

Asia-Pacific

Volume 1 Issue 4

Villa & yacht

| Boating | Living | Style | Travel |



White Rabbit

It's big! It's fast! It's EXPENSIVE!

Cruising Komodo

Thaiwijits' 'Pot Art'

Villa Living in Ubud

PIMEX 2005 Phuket

Indonesia IDR 30,000
Singapore S\$ 5
Thailand B150
Australia AUD 4
Hongkong HKD 26
Europe € 2.60



This is our biggest, most international, glossiest *Villa and Yacht* magazine to date and this issue has been specially prepared to coincide with and promote, two of the most exciting events in the Asian yachting calendar. The 19th *Phuket Kings Cup Regatta* (dates Dec 3 – 10) is the jewel in the crown of the Asian yachting circuit. Integrated in 1987 to celebrate the 60th birthday of *His Majesty the King of Thailand* the event has been held every year since during the first week of December. Secondly, the *Pimex 2005 Boat show* will be held at the *Phuket Boat Lagoon* marina from Dec 8 – 11. Over 6,000 visitors are expected at what is becoming Asia's premier Boating and Lifestyle show.

In this bumper issue we have packed in everything from showcasing the latest hi-profile luxury vessels, sumptuous homes and haute properties, some *utterly adornable jewelery*, upscale eateries, stylish photography, a trip to the fascinating dragon island of Komodo, and if that's not enough we feature 5 star tent experiences for the *bourgeois Bedouin*. Our publication will continue to focus on providing updates and news on progress and developments in and around Asia. With contributors around the region, we have gone overboard to create an upscale guide and leading communication platform for the discerning traveler, *yachtie*, ex-pat and other movers and shakers around the world. So whether you're an armchair admiral, a *sea worn skipper* or just interested in keeping abreast of the news and views in these here parts.... welcome aboard and we hope you enjoy this issue

Ed



villa & yacht

December 2005/January 2006

EDITORIAL

Publisher : **PT. Indo Media**
 Editor : **Dennis Gilfeather**
 Art Direction : **Restless Generation**
 Contributing Writers : **Kate Allen, Dennis Sweeney, Jeanne Leong, Gary2Tanks**
 Distribution : **Agus Yudhiantara & Agung Putra**

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES

Tel: +62 (0) 361 733 399
 Fax: +62 (0) 361 737 403
 Email: info@villayacht.biz
www.villayacht.biz

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

Bali
 Jl. Petitenget No 111
 Kerobokan, Kuta, Bali, INDONESIA
 Tel: +62 (0) 361 733 399
 Fax: +62 (0) 361 737 403
 Email: info@dcabali.com / info@villayacht.biz

International
 Level 14 & 15 Prudential Tower
 30 Cecil Street
 Singapore 049712
 Tel : +65 9423 7094
losita@villayacht.biz

EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS

Manuscripts and photographs should be sent to:
info@villayacht.biz

VILLA & YACHT

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yachting 4



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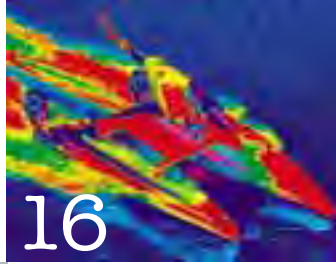
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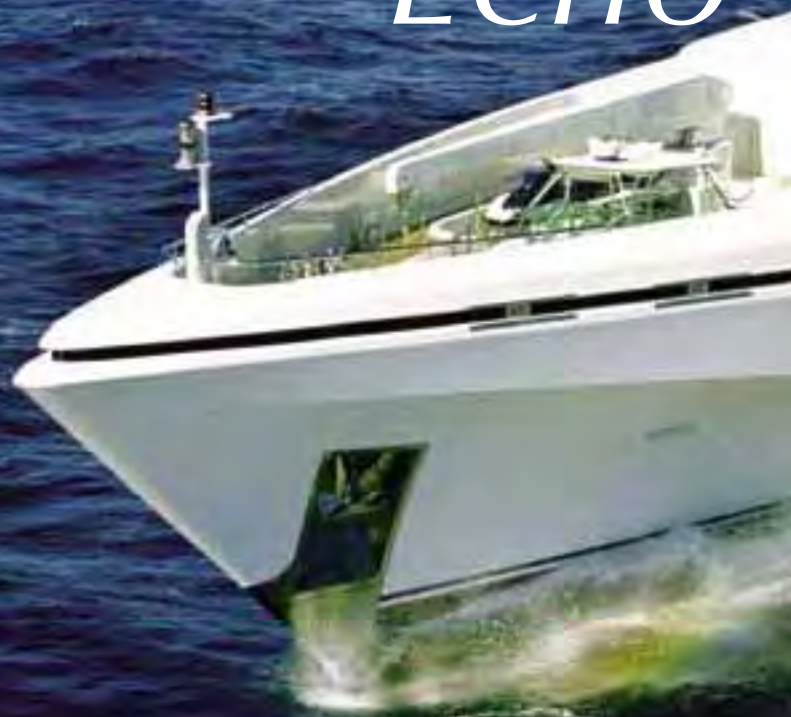


