

THE WORLD OF LUXURY YACHTING

Ocean

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**BEACH CLUBS
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Beach clubs



Life's a BEACH

Take the fun back down to the water's edge with the new wave of beach clubs hitting the market.

Esther Barney takes the plunge with a review of some of the latest and greatest beach club designs on offer.



Out of this world: M/Y *Galactica Star*'s stellar beach club design from Bannenberg & Rowell was built by Heesen Yachts.

Beach clubs have become *de rigueur* on the modern superyacht, where guests have found these specialised spaces can offer a unique enjoyment of the water. But where did they come from and where are they heading as owners look for ever more elaborate beach clubs?

As the average size of superyachts increased over the last decade, many yacht owners felt removed from the water. The platform at the aft of the yachts was used primarily to get to and from the tenders, or perhaps to launch off quickly for a swim or water sports session. But the immediate interior real estate at the waterline was reserved for tender and toy garages.

To combat this feeling of disconnection from the water, superyacht designers and builders introduced small areas in which to be

served by crew while enjoying water sports. Specialist dive equipment rooms, wet bars, shower facilities and simple seating became more common and the tender garages were moved forward of the stern or within the bow.

Designers have been inspired by everything from luxury health clubs to fashionable night clubs when it comes to creating these unique spaces on board. Trends in beach clubs today revolve around three major themes, with many examples spanning multiple uses. They provide leisure space from which to enjoy water sports, to be pampered with a full wellness experience or to serve as relaxation and socialising areas within their own right, a kind of saloon at the water's edge.

One of the most striking early saloon-on-water beach clubs is that of 60-metre M/Y *Excellence V*, designed by Raymond Langton and built by Abeking & Rasmussen in 2012. With the look of a chic private club's bar,

the beach club is set to the side of the yacht to offer privacy from tender activities at the stern, and the pivoting bulwarks open to become a spacious terrace for sun lounges in the day and sundowners in the evening.

The 80-metre M/Y *Chopi Chopi* became one of the most legendary beach clubs on the water when it was delivered in 2013 by CRN to a design by Laura Sessa Romboli and Zucco International Project. With vast space to relax in after water sports, it has a bar, lounges and dining table right by the swimming platform. Guests can walk through the beach club doors to access the yacht's expansive wellness facilities including a spa, hamam and massage room.

CRN followed *Chopi Chopi*'s stand-out beach club with its latest launch, the stunning M/Y *Cloud 9*, one of the stars of this year's Monaco Yacht Show. A vast fold-down door converts to a platform that extends over the →



water, large sliding glass doors lead to a lounge and bar with a saloon-on-the-water ambiance. This fits with the current trend for owners to want levels of comfort and luxury in the beach club that they would expect throughout the yacht. Light enters the beach saloon in part from the glass bottom of the 10,000-litre spa pool above, a more common feature of beach clubs on recent launches.

Heesen's 65-metre M/Y *Galactica Star*, delivered in 2013, is another example of a sophisticated lounge-on-water beach club, extending up to the main deck. With a large, fold-down door on one side and aft, Heesen says that the duplex beach club spans a quarter of the main and lower decks, including 10 square metres of balcony. The yacht was one of the designs that set the trend in large, open spaces at the waterline to enhance a feeling of closeness to the water that had been unthinkable on earlier superyachts due to technical and regulatory restrictions.

Three years later, the Dutch shipyard went a step further with the 70-metre M/Y *Galactica Supernova's* beach club design by Sinot Yacht Design, including 44 square metres of folding platform space, and a total of 146 square metres of beach club space. The yard was able to use such a large area on the water by moving all tender and toy storage to gull-winged garages located at the bow of the main deck.

Traditionally, interior space has been at such a premium on sailing yachts that beach clubs have not been incorporated. But this is changing through smart design, and 86-metre S/Y *Aquijo* – a high-performance ketch built in 2016 by Vitters and Oceanco with interiors from Dölker + Voges Design – has a superb beach club with a wellness focus that shows how sailing yachts are evolving to meet luxury leisure needs. As the world's largest ketch, she has space for a hamam, sauna and large spa pool. Watertight doors mean that the space



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can still be used while underway.

Louis Hamming, CEO of Vitters, commented that it is the amount of equipment stored in the lazarette of a sailing yacht that often prevents these aft spaces being used as beach clubs on sailing yachts.

“Careful space planning and early resourcing of the machinery is important to fit all the parts in the available space,” said Hamming. “The weight distribution needs to be checked and the installation carefully chosen so as not to exceed weight in the extreme end of the yacht. This was all done at an early stage *Aquijo’s* design and engineering.”

