



# Finding Nero

*Nicci Perides boards the lavishly refitted Nero and discovers why she remains one of the world's most recognizable superyachts*



It is 20:30 and the group of super-white yachts docked in Port Hercules, Monaco, is beginning to cast shadows across the marina. The other boats out at anchor are reflecting the sun back into port as they bob on the horizon. One catches my eye; it has bright yellow funnels, a midnight black hull and is designed as if from the 1920s. Nero has entered Monégasque waters and is waiting to pick up her next charter. From first impressions, her imperial presence out on the horizon immediately draws focus. Surrounded by a sea of white-hulled yachts, it is easy to understand what makes Nero one of the most special and iconic charter yachts currently on the market. Nero's classic exterior aesthetic is complemented by a contemporary and elegant interior by the renowned designer Laura Pomponi.



*The motor yacht Nero can accommodate 12 guests and she has a crew of 20. Powered by 2 Caterpillar engines, she the yacht reaches her top speed of 17 knots and has has a range of 4,500nm at cruise speed. Nero won the Best Motor Yacht over 75 meters Award at the 2009 ShowBoats International Design Awards.*



Designed and built to exacting standards, the breathtaking NERO has the authentic charm and elegance of the glamorous 1920's, complete with the state-of-the-art technology of a modern world class superyacht.

As the original custom Corsair tender arrives into port at 09:00 to collect her guests, the temperature is already reaching 26° Celsius (79° Fahrenheit) – summer has certainly arrived on the French Riviera. Greeted by three crew members, all smartly dressed in branded polo shirts and shorts, I board the tender (the design of which resembles a Venetian taxi, only more luxurious) to be whisked out to Nero. I spent the best part of the previous evening gazing at her from shoreside and she looks even better up close. Her hull is more impressive and the crew are lined up as if royalty were arriving. I step aboard and meet the team of stewardesses, deckhands, chefs and the captain before a safety briefing and tour of the yacht. Then it's down to business: seeing what really goes on once a charter starts. The captain proudly stated that he was drawn to the uniqueness of Nero, with nothing else like her. That is some accolade and one I can't wait to experience first-hand. Breakfast served – a mixture of fruit and freshly made pastries with fresh juice, coffee or tea on the upper deck aft dining and seating area – I set about exploring this 2007-built yacht. It's not often you are left alone with an almost EUR 550,000 per week megayacht.

Following her extensive refit in 2016, NERO features a beautiful interior by renowned designer, Laura Pomponi, combining contemporary and classic design. This elegant superyacht is a proven charter platform for the most discerning clients.



The large master suite is like a private compartment with a full-beam stateroom, living room and dining saloon with stairs leading to an observation lounge and cinema. A more sociable guest cinema is aft of the upper deck saloon. Outside space includes a truly enormous sun deck with three separate sunbathing areas, a fully-shaded upper deck and a hull-side terrace that unfolds to create a beach platform.



## RESTORING HER 1920s SPLENDOUR

The current owners bought Nero in 2014 and spent two years using her before starting what became one of the largest refit projects the industry has seen. The captain explained how the original brief was relatively humble, consisting mainly of a new paint job. However, it was quickly realised that one change led to another in a bid to ensure that the style matched throughout. MB92 in Barcelona was chosen to carry out the works, and to demonstrate the scale of the project, the shipyard had to rewrite its software to allocate job numbers. Previously, it only had the capacity for 999 tasks – Nero required 1,200 tasks. The yard worked tirelessly for eight months, as the yacht had to be ready in time for the Antigua Charter Yacht Show in December 2016. The captain talked me through her refit. Nero was originally based on JP Morgan's Corsair IV and the construction was largely completed in China and Turkey. She was a true black-hulled beauty who captured the eyes of the industry, winning Best Motor Yacht Over 75 Metres at the 2009 ShowBoats Design Awards (now known as the Boat International Design and Innovation Awards). I learn that her interior then captured the essence of 1920s glamour, with brass fixtures and dark woods, pulled together with deep purple hues. There was no denying she was beautiful, but the new owners needed to update her. They wanted to make her more functional as a charter yacht and, as well as the paint job, a seventh cabin was added, new shades were put up on the observation deck and more service points were introduced for the crew.



Featuring a 5.7m resistance pool on the foredeck and large Jacuzzi on the sun deck.

