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AMAZING AMALFI
ITALY’S GRANDEST TOUR

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Here Comes The Sun
83m of cruising bliss
For Lennon and McCartney read Heywood and Winch.

A Beatles loving co-owner has given Amels a new flagship full of harmonious delights.
The Beatles’ “Let It Be” and John Lennon’s “Imagine” do not enjoy sentimental reasons: they are the names of his two previous yachts, 47 metres Heesen “Let It Be” and 65 metres Amels Limited Editions “Imagine. Her Comes the Sun” also named after a Fab Four track, but this is a project on an amplified scale.

Amels’ new flagship measures 83 metres and packs in a 1,875 gross tonnes of volume (compare that with 993 metre Madame Gu’s 2,991GT and 95 metre Kitera’s 2,700GT). But the combined experience of owner and yard meant that this team knew exactly how to use every inch of the space. “Imagine was heavily used. We did 60,000 miles,” says owner’s representative Yavor Nenov. “It’s a more gentle curve, swept right the way round the back,” he says of the beltline’s angle of descent. “It’s a more gentle curve, swept right the way round the back and into the stairwells and back outside of the stairwells, round the swimming pool.”

The superstructure is oyster white, with a muted “castle” tan for the hull. Inside, the co-owner wanted “a calm, beachy atmosphere, light materials and soft colours – a relaxing atmosphere”. Winch responded with a palette of warm browns, cream fabrics, gold-toned lighting, bronze panels with a brushed finish and antiqued patina, and furniture in curved shapes. Rather than glossy, this decorative scheme is tactile, with carved silk and wool carpets, moulded leather, natural oak panelling and smooth “footworn” floors.

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The theme of practical solutions, cleverly implemented, is also evident throughout the interior design; for example, press one of the sections on the smart leather-clad pillars in the main and owner’s saloons and the pillar swings open, revealing a storage cabinet.
The most exciting feature is the side balcony...
“You can see the whole boat when you are standing here”
The owners were trading up from an Amels 212 and wanted a private deck to themselves. The owners’ suite is surrounded by a wide deck, above, and also has a side balcony, below left.

Right: the main deck pool, immediately aft of the main saloon, measures 6.8m by 3.4m, with a depth of 1.25m. Heywood managed to give it a relatively low profile while not compromising headroom in the spacious beach club below, which opens on three sides.

Below: the sundeck aft has distinctive curved pillars that hold up awnings and are adorned with lights to create a spectacular evening venue. There is a long dining table amidships, in the covered part of the deck, and a bar, spa pool and sunpads forward.
The main salon features a laid-back seating area, bar and pillars covered in angular leather pieces that contain hidden storage within.

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Above: décor throughout the house is warm with cream fabrics, gold-toned lighting, and brushed bronze panels. It eschews glossy surfaces, which the owner deplores.
There are plenty more happy surprises on board this yacht. The greatest is perhaps the bridge deck galley (there’s also a bigger main galley on the lower deck), which has a large opening on to the aft deck, where there is a bar and dining table for up to 24. From here, guests can speak directly to the chef as he works, make little extra requests to be whipped up in front of them, or decide what they want as they sit down and describe it directly to the chef. “You are basically in a restaurant, upstairs,” says Winch. “The chef is so good that he can do everything simultaneously and there are no service issues, no hot plates issues.” Alongside the galley, also open to the aft deck, is a small “grotto” that could be used as a smoking room or a cozy spot to retire to during inclement weather.

The sundeck above, the perfect place to recover from overindulgence, holds its own surprises. The sundeck to each side sweeps back in long curves, the aft sections of which are shaded glass. Behind these, Heywood has designed individual sunpad nooks, where guests can relax in shade and privacy. His curving pillars aft – a tricky-to-build Limited Editions signature that Amels produces with skill – add style and have been rigged with lights and to hold awnings that can cover the aft sunbathing space. The covered central portion of the deck holds another long dining table that can be set up for glamorous dinners, while forward there’s a bar and spa pool with sunpads and cabanas.

Down on the main deck is another jewel of the exterior spaces, the pool. They wanted to avoid an ungainly ladder set-up that would make it hard to access, or giving it a height that would make the space feel cramped. “We had to modify the superstructure of the yacht, lower the whole pool to drop it down to recess into the ceiling of the beach club without sacrificing the height,” says Nenov. The result is a long, low pool that’s easy to dip into and the beach club below – something Imagine didn’t have – does not feel compromised. This stylish space includes a central seating area with fold-down platforms to either side and aft of here, beyond a sauna and steam room, there’s an enormous amiable tender garage set up for side launching (this also stores an inflatable slide that runs all the way down from the sundeck, for thrill seekers with a head for heights).

But the owners’ deck is arguably the most spectacular space on board. At the aft end there’s a large lounge with a television that slides seamlessly up from a coffee table, and a broad aft deck and forward of the lobby a highly individual cabin arrangement. To port is the owner’s wife’s cabin, and, forward, a large mirror-clad dressing room and shower room. The style is glamorous and feminine, with cream toned fabrics and white marble, but the most exciting feature is the side balcony – accessed via full height glass doors from the cabin. This broad space that curves out from the superstructure feels like an alfresco extension of the interior. “You can see the whole boat when you are standing here,” says

“One of the signatures of this boat... is the higher ceilings, the feeling of more air, bigger spaces”
Above: the owner's office features luxurious finishes including pony skin and eel skin – plus its own balcony

The owner's cabin features its own private mini-museum, with artefacts in glass cabinets, as well as a panel of dark wenge with a hammered pattern.

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Victor Caminada, marketing manager of Amels. It’s the first time the yard has done this on a Limited Editions but it makes aesthetic sense to the exterior lines as well, echoing the bulge of the wing stations on the deck below. To starboard the owner’s office benefits from a similar balcony set-up, but the tone is warmer, with more natural oak, an eel skin feature wall behind the bookshelves and pony skin on the ceiling.

Down on the main deck guests have impressive spaces of their own. The main saloon comprises, to aft, a circular dining table for 16 with curving full height glass doors to the aft deck, a central seating area with a long bar and a piano forward. Large windows throughout this deck flood the interior with light. Forward of the lobby is a spectacular cinema. The audio system combines a powerful ADA Suite Premium Home Theatre Preamplifier and a Lexicon DD-8 amplifier, plus Sonance speakers. For visuals there’s a full HD 3D JVC beamer with Vutec 123in projection screen and an 85in Samsung full HD 3D TV. The whole system is controlled by a Crestron system that uses an Apple iPad mini as the user interface. There are five guest cabins on the same corridor, the central two of which have sitting rooms that can be shielded from the cabins by sliding soundproof doors – in this mode the sitting rooms can be converted into cabins, bumping up the total to seven.

As the backbone of an unusual general arrangement, the yacht’s lobby is a synecdoche of the overall decorative theme. Surrounding the central lift by Dutch company Lift Emotion, monochrome marble stairs wend up from lower deck to sundeck, accompanied by a stone feature wall carved with a vine (the co-owner owns a vineyard). On every level dark, intricately carved walnut panelling from Georgia provides a warm flourish. The effect is glamorous without being flashy – but when you’ve got all this to show off, you don’t need shiny finishes to catch the eye.