

MOTOR YACHT

Lürssen 136m

# FLYING FOX

Photos: Guillaume Plisson for Imperial | Words: Jodie Oacks











### Lürssen Flying Fox; The Magnus Opus of the Sea

What does it take to make a magnus opus of the sea? How do you dream bigger than anyone has dared? And how do you take a singular idea and turn it into something that doesn't just push the boundaries of superyacht innovation, but straight up breaks the mold.

Espen Øino has the secret; you keep it simple. For the man responsible for designing the world's largest charter yacht, piecing together the vision of M/Y Flying Fox had to be tackled with the simple seed of conception. *'Conceiving a 136m yacht is not much different from conceiving a 70m yacht, it's like designing anything. You have one goal and one goal only – to interpret a vision and satisfy the client'*. Of course, a ship of this magnitude takes a village and fortunately, Øino had some of the finest assistance with Lürssen at the shipyard helm and Mark Berryman on interior design. As the world authority in the industry, Imperial Yachts also played an essential role in the construction of Flying Fox, weaving together the contacts, compassion, and commitment to elegant ocean-bound dreams that make it possible for a superyacht like this to exist. Imperial acted as the owner representative and construction supervisor throughout the whole process, adding yet another incredible feat to their portfolio of seven 100+ meters yachts built or under construction in the last five years alone.

### A Yacht That Goes Beyond Math and Science

Flying Fox is a yacht you could study for years and never grow tired of poring over her beauty. It's a piece of art out on the water – all salacious white curvy lines that flow like the foam of a gentle breaking wave. Stacked at a staggering 32 meters above the surface of the ocean -Flying Fox doesn't break stride, and somehow stays sleek, and without the swagger one would expect of such a magnificent creation. Perhaps it's the remarkably clean lines that curate her silhouette, maybe it's the touches of muted grey or the shimmering line of windows that sweeps around the yacht from every angle, but the vision of the world's largest charter yacht makes a magnum first impression. Flying Fox is a boat that seems to straddle the lines between masculine and feminine; neither displaying muscle or delicacy, but rather reminding us that the modern world makes space for a fresh-faced approach to occupy space previously unsought.

While the numbers certainly make for impressive reading; this is a yacht that goes beyond the borders of math and science. She is literature. This is without a doubt Lürssen's show-stealer; a lengthy 136 meters with a 22.5 wide beam and eleven spectacular cabins to welcome no less than 36 guests in charter mode and 25 guests to stay the night. A cruising speed of 17knots takes you comfortably across the seas, and every inch of meticulous design creates an overall interior space that seems strewn with light, raw luxury, and the perfect balance of beautiful wellbeing. Øino notes *"Many of our boats are usually very linear, but this owner was really into organic design, it was all about teamwork, and as the designers, we were simply holding the pen."*







### Exploring A Subconscious Relationship to Space

Øino may downplay the unrivaled imaginative talent that must have gone into creating such a yacht, like any great masterpiece, Flying Fox didn't come without impeccable planning and a demand for detail. The owner was heavily involved straight from the start, and every meeting would span hours and almost days as they shaped every inch, working from the inside out and subconsciously considering the relationship of space, the play of light, the flow of air, and all those woven details that create a sensory mood.

It seems criminal to attempt to pin a single word on Flying Fox, but perhaps the word would be wellness, and this doesn't just relate to the sprawling two-deck spa of 400sqm, but for the feeling you get when stepping inside. A place where the shoulders drop ten inches, the heart cracks open, and every knot in the body seems to unravel. There is so much space - an endless oasis of teak lifted with Zen-like cream sunbeds and loungers arranged artfully around open fireplaces. Corners and swathes separated by the placement of Mediterranean fresh plants bringing deep greens to the neutral and soothing color scheme.

### Plunging Into Fresh Technology

The Sea Lobby Spa that cascades across the aft end of the yacht is perhaps where the mise-en-scene mood of Flying Fox is captured best. A glut of gorgeous warm teak creates a bathing platform that spreads over 22 meters wide welcoming you to the outside space, and the spa itself is where impressive oak meets warm limestone beneath bare feet. The Turkish Hammam is decked out in Jerusalem stone, and the dedicated sauna invites soothing after exercise unwinds. Bubbling jacuzzi's and spa features de resistance of the 12m swimming pool that stretches side to side on the main deck that truly makes the eye pop. One could underestimate how having a pool placed this way is truly out of the box thinking. For a start, it's a challenge to even keep the water in situ should the ocean be rolling. This is where Lürssen's genius engineering had to come in; creating miniature models that simulated real conditions and allowed for problem-solving with baffles and gates to break volume momentum. Even better, the height-adjustable floor can take it from a deep-water plunge to shallow paddle and even a full-scale bandstand all in the touch of a button.

