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Simena Sets Sail

SuperYacht Times editors **Leona Caanen** and **Francesca Webster** take a deep dive into Ares Yachts’ brand-new, 62-metre flagship, *Simena*, sitting down with the yard and the designers behind this modern classic sailing yacht.

With her sails hoisted, *Simena* seems to be floating as she makes her way across the blue waters of the Mediterranean. The 62-metre ketch is the brand new flagship of the Turkish shipyard Ares Yachts, featuring exterior lines by Taka Yacht Design, with interiors having been brought to life by the British studio Design Unlimited.

Designed with family in mind, the classically styled sailing yacht is structured around entertainment, with a spacious main saloon and accommodations for as many as 12 guests under her current configuration. Built on speculation by the Turkish yard, with supervision and guidance provided by experienced sailor and broker Sean

McCarter of Northrop & Johnson, the superyacht just recently left the yard and made her way to the Mediterranean where she will make her official debut this May at the Palma International Boat Show. SYT’s Francesca Webster had the chance to visit the yacht in Monaco where the yacht was nominated for an award at the YCM’s Explorer Awards. Reflecting on the project, Piraye Sahinkaya Orhun, Yacht Projects Director at Ares Yachts, comments: “*Simena* represents a defining step for Ares Yachts as we expand our capabilities into the sailing segment. From the outset, our ambition was to create a yacht that balances performance with refinement, while remaining true to the traditions of classic sailing yachts.”

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Main saloon onboard *Simena* featuring warm wood and an emphasis on natural light.



A full-beam owner's suite.

Designing a modern classic

For Design Unlimited, a studio long associated with bold interior concepts across the marine and residential sectors, working on the interiors of *Simena* offered an opportunity to expand its portfolio and venture into a different kind of design. The project marks an important milestone as the largest sailing yacht the team has designed to date, and has been as much about pushing creative boundaries as it was about honouring the traditions of a classic sailing yacht.

At the heart of the brief was a careful balance: an interior that would remain faithful to the yacht’s traditional exterior while introducing a fresh and elevated aesthetic inside. Striving to reinterpret the design of a conventional classic sailing yacht, the result is an interior defined by warm materials, considered detailing and a subtle layering of textures that together create what the studio describes as a ‘modern-classic’ environment.

A defining element of the design philosophy lies in its emphasis on sociability. From the earliest concept discussions, it was made clear that *Simena* should function first and foremost as a family yacht. Spaces have been designed to encourage interaction, with open seating plans, whether indoors or out, that invite conversation. Her main saloon, for example, is spacious and inviting, accessed by twin sliding doors that lead off from

the covered cockpit. With a lounge to port and dining area to starboard, the saloon is multifunctional and welcoming. Utmost care has also been made to ensure a discrete definition between crew and guest access, with crew access to all areas of the yacht separated from the owner and guests.

Simena’s interiors reflect a broader ambition to showcase the yard’s in-house capabilities across metalwork, carpentry and leather craftsmanship. This spirit is evident in many bespoke elements integrated throughout the yacht’s interior: feature bulkheads, custom joinery and intricately detailed headboards were developed specifically for the project, each contributing to a layered visual narrative. The yard’s capability to produce many of these elements internally provided the designers with unusual freedom, allowing ideas to be explored in close dialogue with the craftsmen responsible for their execution.

Kerem Kalafatoğlu, board member at Ares Yachts, adds: “Our in-house production capabilities were fundamental to achieving the level of detail seen on board *Simena*. It allowed us to work in close coordination with the designers and ensure that every element, from joinery to finishes, met the highest standards expected in this segment.”

Material selection played an equally important role in shaping the yacht’s atmosphere. Rather than relying on

stark contrasts or high gloss finishes, the Design Unlimited team opted for a palette of warm tones, enhanced by copper accents, brass detailing and rich timbers that introduce depth and subtle luminosity, while carefully chosen fabrics such as woven leather add a softness to the spaces.

“We were very particular about the fabrics, choosing materials perfectly suited to their setting. As this is a sociable boat, durability was essential, so everything was specified to handle demanding use and stand the test of time,” notes Associate Designer John Everett.

