



Huge volumes and a family feel characterise this 66-metre Delta. See her at the Monaco Yacht Show in September Paul Ashton

Photographs: Jeff Brown, Tim McHugh

Invictus



This is a yacht where the SOCIAL SPACES get tested to the MAX

Walking around the decks of the 66-metre *Delta Invictus*, which was launched last year, I found myself doubting that LOA: she's *only* 66 metres?

The outside deck spaces, which could be measured by the acre, are diverting enough for guests, and there is room for a separate owner's deck, but even inside the towering headroom is striking, and cabin by cabin there is a lofty charm to this yacht which seems to have been imported from a bigger vessel. "She's 2,000 tonnes, and she's high and wide, and the volume is like an 85-metre," says *Invictus*'s captain Mauro Barletta with more than a little pride.

It's a workable rule that the bigger one's yacht gets, the more like one's house it becomes, and *Invictus* certainly has a strong home-like feel. Indeed, a key element of the commission for interior designer Diane Johnson was to create that familiar ambience. "I have worked for the family for 23 years on private homes, offices and boats, and we have a wonderful rapport. The owner wanted to create a 'residential' feeling inside *Invictus*," she says. "He also wanted as much volume as possible and Delta did a great job in achieving that by finding the extra inches here and there."

The necessary compromises one expects regarding space (a home is always going to have bigger terraces, wider corridors and airier storage than a yacht) appear so small that I hardly noticed them. The main staircase is wide, as are the corridors into the guest areas, while the elevator that goes from the lower deck to the



Above: The sundeck is a mix of sociable spaces and 'getaway' spots for couples.
Above left: The after areas around the hot-tub.
Below left: A central bar offers a place to get some shade.
Far right: Aft sunloungers – the sundeck is proving very popular with guests.



She is a FAMILY yacht first and foremost. It's the PERSONAL touches that catch the eye



Above: Spaces on deck have been used intelligently and creatively. Instead of uniform seating on the bridge deck, there is this sociable horseshoe with sunloungers next to it.
Left: The bridge deck lounge is cosy but has room for a coffee table and a media area, which can be seen in the background.
Right: The bar is created with a Ceasarestone quartz top and stools by Jonathan Franc. The crystal feature above is by Savoy Studios.
Above right: Sliding floor-to-ceiling windows make the gym a superb place to workout.



owner's deck is much beamier than you'd expect, with room to comfortably accommodate a wheelchair and a carer.

Though the yacht is already chartering successfully through Burgess, there is no sense that she has been tailored for chartering – she is a personal, family yacht first and foremost. Indeed, it's some of those personal touches that catch the eye – specifically, the artworks, the main-deck guest cabins configured for different family members, and the quirks of the layout like the main deck cinema.

Art on a yacht has a number of functions, but a key effect on *Invictus* is the surprise you feel as you walk down a corridor and see such wonderful peices. "Several of these were from the owner's collection," says Diane Johnson. "The rest we found through an art specialist to fill the specific spaces, with input from the owner. Quality is very important to the owner – the metalwork, the marbles, the woods. He has an exceptional eye, and he wanted a different look for each space. Even the powder rooms! Our team strived to create a different character for each area of the yacht."

A dedicated cinema is not a new feature of course, but the owner of *Invictus* has located it in some prime on-board real estate – in a central area on the main deck. You might expect a formal dining space here, or perhaps a media area that occupies the forward part of an open-plan salon, but instead the aft part of the salon is a cosy mix of casual seating, piano and sofas, with a corridor leading past a technical space to the main entrance, and it is here that you find the cinema.



The BIGGER one's yacht gets, the more like one's HOUSE it becomes



With three banks of seating and room for 14, a cinema like this is the sort of space that most yachts would tuck away on a lower deck. But it is already a huge hit with the family and with charter guests. "It's a wonderful place for the whole group to gather, and the crew are kept busy delivering popcorn!" says head stewardess Alessandra Bellanova. Diane Johnson has taken an eclectic approach to the design of the yacht and the interior has been elegantly achieved so that the traditional and contemporary rub shoulders like old friends, but the cinema is all tradition, with red velvet seat-backs, and Decoish lamps on the wall. The AV system, though, is thoroughly 21st Century.

The main deck guest areas have been themed for family members. There are four doubles and two twins, and each, apart from some keynote materials and styles, has a very different décor, and a different name, which makes the vibe much more personal.

You learn a lot about a yacht after she has had a year on the water, and get a sense of how she is used. The owners and charter parties have generally gathered in distinct areas at different times of the day – the sundeck is proving to be popular for breakfast, whereas the owner's deck dining table is the preferred choice for lunch, with dinner upstairs on the bridge deck. But each party is different, of course, and this gives you some impression of the range of choices available. The sundeck on its own offers a host of choices – the hot-tub, sunbathing, a drink at the bar, dining or music.

A tent arrangement makes this the most popular spot for guests during the day. Down on the bridge

Above: Low cills make for a fine view forward from the owner's bedroom. Stark has supplied bespoke carpets throughout. None of the furniture throughout the yacht is built in.

