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Chris Madigan boards
Satori to find out*



The island of Pianosa, part of the Tuscan Archipelago, is on Satori owner Claus Thottrup's must-see list of cruising attractions



The freshwater infinity pool at Borgo Santo Pietro, the boutique hotel deep in the heart of Tuscany

On the screen, Juliette Binoche is stirring chocolat. As I lie back on a daybed, Andrea Mattei offers me warm popcorn he's just prepared (a task this Michelin starred chef is rather overqualified for). Our outdoor cinema is tonight located in a sheltered cove north of Portoferraio, on the Italian island of Elba, with the screen rigged up between mast stays at the bow of *Satori*.

In the morning light the next day, the backdrop is fully revealed – a tall cliff, made of granite once quarried for columns in the Colosseum in Rome. Before breakfast the stern swim platform unfolds from the transom allowing me to dive into the turquoise Tyrrhenian Sea and fully appreciate the sleek proportions of this 41.5 metre schooner. *Satori* was launched in early 2017 by Claus and Jeanette Thottrup but she has been designed with far more than just exterior aesthetics in mind. Her Danish creators also run the exquisite five-star Tuscan hotel Borgo Santo Pietro and the ethos behind her build was to reproduce “a boutique hotel and gourmet dining concept” at sea.

Claus and Jeanette are understandably proud of *Satori*, which they built in Bodrum – to RINA commercial yacht standards (and occasionally beyond – the windows contain 42mm laminated glass) – eventually purchasing the shipyard to complete the project. On board, the Thottrups' attention to detail is evident throughout, from her free-standing walnut bath in the master cabin to a cellar hidden underneath the stairs.





Satori is a 41.5m schooner, launched in 2017 but capturing the elegance and style of the 1920s and 30s. Designed by the Danish couple behind the five-star Borgo Santo Pietro boutique hotel in Tuscany, the boat combines luxury and nature, offering shared spaces and more intimate, private areas



As enthusiastic adoptive Tuscans, the Thottrups also believe they know the perfect region for *Satori* to provide the most relaxing or energising environment for a holiday. They have decided to limit *Satori*'s range to the Côte d'Azur and the west coast of Italy. But Claus goes further. "I would recommend embarking at Scarlino, [Nautor's Swan owner] Leonardo Ferragamo's marina at Follonica, which is 90 minutes from Pisa airport. In a week, you could explore the Tuscan Archipelago, the marine nature reserves of Pianosa and Montecristo, Isola del Giglio and down to the Promontorio del Argentario. The cliffs south of Porto Santo Stefano are

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spectacular, and the coast itself is beautiful – the clean, remote sandy beaches of Punta Ala, and Castiglione della Pescaia, which is a really cool town with great nightlife."

Follonica Marina is also handily located less than an hour's drive from Borgo Santo Pietro, if you wish to top or tail your time on board. Nestled in the Tuscan hills, its beautiful villas and rooms are enhanced by 13 acres of gardens and a 200 acre estate with organic pasture, olive groves and vineyards. Paths meander between the organic vegetable plots, herb gardens, orchards and berry bushes. Everywhere you walk, you encounter secret spots set up for open air seclusion –

a day bed overlooking an enticingly paintable pond, a secluded rose courtyard with a table, a reading nook surrounded by fragrant rosemary and lavender, a couple of seats perfectly positioned for a vista of the Valle Serena. Aboard *Satori*, this principle has been taken to sea, creating numerous spaces that can be as communal or private as you like.

Satori feels like a tasteful home of the 1930s, with sepia-tinted Turkish marble, black and white photographs of Greek fishermen reprinted from the National Archives in Athens, Pieter Adam lights and natural fabrics such as Pierre Frey linen. For ultimate relaxation one of the five cabins can be used

as a spa room, with a masseuse from Borgo Santo Pietro using Seed to Skin products – a range due to be launched commercially later in 2017, developed by Jeanette with a pharmacist, using natural ingredients such as honey and sheep's milk from the Borgo estate.

