



Nauta designs elegant 58m explorer

► Nauta Design has kept its core principles in mind during the design of a 58m expedition vessel. Nauta's motto reads: 'Simplicity is the essence of good design', and it has applied this in an effort to find a seamless relationship between a yacht's interior and exterior, and an elegant balance between the parts of the superstructure, enjoyment of the sea and the surrounding environment.

The Nauta 58 Explorer appears to meet the common characteristics of the type: good toy and tender storage, stability, and range – but within an elegant superstructure.

'We were inspired by an ocean tugboat style-yacht of 64m, *Itasca*,' says Mario Pedol, CEO of Nauta Design. 'Our brokerage division sold her to Carlo De Benedetti, and he has completed three world tours on her. We started from that concept and made it more functional, as well as softening a certain harsh look that a professional ship has and making some technical areas into leisure spaces.'

About 100m² of tender and toy storage is on the main deck, while the forward part of the deck is wide body and includes four guest cabins.

On the lower deck, moving the engine room forward to amidships

has opened up space for a huge wellness area. This consists of a 90m² 'sea lounge' with 7m-wide fold-down platforms both sides and a 6.5m-wide platform off the stern. Forward is a 55m² gym.

The owner occupies the forward part of the upper deck in a 90m² suite divided into cabin, office, living room, walk-in wardrobe and en suite. The space has views all around thanks to continuous windows, while forward on the foredeck is a whirlpool of 2m in diameter.

The bridge deck forward belongs to the captain: his cabin, the wheelhouse and radio room are here. Aft on this level guests enjoy a large terrace with a bar and sofas. At 10m above sea level, the sundeck is an observatory from which guests can see without being seen.

The Nauta 58 Explorer would be 900 tonnes displacement with a draught of 3.5m to ensure optimal stability and provide a large space in the tank deck for a walk-in fridge-freezer, laundry and pantry.

Two Cat 3516B, 1,686kW (2,260hp) engines push the yacht to a top speed of 15 knots and 12 knots economical cruising. With 275,000 litres of fuel on board it would have a range of about 7,000 miles at 10 knots.

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Yacht owners aid marine study using new app

► Yacht owners have been invited to track the effects of climate change using a free smartphone app (iPhone or Android).

The global project by Plymouth University's Marine Institute will measure the amount of phytoplankton in the world's oceans, with information gathered by seafarers. Scientists fear the population of the microscopic beings, at the very start of the marine food chain, is in decline due to rising sea temperatures. If true, this could have consequences for every aspect of marine life.

Contributors will lower overboard a Secchi Disk (a device used to measure water transparency) attached to a measuring tape, and the

depth at which it disappears from sight estimates the amount of phytoplankton in the sea. This depth can then be uploaded to a database using the Secchi app.

'A scientific paper published last year suggested the ocean's plankton population had declined by as much as 40 per cent since 1950,' says biologist Dr Richard Kirby, who is leading the study. 'Like all marine creatures, phytoplankton have a preferred optimum sea temperature no matter where they are in the world, and we need to know more about how they are changing, to understand the effects on the ocean's biology.'

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