



Take it slow

Family, fishing and forgoing the fast life make for a Nordhavn 100 that feels a lot like Serenity, says Cécile Gauert

PHOTOGRAPHY Doug Harlow



Serenity is a family haven with enough seating in the salon for everyone and a large galley for cooking together



A good portion of the flybridge is dedicated to dining, with two grills and a custom teak table

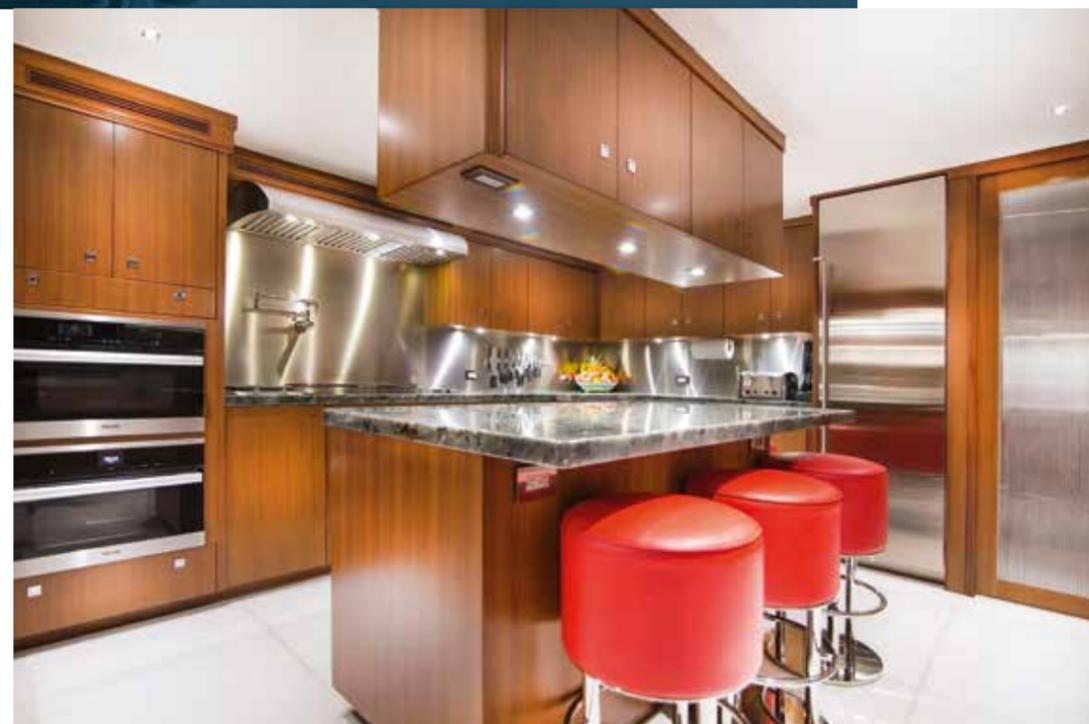
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About the time the global financial markets took a dive 10 years ago, Pacific Asian Enterprises (PAE) introduced the versatile Nordhavn 75 Expedition Yachtfisher. The market was distracted, and only three have been built to date. However, it was one of these flexible and capable boats that inspired a family man with a serious fishing hobby to go from a fast-footed three-stateroom 65ft Rybovich to a 199GT, 100ft Nordhavn named *Serenity*.

"My family and I just outgrew the bumpy ride that comes with going fast," says *Serenity's* owner, who up to the day he took the yacht on a maiden voyage from Dana Point, California, to La Paz, Mexico, had done most of his boating and fishing around Florida and the Bahamas on a 34-knot, 4,400hp sportfisher.

During the appropriately named shakedown cruise, his first inclination was to push the yacht a bit harder to see what she could do, in part because he did not have a lot of time. "Now I know that I don't need to push the boat, nor do I want to push the boat. She's very comfortable cruising at 1,200rpm or 1,300rpm," he says.

His transition to a slower pace began during a trip to New Zealand a few years ago. He was on business in Auckland and stretching his legs at the Viaduct Harbour Marina when he spotted a 75ft yachtfisher. He was intrigued enough to research the builder and call PAE's sales office in





Part of the owner's retreat on the bridge deck is a relaxing outdoor lounge with comfortable seating and a gas firepit

Southern California, in his own backyard. Timing was right this time around, and the person who took his call knew this particular boat well. "Funnily enough, I had just been down there to the same marina and I knew the owner of that boat. I arranged a meeting for him to get on that very day," PAE's James Leishman says. The owner also had a neighbor building a Nordhavn 63 who talked to him about his experience.

