



HOME *sweet* HOME

We step aboard the dark horse that
silently took the Monaco Yacht
Show by storm

Words: Michelle Johnson

In the realm of superyachts, there's no denying that innovation is king. Whether that means breaking cruising speed records or producing extraordinary interiors, the world's biggest shipyards are always looking for the next big thing – and now, the titans of ocean-bound luxury are turning their attention to the environment.

It's little wonder that Heesen Yachts saw their newest vessel Home sweep the deck for awards when it debuted at the Monaco Yacht Show earlier this year. The 49.8m superyacht won the MYS/RINA Green award for the most environmentally-friendly luxury vessel, the Baccarat SuperYachtWorld trophy, and Most Innovative Yacht accolade from World Yachts.

Ask why, and you'll discover a ground-breaking aluminium superyacht that is marking a new approach of quieter, cleaner builds from the Dutch shipyard, with Home debuting as the world's first ever 'Fast Displacement' vessel equipped with hybrid propulsion. In essence, this allows the yacht to switch seamlessly between a diesel mechanical engine, that cruises at a top speed of 16.3 knots, to an electrical engine, maxing out at 12 knots, meaning that the Home is more fuel-efficient and eco-friendly than any other Heesen yacht.

The sound of silence

A green fingered and environmentally responsible approach to yacht building is admirable, but is that really enough to sweep the board? Where the world-first hybrid propulsion system is really making waves is in its ability to offer completely silent cruising at up to nine knots – a technological feat that came from a collaboration with sensory expert Professor Barry Smith.

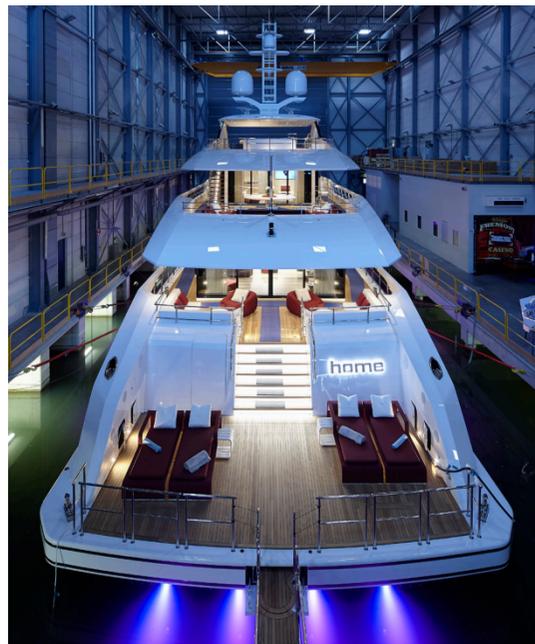
"Our research has shown that the brain's processing of taste is affected by noise, which reduces the tongue's ability to detect salt, sweet and sour," he said. "The beauty of Home is the ability to run at a sound of around 46 decibels – the sound level of softly falling rain – enabling those on board to enjoy food and drink to the full, with no diminution of taste."

Not just great for the planet but beneficial for passengers, too. Whether you want to feast on a gourmet meal on-board or enjoy a good night's sleep on the move, the innovative silent cruising system has transformed the yachting experience. It can even leave a harbour in silent cruising mode for those days when you and your guests want to combine moving on with an indulgent lie in.

Tempus got a taster of the silent cruising at Monaco Yacht Show, where Home was granted permission to be the first yacht to leave Port Hercules on the busy Saturday evening. The Omega Architects-designed ship showed off its sleek lines as it left the port silently before switching to the mechanical mode and opening up with the diesel engine on the way to Antibes, France, which is just an hour's sailing away. The difference in engine volume was instantly noticeable.

Ocean views

But it's not all about the technology. In addition to the seriously calming effect of the noise reduction, there is real charm in Home's luxurious but minimalist interior design. It's a generously spaced ship, with a wide central staircase leading up from the swim platform to the main deck aft – providing a grand entrance for tender arrivals. Everything from the owner's apartment to the entertainment decks above are harmoniously rendered in interior designer Cristiano Gatto's white-on-white colour scheme. It might sound cold, but the lush textures – leathers, fabrics and lacquered surfaces – that line the ship in pristine white shades ensures a sense of quiet calm carries through the owner's apartment and into the rest of the yacht. Gatto's textured palette is used to jaw-dropping effect in the owner's apartment, where a full beam bed is surrounded by floor to ceiling



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windows on both port and starboard sides – allowing you to drift off to unobstructed views of the ocean, with those dramatic blues becoming a design feature in itself. The apartment also includes a private study with room for assistants and a large bathroom with rare marble in the shower walls. Five additional staterooms – two doubles, two twins and one full beam suite – are located on the lower deck, along with the gymnasium and spa.

"Minimalist design doesn't mean empty or cold," Gatto told Tempus. "Although we have used the same shade of white, around the window alone we've used 14 different materials, from wood, steel, leather and fabric. Everything we've used creates a sensory experience. The choice of lighting creates warmth as well, while in the living areas and upper decking we have colourful lights to reflect the mood of guests."

Lounge areas continue the outdoor-indoor sensibility, with dramatic full-length windows leading out seamlessly to the exterior dining area, both benefitting from the same teak decking and furnished by Gatto and Paula Lenti in the same colour palette and style that flows throughout Home. Splashes of burgundy furniture and accessories warm the deck both inside and out.

It's easy to imagine life aboard this enchanting superyacht, so carefully designed with personalisation in mind – from the unobtrusive rotating bookshelves to the sun deck with jacuzzi tub. And as Monaco's Port Hercules fades away behind us, lined with the very best of this season's superyachts, it's just as easy to see how Heesen's new focus on silent cruising and environmentally sound yachts might just leave them in its wake. Because when it comes to breaking new ground, Home is ahead of the fleet. ①

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