

Guided by Passion

One of the very few yachts with hotel pedigree to sail the Med, *Satori* offers an experience on the water like no other. *by Franziska Seng*



CLAUS THOTTRUP LOVES THE WATER. The Danish property developer learned to sail on the Baltic Sea and, decades later, still retains a child-like enthusiasm for it. Today, however, we are cruising around the Greek islands, aboard his new 41.5m yacht, *Satori*, which might just be the best way to explore the Mediterranean.

The *Satori*, like Borgo Santo Pietro before it, is a passion project for the 55-year-old Thottrup, who alongside his wife, Jeanette, have managed to merge business, pleasure and love in a way that seems almost mystical. Borgo Santo Pietro, a 13th-century Tuscan estate, is a truly idyllic refuge now in its 11th year, adored by returning guests and teeming with rose bushes, ancient, winding gardens and vegetable plots that serve the in-house Michelin-starred restaurant and cooking school.

Most couples would have their hands full managing the 100ha property, but Claus and Jeanette have used it as a springboard to fulfil another dream. The *Satori* is a ship like few others, recalling the 1920s

and 1930s golden era of yachting with its warm mahogany, teak and walnut panelling. It is a vessel for people who appreciate elegant design as much as being on the water. Which, in part, is its raison d'être: "When we first met, Jeanette wasn't a big fan of sailing", admits Claus with a laugh, "so I had to think of something."

The pair came upon the winning concept in Turkey, where yachts like the generously proportioned gulet have enjoyed a long history, offering enough space to truly relax with a group of family and friends. It was this lack of compromise on comfort that finally convinced Jeanette, and in the summers that followed, they returned to the region, exploring islands and coves while they decided which features were essential for their new boat.

"Guests aboard the *Satori* should feel like they are staying at an intimate boutique hotel," explains Jeanette, a former fashion designer. "That's why we have carried over so many of the features of Borgo Santo Pietro." These are not idle words: the galley, for instance, is much more ornate than usual yacht kitchens and it is staffed by a chef from Borgo Santo Pietro, who cooks meals in front of the guests with ingredients sourced both from the



Left: the diminutive *Satori II* dinghy joins its namesake on all its voyages; below: the ship's sleek yet classically elegant lounge; bottom: sun loungers on the middle deck



Aker, who oversaw the construction, has experience throughout the Mediterranean and can accommodate the most exacting itineraries.

Here in a bay off the Greek isle of Symi, Claus radiates joy as he watches family and friends snorkel, kayak and explore. His 12-year-old son Vincent is being pulled by a Seabob, a James Bond-like personal watercraft, but Claus holds out hope that Vincent will one day share his passion for sailing. "I'm trying to encourage him with an Optimist," he says, referring to the type of dinghy that Claus himself learned to sail in all those years ago. To this end, the ship's water toys include an Opti, called *Satori II*, but Claus isn't trying to force anything on Vincent. He recognises, like all guests aboard the *Satori*, that one of the principal beauties of the yacht is that people can enjoy it in any way they choose. satoriyacht.com

farm and, often, from fish caught that same day off the side of the boat.

The excellent rations are complemented with wines of equal distinction. "I'm a little proud of this," confides Claus, pressing a button that shifts the staircase to reveal the vessel's wine cellar. "We can store 250 bottles upright. This ensures that they hardly move, so even when there are waves the taste isn't affected."

The influence of Borgo Santo Pietro is evident in the onboard spa as well, in the form of Jeanette's new skincare line Seed to Skin. "I've always been interested in plant-based healing methods," she says. "Thanks to our many years of experience in running a hotel spa, we know what works well." Teaming up with cosmetician Anna Buonocore, she has developed products that contain ingredients from Borgo Santo Pietro's farm, including honey, goat's milk and rose oil, and that also benefit from the latest discoveries in beauty technology.

Beyond the spa, there are numerous creature comforts on board – including an outdoor cinema and an arsenal of water toys – but they never detract from the remarkable beauty of the *Satori*. The clean lines, both inside and out, bespeak an attention to detail that is evident in the furniture, too,

from the minimalist Danish pieces in the lounge to the solid, comfortable dining chairs that were made by the same carpenter as the ones in Harry's Bar in Venice.

Up to 10 guests can stay on board, served by eight crew, and voyages on *Satori* can be booked in combination with a stay at Borgo Santo Pietro or can be exclusive charters for tours around the Med (its range is exceptional thanks to a pair of 600PS diesel engines).

The *Satori's* home waters are those surrounding Bodrum – where she was built, based on Claus and Jeanette's design – but the jovial captain, Ali

