optional inverter, it has the ability to provide a few kilowatts of AC power for convenience appliances on board or for dockside lighting. In an emergency it could be a small backup power system for a home or for charging a car. In its various iterations the Solar Sal 24 can cater to various needs and wishes dependent upon its level of equipping and customization, and this makes it truly unique in the marketplace - and adds more practical reasons to buy a boat!

www.solarsal.solar







Nestled in the riverside town of Afton, Swirl Wine Club is located right on St. Croix Trail in the center of the town.

Since opening in 2010 it has become somewhat of a mainstay in town. In summer, no one can drive past without being drawn to the outside patio area replete with seating and fire tables. While the main area of Swirl, inside, provides a cozy escape from the bustle of the outdoors in any season, and is especially welcoming on snowy winter evenings with its warm atmosphere and large fireplace.















Swirl brings to you an amazing selection of quality wines, some unique and with an ever growng selection as new wines are sought out. A frequently changing by-the-glass menu lets you try new choices, opening up the chance to find a new favorite. And, for the non-wine drinkers, a full selection of beers and spirits are made available to order.

Feeling hungry? Your luck is in. Swirl is a part of the Historic Afton House Inn and shares its full menu, making available everything from appetizers and flatbreads, salads and burgers, to a selection of pastas and entrees that will appeal to everyone. Desserts to finish of course, crowned by their home made chocolate truffles with raspberry sauce.





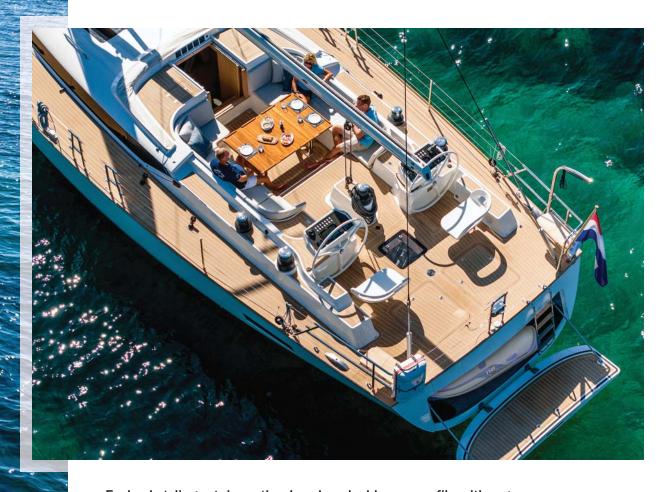


www.swirlmywine.com



Bentley Motors and Contest Yachts have collaborated on a first joint project for a sailing yacht that was commissioned by a private client. Bentley was commissioned to create the bespoke interior for the yacht, utilizing the materials and techniques used in Bentley automobile interiors.

The Contest 21-metre 67CS is built on an easily driven, sea kindly hull making her a superior bluewater performance cruiser. She is fast with simple control both upwind and down, remarkably stable and easily sailed by short-handed crew, making light equally of long voyaging or regatta participation. Her accommodation plan for up to eight guests, in anything up to four cabins, with the option of master suite forward or aft, and similarly galley and crew either end, presents great opportunity to personalise this very highly technically specified and exceptionally quiet yacht.



Evolved styling retains a timeless low deckhouse profile with a generous sailplan on a rig which offers a variety of sail combinations with code sail options flying from integral bowsprit, and with in-mast or boom furling for mainsail. The soft chine aft is new, as is, for this size of Contest, a central cockpit winch between the twin helm stations for main sheet control. Long horizontal hull windows provide a visual balance for tall topsides that create in the interior good headroom and underfloor space for technical equipment.







Bentley worked closely with the Contest Yachts design team to create the unique interior - an exciting challenge that pushed the creative boundaries of its craftspeople. Prototyping methods such as 3D printing were harnessed to enable feasibility of individual components with a full mock-up of some items including the sofa produced prior to fit out to ensure exacting finishes and demanding quality standards were met.





