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EVER READY

The newest MCY 76 has a new look and a new deck but still packs an Italian-style punch, says *Kate Lardy*

PHOTOGRAPHY

Courtesy of
Monte Carlo Yachts





It was a dark and stormy day as *Knot@Work* made her way down the Miami River. Incessant rain fell from the gloomy sky, but you wouldn't know it, cozily cocooned within the enclosed bridge deck.

Knot@Work is the first hull of Monte Carlo Yachts' new MCY 76 Skyounge collection with an enclosed upper deck. It's hard to imagine a more comfortable boat for a sea trial on a day like this - which was precisely why the owners, a couple who use their yacht as a second home, were attracted to the idea.

They were already familiar with the builder, having owned an MCY 76 for several years. "I came across them by accident, eight or nine years ago," the husband says. "I fell in love with a picture in a magazine showing the MCY 65. We were on a 50ft boat at the time. The family

was really into boating and we had simply outgrown the previous boat."

They went to a boat show intent on delving deeper into the Monte Carlo 65 and ended up gravitating toward the larger 76 instead. They used their boat extensively and year-round for all these years and all the while were able to count on the builder's support. "The MCY family was just awesome, to the point where I said they deserve the loyalty," he says.

Theirs was the original MCY 76 model, which had its world premiere in 2010 in Venice, Italy - just over an hour's drive from Monte Carlo Yachts' ultra-modern facilities in Monfalcone and home to the brand's go-to designers, Nuvolari Lenard.

From day one, the Italian builder has worked to expand its offering with new models. In 2019, it revamped its existing ones, specifically the MCY 66, 70 and 76,

with the goal of introducing, in the words of Monte Carlo Yachts' sales and marketing director Sergio Loiacono, "innovation along with continuity."

Despite being the same length (just a little shy of 76 feet) with the same moniker and a strong family resemblance, the new-generation 76 is a new boat drawn by Nuvolari Lenard. Enhancements give it greater volume, a brighter interior thanks in part to larger windows, and more sinuous lines inspired by the larger sisterships the company has built since the brand's noted debut in 2010.

The Skyounge models - the 70 Skyounge was introduced in early 2020 - are yet new developments with their own distinct exterior lines, different allocation of spaces and, of course, a new top deck.

Owners are very often involved in the look and the design of their Monte Carlo

“I said if they could develop a sky lounge-type boat that looked like a sportfisher but elegant, Italian and more practical, they might hit a home run”



ONE OF THE FAMILY

Acclaimed design studio and longtime collaborator Nuvolari Lenard conceived the MCY 76 Skyounge inside and out. While slightly reminiscent of the popular American

sportfisher, the exterior styling is undoubtedly Italian and part of the Monte Carlo Yachts' family. Having taken up the option to upgrade to 1,650hp engines, hull No 1 makes 30 knots at full throttle

LIGHT SHIP

The enclosed flybridge is made of carbon fiber, which keeps both the weight and center of gravity low



yacht and it is no different here, but the owners of *Knot@Work* have also contributed to the builder's interest in exploring a new path. A vast open flybridge deck under a carbon-fiber top had been a hallmark of these yachts from day one.

"I had been discussing with the management at the time what kind of things the American market was after," the husband says. "We felt sportfishing boats seemed to be dominant, so I said if they could develop a sky lounge-type boat that looked like a sportfisher but elegant, Italian and more practical, they might hit a home

run. Monte Carlo Yachts discussed it with Nuvolari Lenard, who came up with a design for a larger yacht. In the end, we decided not to go with it; that boat would have been too large," says the husband, who typically drives the yacht himself.

"I wanted the same hull size and shape because the boat runs fantastically in heavy weather." So when the Italian builder brought up the idea of a 76ft Skylounge model, he and his wife were ready.

The couple have a captain for extra assistance, but their trips are essentially an all-hands-on-deck effort with the wife, an

accomplished chef, manning the galley. With their immediate or extended family in tow, they spend the warmer months hopping the New England coasts and escape the Connecticut chill in winter by cruising along the west coast of Florida.

