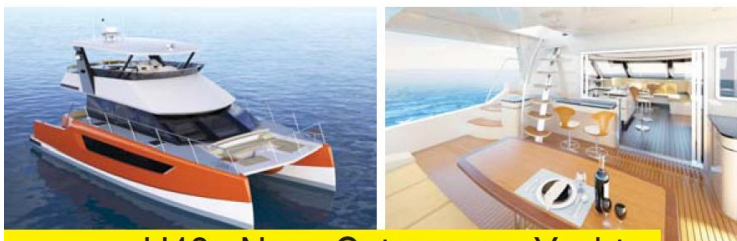


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18 Regional NEWS



H48: New Catamaran Yacht

PATTAYA The design of the H48 was developed by Albert Nazarov's Albatross Marine design team; the H48's hull shape is the quintessence of AMD's catamaran experience providing a soft ride and fuel efficiency in wide range of semi-planing speeds. Seakeeping was the primary concern and vertical accelerations have been reduced by 30-50% compared to monohull craft.

The structure is composed of high-tech sandwich laminate using Finite Element methods; the experience of extensive testing and service records of high-speed patrol boat hulls was applied.

The H48 can be beached and the propellers and rudders are well protected by skegs. A synonym for catamaran is "space" and the flybridge and saloon on the new H48 are spacious and great for in/outdoor picnics with a barbecue.

Of special concern were the exterior styling and interior ergonomics: Albatross did not want to squeeze space to accommodate a maximum numbers of bunks and bathrooms. Styling can be impressive for those who want to stand out and be seen, but without going to extremes, which often make "innovative looking" boats unpractical.

The boat is being put into production by the Bakri Cono Shipyard. Main particulars: length of hull 14.7m; beam 7.2m, displacement full load – 24t, engines in range 2x260HP with top speed to 17kts fully loaded (other engine options possible); certification CE/RCD Cat B. www.amdesign.co.th

Tahiti Charter Tax Drop!



Etienne Boutin, owner & manager of Asia Pacific Superyachts Tahiti.



MY Ultimate Lady à Moorea in French Polynesia - Courtesy Asia Pacific Superyachts.

TAHITI French Polynesia —" I would like to report that Tahiti charter tax has just dropped to 5% of gross revenues (the previous rate was 12%)", Etienne Boutin of Asia Pacific Superyachts Tahiti recently announced. "We hope this change will help more guests decide on our islands as their next charter destination and enjoy the French Polynesia preserved marine environment and fun land- based activities."

This drop of the charter tax, combined with the recent extension of yachts allowed a "duty-free Stay" to 36 months, is also a great opportunity for yacht owners in the Asia-Pacific region and further afield to base their yacht in Tahiti", the agent explains.

Etienne notes French Polynesia charter regulations were first put in place in 1995 and simplified in 2004. One hundred large yachts have applied for a license since then. The license is granted to yachts over a certain size and quality (yacht with a value over US\$1M, has a weekly charter tariff of US\$15,500 with minimum crew of three).

The agent explains: "We (APS Tahiti agency) will organize the charter license application and will also manage all the paperwork involved for a seamless experience, leaving the crew to the only important task on board: the guests' satisfaction."

Etienne Boutin has worked over 20 years in the shipping and yachting industry before creating Tahiti Ocean in 1995 as the first agency exclusively dedicated to the service of luxury yachts visiting French Polynesia. He now heads up Asia Pacific Superyachts Tahiti.

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