

WOW



Sea Different

New Wake 66

Following the successful launch of the Wake 48, Wayachts, the Milan-based boatyard, recently introduced its new Wake 66 at the Genoa Boat Show. With the Wake 48, normality went overboard when it came to conception, design and production methodology, and the 66 takes this crusade one step further.

Stop. Look. Look again. It's a 20-metre yacht that looks like a superyacht. Well, 20.2 metres to be precise, and it reaches 36 knots with ease while carrying 16 passengers. *That*, is something to write home about. And if

it's distance you want, its cruising speed is 32 knots for 300 nautical miles – way above what almost every other yacht in this size range manages to crank out when going for broke. This raw power comes courtesy of the two 700hp diesel Volvo Penta IPS 900 engines. Alternatively, new owners

may want to opt for two 900 hp diesels.

Of course, no one said you have to dock your latest plaything locally. More and more South Africans have found a great way of combining their European holidays with a yacht shared among friends in the seaside pleasure resorts of Turkey, Greece, Malta,



Spain, Sardinia, the Cote D'Azur region, or a myriad little bays and alcoves off the Italian coastline. And in these calm Mediterranean waters, with just a few weeks to visit so many new places, one would suggest opting for the more efficient, steady cruising range of engines. Spend that extra money you save on horse power on the finest wines of the regions you are visiting instead.

The Wake 48 was groundbreaking in many ways, but most of all for its walk-around design. Doing away with deck steps as well as the unsightly handrail the industry has almost started taking as a norm, the look of the yacht remains significantly cleaner than its dockyard neighbours. From these design innovations grew the philosophy of *live-around* yachting. Designer and architect Francesco Rolla describes their concept as "luxury with emotion". For the passenger, it means open areas with soft round curves and comfort in every nook and cranny, all executed with an aesthetic that is just so Italian.

With the Wake 66, Wayachts builds on this tradition, yet by moving into a larger size range, the zipiness of the 48 now becomes pure elegance. The two models differ primarily because the 66 model is designed to achieve the maximum possible space inside a hard top, while the 48 really remains a boat for a day out in the open sun. Still, the general shape of the 66 model remains close to that of the 48. In the latter, the bulwarks are important for the interior volume and they flank the entrance stairs. In the Wake 66 model, the bulwarks are more streamlined and slope gently aft, making the sidelines smoother. And it does wonders for the aesthetics of the yacht. Note how the glass and side panels of the upper decks leave the impression of a swan at sea.

There are other significant elaborations added to the larger 66. The Wake 66 model shares some features with the 48 model but, being larger, the layout and certain features of this boat's interior are more complex, making the design of Wake

66 somewhat unique among boats of this sort. The main theme of this model is not a new way of designing aisles, as it was with the Wake 48 model, but the design of an innovative living area.

To achieve this live-around feel, the Wake 66 model comes in either a two-and-a-half deck open or hard-top version, and offers either three or four cabins (plus the crew cabin), each with a private toilet. The deckhouse, as with that of the model preceding it, is an elliptical element that defines and encloses the deck areas. The hard top is the main area of the deck. The deck covering can be adjusted to screen the sunlight completely, partially or not at all. Along with the pilot station, the hard top becomes the central part of the deck. From there, one reaches sundecks fore and aft. The aft sundeck is body-shaped, whereas the fore sundeck is a large, three-person sunbed.

There are but a few people who could aspire to own this graceful craft. See www.wayachts.it. ☼