No thought or expense has been spared when it comes to keeping the body satiated; Flying Fox spa is also one of the first to offer a CryoSauna. This nitrogen-cooled machine is beloved by professional athletes as it expertly reduces body temperature in less than three minutes, the perfect post-workout option for soothing muscle pain, and helping regenerate tired tissue to keep moods boosted and the body in beautiful balance.











### A Cohesive Experience of Pamper and Play

On the lower deck, the sea lounge platform and diving center invite open access to the sea. Like everything else onboard Flying Fox, the diving center is utterly state of the art, offering everything from underwater scooters for flying beneath the surface to a professional three-seat decompression chamber. Rather than simply catering for the advanced or fair-weather fun diver, Flying Fox takes a look from every angle – ensuring all levels of diving ability are beautifully catered for, whether it's the first time you have ducked your head beneath water or you are looking to delve deep with 100ft expeditions. Of course, the tender garage doesn't cut any corners, brimming with every water toy imaginable; flyboards, kitesurfs, an array of first-class tenders, skis and Seabobs.

The spa spills upwards in seamless style to the aft of the main deck too, where a beauty parlor and massage room entice you for pampering after a day out on the ocean. Again beauty is experiential on Flying Fox with warm water beds, rainfall massages, body sculpting, and electrical facials. The whole layout of the spa area has been designed to guide you through a cohesive experience of play and pamper.