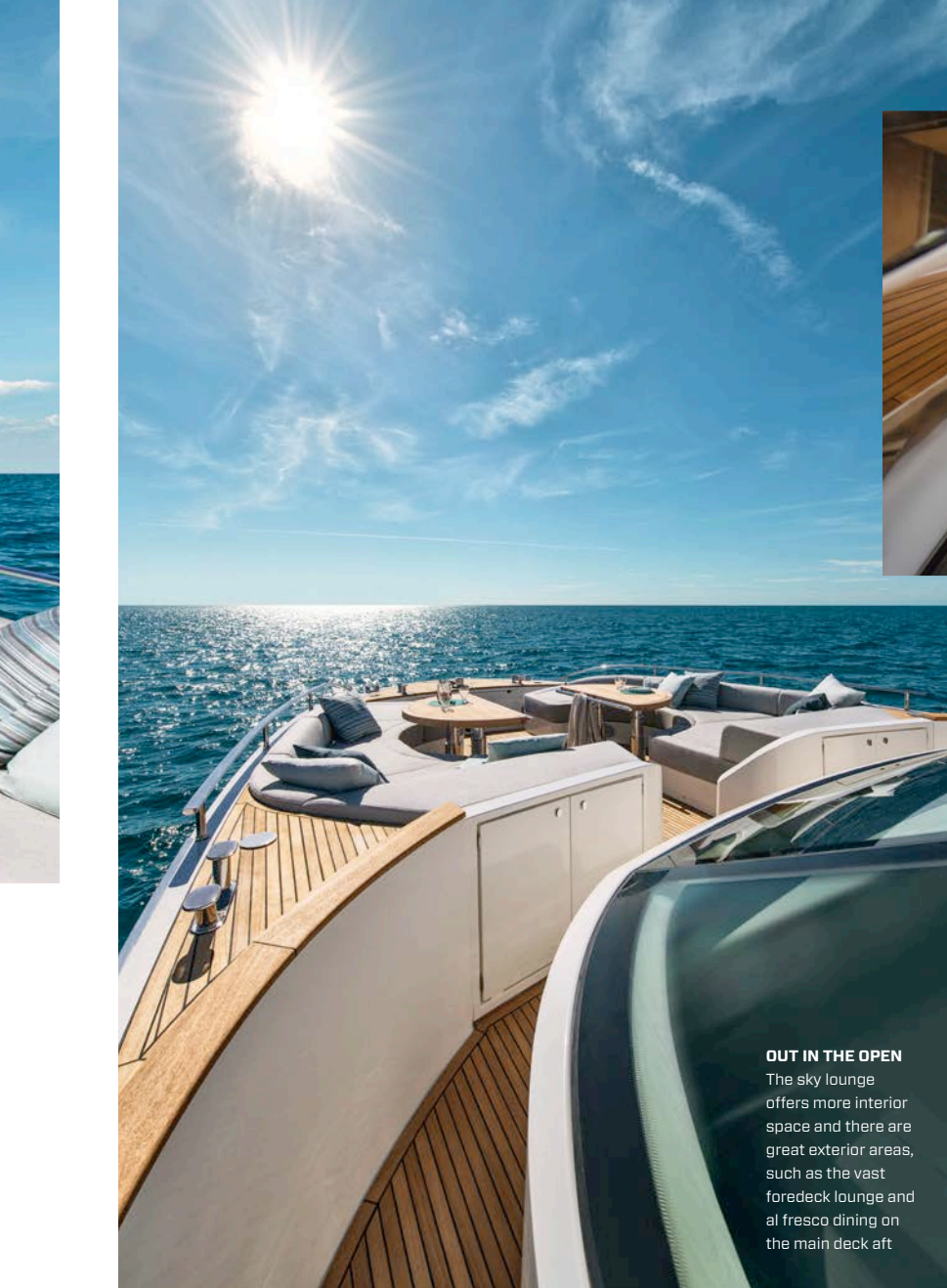
Fairweather sailors they are not, and their kind of boating requires an all-weather bridge. "The open flybridge seems like a great entertainment area, but we never found it was," he says. "When it was slightly cold or windy, we would be alone running the boat. Everyone else would be somewhere else, usually at the back of the boat where it was less windy."