As enticing as *Satori* is, this quiet corner of Elba – where Napoléon Bonaparte was famously exiled in 1814 – deserves to be explored. The north coast has a plethora of sheltered anchorages by remote beaches or with views up to the 1,000 metre peak of Monte Capanne – perfect settings for making your own beach club. *Satori* is not short of water toys as she boasts three sea kayaks, an

Optimist dinghy, two Yamaha Superjet jet skis, a pair of Cayago F5S SeaBobs, and a wakeboard or water skis, which can be towed by the powerful Williams jet tender.

We decide to use the tender for a more sedate journey into the old harbour of Portoferraio. The curved dock oozes Italian charm, with its ancient bastions and fishermen selling sardines on the streets (although the town can be a bit of a squeeze, with tourists pouring from passing ferries). We climb the higgledy-piggledy roads to reach the butter yellow house where Napoléon lived in some comfort during his stint on the island. His favourite part



The ethos behind her build was to reproduce “a boutique hotel and gourmet dining concept” at sea



Part of the experience, both on Satori and back at Borgo, is not just eating exquisite food but also interacting with it



Andrea Mattei, right, is the head chef at Meo Modo, the Michelin starred restaurant at Borgo Santo Pietro. He regularly cooks on board Satori

of the Palazzina dei Mulini was reportedly its formal garden, which offered stunning views of the sparkling sea below. He didn't appreciate it for long, however, as he escaped within a year to regain the French crown.

For those with a more active disposition Elba's other attractions include walking or cycling (*Satori* has four Gocycle G3 electric bikes on board) in the national park. A two hour hike will get you to Elba's highest peak – Monte Capanne – offering panoramic views of the mainland of Italy and the islands of Corsica, Capraia, Pianosa and Montecristo (there is also a cable car option). Additionally, the five-star Hotel Hermitage offers windsurfing, a golf course and tennis courts.

Adventurous guests on board certainly won't go hungry as meals are prepared by either the head or sous-chef of one the Thottrup's pair of Michelin starred restaurants – Meo Modo at Borgo and La Bottega del Buon Caffè in Florence. The head chefs, Andrea Mattei (Meo Modo) and Antonello Sardi (La Bottega), have really taken to *Satori*'s galley. Larger than the kitchens of some successful landlocked restaurants, it runs almost the width of the deck, with windows on three sides. "I was born on the coast," says Mattei, "so I love to cook with a sight of the sea in every direction." Sardi says that the only real challenge has been plating. "I was dotting some cream on a dish and realised I was swaying over because of the waves. I've learnt to steady myself against the oven now."

During my time on board, Mattei and Sardi produce superlative dishes. First Sardi serves *ricciola* (amberjack) lightly cooked with beetroot in different forms – cream, gel, dust. The next day, Mattei serves his version marinated (also in beetroot), with almond and apple. The greatest rivalry (all friendly, though) comes with risotto: Sardi's rice with goat's curd and garden peas versus Mattei's asparagus risotto with an incredible spray of liquorice over the surface. These rice dishes are a hint that charter clients are not committed to a six course tasting menu every night. This is also the case at Borgo, where the Trattoria Sull'Albero serves salads, grills, pizzas and pasta in a casual restaurant built around the trunk of a huge oak tree (a little like the mast emerging from the bar of *Satori*).

Part of the experience, both on *Satori* and back at Borgo, is not just eating exquisite food but also interacting with it. On board *Satori* the galley is in a prominent position so it can be used to host a sea-going cookery school. Back on land, I spend a morning in an open sided, converted farm building, La Borgo Scuola di Cucina, under the tutelage of Mamma Olga, a *nonna* from Cinecittà Central Casting – diminutive, busy and just the right balance of stern and encouraging. She has us making pasta dough from scratch and filling ravioli with spinach and ricotta. Afterwards, we eat outside on a long bench – a more rustic version of the mahogany table aboard *Satori*.

The similarities between the Thottrup's assets stretch far beyond furnishings. It is the touch of Danish *hygge* combined with Italian *aria di casa* that has been successfully transferred from land to sea. ■
Satori is available to charter from €77,000 per week, burgessyachts.com

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