

# YACHTS

LEBANON

CRN 80M: CHOPI CHOPI

## THE ITALIAN JOB

### CRUISING TURKEY

THE WONDERS OF THE  
AEGEAN ARE CLOSER  
THAN YOU THINK

### GATEWAY TO THE MED

KARPAZ GATE MARINA  
MAY BE THE ANSWER  
TO LEBANON'S  
MARINA SQUEEZE

CRN'S LARGEST  
YACHT TO DATE IS  
A BENCHMARK OF  
ITALIAN DESIGN AND  
ENGINEERING



FEATURED YACHTS:  
LURSSEN 86M: QUATTROELLE | MONTE CARLO 86 | PERSHING 62

| In Real

| In Real

CRN 80M CHOPI CHOPI

# FAMILY CIRCLE

The largest yacht ever built by CRN to date has endured a lengthy build including two changes of ownership at the shipyard. As a private yacht, once she disappears from the show circuit she will drop out of public sight forever. Following a 'once in a lifetime' tour, Yachts presents to you Chopi Chopi.

By Frances and Michael Howorth

**If ever there was a superyacht built specifically for purpose then here**

Folding balconies for the VIP cabins are one of Chopi Chopi's many innovations



she is; the 263' (80m) Chopi Chopi built by the Italian shipyard CRN. She is a true homegrown icon. Italian stylists, decorators, suppliers and craftsmen, all from one nation, all part of one big family and all working in harmony together to create what may be the most perfect multi-generational family yacht of all time. Everything about this yacht is for the family. Even the yacht's unusual sounding name reflects the children's nickname for the owner's wife. They are her grand children...and they call her Chopichopi. Completing Chopi Chopi, the largest yacht ever built by CRN, has been no easy matter. Press releases issued over the five years of building often referred to periods of financial darkness, each in a bid to explain away the delay. During a press conference at the Monaco Yacht show however, CRN's CEO, Lamberto Tacoli more truthfully referred to Chopi Chopi and Jade her smaller sister as being the surprising survivors of two company bankruptcies. He said, "The rescue of the Ferretti group using the investment of China's Weichai Group is well

documented but here in steel and aluminum, the yachts stand proudly in Monaco as testament to the financial astuteness of our Chinese partners." Such financial uncertainty inside a shipyard might have put off some owners from carrying on with the building of a superyacht. Captain Richard Hodgson, now the yachts Captain and the project manager for the build. He believes, "The key to a successful build is making sure that the owners are well advised feel relaxed and are enthused with the project. The owners were extremely patient during the build, they were kept informed at all times and therefore had a clear understanding of the difficulties which the shipyard and Ferretti Group were going through during their two difficult periods of financial uncertainty." Clearly this was a massive part of the final result and the consequential happiness of the owners with the yacht and their investment. Valued at more than \$108-million USD, the yacht required well in excess of 660,000 working hours to complete and during that time many local suppliers were involved. With contractors coming and going, as well as an uncertain work force, motivation was at times running low during the process and indecision was bound to follow. A great many of the workforce were shifting positions and responsibilities within the shipyard, which inevitably meant a loss of experience in certain areas. Hodgson explains, "It was extremely important for us to support and sympathise with the remainder of the shipyards team by keeping them onside and positive about the project and their future. A great deal of them performed above and beyond their expectations, something that in turn showed strength of character and a great sense of loyalty to the shipyard and the project."