Their captain, Oliver Calloway, agrees. "When you're running the boat for long periods, you want to be protected from the wind, otherwise it's exhausting," he says. "I can't wait to do a 24- to 36-hour run on this boat; it will make light work of that."

With the interior helm located on the upper deck, there's no need for a lower helm station, which gives the main deck extra social space. Monte Carlo Yachts offers several layout suggestions here, and for this family a layout with a galley aft was preferable, putting the chef in the center of the action between the salon and aft deck.

The wife worked closely with the





OUT IN THE OPEN

The sky lounge offers more interior space and there are great exterior areas, such as the vast foredeck lounge and alfresco dining on the main deck aft



“I fell in love with a picture in a magazine showing the MCY 65. We were on a 50ft boat at the time. We had simply outgrown the previous boat”

in-house designers on the interior decor. A departure from their previous yacht in darker woods, *Knot@Work* features white and metallic white lacquered wood surfaces paired with oak and maple floors. Decorative pale green glass and Hermès and Pierre Frey fabrics in shades of gray and light blues and greens evoke the ocean. The white galley fits in well within the theme. Ample fridge/freezer drawers instead of an upright keep its profile low, allowing the eye to travel all the way to the forward windows and a dining area.

Upstairs, aft of the helm station covered in a peacock lacquered wood and leather, the husband has set up an office. A glass-topped oak desk stretches along the starboard side opposite a settee. Openable skylights above flood the space with light.

The lower deck includes four cabins, including a generous master suite at amidships with big views out of the brand's signature oversized, overlapping portholes. Two cozy twins lie between this suite and a forward VIP. They each have their own en suite, finished with Carrara marble floors, Bisazza tile shower walls and terrazzo counters.

More important than the aesthetics for these owners, though, was practicality.



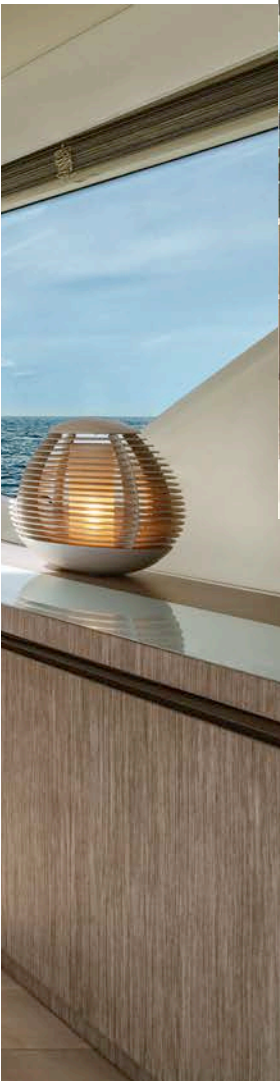


“One thing we did on this boat was to create in every area a ton of storage space. I find most people don’t realize how much storage you need on a boat”



LIGHT AND BRIGHT
Oak wood, maple floors and white lacquered surfaces ensure a bright interior. Accent colors in blues, grays and greens, including cabinet tops in decorative green glass, evoke the feeling of the surrounding ocean





CUSTOM DESIGN

The furniture is custom designed and made by Monte Carlo Yachts, with the exception of a few freestanding pieces like the Minotti desk chair in the sky lounge. Right: a glass panel separates the galley from the salon while providing a view all the way forward



“One thing we did on this boat was to create in every area a ton of storage space,” the husband says. “There isn’t a space that isn’t utilized. I find most people don’t realize how much storage you need on a boat.”

