

Christened after the Turkish symbol of good luck, Vicem's latest trawler, *Moni* is all about living on the boat and taking up those long voyages that you've dreamed of.

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Photographs by Marc Paris

# OUT TO CHARM

## Specifications

|                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Length (overall) | 32.50 m (107')             |
| Beam             | 7.3 m (23' 95")            |
| Draft            | 1.90 m (6' 23")            |
| Displacement     | 1,15,000 kg (2,53,532 lbs) |
| Fuel cap         | 14,502 l (3,831 gal)       |
| Water cap        | 1,942 l (513 gal)          |

The trawler yacht has had a different appeal for many a yachtsman. It's not fast and many would say, given its burly look that it's not pretty either. Its heritage as a fishing boat, however, speaks highly of its sea-keeping qualities. Twenty years ago, Vicem, a builder in Turkey began to build their own version of this age-old hull.

Sebahattin Hafizoğlu, CEO of Vicem Yachts is a boat builder whose yard on the Bosphorus was among the first to embrace the blending of traditional skills found in the construction of the Turkish *gulet* with emerging cold moulded wood and epoxy techniques. It is therefore commendable to see the transformation of a trawler into a luxury boat that matches most facilities one would find aboard a plush cruiser. The company's latest yacht has just completed her maiden voyage.

The flybridge acts as an open saloon with its spaciousness

## Feature/*Moni*

Her name, democratically voted upon by the workers of Vicem is *Moni* which, in the Laz dialect of Turkish, refers to the evil eye seen on the bow of most local craft as a symbol of good luck.

### Build

*Moni* is a modern-day representation of the age old traditions of wooden boat building that were high on craftsmanship. Built from cold moulded mahogany, its construction took place inside one of the company's three manufacturing plants in the free trade zone of Antalya in southwest Turkey. While many may argue that using vacuum-bagged cold moulded wood is nothing more than a composite boat

construction technique, the purists consider it a pinnacle of wooden boat building methods. Mahogany is a natural product that lends the boat her soul. However, some prefer it because of the smell of wood, while others will tell stories of low impact bumps and scrapes causing far less damage to a wooden composite yacht when compared to one built of glass-reinforced plastic (GRP). It is only in the case of hull weight that the wooden traditionalists begin to lose ground because carbon fibre and GRP, while constructed in a similar fashion are bound to be slightly lighter.

### Main deck

The cockpit on the main deck is a

delightfully sociable area with a large unvarnished teak table surrounded on three sides by wide benches finished in brown fabric. Four orange mesh and stainless steel chairs complete the seating.

The yacht's main saloon is traditional in its style, yet the light-handed touch of the designers has given it a contemporary twist. Wide open on two levels, its deck is made of sapele planks running fore and aft with the wide boards pleasingly offset.

Bulkheads are of mahogany, darker than the deck with strong and dominant accents. The glass cupboard to starboard houses a large lifting flat-screen TV for family entertainment.



Cockpit doors open to a wide saloon seating



A full beam master cabin with added seating

Large side windows and light leather ceiling ensure the space is not dark or cave-like. The L-shaped sofa to port is finished in light mousse-coloured suede and allows flexible and comfortable seating arrangements for four to five people. Two low coffee tables on red patterned rugs and two higher side tables complete the picture. Amidships on the main saloon is the dining area where a walnut dining table seats eight comfortably and can be expanded in case 10 people wish to dine together. The bulkhead twist dining area and galley cleverly conceal a wine chiller and racked bottle storage, while a multimedia entertainment locker houses an Apple TV and a Sonos sound system.

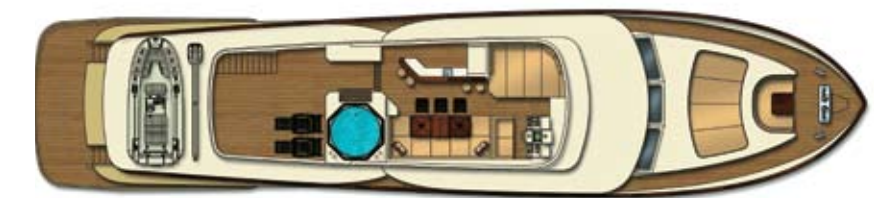
The full beam master suite is effectively set amidships. In addition to that, massive side windows make this an attractive, well-lit space. To starboard is a leather-topped vanity unit and to port, a small sofa finished in orange upholstery, with drawers underneath. Soft, padded, brown leather panels surround the king-sized bed that add to the extravagance. Leather is used to great effect in this space and covers the

bed head and drawer fronts, yet never seems overstated. The master bathroom features a large shower with a huge rain head, under floor heating and a double wash basin unit. It is finished with a light-coloured marble from Turkey.

