



Super  
Yachts  
**Palma**



It is officially summer, which means that in sleek marinas all around the Mediterranean, gleaming superyachts and powerboats of all shapes and sizes will be lined up like anchovies in a tin. Many of the world's high rollers will be spending a good portion of their summer afloat, mooring their yachts in marinas the length and breadth of the French Riviera, Spain's East Coast, Corsica and beyond. Along the way, they'll stop to marvel at the biggest and best super- and mega-yachts on the market at the major Mediterranean trade shows, where builders, brokers and potential buyers collide. So far this summer, the glistening waters around Palma have proved to be particularly fruitful for those looking to view and purchase luxury boats.

Kicking off the yachting season in style was the Palma Superyacht Show, which ran earlier this year from 30 April to 4 May. While the

show was on, Palma was awash with yachting enthusiasts all eager to keep abreast of the latest trends and to inspect the best of the yachting world's wares. And with more than 42 exhibitors and 62 participating yachts, there was much to admire at the Palma Superyacht Show.

With motor and sailing yachts from leading yards present, the marina was packed with dazzling vessels perfect for posing and partying, as well as those suited to challenging sails on the high seas. Among the impressive specimens on display was the Mondango, a mammoth and rather magnificent 51.8-meter (170-foot) sailing yacht created by Alloy Yachts and Metolius, a custom build by the esteemed Royal Huisman shipyard.

Though the yachts being paraded at the show were undisputedly luxurious, character wasn't in short

supply either and buyers looking for a little something different wouldn't have been disappointed. The Mastiff motor yacht, for instance, caused heads to turn. Originally built in the 1960s, this old deep sea tug was transformed into a superyacht in 2010. Then there was the dazzling slender-hulled Eleonora. Exuding a classic style and conjuring up a bygone era, this elegant yacht is a faithful replica of the Westward, an early 20th-century racing schooner.

A yacht show wouldn't be a yacht show without a glitzy party or two and in that regard, Palma delivered. Happy hours, cocktail hours and a cowboys and Indians-themed party provided the setting for the guests to mix, mingle and do business. Renowned Michelin-star chef Marc Fosh, best known for Palma's much-loved Simply Fosh restaurant, brought along his catering team to feed the show attendees at the Blue Café.



Only in its third consecutive year, the Palma Superyacht Show is already making an impact in the industry, slowly establishing its place alongside the most prestigious events, such as the Monaco Yacht Show and the Cannes Yachting Festival. Elisa Arcal of Bluewater Yachting said of the show, "Great venue, great attendance. Bigger and better than last year, can't wait for next year!"

But yacht-lovers in Palma didn't have to wait until the 2015 show to see more splendid cruisers moored at the island's marina. In June, Palma once again welcomed some of the world's finest superyachts to its shore as it hosted the much-hyped Superyacht Cup Palma, which ran from 17 to 20 June. This four-day regatta, the

longest running superyacht regatta in Europe, attracted some of the world's most majestic sailing yachts.

A fleet of more than 20 yachts took part in the race across the seas. The competition was fierce and the action intense. And it wasn't just the captain and crews who gathered here for the event. Crowds of onlookers arrived in Palma to soak up the buzzing atmosphere and to observe the sailing teams from the dry and sunny sidelines, enjoying an eyeful of some of the beautiful boats. Among the most anticipated yachts to make the outing included the recently delivered and extravagantly proportioned Perseus 3, a 60-metre (200-foot) yacht making its regatta competition debut. Perseus 3 was joined out on the water by several other

outstanding large vessels including the striking black 55-metre (180-foot) Marie from Vitters Shipyard. Larger boats were well represented and the six biggest yachts that took part in the race – all of which measured 45 metres (148 feet) or more – had a combined length of almost 300 meters (984 feet).

Some seasoned racing boats returning for the event included the 40-metre (131-foot) Maria Cattiva from Royal Huisman and 24-metre (79-foot) Heartbeat from Claasen Shipyards, which won in its class in 2013. Newcomers to the regatta, including the Win Win, a 33-metre (108-foot) boat built by Baltic Yachts and the recently launched Maegan by Oyster Yachts, also joined the flotilla out on the waters off Mallorca. During the morning of

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the final day of the event, members of the public had the chance to get a close-up look at the high-performance racing machines, when the Superyacht Cup Regatta Village at Muelle Viejo opened its doors for all.

Then there were the extracurricular activities, which provided the chance for the regatta's international crowd to unwind and enjoy themselves. It all kicked off on the evening of 17 June, just prior to the first race. As the crews busied themselves with last minute preparations, a

cocktail party heralded the start of the festivities. After that, dockside parties followed the races, with happy hours aplenty at the Regatta Bar, as well as an exclusive invitation-only owners' dinner and lots of imbibing and dining taking place at nearby restaurants and bars of Palma Old Town.

As if Mallorca hasn't seen enough yachting action already this season – there is still more to come. Yacht owners will be swinging back to the sun-soaked island for the Oyster Palma

Regatta, which takes place from 29 September to 3 October. If you've got a soft spot for superyachts and a desire to explore one of the Mediterranean's most spectacular cruising grounds, Palma is the place to be this summer.

