



by Georgia Tindale

EXPLORERS & FAMILIES

ON BOARD *STELLA DI MARE*



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WHEN IT COMES TO CUSTOM EXPLORER SUPERYACHTS, SIZE ISN'T EVERYTHING. ON DISPLAY AT LAST YEAR'S MONACO YACHT SHOW WAS THE 39.67-METRE, 430 GT SUPERYACHT *STELLA DI MARE*, BUILT BY CBI NAVI AND DELIVERED TO HER FAMILY OF EXPERIENCED ITALIAN OWNERS LAST SUMMER.

Originally contracted to Mondomarine and with her construction beginning in Savona in early 2015, when the shipyard faced financial difficulties, the 40-metre explorer project was moved to Viareggio for completion at the **CBI Navi** yard in 2017. Built to RINA class, *Stella di Mare* features naval architecture and exterior design by **HydroTec**. Her classic silhouette is enhanced with a contemporary edge and she sports the full displacement steel hull and bulbous bow which you would expect on a long-range explorer vessel.

With the family previously owning a Darwin 96' (built by Cantiere delle Marche), they were looking for a superyacht with increased interior volume and storage space to suit their desire to spend up to four months on board each year - notably for their upcoming trip to the Arctic Circle later this year. With this in

mind, comfort and self-sufficiency were key requirements for their next vessel, as well as being able to deliver on the technical side.

Thankfully, technically, *Stella di Mare* does deliver. With power provided by twin 1000 hp Caterpillar engines, she can achieve a maximum speed of 14 knots and a cruising speed of 10.5 knots, with her generous range of 6,900 nautical miles ideal for an explorer vessel.

Another aspect of *Stella di Mare* which makes her stand out from the crowd can be found in her full-custom interior design. Commissioned by her owners from the drawing boards of the Turin-based studio, **Fossati Design Bureau**, her design combines timeless Italian style with fresh, contemporary features which complement her bold exterior.



Stepping inside, *Stella di Mare* can accommodate 14 guests in a master suite on the forward main deck and four cabins on the lower deck. The formal saloon, coming complete with a double 'L' shaped sofa, is connected to the dining area which contains a unique design feature: a bulkhead, custom designed by Fossati in brushed bronze and wenge and featuring a huge circular map of the world by the London-based company, Bellerby & Co, with a large globe by the same company in pride of place in the sky lounge.

The principal wood found in her interior design is warm walnut which is deliberately cut to expose its distinctive flame pattern and densely striped grain, with tinted cherry and wenge inserts used for the flooring. Notably too, rather than the more traditional marble, the owners used a laminated porcelain stoneware called Kerlite for the wet surfaces of the bathrooms and dayheads.

To find out more, we sat down with interior designer Umberto Fossati to learn how *Stella di Mare's* interior styling took shape.

Q: Why do you think the owners of *Stella di Mare* chose to commission Fossati Design Bureau for the interior design?

A: I think this was because of the way we think about our projects: we don't just follow a set 'style' from the studio which is similar for every project but it is always tailored to the client. We always start by focusing the project on an exact period's style, thanks to our knowledge of architectural history, and then personalise it with the influence of another period, always keeping the 'master' style period clear. I also think we were chosen because of the way we consider the interior architecture before the interior decor and because of our attention to detail.



Q: Tell me more about your working relationship with the owners: did they have exacting requirements for the interior design?

A: The owners wanted to have a yacht of substance which was not just about appearance; her style is not 'trendy' but timeless with a clear imprint of Italian elegance and a touch of formality on the main deck appropriate for the business which they will conduct onboard.

We needed to meet the requirements of the three generations who will live onboard: from a seven-year-old grandchild to a 76-year-old grandfather! The owners requested that we bring onboard some details from one of our previous interior design projects which they really loved: Galileo G - built by Perini Navi in 2011 - such as the ceiling and floor design.

Q: What are the standout interior design features on Stella di Mare?

A: In the upper deck interior lounge we've included a built-in space on the bulkhead for artwork. It is currently being utilised for the owners' private collection of antique Venetian prints, but it is already being envisioned that it will be used for a growing collection of post-war period paintings.

For the kids' cabin we designed a custom print integrated on the wardrobe bulkhead with their favourite cartoon characters. We were also careful to check the colour changes of any interior materials (wood, leather and so on) to see what they would look like after stabilisation, so the chosen shades will continue to match in the future.



Q: Stella di Mare is not just for show: she is an explorer vessel which will be covering some serious mileage in the years to come, including a trip to the Arctic Circle. How did this factor impact the interior design?

A: We had to ensure that we had adequate space for all the technical staff needed onboard for the long range expeditions which she will undertake. We were also aware that, during long trips we could also come across rough seas: the owners were not scared of this but enjoyed testing their explorer in these conditions. Consequently, we included systems to fix things into storage and a safe shutter/door closing system to face this situation. All free standing furniture is fixed on the floor and all of the installations we have done are customised against vibrations.

Q: How do you feel about your work on Stella di Mare now she is in the hands of her owners?

A: After delivery, her owners told me, "we already feel as if we have been living on board for a long time [...] we feel completely at home". Now all they need to do is to enjoy the purpose for which they built her: going on adventures. *Stella di Mare* was designed without thinking about trends but achieves a timeless style, containing a truly balanced mixture between classic and contemporary shapes.