It soon became clear that the 75 would not be sufficient for his family, and so once he ruled out building another Rybovich, he began looking at other, larger Nordhavns.

PAE has had good success with the Nordhavn 86 and its stretched version, the Nordhavn 96, a yacht with a bulbous bow and redundancies for far-flung exploration (range is in excess of 3,000 nautical miles with a fuel capacity of 7,000 gallons of diesel). What helps the model's popularity is PAE's ability to tailor each boat to a client's specific requirements.

And really, *Serenity* is a 96 with a custom layout and an impressive fishing cockpit tagged on. The profile differs slightly from the 96, past the main salon, where lines taper down toward the California deck that overlooks the cockpit. "This boat would not exist if it weren't for the fishing," says Zach Gallagher, the yacht's captain.

While this is true of *Serenity*, the Nordhavn 100 could be geared to a different hobby as well, such as diving, Leishman says. The extra feet make for a lot more carrying capacity and the boat feels very big for its length.

Being able to use an existing mold allowed the builder to deliver a highly customized project in a reasonable time frame. The yacht's construction began in September 2015 and *Serenity* was floated in February 2018 in Xiamen, China. Working closely with the owner were naval architect Jeff Leishman and project manager Trever Smith.

"They were able to really appreciate what I was trying to get done," says the owner, who took three trans-Pacific trips to China and drove frequently to Dana Point for in-person meetings.

"For my family not to be happy would have been devastating, and so because of that, I took a great deal of time and tried to understand all details as best I could," says the owner, who contributed his share of ideas, including solutions to conceal hoses and shore connectors.

"Tidy and efficient are important to me and the Nordhavn team was really

Serenity is really a 96 with a custom layout and an impressive fishing cockpit tagged on



Destry Darr Pethtel designed an eye-catching staircase using contrasting woods and stainless steel accents to achieve a "unique and rich architectural statement"





The owner came up with the concept for the square Tuuci umbrella over the Jacuzzi

great at working with me on that kind of stuff. And now, as a result, when I see those things, rather than being aggravated, it makes me smile,” he says.

An Indian summer sun is casting Seattle’s Elliott Bay Marina in its best light when I catch up with the boat in early September. *Serenity*, with its distinctive blue hull and white superstructure, is easy to spot at the end of a long finger pier. “I spent a lot of time with the Alexseal color chart, and I kept coming back to Stars and Stripes Blue. It spoke to me and I had the sense that it would fit the lines of the boat,” the owner says. “It was one of the first decisions I made.”

Despite many salty miles, the yacht looks in splendid shape, a testament to her crew and the abundant supply of fresh and saltwater washdown hoses neatly reeled in and hidden inside lockers. The teak deck, comprising a few boards as long as 30ft to 40ft running down generous side decks, and the wide teak cap rails wrapping around the cockpit are impeccable. For shoreside adventures, the yacht carries on its foredeck an AB tender with a raw aluminum hull, now tucked neatly under cover next to a couple of three-seater jet skis also strapped on the deck.

Serenity is on her way back down to Dana Point after a trip to Alaska and British Columbia. The yacht’s captain is using the brief stop to work out a couple of new boat bugs, none serious enough to have altered summer cruising plans. “In the three months that the owner has had the boat, we’ve done 7,000 nautical miles; we’ve put 1,000 hours on each generator and we’re almost at 1,000 hours on the mains,” he says.

The engines and generators are all Caterpillars and with the C18s at 1,200rpm, the boat uses 17 gallons per hour in total. “We did the whole coast from Los Angeles to Juneau without refueling and that is with guest trips,” Gallagher says. The yacht explored isolated spots where it was frequently alone at anchor.

One of few telltale signs of *Serenity*’s most recent expedition are

The captain/engineer appreciates the bridge’s easy layout and the functionality of the engine room, equipped with Caterpillar engines and generators



“We’ve done 7,000 nautical miles. We did the whole coast, from Los Angeles to Juneau, without refueling”





The owners opted for a suite on the bridge deck, right; the VIP en suite, bottom left, and master, bottom right, both have rain showers

the fish fillets (salmon, halibut and cod) stored in the cockpit's freezer. "We vacuum-seal the fish and it goes straight to the freezer. It does not get any fresher than that," Gallagher says. "Anytime the guests come on board we have fresh fish, always ready to go."

