

Sailing yacht of the Month: The A80 Apsaras

By Charl van Rooy, photos by Carlo Borlenghi

Unveiled at the Cannes Yachting Festival in September this year, the A80 sailing yacht *Apsaras* by Advanced Italian Yachts is the largest yacht in the Italian shipyard's fleet. The yacht made another appearance at the Monaco Yacht Show in the same month where we were impressed by the large volumes and practical layout on board. All of which is the handy work American naval architects John Reichel and Jim Pugh of Reichel/Pugh and the Italian yacht designers Mario Pedol and Massimo Gino of Nauta Yachts.



As the same design team who created the successful A66, the A80 continues the innovative hull shape that has been optimised for performance cruising as well as easy handling under any weather condition. Reichel/Pugh's experience in designing some of the most competitive sailing yachts on the water has had a great impact on *Apsaras*' rig design and appendage package, all the while retaining easy handling capabilities and mini luxury superyacht feel on board.



Comfort was a key part of the design and *Apsaras* features large open volumes on the aft cockpit; not only for ease of manoeuvres, but also as a relaxation area when at anchor in a tranquil bay. Here one also find a dining area forward of the helm stations with two sofas and extendable tables.





Moving forward on deck, a sleek deckhouse and flush continuous surface allows for easy and safe moving about on deck. The streamlined superstructure is a trademark of Nauta Yachts and is a continuation of the style seen on the smaller yachts such as the A60 and A66 in the Advanced Italian Yachts' range.



Inside, Pedol and Gino have designed three different layout options for owners to choose from when considering the A80 as their next yacht. *Apsaras* boasts a three cabin layout with the full beam master suite located aft, with two twin cabins placed amidships.



Coming down the companion way, one hardly notice a change in ambience light, as the abundance of skylights in the coach roof floods the salon with natural light, and together with a neutral colour scheme, adds to the spaciousness experienced throughout the yacht.



This area features a large dining area and functional galley on the port side with a living area to starboard.



Innovative features are found all around the yacht, but is not always visible. The construction for instance is made of sandwich panels of carbon reinforced fibreglass panels with epoxy resins in a vacuum infusion process. Unidirectional carbon fibre is applied in high load areas.

