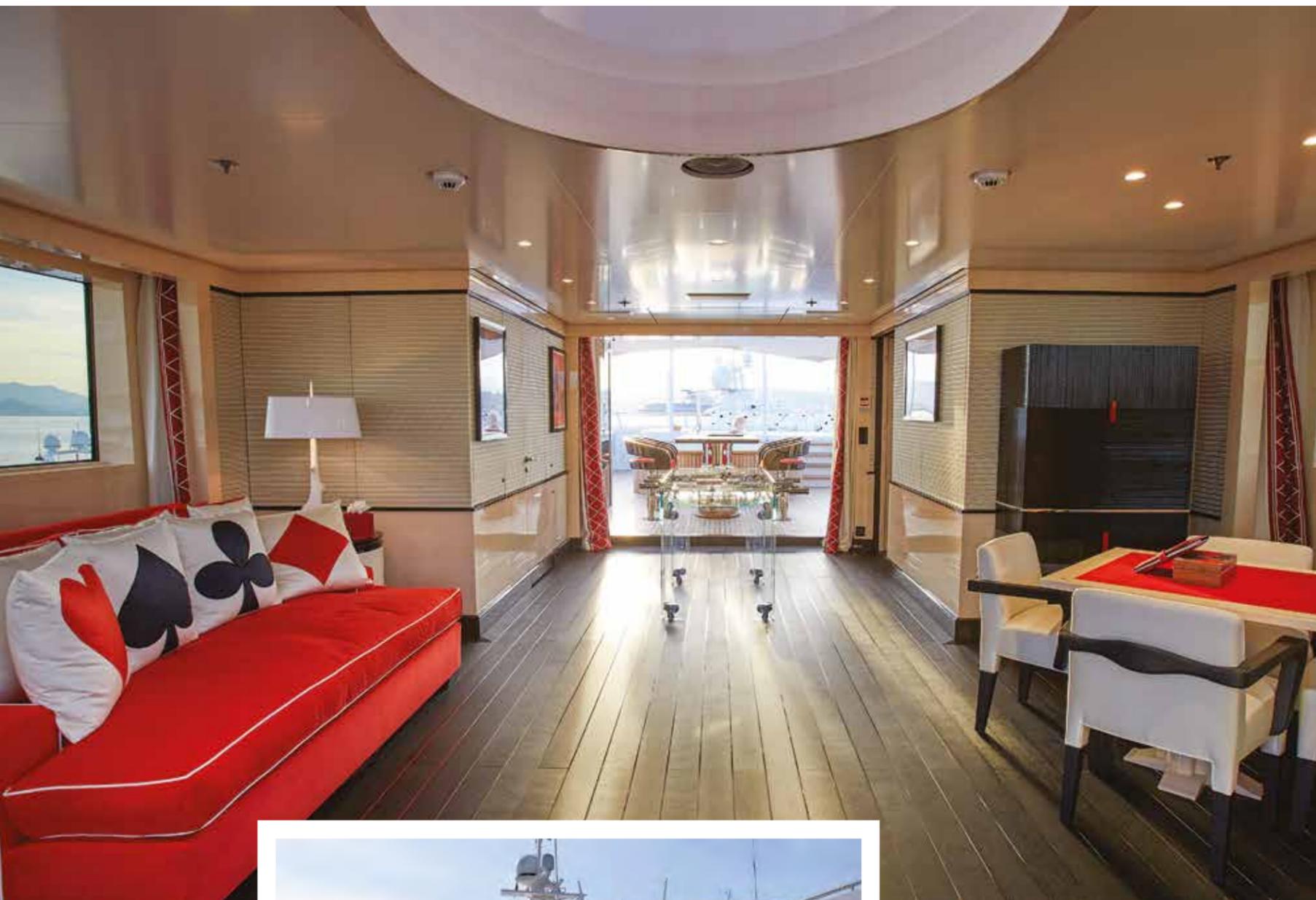


COLOR ME BEAUTIFUL

*Captivating on the outside and loads of fun on the inside,
Madame Kate fulfills her brief to stand out in a crowd.*

Words - Marilyn Mower Photography - Jerome Kelagopian; Herve Lefebvre for Twin Studio





Above: The top deck includes a small interior lounge where there's plenty of fun to be had, including Foosball. Forward of this is an intimate dining spot and the spa pool (top right).



