The Art of Sailing
Vertige

Penned by Francesco Paszkowski Design, this modern, sophisticated 50-metre from Tankoa Yachts is the product of perfect teamwork and the brainchild of an expert owner.

by Désirée Sorman - ph. by BluePod
The most beautiful 50-metre ever!” is how Vertige’s owner defines his new yacht. A vessel he wanted very much despite already owning another. Vertige was a project on every level for his owner. He was there for every step of her design and build and also plans not just to enjoy her to the full but also put her on the charter market. Built by the Ligurian yard Tankoa and penned by Francesco Paszkowski Design which collaborated with Margherita Casprini on the interiors, Vertige made a dazzlingly successful society debut at the Monaco Yacht Show and the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show. The striking harmony between her interior and exterior aside, what grabbed the world’s attention was the clear and very meticulous sourcing of materials and architectural elements she showcases. This is a yacht on which the yard lavished huge time and effort as well as very nearly delivering her bang on time, exactly two years to the day of her sale in February 2015. “It was an interesting project: everyone set out to create the most elegant 50-metre on the market,” says Michel Karsenti, Sales Director at Tankoa. Vertige has a profusion of exterior areas, all dedicated to the joy of al fresco living and designed to allow the crew to move around as efficiently as possible without impinging on guest privacy. We adored the large communal area forward and the astonishingly large sun pad aft on the main deck. Also up there was the spacious open air lounge area with bar that also encompasses the two seafarers terraces which extend a good three metres in length. Staying aft but moving to the upper deck, an al fresco dining zone for hosting lunchers and dinners for up to 14. The sundeck, on the other hand, affords unparalleled 360-degree views. It has an open air section with bar and two sunning zones, one with loungers and the other sun pads, around the Jacuzzi. The beach area provides yet another zone for guest to congregate and is created by lowering the stern door. It even includes a magnificently kitted-out water-skimming gym with its own shower and bar. The interiors are a hymn to elegance. Myriad beautifully-crafted details create a welcoming yet refined ambience with everything contriving around the balance of dark rosewood and bleached teak. Likewise leather (used for paneling and floors in the cabins and lobby) and bronze edging (a nod to the return to popularity of this metal). One of the owner’s must-haves was two state rooms on the main deck and four identical ones on the lower. Consequently, Vertige boasts a full-beam master suite forward on her main deck with a VIP state room at its back. Both offer similar styles, materials, standards of comfort, panoramic views and lighting. They are not perfectly identical, however. In one, for example, the bed headrest is white but grey in the other. The master also has a dressing room and private lounge as well as two bathrooms that open out to form two large balconies. Its bathrooms is spectacular too with a Jerusalem stone floor, onyx handwash and unit fronts, and tiger onyx shower trim. There are three double guest cabins on the lower deck as well as one twin that can convert to a double. The floating stairs between the various decks is a striking architectural element in its own. The saloon on the main deck is warm and welcoming with its own dining area. Subtle curves and beige add to its appeal and guests can enjoy amazing views from the comfort of the sofa, thanks to large windows and deliberately low bulkheads. The sky lounge on the upper deck delivers the same breathtaking vistas – a huge sofa seats up to 20 guests and doubles as a cinema area. Vertige really is the yacht that has everything. It’s hardly a huge surprise therefore that she has already been chartered for 11 weeks with a further seven planned for this winter in the Caribbean before she returns to the Mediterranean for an already almost-booked out summer season. www.tankoa.it
Left, the office area in the master suite. Note the Vitra chair by Charles Eames. And, below, the bedroom with balcony that opens onto the sea. Above right, the dining area on the main deck featuring Poliform Grace chairs. Below right, the double guest cabin on the lower deck.
Exterior Design

Francesco Paszkowski Design

Ventage is the result of an optimal collaboration between yard, owner and our studio. She’s a boat that we really did all create together, step-by-step. We were all on the same page from the very start about the development of the project. Its signatures are extensive research into materials and architectural elements. The yard really executed the work to a very high quality and standard of meticulousness. This was the first time it had to build a Tanka yacht with a plumb bow, an element that hints at the new trend in the yard. It also helped optimise space to the point that we could hide both the tender and the wet bike.

