

# Life on the waves at a hefty Dh80 million

Adam Bouyamourn

Ahoy. Astern. Amidships. Above-board. Belowdecks and take in the topsail.

You may be surprised to hear that all these words mean something – but only to people who own boats.

You could join this community, however, by buying the Mythos 122, a bespoke yacht with a 3,510-horsepower engine, manufactured by the European firm Riva.

It can achieve a top speed of 25 knots (nautical miles per hour, to the uninitiated), houses five cabins, has three decks that can accommodate 20 people and weighs 140,000 kilograms. One is produced every two years.

It even has a compartment in which to keep a jet ski and another, smaller boat.

But those whose wallets have jittery sea legs should look away now: it retails for Dh80 million.

"It's practically a jewel," says Gregor Stinner, the chief executive of Art Marine, Riva's distributor in the UAE.

"We're talking to the management of the Qatari Royal Fleet," he says.

Mr Stinner reckons that it isn't overpriced. "Any boat in that range is between €13m (Dh64m) and €15m," he says.

"You're paying for the name, and



A rendering of the bespoke Riva Mythos 122 yacht. Courtesy Riva

for the individual design."

That, and the boat's nine separate bathrooms.

It is built from aluminium, rather than carbon fibre, as is more common with luxury yachts.

"We [wanted it to feel as] though it were a traditional boat," says Mr Stinner.

"We are not keen on 'showy' yachts," says the company's design

er, Mauro Micheli. "The keyword is 'removing', not 'adding'."

The cast of Muppet Treasure Island once sang of "sailing for adventure on the big, blue wet thing." Whether you need such an expensive yacht to do so, however, is another question.

The boat is under construction.

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## Top five boats from films

- 1 *The Hispaniola* (from *Treasure Island* and *Muppet Treasure Island*)
- 2 *The Black Pearl* (from *Pirates of the Caribbean*)
- 3 *HMS Surprise* (from *Master and Commander*)
- 4 *Red October* (from *The Hunt for Red October*)
- 5 *HMS Titanic* (from *Titanic*)

Source: Compiled by The National

## q&a With Art Marine's Gregor Stinner

**q** Why should I buy this boat?

**a** You want to be different. You want to be exclusive. You want to feel different. You want to be away from the crowd. You want to stand out. To stand out less is more. It's not an overstatement. It's simplistic. It's contemporary. Everything about it is timeless, and of course performance-orientated.

**Who is this boat for?**

It's for people who set themselves aside. For someone who understands boating. Who wants to live the heritage of a name like Riva – from a company that's 170 years old. A boat with finishing that's unmatched. It's a beautiful thing to experience. It's valuable – and it doesn't lose its appeal. We keep our designs for 10 years. We still provide all the features as though it's a

traditional boat. We incorporate all the materials to make something very valuable. It's not flashy – it's a beautiful thing to experience. It is something you can touch and feel, and feel at home in.

**What was your best boat trip?**

From Turkey to Cyprus, crossing to Lebanon, then through the Suez Canal to Egypt. It was just a couple of guys ... in a Vertigo 63. We had dinner in the cliffs in Cyprus, then decided at the last minute to detour via Lebanon and drove all night long. It was a 16-hour trip; we refuelled in the morning, changed crew, then went to Beirut. And then, entering Port Said you see all these huge tankers and you look like a minute little ant. Then you emerge into the gulf of Suez, and we ended the trip at El Gouna on the Red Sea.

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So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*