The working cockpit is also fitted with deep live wells, tackle boxes, a big kill box and a fighting chair from Bluewater, and it is plumbed for additional live wells, just in case. Smaller, larger, cold- or warm-water fish - *Serenity's* owner loves to catch them all. "I am not fishing for sport," he says. "I like to catch fish that we can eat and enjoy at the dinner table."

Nevertheless, he takes his hobby seriously. The lazarette contains an impressive collection of custom painted fishing rods and reels for any kind of fish, plus pumps, macerators, two deep freezers and a dive compressor, a Spot Zero water purifier for clear washdowns, in addition to more standard yacht equipment, such as an Atlas shore power system and steering units.

The nicely chilled engine room is Nordhavn's standard issue for the most part, which is to say designed for long distance, easier maintenance and ready access, but with a high-capacity watermaker plant. It makes more than enough to keep guest and crew hydrated and clean, to fill the spa pool and run the appliances, with capacity left over to supply domestic ice makers able to produce up to 600lb potable, crushable ice for the kill boxes.

The well-appointed pilothouse is a favorite spot with a nice-sized banquette and tables for spectator seating and a Furuno bridge. "[Nordhavn] utilizes all the space including the overheads, which I love. It makes everything very easy to reach. It's accessible," Gallagher says. One clue to the owner's fishing hobby in his area is a billfish bill mounted on the wall.

However, *Serenity's* interior reveals little about the owner's love of fishing. "This owner is the quintessential family man. He made it very clear to our team that he wanted the yacht to be a haven for family," says designer Destry Darr Pethel, who worked with PAE and the owners on the interior layout and finishes.

The beautiful galley is larger than typical on a 96 and, in addition to being a great place to cook, is a gathering place for the family. Comfy stools surround a large central island. Although some of the galley's additional floor space came out of the dining room, the latter is spacious enough to accommodate a custom table that expands to sit 10 comfortably. The salon is outfitted with lots of seating on a comfortable sofa, a 65-inch wide





Each of the twin bed cabins transforms into a double to accommodate couples

“I never would have thought that cruising at nine or 10 knots would be so pleasurable”

drop-down television and automated curtains that filter out the sun and provide privacy but still allow passengers to enjoy views.

The custom audiovisual, chosen by the owners, is a user-friendly Apple-based system from Savant, and easily accessible iPads put climate control and entertainment at the occupants’ fingertips – no guessing game involved.

Speakers carry the entertainment outside. The flybridge deck is a favorite hangout to listen to music, soak in the spa pool, laze on sunbeds or stargaze. But it’s also great for family time. The barbecue and teppanyaki grills each could handle a whole salmon and the large teak table welcomes everyone at one seating. One of several compact steering stations is also located up here.

Another noteworthy feature of this yacht is that it has two master cabins. The suite on the bridge deck benefits from a private terrace, where the owners have added a propane-fueled firepit. The second is a few steps down from the main living area in the yacht’s forward section. On the lower deck, two cabins with twin beds can be converted for couples, and a third welcomes additional guests or crew, or perhaps a fisherman to assist with all the tackle and gear.

The yacht usually runs with just four crew who cover each other’s duties. “I really think that it is ideal for us. It’s just enough crew to satisfy our requirements, but not so much that we have people around us at all times,” the owner says.

The interior is warm, welcoming and personal. Destry Pethtel used walnut with zebra and maple accents in creative ways, alternating the veneer grain for “a simple look with big impact.”

