

THE WORLD'S BEST SUPERYACHTS

IT IS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE IN YACHT DESIGN WITHOUT SACRIFICING AN INCH ON LUXURY, AS THESE SEVEN STRIKING SUPERYACHTS DEMONSTRATE.

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At 180.65 metres in length, *Azzam* is not only twice the length of a football pitch, she's also the largest superyacht in the world. Delivered by Lürssen Yachts in 2013, very little is known about the vessel owned by Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Abu Dhabi, apart from the fact that she has top speeds of 30 knots (an incredible feat for her size) and reportedly cost US\$600 million to build. Her interior is said to take inspiration from the Empire style of the early 19th century.

Despite their high visibility, many of the world's largest private vessels remain just that: absolutely private. Others enter the charter market as owners look to offset annual running costs, and charter guests embark on the kind of highly bespoke, one-of-a-kind luxury experience that can start at well over A\$1 million per week (see *Savannah* on page 170).

Defined as a vessel over 30 metres in length, last year there were 5,416 superyachts in the world according to The Superyacht Group's intelligence division, a number it predicts will rise to 5,659 by the end of 2019. A decade ago, this figure was 3,903. And, while yachts between 30 and 40 metres dominate the seas, accounting for almost 63 per cent of the global fleet, at the top end of the market the 90 metre-plus segment is 117 per cent larger than it was 10 years ago.

For today's superyacht owner the journey is as important as the destination and this is reflected in contemporary yacht design. While there are certain features common to many of today's new builds: a beach club, swimming pool and tender garage just to name a few, each superyacht is entirely unique; a reflection of her owner's vision and preferences. Here are seven of our favourites:



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Aviva

Yacht designers and builders have an incredible talent for making the impossible possible, but one of the last features you would expect aboard a superyacht is a full-sized paddle tennis court, such as the one which is the centrepiece of *Aviva* measuring 20 metres long and 10 metres wide. Her impressive dimensions demonstrate just how groundbreaking a project this was for Abeking & Rasmussen, who delivered the 98.4-metre yacht (its largest to date) in 2017. Such generous interior volumes are usually only found in much larger vessels, which means there's more than enough space to fill with custom-made furniture, her owner's fine art collection, and a wardrobe that designer Andrew Langton, from Raymond Langton Design, joked to *Boat International* is bigger than his house in France. »

Private, not for charter.



YAS

Conversions often make for the most distinctive superyachts, as these images of *YAS* demonstrate. At 141 metres in length, she is one of the largest private yachts in the world yet was originally built in 1977 as a frigate and served both the Dutch and United Arab Emirates navies. After a five-year conversion in Abu Dhabi, from which only the original hull remains, she was relaunched in 2011. We'd love to check out her open-air bar and waterfall wall but, at her owner's request, interior photos are kept well under wraps. Designer Jacques Pierrejean explains to *The CEO Magazine*: "As nature is one of my biggest inspirations, we modelled *YAS* after the shape of a dolphin, replacing traditional angular edges with soft curves and an elegantly refined shape." »

Private, not for charter.



Haida 1929

At 77.10 metres in length, there are plenty of yachts longer than *Haida 1929*, but only a handful that can compete with her for history and romance. Launched in 1929 from Krupp Germaniawerft, this classic yacht has had a lifetime of adventure – she even served as a US navy vessel in World War II. In late 2018, having undergone a total restoration at Pendennis Shipyard in the UK, she was handed over to her new owner, who had envisaged a superyacht overflowing with period charm yet lacking none of today's luxury touches, including a spa and hammam, three cinema areas, water toys and a top-deck swimming pool. Three fireplaces and a barber shop add an extra layer to her already distinctive personality.

Available to charter through Edmiston from A\$457,000 a week.

Black Pearl

“The owner drove us to new heights,” reveals Marcel Onkenhout, CEO of Oceanco, about the build, and it’s all been worth it. Not only was *Black Pearl* the winner of the Sailing Yacht of the Year award at the World Superyacht Awards 2019, but she has raised the bar in sailing yacht design. At 106.7 metres in length, she is the largest sailing yacht in the world, easily identifiable thanks to her three black DynaRig carbon masts. Not only can 3,000 square metres of sails be set in seven minutes, but she also stands out for her hybrid propulsion installation (the yard has reportedly said she has the potential to cross the Atlantic without using any diesel fuel). Yet this is a yacht that is ever-evolving. At her engineer-owner’s request, her rig will be equipped with solar sails when technology enables it.

