

By Lisa Larsen

ST. MAARTEN CHARTER SHOW REVIEW

Additional information is available at edmistoncompany.com

DECO DIVA

204'4" *LADY CHRISTINA*

The largest of the 38 yachts showing at the Port de Plaisance Marina, presented by Edmiston and Company, was *Lady Christina* at 204'4", a newcomer to the charter circuit. Interior designer, François Zuretti, who designed the owner's previous Benetti, has juxtaposed contemporary décor with Art Deco embellishments. The architecture trends toward home rather than yacht. The owner is an avid football fan, and the panoramic salon with its 62" flat screen TV is sure to be a favorite spot to watch games. The full-beam salon, with no exterior decks to usurp volume, opens onto the private aft deck. In an unusual configuration, the split-level master suite, with 180-degree forward views, has an enormous bathroom with a shower "powerful enough to create a storm," as Captain Jon Spillar puts it. Other interesting features include a fully equipped beauty salon with massage table, a gym with steam room and state-of-the-art equipment, port and starboard tender garages with twin two-ton davits that launch tenders off the side in a slick maneuver, and wheelchair accessibility. *Lady Christina* can accommodate 10 guests in five staterooms but is best suited for a family or two couples. The vessel is chartering in the Caribbean, or as per client request, and is also available for purchase.

Capt. Steve McDonald commands more of a ship than a yacht. He characterizes the original owner as a bit of a character, who built the yacht with a full-displacement, high-tensile steel hull, very heavily framed, to navigate the most challenging seas, very unlikely to occur on her Caribbean charter circuit. Built in New Zealand at Sensation Yachts and available for charter or sale through Burgess, she accommodates 12 guests in six cabins with a crew of 12. Unique features include a versatile VIP suite that can connect to the neighboring twin for use as nanny quarters, or be converted to a private salon. The unabashedly masculine sky lounge, furnished with opulent and oversized black leather-upholstered seats, is a comfortable space where everyone seems to congregate. Rare flame mahogany, which owes its name to the voluptuous flame-like grain pattern, covers the panels. Parquet floors lead out to teak decks woven in an intricate herringbone pattern. Aft on the sundeck and above the Jacuzzi, an etching in Chinese characters meaning "peace under heaven" refers to John Clavell's novel *Noble House*, the inspiration for the owner's first business venture.

Please visit burgessyachts.com for further information

GALLANT AND GRACIOUS

173'6" *NOBLE HOUSE*



Additional information is available at fraseryachts.com

MID-CENTURY MODERN

This Codecasa yacht launched at the company's Viareggio shipyard in 1997, last year underwent a makeover that created a buzz at the show. The imposing gun-metal grey hull is surmounted by a white superstructure enveloping a sprawling full-beam master suite and five guest staterooms. Unique features include a Jacuzzi spectacularly located at the foremost apex of the sundeck, and a huge movie screen aft. *Cyan's* designer Nina Seirafi gave us a walkthrough. "I wanted to bring the outside color in," she said. "The effort was to make it modern and airy with some African elements, kind of primitive lines. Now it feels much wider, lighter, new and fresh, and yet we still have all of this old, traditional English millwork. It's a nice marriage of the old and the new," said Seirafi, who scoured Sotheby's catalogues and furniture galleries for functional works of art. Her finds include the yacht's 1970s limited-edition, footed side table by San Francisco architect John Dickinson, chairs by Brazilian architect Sergio Rodriguez and a blackened-bronze game table, one of only 11, made by contemporary French designer Paul Mathieu. Although *Cyan* is Seirafi's first yacht she says it's just the beginning.



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PASSIONATE CRUISING

Formerly *Anthea P.A.*, this yacht designed by naval architect Richard Klein, was launched at the Euroship Cees Cornelissen shipyard in Holland BV in 1997. Now known as *Va Bene*, the yacht spent much of last year undergoing a major refit at the British Pendennis Shipyard in Falmouth. Work included partially replacing the main and bridge decks, reconfiguring the sun deck, overhauling mechanics, upgrading audio visual and electronics systems and updating the interior. H2 Yacht Design of London gave each stateroom a unique ambience. Original art was selected by Eric Clapton, the present owner, who fondly writes about his yacht in his recently published autobiography. *Va Bene* carries 12 guests to comply with the charter registry, however, a combination of Pullman beds in the cabins and convertible sofas in the master study add five additional berths, offering tremendous flexibility for families. New high-tech features include study glass doors that change from transparent to opaque for privacy, a new plasma TV recessed on a remotely-controlled swinging arm and new helm instrumentation with eye-catching pneumatic-air engine controls. The leather upholstery exactly matches the color palette of the owner's sports car. Captain Nick Line, an admirable raconteur who has been on board since 2002, is now acting manager and rotation captain while building a new 180' yacht at Proteksan-Turquoise.