Beach clubs are not just a space in which to lay back and relax, however. In response to growing demand for adventurous superyacht travel and water-level entertainment, Italian builder Wider has put a central design focus on its beach clubs with an adventurous twist in its new 165 flagship, due to debut in 2018. Like the Wider 150, the 165 will have extending side terraces and aft deck to maximise exterior space by the water. The winning feature of the 165 is the lavish, seven-metre saltwater pool that transforms into a tender bay area, allowing for float-in/float-out loading of a large tender or even a personal submarine. They may seem as though they are straight out of a Bond film, but these innovative beach club design enhancements are becoming a realistic deliverable for today’s superyacht owners, for whom beach clubs are top of the wish list.

The trickle-down effect of beach club popularity to semi-custom and production yacht design has been unmissable recently, with builders vying to offer the most innovative and expansive solutions. As a result, buyers are spoiled for choice when it comes to picking a new yacht with a cool and convenient outdoor space by the water. Here is a selection of yachts worth considering if you intend to make a splash on the beach club front...

THE RULE BREAKER

Van der Valk BeachClub

With typical Dutch flare, Van der Valk and design partner Cor D Rover have thrown away the rule book for carving out social space on board with this new BeachClub range. The innovative approach has resulted in the engines being moved beneath the swimming platform thanks to small, self-contained pod-drive Volvo Penta IPS technology, giving over valuable interior aft space at the waterline to an open galley-dining-saloon area. Throw in vast hull windows flanking the interior and enormous, sliding glass doors leading directly onto the swimming platform, and you have a whole new experience of what it is like to enjoy life on the water, by the water.

At 19.05 metres’ length overall with three cabins for six guests, the BeachClub 600 is the smallest in the range. Every inch of usable space has been exploited, from the large hull windows in the bow that flood the owner’s cabin with light, to the expansive foredeck lounging and seating space and the large relaxation area on the upper deck behind the glass-roofed wheelhouse. The IPS pod drives give the BeachClub 600 a respectable cruising speed of 19.2 knots (topping out at 24.0 knots) and a draft of 1.4 metres.

The largest in the range, the 30.0-metre BeachClub 1000 has an additional cabin for two guests (taking the total to eight) as well as two single-occupancy crew cabins. With the operations of the yacht being looked after by the crew, the cooking area is moved into a country galley further forward, opening up the space to become a film screening room if desired. The owner’s full-beam cabin is generous for a yacht of this size, with the bow now accommodating a VIP

double suite. The foredeck also features a Jacuzzi for additional fun on deck.

By moving these crucial living spaces closer to the waterline, owners and guests will have a new sense of connection to the ocean that is rarely experienced. Hats off to the R&D teams behind the innovations.

THE BEACH CLUB CABANA

Maritimo X60 Beach Club

Respected Aussie builder Maritimo sees its new X Series as a game-changer for the brand. Extensive design research for the series suggested that the sport yacht segment was in need of a disruptive model that would separate Maritimo from the competition, so it set about finding the solution. Because of the way the company has evolved its shaft drive design, there is more space in the aft of its yachts than others in the market segment. Seeing the popularity and growing abundance of beach clubs on much larger yachts, Maritimo felt it was time to offer its clients something that would amplify their daily experience at the waterline, an “X factor” not seen elsewhere.

And so, the 19.39-metre Maritimo X60 sport yacht was born. With space often reserved for engineering and technical systems now significantly reduced, clients can choose between an aft cabin “cabana” or beach club variant (or, alternatively, an extended tender garage).

The customisable aft cabin has a sleek and modern look, featuring three-sided windows, a flatscreen TV, an ensuite bathroom and three-stair access directly onto the swimming platform. There is access to the main deck saloon via internal stairs, as well as access to the engine room and technical spaces for the crew. Imagine waking up and walking just →



a few steps to the water from your cabin.

The beach club variant of the X60 offers a large, open space including a bar, flatscreen TV, guest seating, and a small bathroom with day head and shower. It provides all the facilities guests could need by the water in order to experience maximum enjoyment in and on the water.

Three additional cabins are found forward on the lower deck, including two double suites and a twin, meaning the X60 can sleep up to eight guests on the aft cabin model and up to six guests on the beach club model.

Designer Tom Barry-Cotter says that feedback has been very positive since Maritimo announced the release of the X60 for early next year, adding: "With a number of vessels already sold, we truly believe the Maritimo X60 Beach Club is something that will change the seascape of the sport yacht market."