She might be the second yacht in Amels' 199 Limited Editions range, but *Madame Kate* is no mimic. Although all Amels Limited Editions are developed on platforms, no two of any of the models from the 180-footers to the 242-footers have ever been exactly alike – and so it is with the first two 199s, *Event* and *Madame Kate*.

A project that was on the fast track from the beginning, *Madame Kate* was delivered just 24 months after the owner tasked his representative, Benoît Faure of Yachting Concept, with finding a new yacht. Faure's relationship with this owner goes back years to when he helped arrange charters for the owner and his family.

Faure then assisted the owner with a new build, a 141-foot composite yacht at an Italian yard that was completed in 2010 to designs by Zuccon International Project and the owner's decorator. In early 2013, however, the owner approached Faure about a new, larger boat, but he had two caveats: fast delivery and high quality, which are often mutually exclusive items.

Faure zeroed in on the Limited Editions approach at Amels and the 199 already under way on spec. The owner visited the yard and also reviewed *Event*, and while he was satisfied on most counts, he wanted to deviate from the first hull's general arrangement with longer sun and bridge decks, a gym at the stern like his previous yacht and the relocation of the galley to the main deck, taking the place of an office.

Both the owner and his wife are gourmets, Faure explains. "They wanted to put the art of making fine cuisine into the center of the boat." As far as the interior went, they liked what Italian interior designer Laura Sessa had done with *Event*, but did not want it replicated. Their style is very youthful and exuberant with bold colors and a lot of joy, elements that Sessa, who never shies away from bold colors, understood and delivered.



From the beginning, *Madame Kate's* owners wanted a boat that could stand out in a crowded harbor. They talked about paint schemes in several striking colors but were reluctant to commit. When the discussion turned to exterior lighting, however, and the fact that they wanted to be able to change those colors, including the underwater lights, with a few clicks on an iPad, Amels suggested pearlized paint – it would not only look dazzling against the blue sea, but also would take on the tones of the reflected light at night. That idea was a hit, but the trick was to figure out how to deliver it.

Created by the builder's in-house paint experts, this finish is nothing short of spectacular. "This is a pure pearl – not metallic – effect," explains Arie Springvloet Dubbeld, Amels' paint manager.

"In pearlescent paint you have very fine mica, which is glass, so you see through it to the layer below. It works like a prism, you have different colors in one color. You get a very elegant and refined effect."

This stunning pearlized white livery accentuates *Madame Kate's* sweeping hull line from amidships to the aft platform. It also creates a surface where designer Tim Heywood's complex shapes and their shadows are in the spotlight. Although a white hull tends to be more forgiving of paint imperfections than a dark one, a coating with refractive properties adds complexity. "If you make a mistake in the pearl, like a runner, or fish eyes or dust inclusion or whatever, you have to go right back to the base and then start over. So any mistake, you'll have to redo the entire job," says Dubbeld.

Of course, all that holding of breath is a behind-the-scenes issue, as it should be. To the owners, guests and dockside spectators, the yacht's exterior just looks lively and fun.

And fun is what *Madame Kate's* lifestyle is all about – from a tempered-glass Foosball table with bronze and steel players to the gym with a window onto the world, from accommodations for some very pampered pets to a custom pizza oven, it seems everything has been considered.



Their style is very youthful and exuberant with bold colors and a lot of joy.

The owners' quest for bright and unusual interior color comes to fruition in the upper salon and one of two VIP cabins (left).



The piano-key design, of bleached maple and stained oak, is carried through the formal dining area and main deck foyer (right center).



The TV is hidden behind a screened Warhol-style tongue-in-cheek image of Madame Kate herself, who just happens to be a fluffy white dog.



Guest cabins have direct access to the gym at the stern, where the transom door lifts to reveal inspirational views.



The main salon expands vividly on the ebony/ivory scheme with a Tai Ping carpet and precise, colorful seating. Art is another striking feature of this space.

Like their last yacht, planked wood floors predominate and announce the theme of casual elegance. These floors, however, are a big part of the décor, establishing the ebony and ivory background found throughout the yacht. The bleached maple and black-stained oak floor pattern in the main deck foyer and dining salon looks a lot like piano keys.