The double cabin located portside has large cupboards and magnificent windows behind the bed. The well-fitted en suite head forward features a large shower and glass cupboards over



The shiny blue hull gives the design a distinctive appeal



Flybridge deck



Main deck



Lower deck

### Belowdecks

To port the all-Gaggenau galley is laid out well with lots of good natural light streaming into the central working counter-top made of stainless steel. Opposite the galley is a day head set next to a glass-walled staircase leading, like an atrium, down to the lower deck. The lower deck houses the master suite aft, the VIP right forward and a pleasing double to port. To starboard two double-bunked cabins are just perfect for kids.

## Feature/*Moni*



The flybridge helm station offers splendid views of the horizon

provides plenty of shade and covers half of the large sun deck. While it is hugely practical, it does little to add to the impressive exterior styling. If the stanchions had been made of ellipsoid, brushed stainless steel instead of polished box style uprights, we think the overall style of the yacht's exterior would have been enhanced. The sun deck is beautifully laid out in a practical fashion to maximise family enjoyment, and the aesthetics of the stanchion design are easily dismissed when enjoying the amenities the deck offers.

Wide walkways on the main deck take you to the foredeck featuring soft



The crew mess area is flanked by cabins on either side



A closed galley enables more storage space



This flybridge deck is a good option when hosting parties

the sink giving it masses of storage. The twin cabins on the opposite side have a shared bathroom. The second cabin with bunks across the beam has a top bunk that folds away to make it single if desired. All in all, it's a very sensible arrangement in case it is given out as a charter yacht.

Walk right forward and two steps up you will find the VIP suite. A double berth faces forward with a pleasant bathroom to port. The carpets used in all staterooms are made from off-white wool and give a pleasant feel when walking barefoot. Like all cabins, there is an iPod dock and interior phone, which can be connected to shore-based systems when alongside.

### For the crew

The well-equipped crew quarters are placed aft behind the engine room and are accessed from a door to port. There is also a small galley-cum-mess that opens to the engine room. The captain's double-bed cabin, a crew cabin with bunks for three and a stewardesses'



Wide walkways on the main deck make all areas easily accessible

cabin which houses a washing and tumble drying machine under the single raised bunk, all take care of crew needs.

### Sun deck

Externally, the yacht is well-designed for cruising in warm climates where the sun can beat down relentlessly. A substantial bimini-style hard top

and inviting sunpads with enough space for four in front of the bridge. A small semi-circular seating area features a small teak table, ideal for an intimate dinner or perhaps early morning breakfast. Removable stainless steel stanchions support hammocks for those who like to sway while sunbathing.

### On deck entertainment

Two Jet-Skis and a substantial tender stowed aft can be removed together with all fixtures that hold them down. This will further enlarge the sun bathing area or can be turned into a dance floor for those who love to party. The deck sports a walk-up wet bar, a barbecue grill and an enormous teak dining table that cleverly converts into two small coffee tables when not used for al fresco dining. To port is the lounging area, while to starboard the flybridge helm that duplicates much of the control in the wheelhouse one deck below.

The open decks give a spacious feel, while wide steps lead up to the sun deck and down to the swim platform. Here, an Opacmare Transformer lifting device allows for easy access ashore onto differing dock levels and can, when at anchor, convert into a luxurious swim ladder or a diving platform.

### Pilothouse

The pilothouse is well equipped and ergonomically laid out. Raised, dark brown leather seating surrounds a small table with an inset leather centre to port. The centre console area is finished with a pleasing mix of dark brown and cream leather on either side. Two Opacmare pilot chairs finished in light brown leather are fully adjustable with controls set into the arm rests. To starboard, is a dark brown leather-topped chart table and on the aft bulkhead is the yacht's radio equipment desk and a pod stool with storage. **IB**

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