**An Italian Job**

Chopi Chopi is a grand showcase of Italian extravagance and quality, having been fully constructed in Ancona and designed by two Italian architectural firms: Studio Zuccon International Project, designers of the interior and exterior layout, and Studio Laura Sessa Romboli, who was responsible for completing the interior furniture and decor. The yacht stands apart from other CRN creations for her high volumes, wide walkways and a somewhat sinuous shape. Yet her soft lines, care for the detail and wellness on-board, and important features enable a more direct guest contact with the sea. The beach club on the lower level for example turns into more than 872sqft (81sqm) of teak decked ter-



The transom folds out into an expansive beach club area

race just feet above the water. Semi-enclosed balconies and a retractable terrace for the owner's private office are other examples of how the designers have striven to associate the guests with the medium on which they travel. The owner's concern for younger family members is demonstrated by the fact that every single exterior stairwell has a gate that can, when they are on-board, be shut to protect them from activities taking place on other decks. He has not forgotten his own comfort however, taking one whole deck and devoting it entirely to himself and his wife. Located between bridge and sun deck, this magnificent floating apartment is where he can enjoy cruising in maximum privacy and it offers him direct access to the aft helipad. Architects Gianni and Paola Zuccon, with daughter Martina and son Bernardo, together make up Studio Zuccon International Project. They are the exterior stylists who, in the case of Chopi Chopi, were also responsible for the yacht's interior layout and the decoration of her external spaces. While they reached their high standard of interesting design, there are three features aboard Chopi Chopi that deserve special note. The first concerns the access to the sea and what we did not mention earlier, namely the way in which the guest descends to the beach club from the center of the main salon. Gloriously decadent and gracefully





**Chopi Chopi has been built entirely to purpose as an ornate family yacht**



simple, the wide staircase creates a direct link to the casual relaxing area that surrounds the beach club and its 5-star wellness facilities, which include a gym, spa, steam bath, hammam and massage room.

The second design feature is on deck at the after end of the sun deck, where the use of stairs and ladders gives the yacht a formal identity that is so clearly going to help identify her on the horizon. The third is the enormous and almost circular pilot house or navigation center. Some owners spend money on the bridge of the yacht and look upon the area with great pride, associating it with the power of command. They enjoy showing their guests how the yacht works and how the modern day electronics work with each other to keep the yacht safe and accurately navigated. Others find the area of no interest at all and it can be, as a result, often found in a small poky space tucked away where the owner cannot see it. This owner clearly belongs to the former group and has spared no expense in creating what must be the most modern and up-to-date superyacht navigation and communication center currently afloat.

**The Bridge**

The Captains cabin, his office and the enormous bridge lie forward of the dining room on the Bridge Deck. Captain Richard Hodgson is the yacht's Master and has had the opportunity since handover of putting the yacht through her paces. He told us, "From a sea going perspective as an operational captain, I consider the hydrodynamics and seaworthiness of the CRN hulls to be fantastic. They are comfortable in all sea conditions and I have not been disappointed here."

His bridge is one of the most modern we have seen to date and positively bristles with the latest in technology. It is a veritable shrine to the multi-touch technology revolution and incorporates both I-Bridge and I-Chart from the Viareggio-based Team Italia. Developed to create a highly personalised helm station



for each individual owner, Team Italia combines the cruising experiences of superyacht captains with the firm's technical and electronic know-how. Creating a user-friendly multi-touch system, which can be customised, their products combine multi-touch technology with the operation of an electronic chart table, which functions in pretty much the same way as an Apple iPad does. Set into the chart table behind the helm this table sized screen functions using the same hand gestures familiar to all who use an iPad or iPhone.

**Tailor Made**

Gianni Zuccon speaks little English, but working through a translator he told us how proud he was to have worked on Chopi Chopi. He said, "As you know I work on the designs of five out of the eight Ferretti brands, but CRN is my favorite. Not only have I drawn their largest yacht to date, but in this boat you have my own personal biggest launch to date. But I like what we have achieved, it has drawn upon all of our combined experience while working with Ferretti, both in the one-off yachts and the production yachts



