



Building up to the new season

Entering a new year anticipation is building toward a raft of exciting new launches by shipyards around the world. So what additions to the global fleet are on the horizon and which new designs will we be seeing floating at anchor or moored in marinas later this season? Pulling back the doors of construction hangars at a number of leading shipyards, we peer into the sheds for a glimpse into the future...





Columbus' New World

Sport Oceanic by Vafiadis

It's shaping up to be another busy year for the Columbus Yachts yard in Naples, Italy, having announced in recent months new collaborations with two design studios. The yacht building division of the Palumbo Group—one of the largest marine Groups in the central Mediterranean with over half a century of marine and ship building experience—began their presentation at the Monaco Yacht Show in September by explaining: "We have brought our shipping knowledge to yacht-building and created three stunning collections—the Classic, the Explorer and the innovative Sport Hybrid—under the Columbus Yachts brand."

The yard then went on to reveal not only a new line called the Columbus Sport Oceanic created in partnership with Studio Vafiadis, but also revealed that a unit from the collection was additionally in build. This means Columbus Yachts currently has no less than four superyacht constructions underway, including: a second Sport Hybrid to follow the 40S launched in 2013, the new Columbus Liberty 32, plus a 57m Classic Line full displacement vessel and a 70m. The first three are scheduled to be ready for

the 2015 Cannes Boat Show, whereas the latter one will be completed by September 2016. The progressive, fresh and dynamic cutting-edge stylistic approach of the Sport Oceanic is underwritten by extensive studies to ensure the yacht will create a minimal environmental impact too, including as it does the option for a hybrid propulsion system. With the Palumbo Group still being steered by Giuseppe Palumbo, the third generation of its founding family, the CEO's comment—"The ocean is something we need to respect and preserve for future generations," carried genuine sentiment. Interestingly, the model unveiled also exhibited the benefit of multi-generational input, with its contemporary lines showing the well-balanced experience and enthusiasm of the father and son design team; George Vafiadis and his son Stefano Inglese. The Sport Oceanic features an impressive collection of outdoor spaces, with extensive accommodation distributed throughout her decks. Included amongst the primary features of the 230' (70m) is a state-of-the-art beach club/Spa

served by a huge swim platform, all accessible from a lobby hidden in the Main Deck, plus an uninterrupted Fly Bridge with a well sized Jacuzzi, full bar, plus dining and lounging area. The interiors incorporate a generous salon on each of the main and upper decks, framed by large areas of glazing that should offer spectacular views. Guest accommodation is spread throughout the decks, with four cabins located strategically on the main deck, plus an owner's suite occupying the forward section. The last cabin, located forward on the upper deck, is a VIP Suite that can play the role of a modest master.

The lower deck hosts large technical spaces and the tender garage, optimized to provide the best of the space available to the beach area, while the same applies to the well-organized crew area. Both the elevator and the guest stairs reach the Lower Deck with a dedicated lateral entrance and lobby for the owner from the sea that, unused, can become a gym with direct access to the water. The Columbus Yachts Sport Oceanic is currently in build with a scheduled delivery date in September 2016.

...and Liberty 33m project unveiled

Several weeks after the Monaco show, across the Atlantic at the Fort Lauderdale counterpart, Columbus Yachts announced the second of their new collaborations and designs, this time with designer Marco Casali of Too-Design Studio. The brand new Columbus Liberty 33m is also currently under construction at the Palumbo Group Naples Yard and represents the first unit in the brand's range of fast trawlers from 82' to 124' (25 to 38m). The yard explained to us the underlying characteristic of the design brief for the Liberty series is one of freedom: "the freedom to cruise at your preferred speed, freedom of living space aboard, freedom of sensual experience and the freedom one feels from being unique." In terms of cruising performance, the hull design has been optimized to package with the award winning Palumbo Hybrid System propulsion

technology, offering remarkably low consumption and emissions for extended passages at 12-knots and efficient cruising at speeds up to 20-knots. The low two-deck silhouette of the Liberty range leaves the upper level open for a large sundeck, with interior general arrangement configured in line with the client's wishes enjoying generous proportions, thanks to the long wide beam hull. The main deck shows full height glazing, ensuring a bright salon and dining area, and there is the possibility of optioning the galley on-deck or locating it below. The forward section of the main deck is devoted to a garage for tenders up to a sizeable 19' (6m), with a guest entertainment area visible in front of the wheelhouse. The placement of the tender garage forward liberates space in the stern for a dinette with an American bar, or a spa and gym, behind the glazed

transom that leads onto the swim platform. Effectively, Casali and Columbus have created a split-level beach club on a 104' (32m) yacht, as the area connects rather well with the two large aft sunpads and small pool suspended over it in the cockpit. Up above, on the sundeck, the team has renderings for version both with a hardtop and without... we've shown the option with a hardtop as it's likely to be the one that will appeal most to the market in the Americas. Suggested interior GA's include crew accommodation on the lower deck, with between three and five guest cabins, which when added to an on-deck owner's suite could offer up to twelve guest berths. Though a total of five cabins would probably be optimal, the option of the sixth could make for an interesting charter proposal.

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