

Dusk dining on Romea's upper aft deck; below, from top: some of the array of the yacht's water toys put through their paces; the relaxing spaces of the sun deck; subtle tones and comfortable furnishings of the upper deck salon



LABOUR OF LOVE

It's hard not to fall for Romea, a majestic yacht that puts enjoyment above all else, says Cornelia Marioglou

Not all marine masterpieces achieve operatic drama and verve, but those that do, like the new 81.8m *Romea* built by Abeking & Rasmussen of Germany, make for the highest achievement of shipbuilding: a vessel that is a joy to sail and one that serves as a benchmark for future creations. Staged across four decks, the *mise en scène* of *Romea* is more beach house than urban penthouse, says its London-based designer Terence Disdale, known for his tradition-busting penchant for mixing unexpected materials. The craft was devised with a family in mind, and as such the beach club is given pride of place at aft, and as well as four tenders, the toys on board are numerous: two Sea-Doo Waverunners, two Seabobs, two windsurfs, a Laser sailing boat, paddleboards, diving equipment for six and much more.

Above all the fun, a dozen guests are accommodated on the main deck in six-ensuite cabins while the owner's spacious deck includes a private fore deck. The crew of 23, including the captain, meanwhile, avail themselves of a lounge, mess and galley. Her steel hull is topped by an aluminium superstructure and the horsepower under the hood, so to speak, is enough to raise eyebrows: two Caterpillar 3516C engines speed *Romea* up to 16.9 knots, and her range is a very impressive 5,750 nautical miles at 14 knots. Kitted out to the max, yet warm and welcoming on every deck, *Romea* is a yacht that's easy to fall in love with. abeking.com; available for charter exclusively through Imperial Yachts, imperial-yachts.com

PHOTOS MARK SIMS