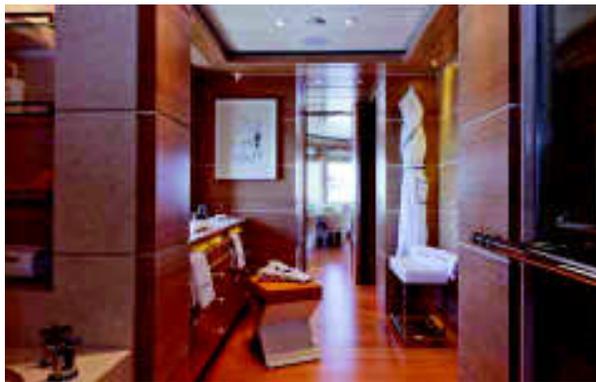


we design for them. When we started on the designs for this yacht there was no owner, she was for the shipyard to build and sell. She was just 246' (75m) back then, but as we optimised her for her specific requirements she grew by another 16' (5m)."

We asked how closely the finished article resembled the early design? Zuccon replied, "Apart from the size the finished yacht very much resembles the original sketches we first conceived." We asked Gianni if he found working on the larger superyachts of these dimensions any easier or harder when compared to «smaller» superyachts? The answer came in the form of a shrug of the shoulders, but we quickly gathered, even though we do not speak Italian, that he did not think the size of the yacht was all that important. "What matters to me", he said, "is that we are generally granted the freedom to do what we think is best. We had it here and working with the input from the owner, have created a superyacht."

Zuccon has given Chopi Chopi tall wide side windows in the hull and superstructure, which allow light to flood into the interiors, thus granting constant eye contact with the sea. Laura Sessa has used this natural light to great effect when designing the interior. Aside from her already established relationship with CRN, Laura Sessa had also previously worked with the owner and it was he who approached her early on in the build process. Having designed the interiors for

**The owner's stateroom is placed forward, with commanding views over the yacht's bow**



their previous yacht, she was familiar with the family's tastes and preferences and this inside knowledge gave her a head start and enabled her to get work underway quite quickly. She told us, "We worked very closely with the family in every step of the process to achieve a classic contemporary design; an interior that harmoniously balanced their aesthetic tastes as well as their requirements for comfort and a relaxing environment for their family." She added, "We experimented extensively with materials throughout the interiors of the vessel. The Spa, for example, features a combination of mirror with teak and woven leather, this was coupled with a bleached Oregon pine, marble and lacquered wood." Some of the detail in this area is exquisite, like the timber panels that appear to be stitched to the bulkhead with leather thread. Distressed oak woodwork resides side by side with brown and cream soft furnishings, and that would be a catchall description of the basic theme that runs through the yacht. That may sound unadventurous, but then it does not accurately describe the finished product, which communicates a sense of understated luxury. It is a carefully contrived unobtrusive canvas upon which the owner's considerable and very fine art collection can be displayed to full effect. The Main saloon for example is magnificent for its size and space offered, but it is the maple floor and furniture, the likes of the Baxter sofas that make it seem so grand. Square furniture, square space, square edges yet there is a softness about the design that makes it all come together to create a welcoming space in which to sit back, relax and watch the 103" plasma TV.

**Entertainment and the Electronic Butler**

Most top end luxury resorts have a Butler who attends to the every need a guest might have. On board a superyacht the structuring of staffing is a little different, but nevertheless aboard Chopi Chopi guests can still call upon the services of a Butler... even if he is an electronic one! "You can tell him if you feel warm and ask him to turn up the air conditioning or ask him to lower the light," explains Sara Stimili of Videoworks SpA. "You can ask for a movie, listen to music, you can choose your drink or meal, telling him when and where you want it. Do you want to read today's newspaper or tune into the TV station back home, or perhaps you fancy a trip ashore tomorrow but want to know where to go and what to see? Then ask the butler because he is the concierge at the same time." Aboard this yacht the butler/concierge is a software-based system that is controlled by guests using the iPads that are scattered throughout the yacht.