### There's an Artistry in Curating Calmness

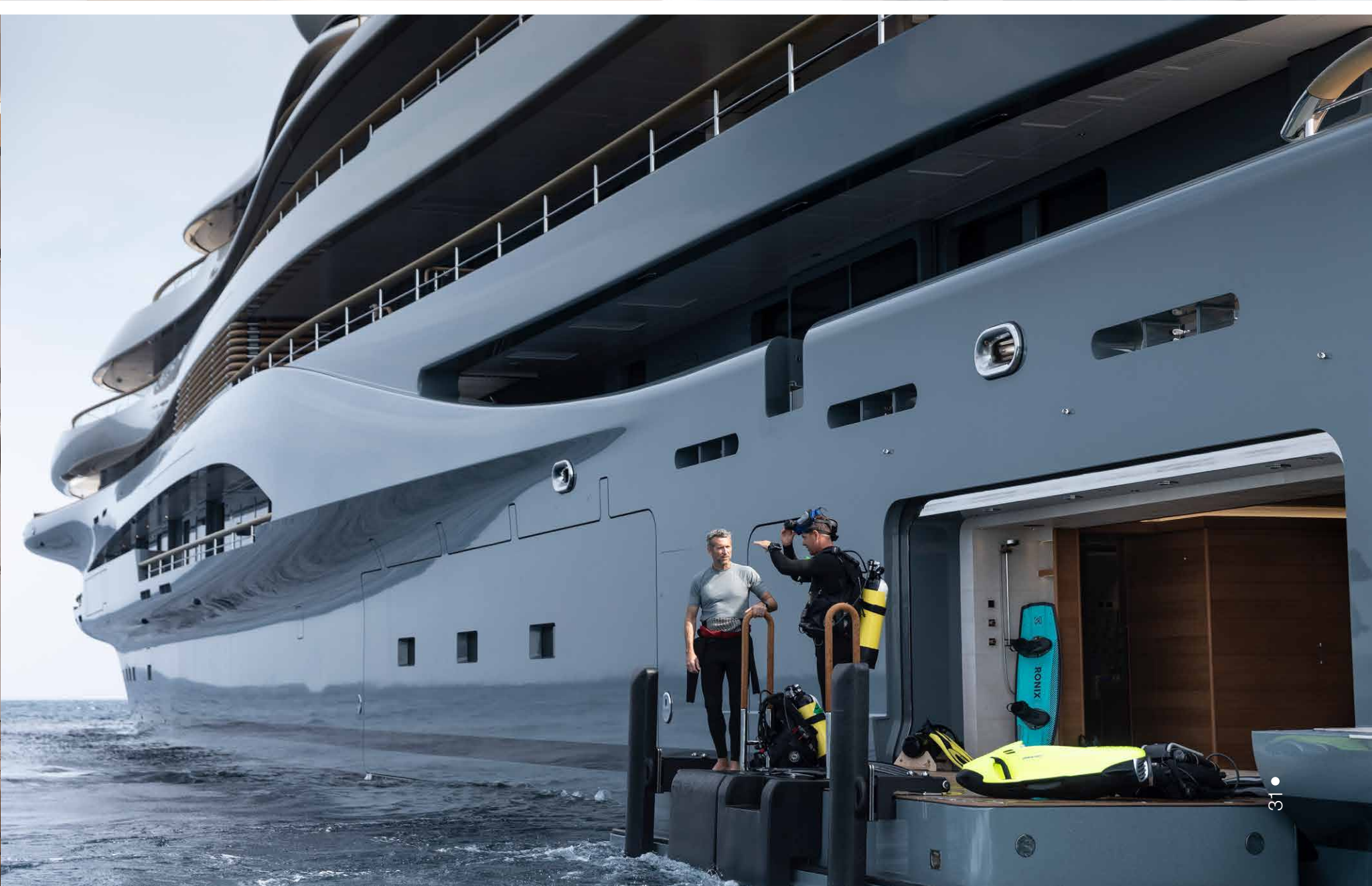
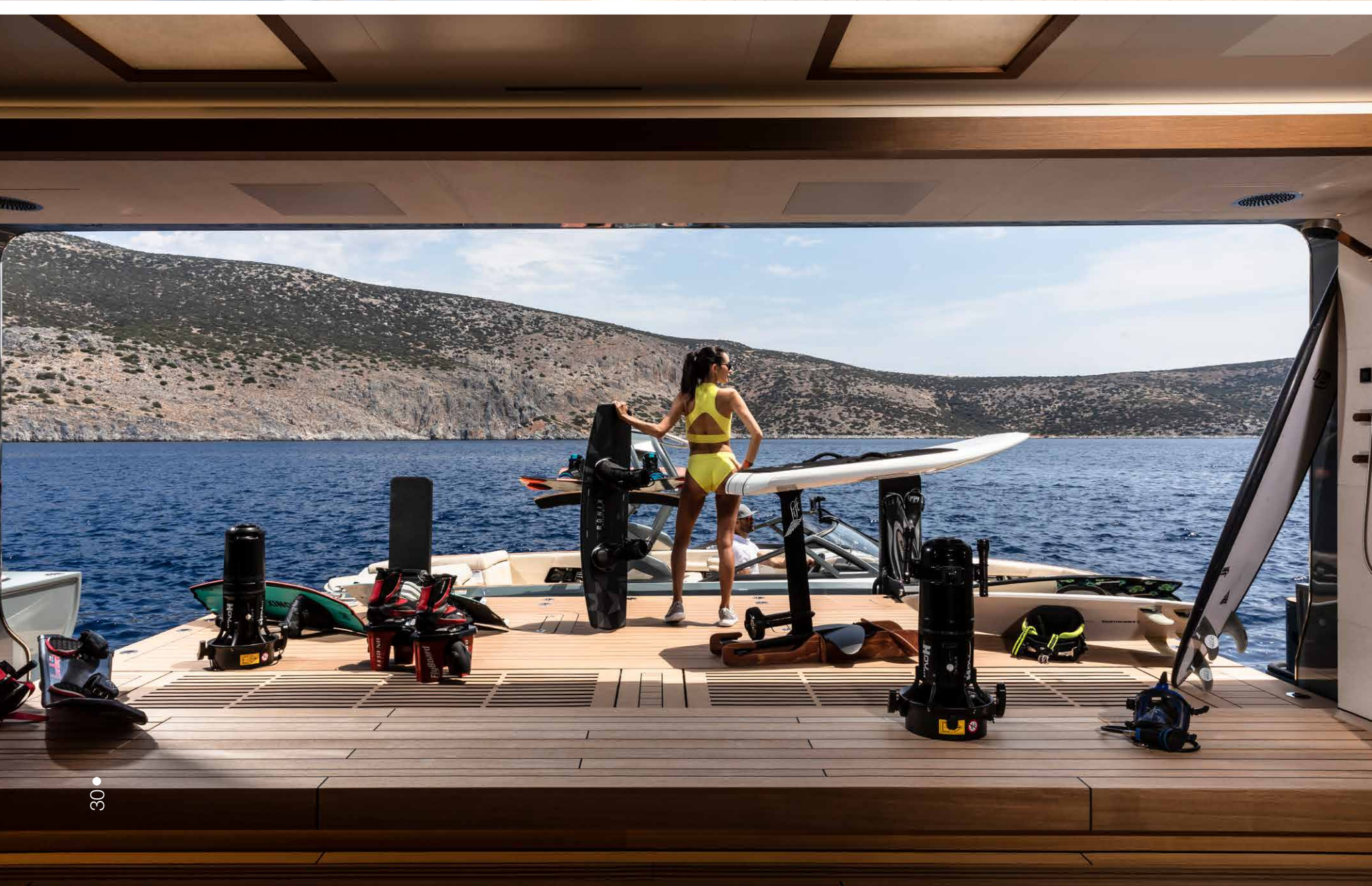
Like a world-class spa resort, Flying Fox makes the guest experience paramount. All ten of the guest cabins are thoughtfully positioned around the wellness space so that guests can stretch in their sun-dappled beds and rouse themselves in the finest way they see fit – a morning dip, a sunrise yoga session on the deck or even a skin to skin experience with the calm blue ocean herself. Of course, the suites are sublime; with clean contemporary comforts and that tasteful Japanese inspired touch that calls on neutral color schemes and natural materials. Think cool to the touch travertine marble, warm bamboo and honey hues, woven rattan for a tiny pinch of the tropical, and rich creamy leathers that blend so beautifully with the ryokan style screened ceilings. There's an artistry in curating such a calm space and it calls on an intricate knowledge of proportional design to do it well.