We worked on several different fronts for the exterior lines. The first thing we did was to supercharge the number of exterior surfaces (from sun pads to the convivial areas). We created terraces both forward and aft, and boosted areas that would be both open but also could be shaded from the sun, thanks to a system of removable awnings. To allow the eye room outward, we also got rid of the side bulwarks aft and created large windows. A solution that provides maximum continuity between interior and exterior. The stern cockpit is also generous with a sun pad area and a large sofa. Thanks to two side terraces, it also gives you the feeling of in a raised beach club in close contact with the sea.

Every last detail was lovingly and masterfully crafted by the yard’s own team of artisans who were meticulous in their realisation of the project. For instance, in the mooring area, we cut away the bulwarks to ensure that the fairleads were easily accessible to the crew.

Top, designer Francesco Paszkowski. Left, a detail of the walkway leading to the communal area forward (see right). The latter is a large and comfortable space where guests can chill and get together for casual yet private al fresco lunches. A huge emphasis was placed on getting all the exteriors just right. Top, one of the balconies that open off the main deck, extending its surface area.
After a series of preliminary meetings with the owner, the project took off with our suggestions as a starting point and the owner completed them with some personal requests. He’s an expert and very actively involved kind of person so he was always very present, wanting to see how the project was taking shape. We had to do some in-depth research into materials for the interiors and also a lot of work on combining the various textures and colours. The resulting leitmotifs in the interiors include most notably a constant balancing of the matt bleached natural teak used to trim the bulkheads and the floors, and glossy rosewood. A very powerful contrast.

The detail design plays a primary role in Vertige’s decor. You can see this, for instance, in the crafted glass tops used on the bedside units and handbasin surrounds and also the ones on the outdoor dining table, occasional tables and bar. They are a different colour to the ones used in the interior but consistent in style terms. They also have a metal border.

There is also great attention to detail in the leather used for the venetian blinds, the doors in the units in the master and VIP state rooms, and the hideaway electrical sockets in the bathroom units. There is great sophistication too in the rugs that were selected. They are all different. The same applies to the weaving of the headrests – again it is different in every cabin.

The focus on detail even extended to the ceilings which are all in 3D printed wood that is the same colour as the teak but broken at various points adding a sense of movement to the furnishing elements. In the master and VIP state rooms, we used unusual moire silk on the ceiling while in the two saloons (main and upper) the wood has a metallic finish – a kind of 3D-distressed bronze look. Bronzed brass is used again and again for many details, including for the trim of the coffee tables, bedside tables, owner’s desk and anti-coll fixtures in the bookshelves.

The interiors were styled in collaboration with Margherita Casprini (bottom photo). The décor centres entirely around striking a delicate balance between natural bleached teak and dark polished rosewood. There are also brass details and a myriad pieces from Italian designer brands. Vico Magistretti Atollo lamps by Oluce (facing page). Above: Dornbracht bathroom fittings and below the gorgeous floating staircase, an clever architectural element.
Edoardo Ratto, General Manager

We presented the Tankoa 501 project to the owner, an expert yachtsman who already owned his own vessel, at the 2015 MYS. It was the product of work carried out under instruction from Michel Karsenti, the previous designer, on some preliminary sketches. The owner was looking for a yacht of around 50 metres and under the 500 GT mark that he could use for the charter market. For the yard it was an extra challenge because we created a 50-metre by striking a perfect balance of interior and exterior spaces, coming up with solutions of the likes of opening sides in the aft cockpit, large balconies directly overlooking the sea at master stateroom level and an alfresco dining area on the upper deck complete with a 14-seater table. The sundeck has a Jacuzzi and large sun pads plus an alfresco area complete the magnificent relaxation areas. The design team embraced the requirements the owner specified. The yard’s goal is to turn every yacht into an incredibly high quality product. We always put a huge effort at the design, construction and delivery stages as well as into meeting all of the owner’s requests. In this instance, the owner wanted two cabins (master and VIP) on the main deck, a very fine audio-visual system with excellent sound quality, and an energy-efficient yacht. And that is what he got. We delivered a yacht he really, really likes not just stylistically but also performance-wise. She has a maximum speed of over 16 knots which is achievable at full load and also has a trans-ocean range in excess of 5,000 nm @ 11 knots.

We are very proud of Vertige. After completing construction of a 70-metre and 50-metre, she proves that the company’s exceptional expertise and that it has earned a rightful place alongside the most famous names on the international nautical scene.