Designing for a large sailing yacht inevitably introduces practical considerations beyond aesthetics.

The interior needed to account for movement at sea, leading to thoughtful adjustments such as rounded furniture edges, discreet handholds and non-slip flooring surfaces. Seating arrangements were also carefully considered to remain comfortable regardless of the yacht’s angle of heel while under sail. Throughout the vessel handrails are elegantly integrated into the design, with ergonomic curved forms leading up through the various stairwells, accentuated by brass finishes.

The project illustrates how a collaborative process between owner, designer and shipyard can produce an environment that feels both timeless and distinctly personal.



Simena’s aft deck, featuring a sun-lounge and Jacuzzi.



Al Fresco dining onboard *Simena*, with the Jacuzzi bordering the dining area.



Simena

Builder: Ares Yachts

Year: 2026

Volume: 499 GT

Ext. Design: Taka Yacht Design

Int. Design: Design Unlimited

Naval Architecture:
Taka Yacht Design



Curated for cruising

One of the more unique features of the yacht is her centralised stairwell leading down to the lower decks. Situated between the saloon and the wheelhouse, the stairwell is accessed from both sides of the yacht, improving flow through the interiors. Featuring a custom designed chandelier in its central atrium, designed as an echo of the ebb and flow of the Mediterranean sea, the stairs, like the rest of the interior, are clad in engineered oak and lead down to the five main staterooms; three doubles, a twin and the master all featuring ensuite bathrooms. The master suite is located to the fore and is a spacious full-beam stateroom inclusive of dressing room, ensuite and large forward facing bed. The star of the stateroom is the standalone bath located opposite the bed with an elegant floor-to-ceiling marble splashback.

To the aft of the yacht is a sixth stateroom, originally designed as an additional crew cabin but converted during the build into guest accommodation. For a future owner this offers unusual flexibility, allowing them to add additional crew, a supernumerary cabin for additional staff, or to convert it for another use, such as a gym. For all guests, the lower deck also offers access to the boarding platform which doubles as a swim platform and is located amidships on the starboard side.

Four crew cabins, with an additional two in the bow, the galley, engine room and storage are located to the aft of the yacht, with the transom holding the various toys. The yacht's foredeck is home to a two-tonne crane that lifts her custom limousine tender, also built by Ares, as well as her rescue tender, with optionality for further toy storage on deck.

Elsewhere on deck, *Simena* offers an abundance of areas for her guests to enjoy the views as she cruises through the blue. To aft guests are welcomed aboard from the passerelle where large sunpads are located to port and starboard,

offering the ideal location to enjoy sundowners in the evening. Like her main saloon, the cockpit is a multifunctional space sunken into the deck at the level of the interior with tables on either side surrounded by a curved sofa. The table can be joined to create a large dining area for her guests, or left separate for a more relaxed configuration.

Unlike traditional sailing yachts, the helm stations are not located on the main deck, instead they are situated above the saloon on a flybridge between the masts. Here there are twin helm stations directly connected to the wheelhouse and this is where her captain will most usually be found. Though excellent from this vantage point, full visibility over the bow is limited due to her deckhouses, so cameras on the bow are fed into the helm monitors to ensure full visibility for her captain. This area is also home to tables and a seating area, with a large sun pad to the back.

Finally, there is a fourth exterior lounge area in front of the wheelhouse on the foredeck for guests that want to relax while underway or enjoy the uninterrupted views while at anchor. In terms of her performance, *Simena's* delivery to Monaco was a demonstration of her capabilities. RINA certified and offering hybrid engine functionality, the yacht performs well under motor and sail with a 16 knot top sailing speed and a 14 knot top speed and 4,000 nautical mile range at 9 knots under diesel engine power. On electric-motor alone, *Simena* reached a top speed of 8 knots with a range of 6,000 nautical miles at 7 knots, making her a true trans-oceanic cruiser. As Piraye Sahinkaya Orhun, Yacht Projects Director explained, "This is a truly proud moment for our entire team," says Piraye. "*Simena* exceeded our expectations during the trials, showing remarkable speed, maneuverability, and silence under hybrid and sail propulsion. She embodies everything we set out to achieve – performance, comfort, and timeless elegance."