THE FULL MONTY

Beiderbeck Designs Private Beach

Germany-based Beiderbeck Designs recently released renderings for a 24-metre motor yacht concept that is fully focused on beach club-style enjoyment by the water. Although the yacht's design is modern and clean, it has more hardy design roots that draw inspiration from the open stern and low freeboard of prawn fishing trawlers. The planing yacht has been designed to reach up to 27 knots (with a cruising speed of 20 knots), so it is by no means a trawler in terms of its speed.

It is business at the front and party at the back on the Private Beach. With

accommodation for up to four guests and one crew member, interior reception rooms and operational spaces are positioned towards the bow, leaving space for a vast, 50-square-metre aft deck dedicated to beach-style living. Features include folding bulwarks and a large, shaded lounging space with an additional awning, while the Opacmare swim platform unfolds and hydraulically lowers into the water to take the yacht's beach club credentials from impressive to outstanding.

"The idea for the concept," say designers Immo Lüdeling and Tim Ulrich, "came from the fact that we sometimes had the most fun and relaxed moments after sailing, just sitting on the pier or the pontoon with a fresh drink and enjoying time close to the water."

So, the duo created the wide-open deck

space of the Private Beach design to do just that, offering all the comfort of a luxury yacht while putting guests as close as possible to the water. The space has been created with flexibility in mind, for deck chairs and sun pads or barbecues and parties, or even preparation for surfing or kite surfing.

When the yacht is underway, the aft deck has space to store a large array of tenders and toys, including two double-seater jetskis and a six-metre tender.

The designers have an agreement in place with German builder Knieriem Yachtbau in Kiel to construct the Private Beach for an owner looking to take their outside enjoyment to the next level.

THE SUBMERSIBLE PLATFORM

Ferretti Group: Ferretti Yachts, Riva and Custom Line

The Ferretti Group's design teams – including its Product Strategy Committee and Engineering Department – have been working diligently to provide patented solutions that offer useful space at the waterline across a range of its brands, from five of Ferretti Yachts' recent models to Riva's 100' Corsairo and the newest models from Custom Line. The group's design team was an early pioneer of the beach club concept on CRN's groundbreaking designs for *M/Y Chopi Chopi*.

At this September's Mediterranean yacht shows, Ferretti debuted its 28.49-metre 920 flybridge yacht. With an emphasis on exterior space, it includes the yard's largest yet foredeck for a yacht of this size, incorporating two





FERRETTI GROUP CUSTOM LINE 108

lounges, a coffee table and removable sun shades. The yacht makes use of technology seen in the stern of other yachts across the range including the 850, created alongside Studio Zuccon International Project. Both practical for crew and guests, the beach club area has a “submersible hatch” created when the transom door swings open, making light work of tender launch and recovery as well as easy access to the water for those with restricted mobility. On the 780, Ferretti has taken clever use of space a step further, by providing a fold-down sun pad lounger for guests to comfortably recline on the swimming platform.

Hydraulic staircases and platforms are becoming a more popular trend on superyachts, including gangways that descend into the water for an easier entry and exit route than traditional swim ladders. But it is less common to see this technology employed on yachts under 30 metres. Ferretti’s new feature would no doubt be a hit with families who want their young children to enjoy the water without jumping all the way in.

Ferretti Group’s Custom Line yachts make use of a different system to those on the Ferretti Yachts, this time working alongside Centro Stile and Besenzoni. The patented Dual Mode Transom has a double mechanical movement – hinging both up and down – that can be used to launch or retrieve a tender with a float-in system, as well as provide a 15-square-metre beach club. Riva’s 100’ Corsairo system operates in a similar way, providing float-in/float-out operations for tenders and toys as well as a fully submersible bathing platform and beach club.

THE BELLS & WHISTLES

Sunseeker 76 Yacht and Manhattan 66

The British yacht builder has taken beach club accessories to the next level on its new-generation models, including the 76 Yacht (which just debuted at the Southampton Boat Show in September) and the Manhattan 66 (launched at the start of the year during the London International Boat Show). Even the most demanding of boat owners should be satisfied by the practical optional extras offered on Sunseeker’s mini beach clubs, seen on yachts from 20 metres up.

Step on board at tender level and you will

be greeted by an extended bathing platform with optional barbecue, fold-away bench seat and overhead “rain shower” for rinsing off after a swim. The 76 Yacht has space to accommodate a Williams 445 jet tender, while the Manhattan 66 takes a Williams 385 jet RIB. With trimmings like these, Sunseeker is setting the bar high in the size range.

Away from the stern, Sunseeker has worked hard to answer clients’ requests to maximise the foredeck. It has added a U-shaped lounge and dining table alongside a pair of sun pads on the 76 Yacht and a U-shaped lounge and dining table with a sun pad on the Manhattan 66, complementing the beach club outdoor experience. **Q**



SUNSEEKER MANHATTAN 66