

on board

additional deckhead height to accommodate them, while they also dictated the colour palettes for their respective rooms. But unlike the interiors of most superyachts, this yacht is no copy of an expensive cottage or Manhattan apartment; Freivokh took his inspiration from the high-tech look of the rig and developed a totally unique style that might be described as a marriage of industrial chic and Star Wars – an appealingly luxurious step into the future in the form of an elegant, comfortable machine.

One of the most appealing features of the main deck is that it offers large open spaces with long sightlines. The saloon itself, in which a central cluster of burgundy leather sofas surround a coffee table, measures 9 metres fore and aft and the same distance between the wall of windows on either side. Open the pair of doors that lead forward on either side and the view extends through the atrium and past the writing and reading rooms into the dining room – a full 22 metres. And there is more. Once the 6 metre wide glass doors that bisect the indoor/outdoor bar set between them are rolled back, the aft deck and the saloon form a single space that extends, uninterrupted, to the horizon. (It should be mentioned that the machinery, powered by five motors, that withdraws the two pairs of doors outboard into hidden pockets using a single track on the floor and deckhead is, in itself, a marvel of engineering). Once this feeling of light and space has been absorbed, your attention turns to the room itself. The central coffee table at first appears to be just that – a normal wood and glass structure – but push a button and the glass swings aside and a classic Bugatti, made entirely from porcelain, rises silently to become the room's centrepiece. Surrounding it, the three sofas are made from the softest burgundy leather, with armrests that fold down to reveal drink holders and reading light switches set into their upper surface – another reminder of the owner's love of classic cars. At the forward end of the room, above a marble shelf supported on a silver lattice base, a panel embossed with a silver falcon slides back to reveal a plasma screen. More leather is used to cover the window mullions lit by uplighters and again in the tractor-style stools that edge the bar. In fact, some 26 different varieties of leather have been used for various applications aboard *Maltese Falcon*: beautiful black leather floors in the dining room; covered leather bottle cradles backlit by electroluminescent panels support the bottles in the dining room's wine rack; and other walls clad in the finest white vellum.