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Legend

Far-flung destinations, such as Antarctica, Greenland and Patagonia are no longer off limits to superyachts, and there’s no better vessel to undertake a voyage to the edge of the earth than the 77.4-metre *Legend*, built in 1974 but converted in 2015. What’s referred to in industry-speak as an explorer yacht, her exterior is tough enough to break through the ice but, once inside, guests are sheathed in five-star comfort, including a jacuzzi fit for 16 people, a Balinese-style spa, and a piano and whisky bar. The yacht’s tender garage has also been adapted for off-piste adventure, with snowmobiles, personal submersibles and a helipad. »

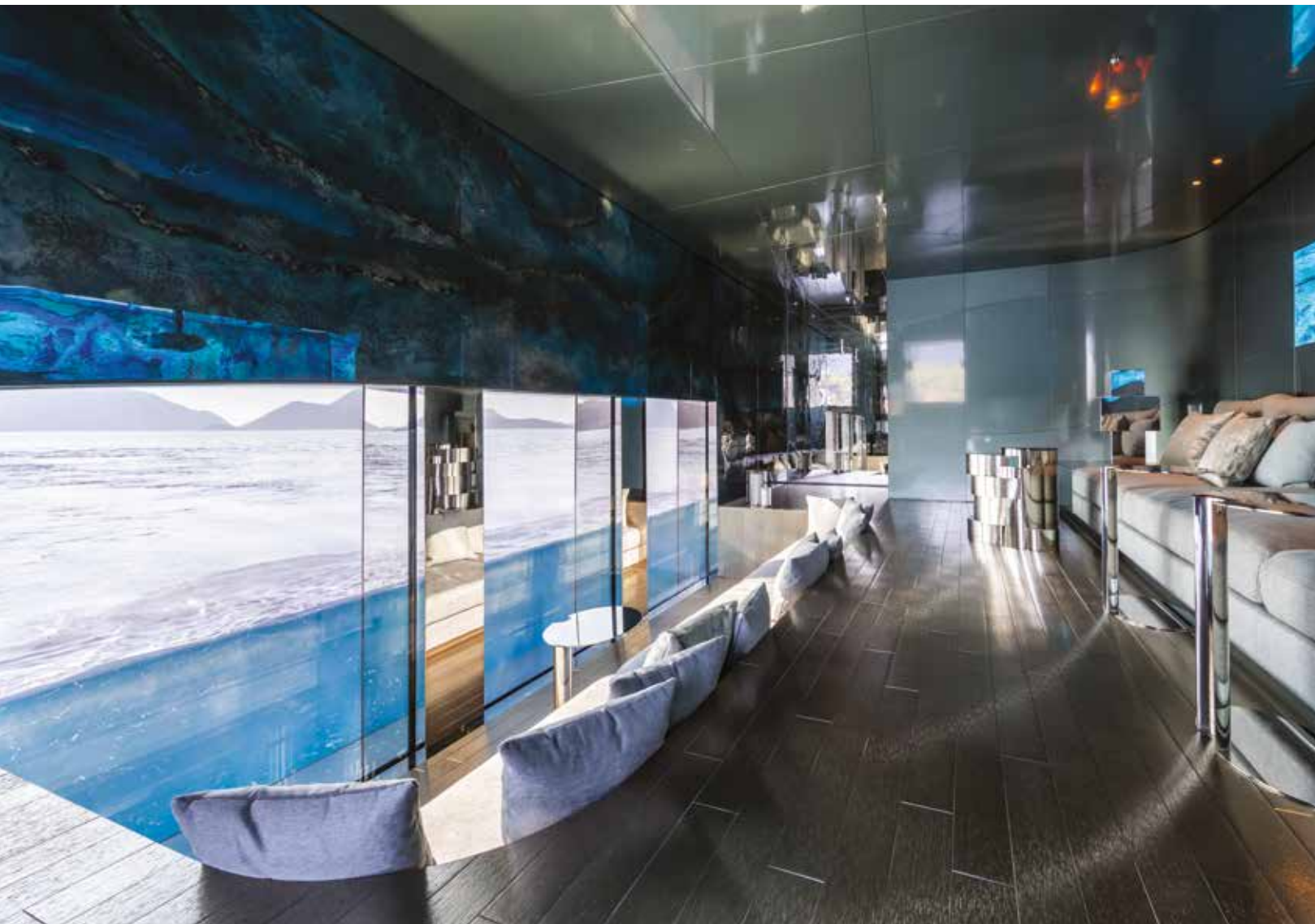
Available to charter through Y.CO. from A\$756,000 a week.



Savannah

Savannah's sleek all-metallic exterior (reportedly achieved in a single take) may be eye-catching, but it's far from her only distinctive feature. Launched from Feadship in 2015, she was the first hybrid yacht to ever hit the water. According to the Dutch yard, her electric-diesel propulsion creates fuel economies of 30 per cent. As you would expect, the interior of the 83.5-metre superyacht is draped in exquisite detail, including a stunning floor-to-ceiling video wall installation, opulent furnishings and an elegant spiral rosewood staircase, but there's also plenty of charm – her breathtaking underwater viewing room is affectionately known as the Nemo Room.

Available to charter through Feadship from A\$1.65 million a week.



Sailing Yacht A

Designed by Philippe Starck (who also conceived her sister vessel, the equally distinctive *Motor Yacht A*) and built by Nobiskrug, arguably the only yard capable of delivering such an ambitious project, the 142.81-metre *Sailing Yacht A* is a one-of-a-kind vision of the future. Not only is her silver-metallic aesthetic about as far removed from traditional yacht design as possible (to see her from a distance is to think she has no windows), but she is every inch the engineering triumph: from her navigation systems to her hybrid diesel-electric propulsion system and underwater observation pod. The significance of 'A' may be a closely guarded secret, but we like to think it's because everything else comes after her. ■

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