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BIG BOAT IN TOWN

Ocean Alexander launches a big-boat concept at 68 feet



Ocean Alexander debuted and sold a yacht at the Palm Beach show that even boaters looking for a larger yacht will find appealing.

The new 68-foot motor yacht just doesn't appear to be a larger boat, it actually is. The 68 utilizes the hull of the successful 74-foot yacht and enjoys its greater freeboard. This translates into more volume between the gunwales.

"We wanted a boat that embodied the features of a larger yacht yet still not exceed insurance companies' length restriction for captained operation," says Richard Allender, Ocean Alexander's executive vice president of sales and marketing. Larger yacht features include: Quash brand lead foam sound and vibration insulation; Marineair chilled water air conditioning; Octoplex Power Management System; two Northern Lights generators.

The main deck has a new open floor plan. Entering through the salon slider the sight line is open through to the windshield. Camphor burl is used extensively throughout the boat, and contrasts with the grain of the sakura paneling and cabinetry.

Starboard of the six-place dining table is a generous

U-shaped galley that has all of the appliances required for preparing gourmet fare. A mirrored bulkhead separates the galley from the salon and gives the impression of a larger salon than on the 74-footer.

The wheelhouse sports a Stidd electric helm chair at the centerline wheel. A chart table with storage and a navigator's seat is to port.

A lighted handrail leads down the marble steps to the granite and marble soled foyer. The generous master suite is full-beam amidships with the bath located along the suite's starboard side. A VIP is in the forepeak, a twin cabin is to port, and both are ensuite.

The spacious flybridge includes a wet bar, barbecue settee, twin Stidd helm chairs and stores up to a 15-foot tender.

A sound system features audio distribution to the salon, aft deck and pilothouse. A Crestron Adagio touch pad system operates the Sony 40-inch LCD TV in the salon and the 37-inch Sony LCD screen system in the master suite.

The crew-access stairway in the cockpit mirrors the bigger boats. Below is a twin cabin, shower, head

and engine room access. The engine room is well considered for a pair of 1,000-hp Caterpillar engines. They deliver a 19-knot top end and allow the 68 to cruise at a comfortable 15 knots.

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