Monte Carlo Yachts give owners a lot of leeway in making their boats their own. “Anything that’s changeable they work with you,” he says. Obviously, that includes all interior decor, but it can also mean layout changes like reconfiguring the crew quarters for just one crew member, like these owners did. They also opted out of the tender garage common on other MCY yachts.

Instead *Knot@Work* carries her 13ft ABJET jet tender on the swim platform. To make the set-up more usable, the yard worked on a solution of sliding chocks that allow the transom door to open even with the tender on board.

No detail escaped the owners’ attention,



SLEEP EASY

The master suite (right) is generous in terms of space, extending the full nearly 19ft beam amidships. The distinctive overlapping portholes, a signature of MCY, are found on both port and starboard sides. All the way forward, and

making full use of the space in the bow, is a VIP stateroom (below); its en suite (left) features shower walls in striking Bisazza tiles. In between are two twin cabins. All guest en suites have counters in terrazzo and decorative glass sinks





The lower deck includes four cabins, including a generous master suite at amidships with big views out of the brand's signature oversized, overlapping portholes



down to where every outlet would go. They added Boeing monitoring screens in the master and salon, in addition to the crew quarters, since the husband is hands-on in the vessel's operation. For cold-weather voyages they asked for a heating system that is essentially like a diesel furnace, as the captain describes it, since reverse cycle heating doesn't work well in low-temperature seas. They also increased the standard fuel tank size by 400 gallons to just over 1,700 gallons.

The husband and his captain had intended on seeing the build process first-

hand. However, the couple signed the contract in March 2020 and the pandemic shut down any chance of making it to Italy during the build or cruising the Adriatic following delivery. Instead, the husband hired a surveyor and took delivery by Zoom. "Taking a boat on delivery on Zoom is madness. This was a challenge, but it was dealing with friends - it was fun," he says.

The yacht was on display at the 2020 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show and I was able to take the yacht for a spin in Biscayne Bay before the owners had even set foot on it. Despite the bad weather,

we took in the Miami River banks from the dry vantage point of the supremely comfortable bridge. Passing under the Rickenbacker Causeway, the captain put the yacht through its paces. From 900rpm, where the 15gph fuel burn at seven knots gives the maximum range of 800nm, he ramped the engines to just under 2,400rpm, where the speed-over-ground ticked over from the 20s to 30 knots.

Throughout the range, we had a stable and exceptionally quiet ride. The owners opted for the larger engines offered on this model, twin 1,650hp MAN V12s, and the

HIGH LIVING

Aft of the enclosed top deck is a cozy deck protected from the wind underway and at anchor.

It sports a serious gas grill by Lynx that the owner is looking forward to using for informal dining



