

› VITTERS RIBELLE

A LOVE AFFAIR

32.64 METRES LONG, BUILT BY THE DUTCH VITTERS YARD TO A DESIGN BY MALCOLM McKEON, HERE IS A SUPERB SAILING YACHT IN WHICH TITANIUM, CARBON AND COPPER ARE THE PROTAGONISTS. WITH A DISPLACEMENT OF ONLY 84 TONS, SHE MADE HER SUCCESSFUL DEBUT IN 2017 AT THE LORO PIANA SUPERYACHT REGATTA OF PORTO CERVO. BUT THE YACHT IS ALSO A CULTURAL OPERATION AS THE OWNER EXPLAINS TO US

by Marta Gasparini
Photos: C. Baroncini, C. Borlenghi e J. Brown





Slightly “debonair” we say in English, casual, ironic, disenchanted and bucking the trend, Paola (the owner) impels and sweeps her listeners along while talking about her *Ribelle* (the new jewel of the Dutch Vitters yard) which together with her husband she wanted in order to sail and race with Maxi yachts. Both are famous lawyers, collectors and great travellers who live in a beautiful historical building in the centre of Milan, characterised by a glass dome similar to an observatory, a “conspicuous point” in the heart of the metropolis. «We wanted a house full of light, with no walls except the outer ones», she begins. «And aboard *Ribelle* too, we have repeated the same design philosophy».

The couple has a long experience in sailing and three world tours to their name: he has been sailing since he was a boy and she as long as she has known him. The list of their boats is a long one, to say the least; here we mention only a few for the record: from the first seven-and-a-half-metre *Calife*, a sloop built by the Jouet yard, to vintage boats («a beautiful 21-metre ketch, *Kalea*, the last produced by Cantieri di Pisa, with a lovely fireplace»). And it was with *Kalea* that Paola began to exert her vision of design through a radical transformation of the interior; this vision would subsequently characterise all her boats. Then there was the 50-metre *Zefira* designed by Ed Dubois and built by the New Zealanders at Fitzroy Yachts and, finally, *Ribelle* «to continue racing but also cruising, in a less demanding size and with truly spectacular interiors».

Let's get to know this last “arrival” from closer to. From the outside a feature that is striking is the barely pronounced deckhouse with its soft glass shape for a view of almost 360 degrees both indoors and out. The cockpit is completely uncluttered with all the fittings made to be retractable. The hull has a south of ledge in it, rather high on the water, which runs up forward to the bow and has a triple task: the front part increases stability when the boat is heeling, it adds space inside and, in the case of choppy seas and high speeds, it cuts the flow of water ensuring that less water is shipped on deck. Another peculiarity that immediately catches the eye is the stern: Malcom McKeon has softened the “look” by continuing the teak of the deck down over the edge. Thus the vertical rows of the teak planks lighten the impression of size.

For the interiors Paola wanted the French designer Rémi Tessier with whom she had already worked for *Zefira*. The result is a perfect synthesis between luxurious elegance and contemporary allure with a

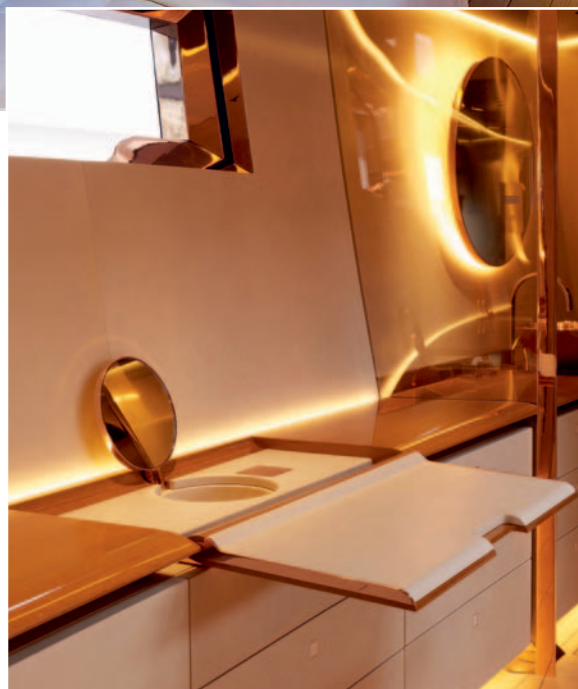


The owners smiling after the success at the Rolex Cup 2017 in the waters of Porto Cervo.