If you wish to move from your cabin to the salon while watching a film, you pause and it follows you. Brought to market by Videoworks SpA, the system called My



**Chopi Chopi is a grand showcase of Italian extravagance and quality**



## I In Real

Concierge is an intuitive software system, which controls all the domotic functions. Developed by Ancona-based Videoworks, with valuable contributions from CRN and owner's representatives and captain, the system integrates HTML5 and XCODE (Apple iOS) technologies in order to create a robust computing infrastructure which has been personalised to give users the flexibility and usual command interfaces normally found on Apple devices.

With the Itwmode App downloadable from the App Store, users can even use their own iPads or iPhones to call crew on board, view phone lists or read messages left for them by the Captain. Users can view the chart, watch the ships navigation as it takes place and, by using the external cameras, access the world outside the yacht without leaving the App. Crew get to use the same system but their access is slightly different, amongst other features, alarm messages related to onboard instrumentation, or requests from guest calls are routed through their own personalized UHF Crew Radio set.

CRN80M: Chopi Chopi

**LOA:** 262' 06" (80.00m)  
**Beam:** 44' 04" (13.50m)  
**Draft:** 11' 01" (3.40m)  
**Displacement:** 1,700 tons  
**Hull Material:** Steel  
**Superstructure:** Aluminum  
**Guests:** 12 (5 in double cabins + 1 Owner suite)  
**Crew + Staff:** 33  
**Fuel:** 306,000 l  
**Water:** 66,340 l  
**Engines:** 2 x Caterpillar 3516B-C  
**Power:** 2 x 2,200 @ 1600 rpm  
**Maximum Speed:** 16-knots  
**Cruising Speed:** 15-knots  
**Range:** 6,000 nautical miles @ 12-knots  
**Naval Architecture:** CRN Engineering  
**Exterior Design:** Zuccon International Project  
**Interior Design:** Laura Sessa Romboli  
**Builder:** CRN Shipyard ([www.crn-yacht.com](http://www.crn-yacht.com))  
**Middle East Distributor:**  
**Sea Pros ([www.seapro.com](http://www.seapro.com))**

### Accommodating Atmosphere

With the owner having a deck dedicated to his own use, the main deck is left free for guest accommodations and they do not go short of space! The large lobby opens to reveal an office with a drop down side balcony and large side opening glass doors that make this a highly desirable piece of real estate. Guest cabins are a delight and share similar design features, each using a contrasting and bright color from the primary palate. Bright Blue, Sunny Orange, Brilliant Purple and an All White cabin will all be great hits with the younger guests and one suspects that the family had a hand in the allocation of the shades of color.

The VIP is decadent in its space and lavish in its décor. Running the full beam of the yacht it does, to our mind at least, outshine the master bedroom. Here the open, side terrace can be used while the yacht is underway at sea. Add in a sumptuous bathroom to port and the spacious dressing room to starboard and you achieve, as a result, one of the most beautiful spaces on board the yacht. Between the main and upper deck is the bridge deck and that is where the family will typically spend their time at leisure when inside the yacht. The upper salon is of simple design that is modern and clean. It features the most luxurious of sculptured silk rugs that positively massages the feet while walking upon it. Forward there's a bar area where guests can take an aperitif before being called through to the adjacent dining room. The dining area is home to a simplistic wooden table, the design complexities of which only become apparent when you realize it can switch from a long table for 18 guests to become two round tables each for six persons.

Above the bridge deck, the owner's deck reveals the experienced yachtsman at work. Given that this owner knows what he wants, it demonstrates how he and his wife use a space and how, together, they have given the layout a great deal of thought. Stand still and look around and the evidence is all here. Piece it all together like a jigsaw puzzle to get the picture of their lifestyle. Clearly he loves to watch TV and movies in a small lounge and often must do so late at night when his wife has perhaps retired before him. There is a second bedroom for occasional use that could be used for children or supernumeraries.

If this deck or indeed this yacht tells you anything about luxurious living at all, it does so by reiterating the truism that in today's modern world; 'the greatest luxuries of all are space and time.'