Facing page, below: Hers bathroom, with white Calcutta stone countertops, has a pleasant lightness.

Facing page, middle: The owner's area has a classically styled TV room – a thoroughly relaxing spot.

Left: The owner's lounge has a dedicated TV area and a coffee table.

Far left: A wonderful alcove seating area by the window to starboard.

Below: The yacht's formal dining area with a wonderful light feature by Lalique. An extension makes the table big enough for 22 guests.

Facing page, top: Outside on the owner's deck there are comfortable spots for, at a rough count, 20 people to sit. Once again, this is a flexible and relaxing space.



The yacht is, in essence, a holiday HOME-FROM-HOME



deck, guests have been occupying the salon and deck areas in the early evening before dinner. The inside salon is designed with the feel of a Parisian café, with more Decoish touches. With the doors open, the deck functions as a terrace. A formal dining table is on the owner's deck, but with the doors open you once again get a wonderful inside-outside feeling. The dining table is huge, and extension pieces mean it can be extended to seat 22 people. "The shape of the table is perfect for a group – it means that guests don't lose sight of each other as they can do on a narrower table," says Diane Johnson.

This is a yacht whose social spaces get tested to the max. "The owner likes to cruise with a lot of friends. We've had more than 30 on board for the daytime, and it never feels like it is busy," says the captain. Such numbers are fine, given the places a party can disperse to around the yacht.

It's worth pointing out that the owner's cruising aspirations go beyond a gathering for cocktails in the bay. In November, *Invictus* will be leaving her home berth of Imperia for a global adventure. "I don't know yet whether we will go east or west, but the aim is to cruise to the South Pacific and on to Australia and New Zealand," Captain Barletta says.

One benefit of a yacht this size is the dedicated owner's deck, and once again it's the personal touches that catch the eye. The owner's deck has a study but it hasn't been configured as an office, and is instead more of a relaxation room – an area to escape to for a movie. In the owner's cabin the bed is to port, with a flip-down



Above: Aft on the main deck, two big Ls of seating make this a good place for larger groups to gather.
Right: The main salon isn't huge but the big windows make it a very guest-friendly place, with this mix of sofas and armchairs around a TV.
Far right: The piano (a self-player) is a nod in the direction of the owner's love of classical music.
Left: The main deck cinema is a signature feature of this yacht. Traditional sconces are by 20th-Century lighting, while the reclining sofas are custom made.
Facing page, above: Eye-catching works of art in the lobby. The antique chest by Therien & Co is a homely touch.





Few yachts combine the CHARACTERFUL features and sheer SPACE

TV serving the bed and another serving the settee area to starboard. There are myriad light settings, while the blinds can be adjusted in stages, and the air in the whole suite can be handled independently. The outside deck area forward of the suite is a great escape for a private breakfast.

Currently *Invictus* has 18 crew, and in the winter the complement is likely to increase by two, after the conversion of a forward storage area to a twin cabin. This is clearly a yacht on which the key crew personnel have plenty of charter experience. There's a wardrobe with branded fleeces for guests if it's cold in the evening – a simple but clever touch. One of the storage areas is packed with candles and scents, which are utilised for themed guest parties – from Caribbean to Chinese casino. "We work hard to give guests what they want. With charters, it's important to understand the psychology of a guest. Sometimes, when guests arrive after a stressful work period, it takes a couple of days for them to really feel relaxed," says head stewardess Alessandra.

It started with a brief to be the perfect family yacht, and now *Invictus* is winning over all sorts of parties on the charter circuit. Few yachts can offer the same combination of characterful features and sheer space – a charter party of 12 is spoiled for choice. But that is just one element of this yacht's personality, as she is first and foremost the holiday home-from-home for the owning family. From the impressive volumes inside and the personal touches throughout, this is a yacht that fits the family brief perfectly. **SYW**



Above: The fold-down beach club creates a great platform for enjoying the environment.

Above left: The wide staircase is the perfect example of how this yacht seems to match domestic spaciousness.

Far left, left and right: Two of the roomy main-deck cabins, which have been designed with specific members of the owner's family in mind.