Beautiful reflections of copper, a material that aboard *Ribelle* enjoys a new season of glory in an ultramodern style. On the left, the dinette in the magic of twilight in which glossy teak instead becomes the protagonist.



The owner's cabin with the bed positioned in the centre which has made it possible to place the bathroom towards the bow, giving a feeling of expanded space. The special effect of the lighting at the base of the furnishings is extremely appealing. Alongside, a detail of the vanity area, which slides away so as not to interrupt the fluidity of the lines of the entire project.



three-cabin layout: owner, Vip and one with twin beds. For the crew, there are six berths in three cabins. «Usually there are four cabins on a yacht of this size», explains Paola, «but we have opted for a different concept: the crew and the galley are bonding elements on board, perhaps because we began our sailing life with small boats where there was only a single layout and it was always possible to cook something hot. I am also convinced that to work well the crew must be able to move around easily. That's why we preferred three cabins forward with dedicated bathroom and three aft for the crew; four people plus the skipper, whose accommodation also has a small studio».

The aim was to combine a regatta and cruise soul to create a performance yacht without sacrificing interiors and keeping faith with the owners' taste. «For us, luxury is having aboard all that we need to feel as good as at home», declares Paola, «so with



One of the guest cabins with twin beds. Below, a detail of the bathroom with a back-lit mirror. Accessories holder, light plates, faucets, handles are made of copper. This is a very marine yacht also in the décor, with furniture without sharp edges. Note the choice of fabrics and leathers (white leather) in light nuances and with no concessions to strong contrasting colours. The bed linen is by Limonta in pure white linen. Note the impressive lighting system with small copper lamps directed on specially designed points.



WITH HER NAME, RIBELLE ('REBEL') ALREADY BEARS THE CONCEPT OF CHALLENGE AND INCLUDES A TRIBUTE TO THE BEAUTY OF THE YACHT

Tessier we spent a year and a half doing a careful analysis of all the lightest materials offered by the market without sacrificing anything».

Regarding the galley (personally designed by the owner) she is keen to stress: «I love cooking and I know how a properly functional kitchen should be. In order not to limit the space, a retractable hood was installed, totally custom-made, designed and built by the famous Elica group, and this works perfectly. Everything must be within arm's reach; this is my rule. It looks like a restaurant kitchen, but in reality it is much smaller: it is only 2.60 metres wide, but there are tricks to increase the feeling of space: the

mirror in front of the (three) ovens, corners that hide drawers, secret compartments for contain everything needed for the preparation of challenging dishes». And the decision to place the hood beneath the cooking tops made it possible to insert a large window above the worktop from which air and light filter through in abundance.

The great innovation of this yacht is the use of copper, a strong-coloured, warm, bright and versatile metal with which Tessier has "forged" the transparent structure of the deckhouse using new solutions, as well as the furniture, the accessories, and every detail. «Rémi has perhaps found the only



The deck layout and sail plan were designed for racing and cruising. In cruise configuration, *Ribelle* is rigged with a self-tacking jib and furling asymmetrics for sailing with the wind aft. For regattas, she can depend on a set of ultra-competition sails and, in conditions of moderate wind, reach a speed of twenty knots. Note the beautiful "soft" teak stern. The chaise longues are custom-made and, when not used, are stowed in a dedicated locker.



