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MOVING ON UP



Do you ever truly reach a point when you'll never need a bigger yacht? For this Florida couple and their new Monte Carlo Yachts 86, it's a case of Never Say Never.



Words - Louisa Beckett Photography - Monte Carlo Yachts

Thirty feet is a big leap in yacht LOA – particularly when the owners are going from a 56-foot Carver made in America’s heartland to an 86-foot mini megayacht custom-built by Monte Carlo Yachts in Italy. Even more impressive, the Florida-based owners – the Andersons – are both U.S. Coast Guard-licensed captains and drive their MCY 86 *Never Say Never* themselves, with only their teenage son and daughter as crew.

“We’ve had the boat in ten-foot waves and following seas,” the husband says. “It is actually really easy to handle.” After taking ownership of *Never Say Never*, the Andersons personally delivered it from Florida’s East Coast to the Gulf Coast via the Okeechobee Waterway, deftly maneuvering the yacht, which has a six-foot, three-inch draft, through water that he describes as “really skinny and hairy.”

The couple was introduced to Monte Carlo Yachts, the Beneteau Group’s large luxury motor yacht brand, in 2012, when the shipyard’s MCY 76 model made its U.S. debut at the Yacht & Brokerage Show in Miami.

“We loved everything about it,” the wife says.

Initially, however, the couple put a deposit on a smaller model, the MCY 70. Then, Monte Carlo Yachts’ Managing Director Fabrizio Iarrera showed them the plans for the new MCY 86. “We said, ‘We’re in,’” the wife recalls.

In fact, that’s how this yacht and the Andersons’ two previous vessels got their shared name. “We’d go to the boat show to buy a boat, and I’d say, ‘This is about as big as we ever need to go,’” says the wife, “and he’d say, ‘Never say never.’”

After deciding on the MCY 86, the Andersons flew to the Venice studio of the shipyard’s design partner, Nuvolari Lenard, to work with the firm’s talented interior designer, Valentina Zannier. It didn’t take long for Mrs. Anderson and Zannier to create an interior scheme that the husband calls “formally casual.”

“I had it in my head that I knew what I wanted,” she says. “I think we were only there three hours.”



The expansive flybridge, with its upper helm station and large seating area, looks even bigger when the retractable sunroof is open.

The family’s true passion lies with their MCY 86’s outstanding exterior spaces, perfect for entertaining.

“She was very focused on what she was looking for,” agrees Federico Peruccio, Monte Carlo Yachts’ marketing manager. “[The] colors are very different from [those] on earlier yachts.”

He says that the shipyard and Nuvolari Lenard will work with owners to customize any of the models in the MCY Collection, from the 86 down to the 65. There are virtually no limits in terms of the materials, and goods and furnishings from upscale designer labels don’t cost extra. *Never Say Never*, for example, boasts Hermès wall coverings, handcrafted Venetian glass mosaic tiles and a bathroom vanity carved from a slab of very rare Magic Brown marble.

“This is the DNA of the brand,” Peruccio says. “We know we are facing an expert client; one who expects service. These owners are truly passionate to build these boats. An owner who has his own jet, his own interior decorator, why do we have to offer him or her only three or four choices? How can we do that?”

Monte Carlo Yachts let the Andersons make several significant changes to the MCY 86’s standard layout, modifications that may have extended the yacht’s build time a bit, but not by much. “This boat is usually produced in four-and-a-half months,” Peruccio says. “They got it in six months.”

The Andersons asked the shipyard to remove the bar in the main salon and significantly widen the storage cabinet that divides its living and dining spaces. As a result, the salon feels exceptionally spacious, especially when both side balconies are open.

In keeping with their crew-less yachting lifestyle, the couple also requested that the lower-deck crew quarters in the bow be finished to the same level as the owner and guest areas. “The one thing we wanted was for the crew quarters not to look like crew quarters,” the wife says. Instead, this area serves as private accommodations for the couple’s 16-year-old son. “It’s like his man-cave,” she says.

The couple also relocated the washer/dryer and added a foldout countertop for folding clothes. In addition, she says, “We switched a lot of things in the galley.”

“It’s like a chef’s kitchen,” says the husband.

