



**MAKING WAVES**  
Istanbul- and Saint-Tropez-based Alenyacht's Alen 55 has received rave reviews for its spacious layout. The uncluttered deck allows both passengers and the captain to move about with ease.

# Smooth Sailing

Alenyacht unveils an elegant masterpiece.

| By Rebecca Powers |

Some words exude luxury: cashmere and carats, penthouse and portfolio, bubbly and bespoke, and, of course, yacht. Not usually in that lexicon of luxe is the word "minimal."

A European yacht-maker is changing that, however, by marrying simplicity and splendor with rich results. Alenyacht, a boat-builder based in Istanbul, Turkey, and Saint-Tropez, France, is releasing its third model later this year as part of what might be considered the seafaring version of the small-batch connoisseur's bourbon.

Since 2004, Alenyacht has built 45 vessels with a common theme of haute minimalism and its trademark open design. "You can use the whole boat as a kind of floating terrace," says Alp

Ozcan, Alenyacht's owner and managing director, who spoke to us by phone from Saint-Tropez. "If you want as much air-conditioned space as possible, you're not boating anymore; you have a floating hotel room."

Ozcan says his company draws inspiration from Apple computer's accessible designs. "We tried to make things much cleaner, without too many lines and ins and outs, like an iPhone or iPad," he says. He wants his boats to be about the



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water experience, not just the craft itself. Alenyacht designs are low profile, allowing for an easy dip in the azure waves and freedom of movement about the sun-warmed teak deck.

As opposed to having a closed cockpit, the Alen 42 and 55 versions feature a center console that's open all around. That prevents passengers from being "stuck on the aft," which is what happens in closed boats, says Ozcan. An added benefit of obstacle-free design

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PHOTOS BY NICOLAS CLARIS



**LIGHT HEARTED**  
In the Alen 55, minimal means luxury. The yachts are most popular in Europe.

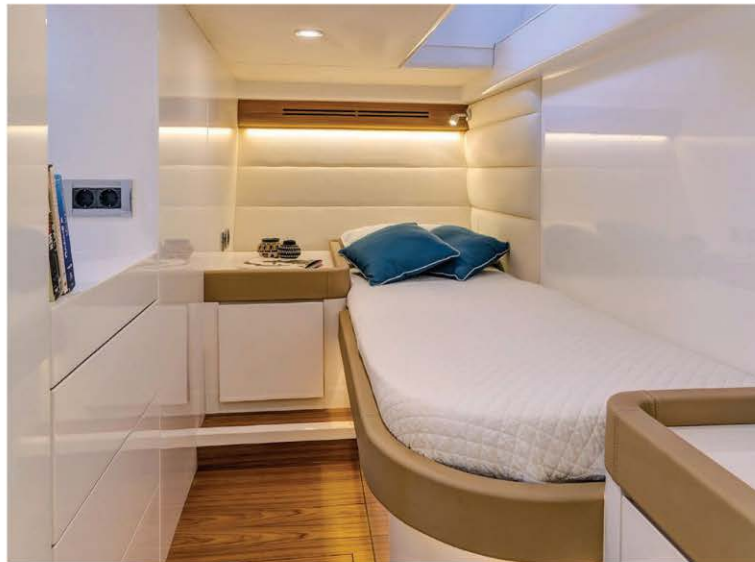


...CONTINUED is that it's easier to pilot. "It's for the owner to drive," says Ozcan, because there's no need to come out of the cockpit and jump over a barrier. "It's easily manageable not to have a crew." Ozcan says Alenyacht initially embraced the uncluttered approach because their business was borne of a passion for the sea and boating. They developed their first yacht specifically for the owner of Moncler, the high-end jacket brand.

Since then, Alenyacht has developed the 42- and 55-foot models, which will soon be joined by 68- and 82-foot versions. For the 68, Ozcan is making waves by teaming up with Foster + Partners, the London-based architectural firm founded by Lord Norman Foster, whose illustrious résumé includes, among other high-profile projects, Tower 2 of the new World Trade Center in Manhattan. Designing buildings and yachts is a process that has "more similarities than differences," says Foster.

The collaboration is rife with creative tension, says Ozcan—and that's the point. "The 68 is coming from the eye of real architects who, because of their lack of experience, come up with ideas that boat people would not," he says. "We are always fighting. They try to push their ideas. Because they are architects, they see things in a different way. New things come from that."

The 68-foot yacht, which is the result of a \$1 million design, will debut under the name Alen 68 by Foster + Partners. It will eventually be available in two versions: one with three cabins and a closed exterior, and one with two cabins and an open exterior. Like its predecessors, it will be airy.



"Many people want space inside that's like those large, open Miami lofts," says Ozcan. "People want fresh air and the sea."

Ozcan, a native of Turkey who was educated in Switzerland and the United States, is not yet actively pursuing the American market, though he did sell a vessel to a Miami resident and has participated in a Fort Lauderdale boat show.

The so-called Euro design of Alenyachts has a specific appeal, one that's more widely embraced abroad than in the United States at the moment. Brian Dekkinga, of Galati Yacht Sales, a Holland, Mich.-based boat broker, says that in this country, many purists

are looking back, leaning toward more retro, Down East styling. Although, he notes, "the young wealthy are moving Euro."

Of course, international yachting culture still gets excited over such super-yacht perks as onboard swimming pools, minisubmarines, anti-paparazzi infrared laser shields and multiple helipads.

This time of year, though, Midwest boaters with a slip to fill in Naples, Fla., or other warm waters far removed from the chill of the Windy City might agree with the idea that it's on-deck exposure to warm breezes, not air conditioning, that provides true luxury. [alenyacht.com](http://alenyacht.com) ■