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OCEAN DRIVE

A PETITE MEGAYACHT WITH GLOBAL APPEAL,
THE BENETTI DELFINO HITS U.S. SHORES.

TEXT BY ALYSSA HAAK



Sitting in Gardiner's Marina, in East Hampton, New York, toward the end of Long Island, the 94-foot *Ocean Drive* looks impossibly large. In the small inlet, the white yacht dwarfed the other vessels and appeared to be almost on land. She's actually the smallest in the Benetti Class Range of six semi-custom models, but just being part of this venerable Italian builder's range bumps her up to megayacht status.

Ocean Drive is Hull No. 3 of the Benetti Delfino line and the first to be delivered stateside to American owners. She offers a variation on the popular series being delivered across the globe. Since the Delfino's debut in 2010, no two yachts of the eight sold have been destined for the same country and no two are the same. Each has been slightly altered for the needs and lifestyle of its owners from Hong Kong to France to Brazil.

In the case of *Ocean Drive*, American owners Jay and Lauren Genzer chose a traditional layout—a main-deck master suite and four lower-deck guest cabins. They worked

with Benetti to develop an Italian-influenced interior design.

The couple was first introduced to Benetti at the 2009 Monaco Yacht Show while they were looking to upgrade from their 72-foot *Uniesse*. Their two children were growing up, and the Genzers' changing lifestyle demanded increased stability, comfort and headroom. The displacement yacht fit their needs perfectly, and after a long negotiation, the contract was signed in June 2010.

"We wanted to get the biggest space and not negotiate to lower the price," Jay Genzer says. "We spent a lot of time on the contract to get the latest model numbers." They wanted the yacht to be as current as possible when she launched.

Full-height sliding glass doors lead into the main salon, whose décor is similar to the Genzers' home. A bold black-and-white photograph by Sam Samore hangs on the forward bulkhead. Art consultant Leslie Gerber-Seid spent a year helping the Genzers choose the bold contemporary art pieces that can be found throughout the yacht.

"They chose relevant, important works that had a lot of impact no matter their size," she says.

Black and white furniture and art are given depth with the use of tactile fabrics, including fur throws and leather upholstery. Even the window treatments are textured with finely woven silver wires. Between the salon's windows, where they can catch the most light, are two pieces of art by John Noestheden, which are speckled with Swarovski crystals.

Hidden stowage can be found throughout the main salon. The custom end table holds dishes on a Lazy Susan, and custom racks designed by Lauren Genzer display the yacht's glassware. The L-shaped galley to port has been carefully laid out to maximize the available space and is naturally lit by a large window.

Ocean Drive can sleep as many as a much larger yacht, 10 guests in five cabins. The full-beam master suite is forward on



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The Delfino line offers a lot of customization options in its 94-foot package. *Ocean Drive's* owners opted for a chic Italian décor, two VIPs and a sun deck that features all the creature comforts.




Specifications:

LOA: 93' 6" (28.5m)
BEAM: 23' 1" (7m)
DRAFT: 6' 6" (2m)
DISPLACEMENT (FULL LOAD): 127 tons
POWER: 2 x 965-hp MTU 8V 2000 M72
SPEED (MAX/CRUISE): 14/13 knots
RANGE: 1,500 nm @ 10 knots
OWNERS AND GUESTS/CREW: 10/4
CONSTRUCTION: GRP
EXTERIOR STYLING: Stefano Righini
INTERIOR DESIGN: Carlo Galeazzi
BUILDER: Benetti
www.benettiyachts.it



the main deck and features an aft-facing bed and large en suite. The lower deck has two VIPs with generous bathrooms and queen-size beds highlighted by gray stingray leather on the ceilings. Forward are two twin cabins in two shades of gray.

On other Delfinos, the lower deck has seen the most alteration. Variations have included a convertible office cabin and a full-beam lower level master suite. Benetti plans to offer these layouts as standard options to interested owners.

On *Ocean Drive*, the Genzers focused on customizing the top deck. In addition to a second helm, loose furniture, a large custom Jacuzzi, a hardtop and a fire pit-style barbecue grill were installed at the owners' request.

"We pimped it out with the roof," Lauren Genzer says. "The yacht creates a great family vacation, especially at anchor."

The wheelhouse, located on a half deck between the main and top decks, is the yacht's nerve center. The integrated bridge has two screens for all of the monitoring functions, and the rest of the electronics are tucked behind the L-shaped guest bench, including the Benetti Exclusive Sea Technology (BEST) platform, which integrates all the electrical systems and A/V equipment, mounted on rolling racks. Benetti's Pisa-based tech support can troubleshoot some problems remotely through these systems. The Genzers brought along their captain from their Uniesse, who joined the project during the build. The left-handed captain was able to slightly modify the location of the controls for his ease of use.

The engine room can be accessed through a portside staircase, which leads past the laundry and wine cooler, or through the tender garage. In addition to the standard generators and fuel-cleaning system, *Ocean Drive* has four hot-water tanks, so no one is left with a cold shower. Noise and vibration in the guest spaces has been almost eliminated since Benetti began building floating rooms, where the cabins are mounted on rubber and aluminum frames, two years ago.

The increased stability and comfort the Genzers were seeking is made possible by a bow bulb in addition to the stable full-displacement hull form. A new stabilizing system from CMC Marine, which runs with electric actuators for faster response, improves both the ride and comfort at anchor.

A personal watercraft and a 15-foot Williams 445 tender can be found in the tender garage behind the fold-down transom door. (Diesel-powered Williams are now the chosen tender for Benetti Yachts.) The solid panel transom pivots down 90 degrees to create a water-level beach club. *Ocean Drive* will also tow a 31-foot center console Novurania. Both tenders are equipped with AIS and night vision cameras. A second PWC is stowed on the foredeck, where the Genzers chose to have a sunpad installed. Hull No. 4, purchased by the partial ownership company SeaNet, features a table with bench seating here.

The Benetti Delfino offers a template for owners like the Genzers to add their personal touch. The care and planning the family put into their search and 18-month build project turned a series model into a customized megayacht.

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