“We had them add a garbage can – because we’re American,” the wife says, laughing.

Monte Carlo Yachts offers the MCY 86 with multiple interior configurations, including three-, four- or five-stateroom layouts for the lower deck. Each one places the VIP aft or amidships rather than forward. No matter which layout an owner chooses, the VIP is an inviting rectangular, flush-deck stateroom rather than the typical V-shaped space with raised-platform queen berth.

Never Say Never’s owners went with a four-stateroom layout configured in a split plan that places the en suite master stateroom and one twin cabin amidships and a second twin and VIP suite aft. Separate staircases from the salon provide access to the two guest areas. “The floorplan we chose is really set up for two families,” the wife says. Here again, the couple made a few modifications, including enlarging the shower in the aft twin’s en suite head.

In addition to the yacht’s interior amenities, the husband appreciates its high-tech wheelhouse. “I like the visibility; you can see everything,” he says. He also praised the engine room, saying, “There is a lot of space to get around and a lot of headroom.” Another favorite spot on board, he adds, is the swim platform, which can mount a personal watercraft, and where their 13-year-old daughter likes to fish.

But, the family’s true passion lies with their MCY 86’s outstanding



There are no limits in terms of materials, and goods and furnishings from upscale designer labels don’t cost extra.

Different flavors and colors, vanilla to caramel and chocolate, decorate the salon (left). The owners wanted a below-deck layout suitable for two families. The master suite (below) is situated amidships near a twin, while two other cabins are aft. The foredeck lounge (bottom) was another selling point.



exterior spaces, which are perfect for entertaining. “We had forty-five people on board for the christening,” the husband says.

He is a big fan of the flybridge, which can be accessed via stairs from the aft deck or wheelhouse. It is large enough to hold an upper helm station, bar, grill and a large seating area that is shaded by the carbon fiber hardtop with its built-in retractable sunroof.

“I like the aft garage tender stowage, because it keeps the deck free,” he adds. Moving the tender off the flybridge opened up room aft for chaise lounges and even a small Jacuzzi.

The wife’s favorite on-deck space is the foredeck lounge, which is a hallmark of the Monte Carlo Yachts range. Wide walkarounds and a Portuguese bridge keep guests safe as they transit forward to this private living area, which features large sofas and a teak cocktail table with leaves that unfold like the petals of a flower when dinner is served. Carbon posts support a Ship Shape shade system that shelters this dining space.

The Andersons have nothing but good things to say about building their new vessel with Monte Carlo Yachts. “Everybody there was phenomenal,” the wife says. “We were over at the factory three or four times. They bent over backward.”

However, the Andersons deny they are thinking about moving up again, to Monte Carlo Yachts’ newest flagship, the 105, which is due to launch this summer. They want to enjoy their 86-footer island-hopping on a long family cruise in The Bahamas.