It's a treatment that extends through to the master suite, beginning with what is arguably the most inspiring office afloat. It is finished in whitewashed and black-stained oak and given a bright pop of turquoise in fabrics and upholstery. Instead of a bank of closets lining a wall and scattered dressers, the walk-in closet is big enough to function as a dressing room. This separates a pair of bathrooms; hers is clad in dazzling white alabaster as a nod to the yacht's exterior.

Oak is the prevailing timber, either as open grain, washed, ebonized or rubbed with graphite and then clear-coated in high gloss, accented on the main deck by a dark-stained lacewood with a gloss surface for door frames and mullions. All the suites have oak floors in various combinations of light and dark, linked by a spiral staircase clad in natural and black leathers.

Two identical VIPs, one splashed with orange and one in yellow and blue, are located aft of the bridge and captain's area and buffered from the bridge-deck salon by a lobby and the dayhead.

This salon is a casual, multifunctional space with a mix of cushy lounge seating and games areas that works as a bridge to the large alfresco dining deck beyond with its own outdoor sofas.

Three additional and spacious guest suites are on the lower deck and have direct access to the gym and sauna aft. The stonework on this deck is a rich chocolate and gold Porto marble. Circular windows in the stern let in light even if the yacht is underway to keep guests bent on fitness from feeling like they are in a cave. At anchor or dockside, the stern door, which hinges at the top, can be opened, allowing expansive views through tinted glass windows and a door to the ample swim platform.

Madame Kate has luxury of space everywhere, with wide corridors that seem residential in proportion and very large landings and lobbies. The offset dining room is a beautifully fresh space, uncluttered by sideboards and cabinets, yet all the china, cutlery and glasses are close at hand; a walk-in china storeroom hidden behind a wall panel sees to that. The dining room can seat up to 14 for meals with an expandable table, but the real treat is that the room itself lengthens, as the bulwarks on either side of the yacht fold down to create terraces, extending the view as far as the eye can see through full-length sliding glass walls.

See more on the iPad edition



Madame Kate has the luxury of space everywhere.



The whitewashed and black-stained oak finish gets a pop of color from the turquoise fabric in the master suite.



The main salon space is treated more formally with a Tai Ping carpet, avant-garde bar and symmetrical seating. Its TV is hidden behind a screened Warhol-style tongue-in-cheek image of Madame Kate herself, who just happens to be a fluffy white dog.

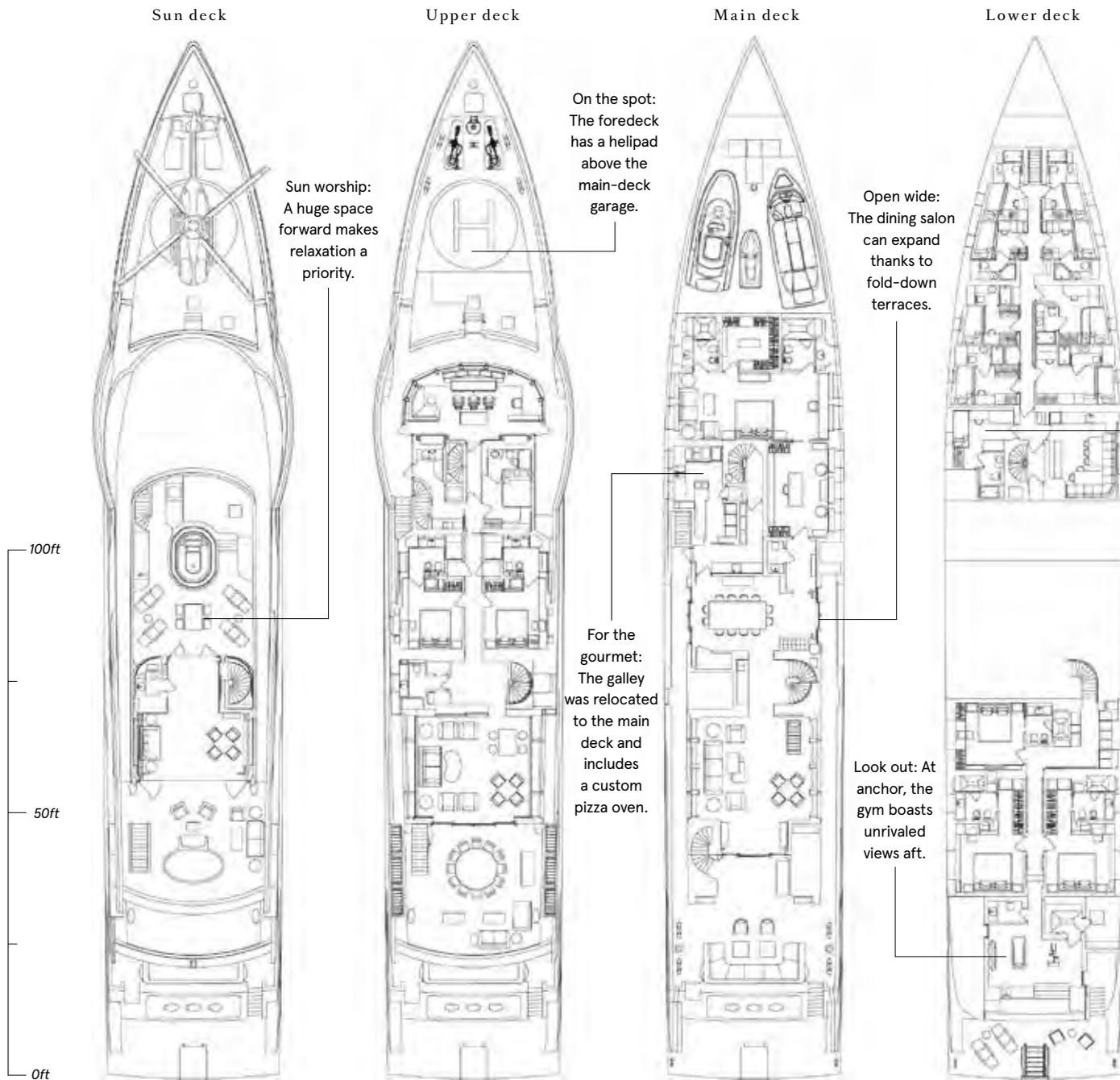
With the galley located on the main deck, the crew and service areas below are even more spacious; Faure and the yacht's captain worked out with the yard excellent service pathways, pantries, equipment lockers and even linen storage, reflecting the fact that this boat will be in owner-mode much of the time.