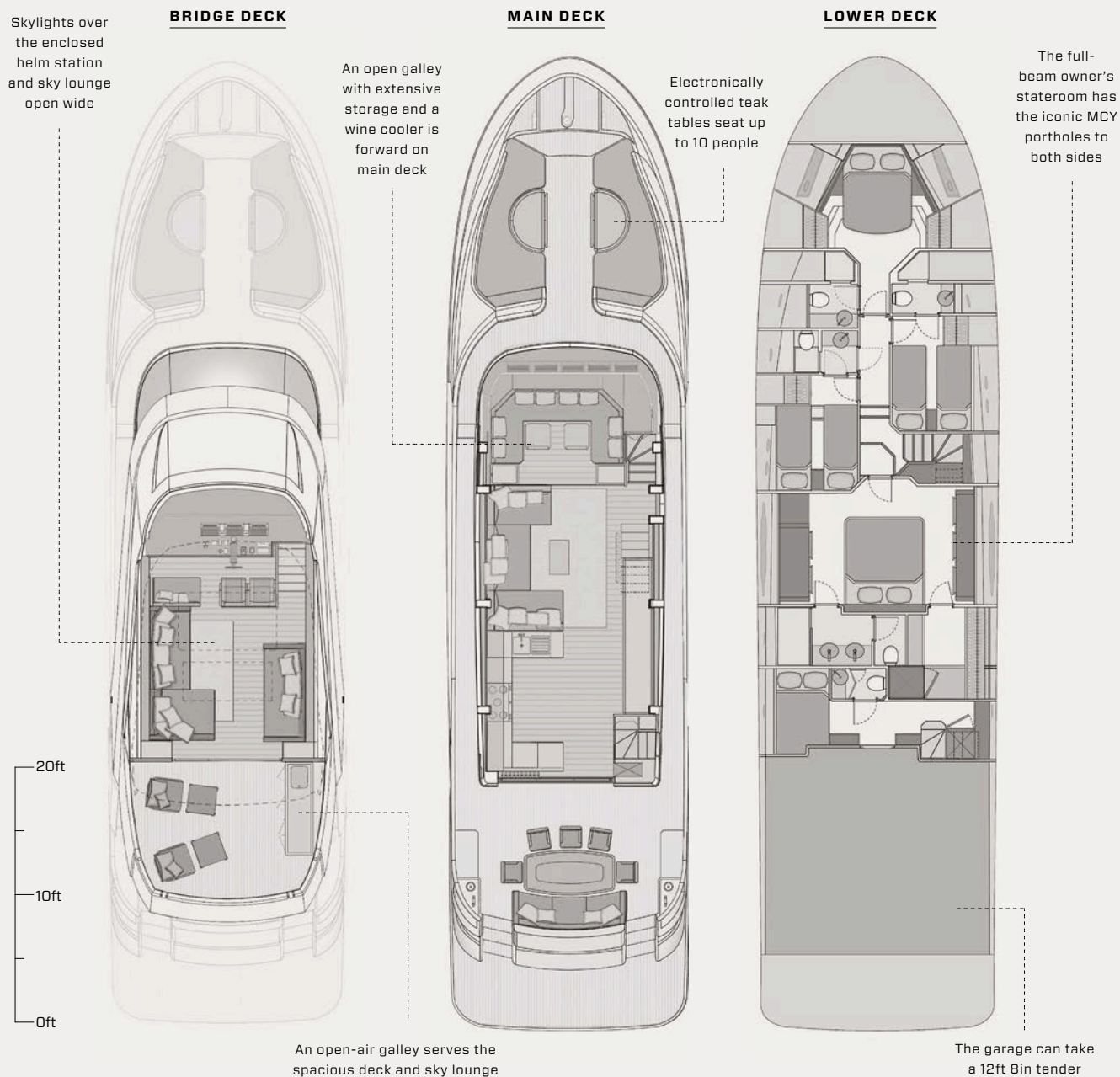
optional Humphree fins, which allow for comfortable navigation at displacement speed. The husband found that on their previous boat, anything under planing speed in less than perfect weather tended to turn stomachs. “We wanted the ability to run at slow speed in a very stable manner for deliveries,” he says.

This is just one of many ways their new yacht embodies the lessons learned over the last seven years of cruising. Nothing should stop them now – especially not the rain. ▣



MCY 76 SKYLOUNGE

MONTE CARLO YACHTS



107

LOA 75' 7"
Beam 18' 10"
Draft 6' 7"
Engines 2 x 1,650hp
 MAN V12
Generators
 2 x 29kVA

Speed max/cruise
 30/24 knots
Range at 24 knots
 350 nautical miles
Fuel capacity
 1,717 gallons
Freshwater capacity
 264 gallons

Tender
 1 x 12' 8" ABJET 380
Owners/guests 8
Crew 2

Construction
 Composite hull; composite and carbon-fiber superstructure
Classification
 CE-A

Naval architecture
 Monte Carlo Yachts
Exterior styling
 Nuvolari Lenard
Interior design
 Nuvolari Lenard

Builder/year
 Monte Carlo Yachts/2020
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