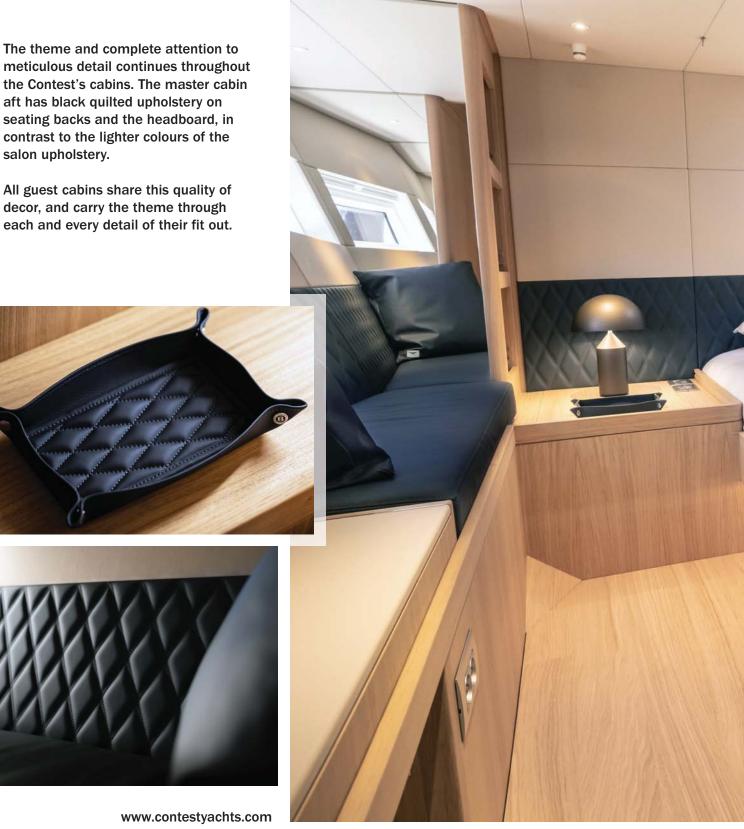




Bentley's iconic diamond quilted hides were book matched across the entire vessel interior with details such as the tissue box and drinks coasters created from scratch to the customer's taste. Specialist techniques such as hand cross stitching, usually used to produce the Bentley steering wheel were adapted and adopted throughout. Bentley Home furnishing are featured including the Malvern Chair - a tribute to the geometries of the Bentley cars. Additionally, one-off designs were also created for the New Contest including a bespoke bar and vanity unit. The Contest Yacht's Captain's chair and "Egg" table were also trimmed as a one off by Bentley. The sofa which was built by hand at Bentley's engineering facility was precision finished in Bentley trim.

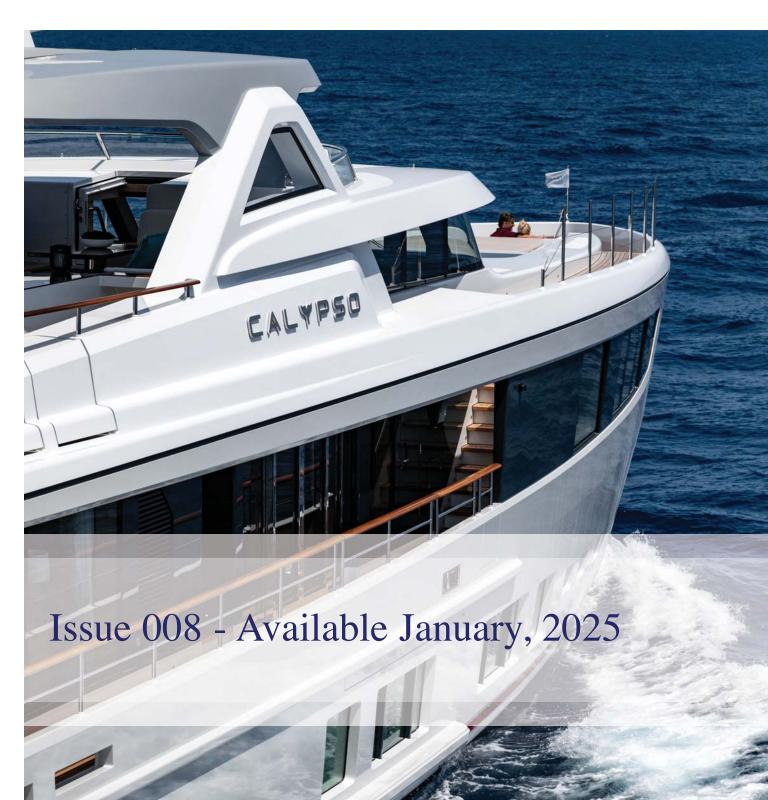
meticulous detail continues throughout the Contest's cabins. The master cabin aft has black quilted upholstery on seating backs and the headboard, in contrast to the lighter colours of the

decor, and carry the theme through











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