

SuperYacht

industry

SYI Vol. 8 Issue 2 | 2019

What Makes a Yacht
'Charter-able'?

BROKERS REVEAL TIPS

Benetti's Lyana

CHIAROSCURO CHARMER

TAIBA TWO POINT OH!
PALUMBO'S TOP NOTCH REFIT

Taiiba

TWO POINT OH!

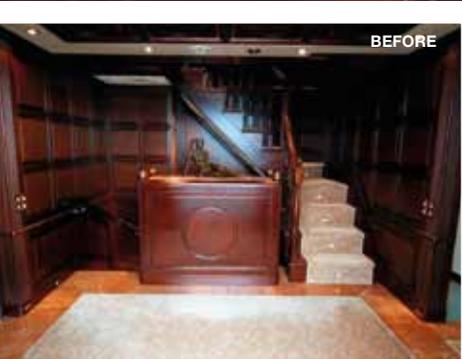




TAIBA JUST CELEBRATED HER SWEET SIXTEEN IN STYLE

Built by Benetti in 1997 as the first in their successful Golden Bay series, the 50m superyacht underwent a major refit last year at the Italian shipyard Palumbo in Naples. And her beauty seems to only increase with age. Palumbo gave SYI a before and after look of the refit, as Taiba enters the next 2.0 phase of her fabulous life at sea. >>

WORDS BY COURTNEY FRAY
PHOTOS COURTESY OF PALUMBO SHIPYARD





The owner wanted to take the traditional Taiba into the modern era. She burst onto the scene in the 90s as the embodiment of style and class and sixteen years later it was time for a little cosmetic attention – sixteen is nearly 60 in yacht years after all. Palumbo needed to make her interior feel both bright and fresh while preserving her signature mahogany woodcraft. For her exterior areas, Palumbo had their work cut out for them as well with major maintenance ahead. Tasked with painting and polishing the hull as well as the superstructure – and re-laying portions of the teak deck – there was plenty of work to go around.

The Palumbo refit team worked with the sole mission to put Taiba back on the market in mint condition. Which according to the yard, proved not too difficult since the same family owned the superyacht throughout the years and used her primarily in the Mediterranean. As Palumbo put it, “there were no major issues to deal with” – a rarity in the refit of a ship over fifteen years old, yet a testament to her quality build and upkeep.

Record Time Refit

Taiba may have waited sixteen years for a makeover, but she did not have to wait nearly as long for it to be complete. In fact, thanks to the skills and competence of the in-house Palumbo team, Taiba was refitted in record time – barely two months to be exact – and in the heat of an Italian summer no less. Her speedy refit was a must – she had to be on display at the Monaco Yacht Show 2012 and looking her best while available for viewing at anchor.

Colour Me Cheerful

Crucial to her transformation – the owner, together with the Palumbo Shipyard architects and Laura Pomponi, who was in charge of the interior decoration, decided to lighten the interior palette of Taiba. They selected fresh, natural fabrics in luminous pastel colours, which intentionally show off the mahogany joinery. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the main stairway display. Before the refit, the area had a dark, masculine feel dominated by the mahogany, but cream, silk panels and carpeting breathed new life into the space. The renovation was literally night and day.

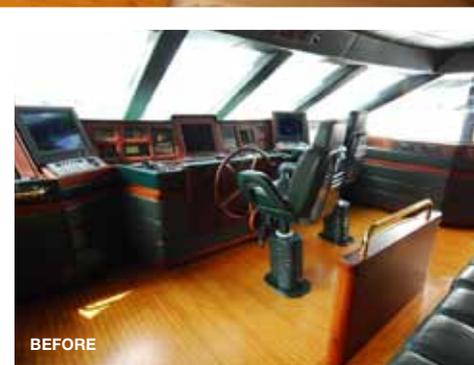
The floors in the owner and guest suites have similar handmade cream silk carpeting and new ceiling panels in Ultraleather. New panels with cross-stitched leather cover the bulkheads, not to mention, Palumbo newly chromed all of the hardware accessories. Taiba shines from the inside out.

Every Last Detail

The shipyard restored the marble throughout the yacht. This was quite a feat considering marble covered much of Taiba’s interior. Palumbo also installed new fixtures in all of the washrooms, replaced lighting throughout the ship and either replaced or restored the loose furniture on board. Taiba started to settle into her 2.0 phase at this point. In her main deck lounge, designers not only brought in new sofas and armchairs, but also made sure the space had what every >>



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The top deck will surely be a coveted spot for intimate drinks... or much-needed relaxation.



BEFORE

superyacht wants for her sweet sixteen – designer crystal lighting, both on the bulkheads and over the dining room table. This delicate touch is just the frosting she needed to make her really sparkle.

Palumbo then paid particular attention to the refurbishment of her external deck space. To better showcase the deck's exceptional size and layout, the yard gave it a complete overhaul. In addition to sanding the teak, the team reupholstered all of the outdoor seating in fresh, sea blue cotton and decorated the deck with elegant loose teak furniture. Palumbo also made sure the Jacuzzi system was restored to tip top condition and repainted large portions of the deck area. Now the top deck will surely be a coveted spot for intimate drinks at the bar or much-needed relaxation either in the hot tub or atop the soft sunbeds.

As for each of the living quarters, Palumbo refreshed the bedrooms with new style and carpentry. Like the rest of the ship, the rooms immediately took on a modern new feel with every step of the renovation. It was as if Taiba travelled through time from early 90s into this century, in the utmost elegance. Palumbo also upgraded and refurbished all of the crew quarters. It seems everyone who steps aboard will get the chance to enjoy Taiba's stylish, new life.

Techie's Dream

Known for their technical prowess and attention to detail, Palumbo was sure not to neglect a key ingredient

to this refit – Taiba's techie side. They restored the engine room, the necessary systems and equipment on board as well as introduced a state-of-the-art entertainment system. Built during a time when the Internet was just starting to make its mark, Taiba now enjoys all the comforts of modern technology. Palumbo even catapulted the wheelhouse from the 90s – when hunter green was the interior colour of choice – into the present-day with beautiful neutrals and high tech systems. The wheelhouse's now posh interior and user-friendly interface is a marine techie's dream.

Of Taiba's vast transformation, Giuseppe Palumbo, Managing Director of the Palumbo yard, commented that he was "proud of quality of work achieved by the refit team in such a short time frame," and that this "showed the capabilities of the yard at its best". And as anyone can see from the before and after photos, this certainly seems to ring true.

i. www.palumbo.it

SPECS

Refit Yard	Palumbo Shipyard 2012
Builder	Benetti 1997
Interior Design	Palumbo Shipyard Laura Pomponi

Accommodation	
Guests	12
Crew	10
Owner's Cabin	1
Double Cabins	2
Twin Cabins	2
Pullman Cabins	2

Class	ABS + A1 Yachting Service AMS, MCA Compliant
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