Outside, the yacht's scimitar bow is the big talking point, a feature that maximizes length, increases displacement speed and reduces pitching and vertical acceleration. It also means the 60-meter 199 performs more like a conventional 65-meter boat and will be up to 15 percent more fuel-efficient than an equivalent clipper-bowed vessel.

When Amels CEO Rob Luijendijk asked Heywood to draw up a new model offering an option between the Limited Editions 180 and 212, Heywood did as asked, and presented a conservative 199 with a raked bow. Then he showed them what he really had in mind: a long, lean totally non-conformist look with a jaunty adaptation of the axe bow Amels' parent company Damen uses on its offshore vessels and its Sea Axe yacht support vessels. Heywood's curved scimitar bow is more suited to displacement speeds, its sculptural spray rail keeping water from climbing up the hull.

"Looking at the long list of modifications on the owner's wish list, I was really impressed by the speed of reaction from the Amels team and the quality of the solutions given to us," Faure says. "It made the owner feel that he was building his yacht in the right place. He is absolutely delighted with *Madame Kate*. The eye-catching part of the brief was one thing, but he also remarks on the level of quality of the machine, which is exactly the giant leap up that he wanted. Noise and vibrations are very low. In fact, it's better described as a 'no noise and vibration' level." ■

Madame Kate – Amels



LOA: 196' 10" (60m)
Beam: 33' 9" (10.3m)
Draft: 11' 8" (3.6m)
Displacement: 1,145 tonnes
Gross tonnage: 1,140 GT
Power: 2 x 2,012-hp
 Caterpillar 3512C TA

Speed (max/cruise):
 16.5/15 knots
Range: 5,000 nm @ 13 knots
Fuel capacity:
 39,600 U.S. gallons
Generators:
 3 x Caterpillar C9 TA

Freshwater capacity:
 9,933 U.S. gallons
Owner and guests: 13
Crew: 18
Tenders: 1 x 26' luxury;
 1 x 20' MOB
Construction: Steel, aluminum

Classification: Lloyd's Register, MCA compliant
Project management:
 Yachting Concept
Naval architecture: Amels
Exterior design:
 Tim Heywood Designs

Interior design:
 Laura Sessa
Builder/year:
 Amels/2015
 Vlissingen, The Netherlands
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 e: info@amels-holland.com
 w: amels-holland.com