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True to the water

In 2022–2023, Italian shipyards proved themselves worldwide leaders in the superyacht segment, as shown by the data from ‘The State of the Art of the Global Yachting Market,’ recently conducted by Deloitte for Confindustria Nautica, and as illustrated by our **Business at Sea** column. And as we hear in the interview with **Massimo Gino** and **Mario Pedol** of **Nauta Design** and see in the many yachts and superyachts built in shipyards like **Azimut|Benetti**, **Baglietto**, **Mangusta**, **Pearl**, **Tankoa**, **The Italian Sea Group**, **VanDutch**, and **Wally**, one of the key themes in recent naval architectural and interior design is seeking an ever-closer relationship with the sea. At times this means a slower way of boating as well as, increasingly, a greater physical and visual closeness to the natural elements. This is true both in sailboats, for which the relationship in tune with the water is clearly a driving factor, and in yachts of every size, and especially superyachts. Larger windows and lowered heights bring us closer to the sea surface. There are beach clubs that are larger, safer, and more comfortable to let those who are sailing stop and feel part of the marine landscape, enjoying its health-enhancing effects. We can take in wonder and respect for an invaluable, awe-inspiring environment, that of seas and oceans, and the element of water that means everything to the planet – for better or worse, as shown by the recent severe weather and flooding in Italy. Water is a symbolic element, natural and fundamental, and is part or “counterpart” of many architectural designs of different types and geographical locations.

For instance, there is the promenade on the Mediterranean Sea, **Escaleras Y Mirador Vela** in Barcelona, the **Beach Club** in the **Sanya Edition** in China’s Haitang Bay, the **Esbjerg Maritime Center** in Denmark, the **Monologue Art Museum** in China, **Liben Docks** and **Ascension Paysagère** residential complexes on riverfronts, in Prague and in Rennes, respectively, and the **Fish Tail Ecological Park**, where water is a regenerating part of a virtuous model of urban and recreational eco-systems. Water universally means generation and regeneration, and it embodies the feminine principle. This element abounds in this **Wonder Book Yacht&Cruise 2023**, including in the interview with **Captain Caterina Nitto** and the women interior designers that we present in a packed **Bay of Fame** section.

Enjoy the read.

All the freedom of the sea

From dawn to dusk, Cantiere del Pardo's new **VanDutch 56** unites an extraordinary layout with high performance onboard alone or in company

Cantiere del Pardo confirms its superior building skills with the new VanDutch 56, the fourth model in the range since the Dutch brand was acquired by the shipyard in 2020. This unique luxury motorboat, which synthesizes technical performance and design, was made for owners to enjoy the open air in complete autonomy and share that pleasure with others day or night. The boat, which can sleep up to 12 people, has a high-impact layout with soft, sinuous forms and an aerodynamic design inside and out. The living spaces are surprisingly comfortable for a yacht this size. Even at high speeds, one can relax on the large aft sundeck with its adjustable backrests. At anchor, the platform can be lowered for safe, practical access to the water becoming a lounge terrace on the sea. The large cockpit is a comfortable space for breakfast, lunch, aperitifs, or dinner onboard, with L-shaped sofas, bar counter, fridge, glass holder, sound system, and diffused lighting. Below deck owners can choose between the 'lounge' or 'cabin' layouts. The first version offers a comfortable open space with a U-shaped sofa, central table in the bow, and a linear, fully equipped galley across from an L-shaped sofa. The decidedly more private second version is a true master cabin with double bed at the bow, the same L-shaped





Shipyard: Cantiere del Pardo
Hull design: Mulder Design
Length: 55,4 ft/16,9 m
Beam: 14,8 ft/4,52 m
Draft: 4,1 ft/1,23 m
Displacement: 49.385 lbs/22,4 t
Standard engines: 2 x Volvo D11-IPS 800 - 625 HP
Optional engines: 2 x Volvo Penta D11-IPS 950 - 725 HP
Passengers onboard: 12
Fuel tank capacity: 634 G/2,400 L
Freshwater tank capacity: 103 G/390 L

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Author: Manuela di Mari
Photo credits: courtesy Cantiere del Pardo





sofa and linear galley, and the option to add a second cabin with two separate single beds. VanDutch 56 owners can customize every detail by choosing from a wide range of fabrics and colors, including for the hull. The boat's generous, well-appointed spaces are easy to move around in safely. The Volvo IPS engine – used for the first time in this model – makes it simple to maneuver the boat and improves performance by reducing consumption and emissions. Everything is managed by Garmin Marine onboard instrumentation using EmpireBus technology. An innovative platform designed for simplified navigation allows the VanDutch 56 and all its domotics to be controlled from a single console with two 16-inch displays. Available features include programmable lighting, sound system, and air conditioning. The dashboard is clear and user-friendly, with digital operating keys controlled from the display.

