

NEW LAUNCH

Checkmate

The 100th fibreglass yacht built by Benetti in Viareggio.
Reviewed by Frances and Michael Howorth



Crraacckk went the champagne bottle as it smashed across her bow spraying French Fizz everywhere. Then to the strains of Giuseppe Verdi's *Và Pensiero*, *Checkmate* the brand new 44 metre Benetti Vision 145, built as hull number BV018 was launched in Viareggio. The launch was held in early June and hundreds of onlookers saw *Checkmate* take the water inside the Darsena Italia Basin, historic home of the Benetti shipyard. The yacht's owner, a well known surgeon from Washington, D.C. in the USA and his family, together with all the Benetti staff involved in her almost two year long construction and fitting, out clapped their hands with glee and cheered to demonstrate their eager excitement

Interior

The yacht's François Zuretti interior is both rich and sober, featuring a combination of cherry and Burr Madrona woods, neoclassical dark inlays enhanced by marble. Large windows on each deck offer panoramic views that can be enjoyed in complete privacy, both from outdoor areas and from the interiors, which is spacious and flooded with natural light giving the furnishings a perfect chiaroscuro balance. Practical, well thought out and dedicated routes and areas for crew to work and gain access guarantee complete privacy for owners and guests.

Specifications:

Shipyard: Azimut-Benetti SPA- Benetti Shipyard, Italy

Construction material: GRP

Length Overall (LOA): 43,6 m - 143' 1''

Maximum Beam: 9,26 m - 30' 4''

Maximum Draught: 2,72 m - 8' 11''

Displacement at Full Load: 390 t

Fuel Capacity: 60.000 litres (15,850 US Gallons)

Water Capacity: 9,500 litres (2,509 US Gallons)

Propulsion: 2 x CAT C32 Acert

Power output: 1300HP, 970 kW @ 1.800 rpm

Maximum Speed: 15 knots

Cruising Speed: 14 knots

Cruising Range at: 12 knots 3,500 nautical miles

Generators: 2 x Kohler 125 kW

Bow Thrusters: VT Naiad Marine VT 77 77 kW

Stabilizers: VT Naiad Marine

Propellers: Benetti Design

Styling & External concept: Stefano Righini

Interior Design: François Zuretti

Guest Berths: 10 guests

Crew Berths: 9 crew

Classification: ABS Malta Cross A1 Yacht

Compliance: LY2



The new yacht is almost 44 metres long with a beam of over 9 metres. Equipped with twin 1,300 HP Caterpillar engines, she is capable of top speeds just shy of 15 knots and at around 10 knots, a cruising range of over 3,500 nautical miles.

Vincenzo Poerio the CEO of the Mega-yacht division within the Azimut/Benetti Group, told those present at the launch ceremony: "We are particularly proud of our latest launch, the 100th fibreglass yacht built in Viareggio since 1998. This is a further demonstration of our ability to listen to the Client and interpret his specific needs; and above all, another example of a perfect blend between timeless design, world

class construction, safety and an extremely high quality on-board life, both for the owner and his crew".

Century

Matt Bishop the Captain of Checkmate works with a crew of nine. He is delighted with his new command and explains, "She is a delight to command. The shipyard have been very helpful in getting to sea in good order and we feel sure that we will be able to provide our owner with the boat and the experiences aboard that he seeks. It is going to be an exciting summer season and we all very much looking forward to being part of it"

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