Still, as the saying goes: “Never say never!” ■

See more on the iPad edition



Never Say Never – Monte Carlo Yachts

Flybridge

Main deck

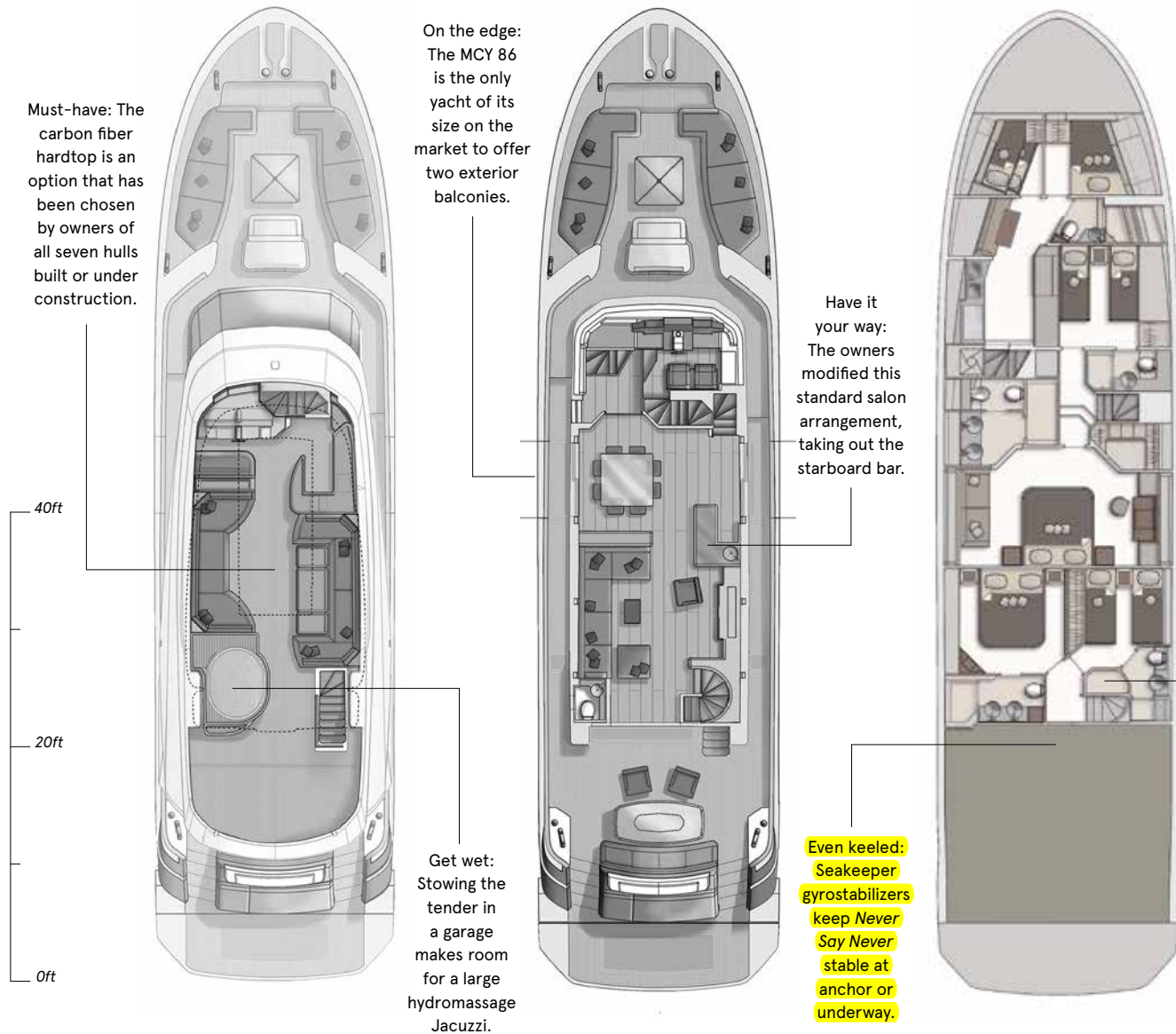
Lower deck

Must-have: The carbon fiber hardtop is an option that has been chosen by owners of all seven hulls built or under construction.

On the edge: The MCY 86 is the only yacht of its size on the market to offer two exterior balconies.

Have it your way: The owners modified this standard salon arrangement, taking out the starboard bar.

Think big: The owners made some changes to the lower deck, including enlarging the shower in the aft twin's en suite.



Get wet: Stowing the tender in a garage makes room for a large hydromassage Jacuzzi.

Even keeled: Seakeeper gyro stabilizers keep *Never Say Never* stable at anchor or underway.

LOA: 86' (26.3m)
Beam: 21' 2" (6.5m)
Draft: 6' 3" (1.9m)
Displacement:
 72 tonnes
Power: 2 x 1,800-hp
 MAN V12

Speed (max/cruise):
 28-29/24 knots
Range: 350 nm @ 24 knots
Fuel capacity:
 1,876 U.S. gallons
Stabilizers: Seakeeper
 gyro stabilizers

Generators: 2 x 23kW Kohler
Freshwater capacity:
 396 U.S. gallons
Tender: Williams Jet tender
Owners and guests/crew: 8/3
Classification: CE-A

Construction: Composite VTR,
 Kevlar, carbon fiber
**Naval architecture
 and engineering:**
 Monte Carlo Yachts
**Exterior styling and interior
 design:** Nuvolari Lenard

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