



YACHTING - a sustainable future

The superyacht industry is navigating an innovative journey towards sustainability. It is actively committed to satisfy today's needs without adversely affecting future generations.

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Three key trends influencing the global yachting industry are: design processes that enhance the sustainable credentials of yachts; design and build projects that develop the most environmental friendly yachts; and adventure travels that put conservation at their heart.

Winch Design, for example, use natural materials with environmentally friendly glues and lacquers and have benefited from the expanding range of products available on the market, such as bamboo-silk carpets and organic cotton.

Interior aboard Neninka



When selecting a special finish, Winch Design will always try to choose a finish from a sustainable source and has the correct certification to validate this. Where possible they try to source finishes from local companies with ethical credentials who use localised products, which minimises their carbon footprint whilst investing in the local economy. Equally, they will try to avoid using rare or endangered species in their designs and consciously selects wood veneers from species that are rapidly renewable. They also focus on the durability of the materials that they plan to use and consider the end-of-life recyclability of each.

The interior spaces on 67m M/Y Neninka (ex. Aurora Borealis) which was delivered in 2019 by Amels, are inspired by the natural world. There is a show stopping cloud-cut and back-lit wall of honey Onyx extending through five decks behind a spiralling staircase.

“We must always ask ourselves, what else can we be doing? It must be our collective effort to enhance and promote ecologically viable technologies which will have a minimal impact on our oceans. We must ensure the ocean remains as beautiful and inspirational for the generations ahead, as it has been for the generations that have come before.”

Andrew Winch



Black Pearl

Black Pearl is a unique design following one man's ambition to design and build the most environmental friendly superyacht possible. Black Pearl is currently the greenest or most sustainable yacht sailing at this time.

The 106.7m Dyna Riggged vessel can sail trans-Atlantic using zero fossil fuels which is no mean feat for a yacht carrying 26 crew and 12 guests whilst running all her 'House' systems (galley, laundry, air conditioning etc). This is all achievable due to a combination of unique features such as a state of the art Dyna-rig sailing system and a hybrid propulsion installation with a high capacity battery bank. This hybrid propulsion can be used to run the vessel for a number of hours plus regeneration mode when under sail. Additionally, a number of systems are optimised to allow the 'House' load to be reduced compared to normal. The vessel has additional thermal insulation to reduce the requirement for AC whilst maintaining the comfort level on-board. This is supported by double glazing throughout the vessel.

To achieve all of this it was necessary for the owner of Black Pearl to invest more than normal into the project, but also for the shipyard to show great flexibility, invest more time in engineering and also push back their usual build slots, to allow time to develop and complete the vessel.

“For Black Pearl a great deal of time was spent in meetings with various suppliers optimising systems which had never really been placed into a superyacht. During this time and since sailing, it was discovered that with all the excess power from the regeneration the next generation of sailing yachts should be able to be built zero fossil fuel reliant. This using technology now proven on Black Pearl but also using a combination of solar and wind generation to produce hydrogen on-board whilst sailing, compress and store this hydrogen therefore meaning no need to ever stop ashore to refill fuel. So the potential future of sailing is with a combination of Hydrogen and batteries.”

Owner's Representative
Derek Munro of Divergent Yachting Ltd

Luxury adventure company Cookson Adventures has put conservation at the heart of its experiences for many years and been the catalyst for its clientele, some of the world's most influential and successful people, donating millions of pounds to worthwhile causes. From crucial work carried out in the

Galápagos Islands, rehoming 250 juvenile tortoises in locations they have been absent from for over 200 years, to funding rhino rehabilitation in Kenya, HNWs are increasingly keen to engage in philanthropic activities.

The team of adventure specialists also helped discover a new type of killer whale. Dr Robert Pitman, an expert in whale ecology and systems, led the research off Cape Horn. The research, funded solely by a client of Cookson Adventures, unveiled new findings in orca genetics and movement patterns, finally putting a project that was 15 years in the making into action.

“I started Cookson Adventures over ten years ago because of my love for all that is rare and beautiful on this planet. Since then, we've made it our mission to visit some of the world's most remote destinations but, most importantly, leave them better than we found them through various conservation and sustainability efforts. By putting captains and yacht owners in contact with experts such as climate crisis scientists and marine biologists, we have been able to bring about real change. We're enabling scientific research that otherwise may not have happened. The benefit of this is twofold. Our clients can give back to the planet while they explore and also engage in hands-on, enriching experiences as part of their adventure. We have a responsibility to use our position to influence these highly successful individuals. As a further step, we have also been carbon offsetting each of our adventures from January 2020.”

Henry Cookson

