

Boat at Palm Beach is new flagship in Azimut Yachts' Grande Collection

LIFESTYLE By Christine Davis - Special to the Daily News



The Azimut Grande yacht blends style and volume, with a wide body, a raised pilot house and sleek exteriors featuring full-height windows in the bow and salon. The price for the standard model is \$17.5 million.

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Promoted as representing a step forward for the manufacturer, the Azimut Grande 35 Metri is the new flagship in Azimut Yachts' Grande Collection and made its U.S. premiere at the Miami Boat Show in January. It will be on view at the Palm Beach International Yacht Show.

Drawing on Azimut's carbon-fiber technology and the expertise of Stefano Righini, who designed the exteriors, the yacht blends style and volume, with a wide body, a raised pilot house and sleek exteriors featuring full-height windows in the bow and salon. The price for the standard model is \$17.5 million.

As a replacement to Azimut's flagship 116 model, this yacht is the same size but has 30 percent more volume, said Federico Ferrante, president of Azimut Benetti USA.

"It's a completely different model with new technologies and new interior design," he said. "For example, the superstructure is all carbon fiber. That's how we were able to increase the yacht's volume without increasing the weight and preserving the stability.

"What's also interesting about this yacht is that the hull is designed with a 'wave piercer' – that's a bulbous nose for a planing hull. At the same speed, this yacht is 22 percent more fuel efficient."

On the flybridge are large lounge areas forward and aft, one of which has a hydro-massage tub. On the main deck are the salon, a dining area and the owner's suite, which features an optional mechanized "instant" balcony, where a section of a carbon-framed window folds outward.

The interiors, designed by architect Achille Salvagni, feature matte-textured wood that contrasts with a darker polished wood. Brass, bronze and polished stainless-steel insets add to the sleek and sophisticated feel.

A notable interior feature is the spiral staircase that ascends from the lower deck to the pilot house. Its back-lighted onyx steps are finished in white lacquer and mother-of-pearl.

Below deck are four guest cabins. In the bow, and completely separated from the guest area, are quarters for six crew members, with a crew mess, four cabins and four bathrooms.

The yacht also features a garage that opens starboard for tender and jet-ski storage, which leaves the stern free for a beach club area via a pivoting swim platform.

Its two MTU 16V2000 M93 engines give a cruising speed of 21 knots and a top speed of 25.5 knots.