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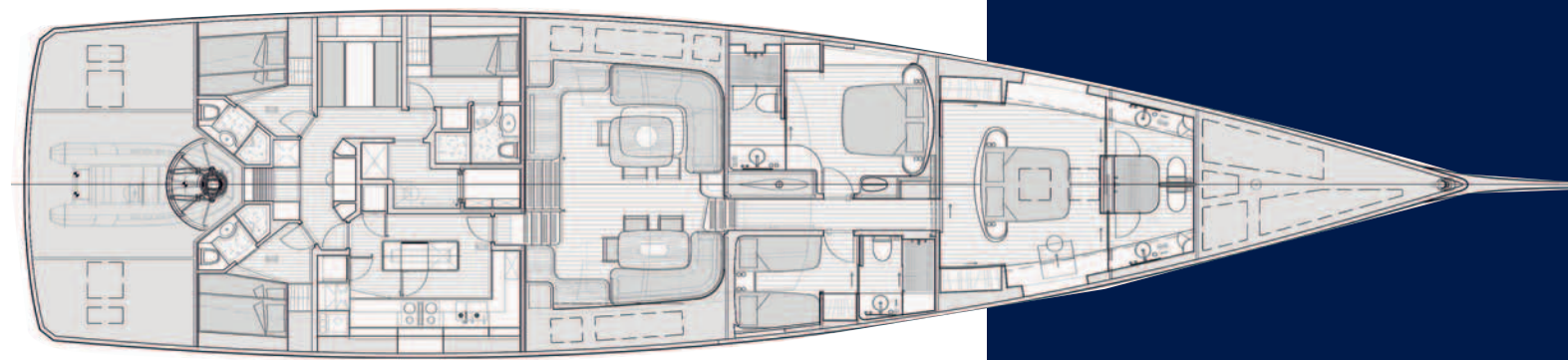


craftsman in the world capable of working this metal impeccably. Then it was treated so that it would not become oxidised».

In the three cabins, the feeling of space is emphasised by transparencies, mirrors, sliding doors that can be seen but seem to vanish and which, in accordance with a clear vision, give depth, air and light to the cabins, but not only. «*We did not want paintings, objects or strong colours that distract because the boat is a piece of art in her own right and does not need useless ornaments*». Even the ceilings follow this philosophy: that of the owner is lined in teak, while leather has been chosen for the cabins.

Another feature worth mentioning is the imposing sail plan with black carbon fibre sails by North Sails in line with the wishes of the owners who wanted to stress the racing character of *Ribelle*, born to win the most prestigious regattas: including the Rolex Cup 2017 in Porto Cervo.

The galley was one of the spaces most studied by the owner, who wanted three ovens, induction hobs, a blast chiller, a two-metre- long island plus a retractable hood and plenty of space for the pantry. There is also a little quirky feature: a warm drawer for coffee cups.



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VITTERS RIBELLE

NAVAL ARCHITECTURE / ARCHITETTURA NAVALE
Malcolm McKeon

EXTERIOR DESIGN / DESIGN ESTERNO
Malcolm McKeon

INTERIOR DESIGN / DESIGN INTERNO
Rémi Tessier Design

SPECIFICATIONS / DATI
Length overall / lunghezza f.t. m 32.64
length water line / lunghezza al gall. m 30.2
beam / larghezza m 7.72
draught (keel up/down) / pescaggio (chiglia su/giù) m 4.05 / 6.05
displacement / dislocamento t 86
water / acqua l 3,860
cabins / cabine 3 - guests / ospiti 6
crew / equipaggio 5 - cabins / cabine 3

ENGINE / MOTORE
Volvo Penta DC7 TA - fuel / carburante l 6,155

SAIL AREA / PIANO VELICO
main / randa m² 373 - blade / fiocco senza sovrapposizione m² 273
jib / fiocco m² 204 - asymmetric spinnaker
spinnaker asimmetrico m² 1,039

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