Gamma 24 Mediterranean

Designed and built in Holland but conceived and marketed by Gamma Yachts of Italy, this semi-displacement steel motor yacht aims to combine the best of Dutch engineering with elegant Italian fit and finish.

The Gamma 24's hull is designed for fuel-efficient cruising rather than speed. The yard claims a range of 2,500 nautical miles at 12 knots, on a

fuel capacity of just under 4,000 gallons (18,000 litres).

Conventional enough down below. the layout shows four ensuite cabins - quite roomy ones, thanks to the generous beam - with a full-beam master divided into his 'n'hers halves and sharing a big central shower compartment. On the other hand the main deck layout looks pretty unusual, with its circular dining table, an enclosed galley and wheelhouse, a captain's cabin on the starboard side and a twin-berth crew cabin on its own half-deck forward. A big flybridge that reaches back almost to the stern promises plenty of outdoor space, while tenders are stowed in the stern garage.

Gamma has hopes at the Far Eastern market, and launched the 24 concept

at the Hainan Yacht Rendez Vous. Contact www.gamma-yachts.it

AT A GLANCE

Length 83ft 4in (25.40m) Beam 23ft 2in (7.05m) Engines Twin 918hp Top speed 16 knots Price from POA





Cheoy Lee Riviera Alpha 76 Express

Still a relative unknown over here but very well respected in the Far East and the US, Cheoy Lee can trace its origins back to 19th Century Shanghai.

The shipyard has just launched its new Alpha range with this great-looking 76, designed by Luiz de Basto on naval architecture by Michael Peters. It is a high-tech vessel with a resin-infused, foam-cored, carbon and E-glass monocoque structure. Weight has been kept down by using honeycomb-cored laminates for the bulkheads and larger

cabinets, while the smart glass in the superstructure helps keep the interior cool and the teak decks are synthetic. The yacht is equipped with the ZF JMS joystick control system as standard, and the yard offers a choice of 1,550hp MANs or 1,900hp Cat C32s on V-drives. With the larger option, the boat has been clocked at 38 knots.

The one-level main deck is centred on a useful bar, which faces both out into the cockpit and into the saloon. The three-seat helm station is

positioned under a spectacular array of windows, which also bring the daylight down into the lower deck, where there is an unusually large master suite amidships and the VIP in the customary slot up forward. The third cabin can't quite be described as an afterthought, but it has certainly been kept to a minimum size so that the Alpha can have both a saloon and a galley downstairs, which fully benefit from all the daylight introduced by those dramatic windows overhead.

A new Mediterranean distributor, Cheoy Lee Riviera in Cannes, has been set up and if you buy a boat from them, they'll give you a free berth for a year. Contact www.cheoyleeriviera.com

AT A GLANCE

Length 76ft 6in (23.32m) Beam 19ft 8in (5.99m) Engines Up to twin 1,900hp Top speed 38 knots Price from €3,599,575 ex VAT (approx £3.48 million inc UK VAT)