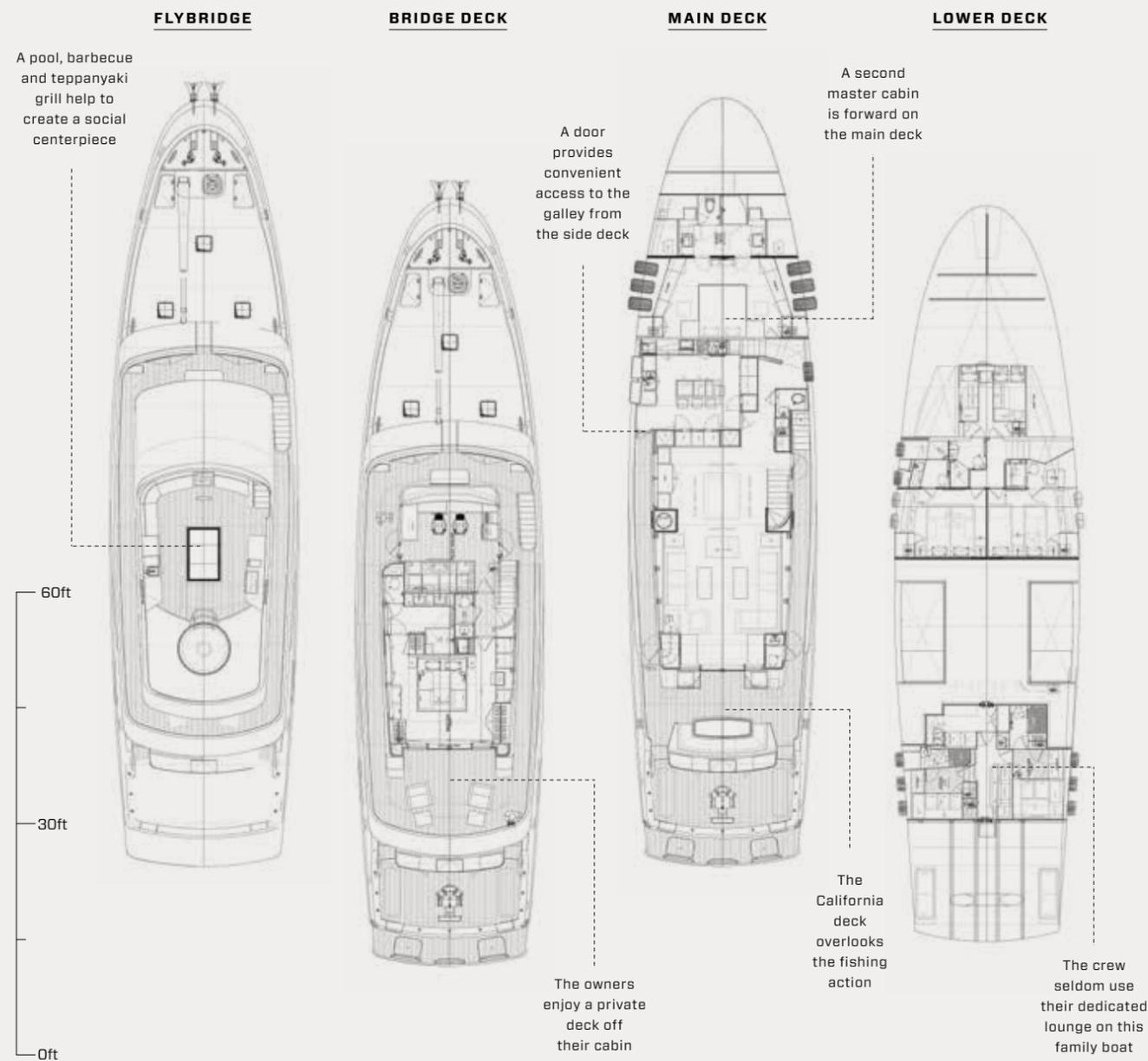
She used stainless steel accents, light high-gloss lacquer on ceilings and blues (echoing the hull color) to form a peaceful and modern décor that caters to family time. The bathrooms and heads feature vibrant tiles and two of the bathrooms are fitted with rain showers, sure to restore serenity.

A chance sighting in New Zealand has certainly paid a lot of dividends already. “I never would have thought that cruising at nine knots or 10 knots would be so pleasurable,” the owner says. “I never quite imagined how fulfilling it is to be together, to be going that speed and to be able to appreciate all the beauty around you. The reality of it has far surpassed my imagination.”

SPECS

SERENITY

NORDHAVN



LOA 99' 11"	Engines 2 x 600hp Caterpillar C18	Generators 2 x 44kW Caterpillar C4.4	Tender 1 x 18' AB Alumina 18 ALX	Naval architecture Nordhavn/Jeff Leishman	Builder/year Southcoast Marine Xiamen/2018
LWL 88' 6"	Speed max/cruise 13/10 knots	Fuel capacity 7,000 gallons	Owners/guests 10	Exterior styling Nordhavn/Jeff Leishman	Xiamen, China t: +1 (949) 496-4848
Beam 24'	Range at 9.5 knots 3,000nm	Freshwater capacity 900 gallons	Crew 4	Interior design Destry Darr Designs	e: info@nordhavn.com w: nordhavn.com
Draft 8' 2"			Construction FRP hull and superstructure		
Displacement 230 tons					
Gross tonnage 199GT					