Spectacular owner's duplex suite with separate lounge, study and his and hers bathrooms. Only few will ever witness that.



In 2016 she underwent a high profile nine month extensive refit with full repaint and a new, lighter interior.

As I look around, I still see gentle nods to the golden age of yachting with the mini grand staircase that leads from the upper deck into the library on the main deck, and the art deco semi-circular designs juxtaposed with sharp lines in the landing areas. Now, however, light floods in. The interior has a more contemporary feel: brass fixtures are now silver, deep purple has been replaced with neutral tones accented with blues, turquoise and whites, and ash and oak replace the dark wood. The owner's wife contributed to the choice of fabrics used on board, while the Italian yacht designer Laura Pomponi was responsible for Nero's new interior.



Corsair Yachts, Nero's shipbuilder, was a new facility created for the project at Yantai Raffles Shipyard on Shandong Peninsula, China. Taylor designed the yacht, which was built by 400 craftsmen over three and a half years.



Dedicated spa with in board masseuse, beautician and fitness instructor.



Zero speed stabilisers reduce any rolling motion while at anchor.



## ELEGANT AND INTIMATE STYLE

As I continue to wander around the yacht, I notice that her style is still very personal. Nero is a big yacht – 90 metres (295ft) in length – but inside she feels manageable and social – not so large that you lose the rest of the charter party but with many cosy corners in which to curl up with a book. The VIP (observation) cabin on the upper deck is today being used as a massage room where the on board masseuse is offering guests a choice of treatments. The main saloon is being used as an indoor yoga studio, due to the soaring temperatures outside, while some of the charter party have made themselves fully at home on the 42-metre-long (138ft) sun deck, where a large Jacuzzi, sun pads, loungers, golf tee and indoor lounge are located. I imagine this vast deck is one of the favourite places on board. Other guests are on the main deck sofa area where an outdoor cinema screen is showing videos of Nero in action. Everyone appears totally relaxed and happy in their respective spaces. It seems Nero's



The Nero was commissioned by London-born entrepreneur Neil Taylor. He had originally intended to restore a yacht from "J.P. Morgan" era but, when he was unable to find one that met his requirements, he set out to build a modern replica.



charter mantra is 'do as much or as little as you like' and today is certainly demonstrating that, with activity options from morning yoga to Indian head massages, an al fresco lunch to dive-bombing from the top deck, albeit via a custom inflatable slide. Guests can relax with a book in the Jacuzzi or take lessons from the deckies in aquatic jetpacks, SeaBobs, jetskis and so much more. It appears that Nero's new look has certainly given this gentleman's yacht a new lease of life, updating her aesthetically while also offering more options for today's charterer. The day that we spend on board ends with the crew handing me a GoPro and sending me from the sun deck down via the slide into the Mediterranean. Another little surprise is that the crew have filmed our day and will give it to us as a memento before we leave. Both the crew and the yacht are truly unique. The captain was right – there really is nothing quite like her.

## SPECIFICATION

**Summer rate per week (low/high)** EUR 497,000 / EUR 525,000

**Winter rate per week (low/high)** Please enquire

**Built** 2007 (refitted 2016), Corsair Yachts, China

**Length** 90.1m (295.6ft)

**Guests** 12

**No. of guest cabins** 6

**Summer cruising** Mediterranean

**Winter cruising** Please enquire

**Crew** 20

**Beam** 12m (39.4ft)

**Draft** 4.9m (16ft)

**Gross Tonnage** 1,413

**Maximum speed** 17 knots

**Cruising speed** 14 knots

**Fuel consumption at cruising speed** 432 litres per hour

**Cabin types** 6 (4 x double, 2 x twin)

**Engines** 2 x 2,333hp Caterpillar

**Watersports** 9.5m custom Corsair tender, 7.4m Zeta Elle tender, 5.2 m custom Nautica Rib, 4 x Sea-Doos, Yamaha Superjet 700 (stand up jetski), SeaBobs, Flyboard, 8m inflatable slide, 2 x Paddleboards, 2 x canoes, fishing gear, snorkeling gear, waterskis, wakeboards and tows

**Communication & Entertainment** Interior and exterior cinema projector screens, State-of-the-art audio-visual systems, Apple TV, Satcom & cellular communications facilities, Fleet 77, VSAT, Wi-Fi internet access