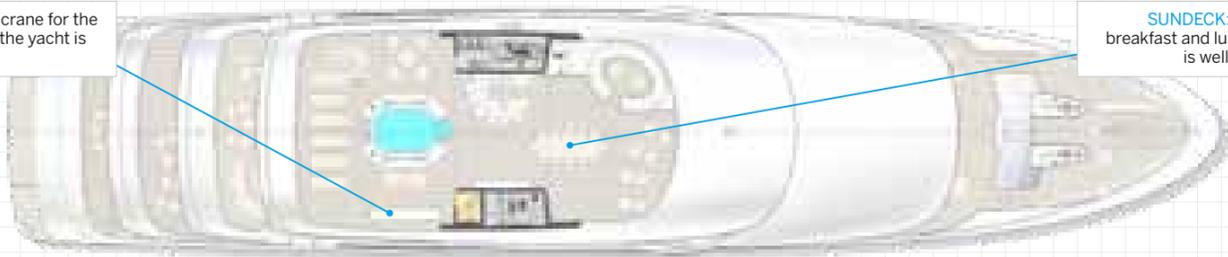
THE SPECS *Invictus*

Length overall 66.00m (216ft 6in)
 Beam 13.10m (43ft 0in)
 Draught 3.90m (9ft 7in) (half load)
 Displacement 1,426 long tons
 Engines Twin 1,700kW (2,280hp) Caterpillar 3516Bs
 Berths Owner 2. Guests 16. Crew 18.
 Naval architecture/exterior styling
 Delta Design Group

Interior design Diane Johnson Design/Johnson, Wen, Mulder & Associates
 Hull/superstructure Steel/composite
 Classification Lloyd's #100 A1 SSC Yacht Mono G6
 * LMC UMS Ice Class 1D; MCA/Large Yacht Code (LY2)
 Top speed 17.5 knots
 Cruising speed 16 knots

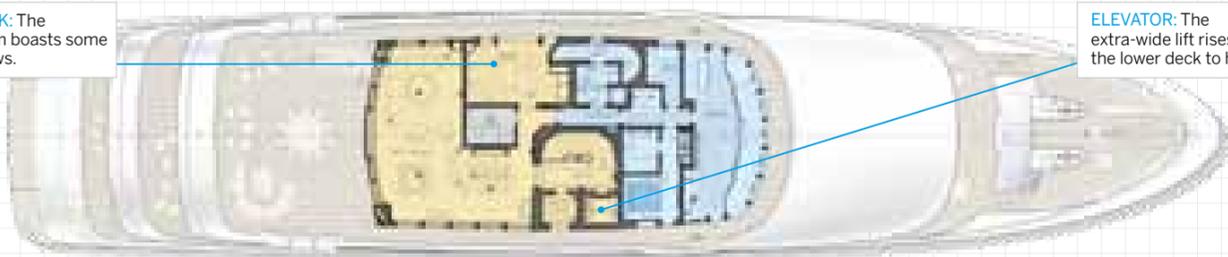
BUILDER/CHARTER
 Builder Delta Marine, Seattle, Washington, USA.
 Tel: +1 206 763 2383. Website: www.deltamarine.com
 Charter Burgess. Tel: +44 (0)20 7766 4300.
 Website: www.burgessyachts.com
 Charter rate From €511,000pw

SUNDECK: A crane for the tender when the yacht is under way.



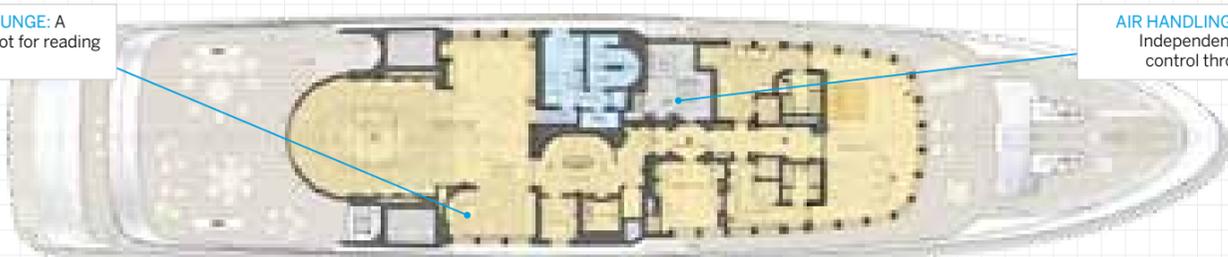
SUNDECK: Popular breakfast and lunch area is well shaded.

BRIDGE DECK: The port-side gym boasts some fantastic views.



ELEVATOR: The extra-wide lift rises from the lower deck to here.

OWNER'S LOUNGE: A wonderful spot for reading or chatting.



AIR HANDLING SPACE: Independent air-con control throughout.

MAIN SALON: A convivial location with lots of options for guests.



GUEST CABINS: Each suite has been created for a family member.

LOWER DECK: Well-appointed staff doubles can serve as extra guest suites.



CREW AREAS: Crew mess, with a separate crew lounge on the tank deck.

RESCUE TENDER: *Invictus*'s foredeck tender lives on the sundeck on passage.

SUNBED SEATING: A sociable semi-circle of seating – a great spot under way.

VOLUME: The yacht makes the most of a very healthy 13.1-metre beam.

OUTSIDE OPTIONS: Sunbathing, snacking or reading – your choice.



NAVAL ARCHITECTURE: Delta Design Group has produced the hull.

TOP SPEED: *Invictus* has a 17.5-knot top speed from her twin CATs.

TENDER GARAGE: The yacht's stunning 28ft Comitti lives here, along with plenty of toys.

BEACH CLUB: A fold-out section opens to create a large platform.