This delicate yet dreamy design carries over to the master suite occupying a glut of space on the upper deck, but it's the bathroom that adds an extra dose of charm. Sure, the grand scale oval bath is a beauty, but the coral mosaic that adorns the shower wall is one of those details that stays etched in mind. It's a motif that flows throughout the yacht – an artistic treasure hunt if you will. The owner has a penchant for mosaics, and the designers called on a specialist from the water city of Venice to piece together fabled mosaics of sea creatures that occupy space on guest suite doors and lower deck floors.











## Spaces That Marry the Ocean and Earth

There is only one synonym for the owner's suite, and that word is stunning. The aft salon, beautifully dressed bedroom, fireplace, and cozy sitting room makes for a grand self-contained apartment that oozes a deep-breath style of design to immediately soothe the soul. Glass instead of bulwarks invite sweeping ocean vistas and a private terrace with spa pool and stretch out seating perfectly complete this idea of a private oasis.

For those days when the desire to revel in social company takes centerstage – the two-tiered salon is yet another statement piece offered by Lürssen's Flying Fox. Comprised of an upper deck sitting room for stylish kickbacks and flanked on the starboard side by a double-height soaring ceilinged salon, decked out in warm woods, elegant creams, and a real wood fireplace for that stay at home feel even when you are out at sea. Ficus trees populate various salon spots, and a fresh glut of greenery adorns the staircase – fed by a full irrigation system to ensure all plants get the nutrients needed to bloom beautifully. The marriage of earthly elements and ocean-inspired design comes together at the central aquarium placed close to the bridge deck, where coral bright colors lend a little eye-candy to the calming muted space.

## To Feel Found Instead of Lost

As Øino notes *'the challenge of a big boat is to make spaces that feel intimate, because you are not normally with outside guests, and it's easy to create spaces that make you feel a little bit lost.'* Fortunately, lost is the last thing you feel when stepping onto Flying Fox, in-fact you perhaps feel as though you have stepped into your own skin, a place that invites you to move fluidly through graceful rooms, to turn your head and catch the ripple of the ocean, the gauzy glow of sunlight, and spaces that leave you as soft as cotton.

This is a yacht that makes the most of five-star outside space like no other. Every deck flows with seamless beauty, inviting you to flop down on a sumptuous seating pad, to raise a glass and feast beneath starlight at the 24-person al fresco table, and to fall in love with teppanyaki chef evenings thanks to the exterior galley where line-caught fish sizzles in the Josper charcoal oven and fine cuts turn on the professional rotisserie. There is also a teppanyaki tandoor oven and a professional pizza oven, meaning that every spur of the moment appetite can be accommodated. Worked into the theme of wellness is the art of beautiful cuisine, and Michelin star magic touches every corner of Flying Fox's culinary experience.

After dinner, the best spot has to be around the firepit, where the finest brandy is cradled in warm hands beneath a dizzying display of stars. The chef truly becomes less of a stashed away feature and more a flash superstar when you make the kitchen a more interactive on-display experience. The guest galley is another blinding behind the scenes area geared towards hearty good-natured hedonism; think lobster tanks and pasta machines and every tantalizing toy imaginable to those who curate dreamy dishes with love.