55 yachts



White Rabbit *Echo*

Divine Design





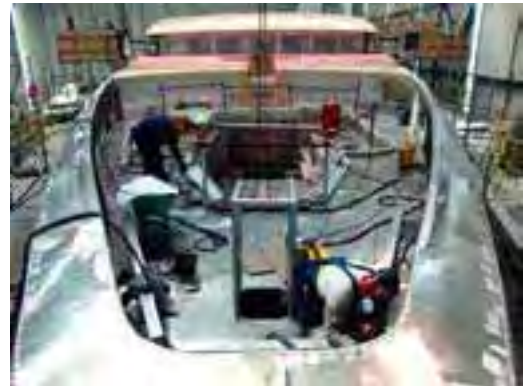




The awe inspiring Superyacht White Rabbit Echo has won global acclaim from boating experts not only for its quality but also for its handling and stability. The owner is a keen fisherman and the vessel also contains three smaller fishing vessels on board, of which the largest, a 9m sports fishing boat, is contained in a pit on the foredeck. An on-board crane launches these smaller vessels and there is even a live fish tank for keeping the catch as fresh as possible. Oddly enough the owner suffers from sea-sickness and it was a chance journey on a high speed ferry that first brought the owners attention to this unique design concept. He had sailed single hull and catamarans before but the stability and smoothness of motion he felt aboard this 55meter high speed ferry built by North West Bay Ships (NWBS) convinced him that trimarans were definitely the way forward.

The owner then commissioned NWBS Tasmania to adapt the trimaran platform to build what was to be the worlds first ever trimaran Super yacht. The vessel eventually took three years from conception to building and required NWBS to ramp up its workforce to over 300 tradesmen, skilled in the design, construction, fit-out, engineering and electrical work of such a high quality vessel. The existing fabricating, welding, engineering and electrical workforce was augmented with the relocation of specialists in the areas of fit-out and painting to the channel area.

Mark O'Connel was hired as build captain and owner's representative to quality control the building of the ship, his seafaring experience





coupled with the youthful enthusiasm of the design team has gone on to produce a super yacht that is the envy of the industry. "Traditionally a ship of this magnitude would have been built by one of the older more established shipbuilders in Europe" says Captain Mark, "But NWB's experiences with monohull ferries plus the low rate of the Aussie dollar made us decide on Tasmania".

Captain Mark's definition of a super yacht is 'anything over 50 meters' and White Rabbit reaches 61 meters long by 15 meters wide. How did they tackle the initial design problems when there were no examples to

go by? "We had to rethink a lot of the ideas used in monohull because of the sheer size and shape of the ship. The engineer John Buffoni's input was substantial; he spent the last fifteen years in the Royal Navy and is a gas turbine and all round systems specialist. He oversaw the hydraulics and mechanics and made sure the building specifications were met."

The vessel had a contract speed of 19 knots and every piece of equipment had to be weighed before being installed. The hull design was actually rated to 40 knots and was made entirely from aluminum. Unique

stabilizing foils inside her wavepiercing hulls connected to a computerized giro stabilizer can hold White Rabbit steady in seas up to 6m. The slender shape of the central hull reduces wave noise and pitching.

Another advantage of having a trimaran hull is the increased deck space on the upper decks. No expense has been spared on this custom creation and some of the special features above decks include ; a VIP stateroom, a cascade flow into the Jacuzzi, a lift that links all three decks and a sun deck that can be converted to a heli-pad.

White Rabbit has exceeded all expectations both in design and innovation and beat her contracted speed by two knots in her initial sea trials. It all seems like a dream come true but it can't have all been plain sailing. "if there was one thing to look out for " says Captain Mark " It would be the jet skiers when the boat is anchored in the port. The trimaran shape of the White Rabbit creates huge two meter tunnels under the boat which would create a great temptation for some

pissed-up jet skier to come flying through and hit some poor unsuspecting swimmer at the other end. I insisted that we drag nets between the hulls when we are at anchor to avoid disaster."

The launching of White Rabbit has certainly launched NWBS Boats into the super yacht league and Hobart is now firmly on the map as a serious contender in the super yacht building stakes. Come on Aussie!! ■







White Rabbit's 16-seat dining table can be converted into two round tables for eight, complete with lazy susans.

The lounge, bedrooms and karaoke room exude a masculine feel and are mostly made up of cream carpets and dark wood.

