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# HEIR APPARENT

*Terms like “iconic” and “legend” have been used liberally to describe Riva’s importance in yachting history. Does the brand’s newest offering, the 88’ Domino Super, live up to the hype?*

**R**eams have been written on Riva. Its style first asserted itself in the 1960s, a decade of cheerful optimism on both sides of the Atlantic. It has managed to endure through the global market’s ups and downs while retaining its authentic charisma.

The range today spans a wide gamut, from the 27-foot Iseo, natural heir of the runabouts that made Riva a star in the early ‘60s, to the all-aluminum 122-foot Mythos, the brand’s superb flagship. It also includes “Open” and “Coupé” models, such as the 88’ Florida and the latest offering, the 88’ Domino Super, both unveiled last year.

Since 1984, designer Mauro Micheli has been the creative force behind Riva and the keeper of design continuity. The company hired Micheli when he was a young, starry-eyed design contest winner. In 1994, Micheli established his own firm, Officina Italiana Design, but has continued to pen all the new Rivas, demonstrating an uncanny ability to meet market expectations and refresh the brand while also keeping true to its roots.

A meticulous approach to each project is a constant throughout the Riva production. The builder’s iconic image is built in part on hard work coupled with a great amount of creativity, which applies to the new 88’ Domino Super, even if it is considered a successor to the successful 86’ Domino. “We don’t like to define the 88’ a restyling of the 86’. Whereas

some repetition or rejigging is inevitable and somehow part of the brand’s strategy, the 88’ Domino Super is a totally new model that, together with the Ferretti Group’s engineering department, we developed on the basis of an existing naval platform,” says Micheli.

“To start with, all Rivas refer to a lifestyle, which goes beyond fashion. Riva prides itself in building exclusive products that are not subject to fads,” he says. “The 88’ Domino Super is no exception. This model features well-balanced proportions and it encompasses all values of the smaller Rivas.”

A refined, mid-sized vessel with superb exterior lines, the new Riva is a showstopper but not a show-off. What makes you fall in love with the 88’ Domino Super at first glance is its streamlined silhouette enhanced by two-tone livery. “Color is not a choice of secondary consideration. It is indeed a design feature for us,” Micheli says. “We designed the 88’ Domino Super with an intense gray hull and silver superstructure in mind, and proportions between the yacht’s upper and lower part have been defined accordingly.” The final color is London Gray paired with Moon Gray for the superstructure. Owners may choose different color schemes, opting for Metallic Ice or Light Silver with Titanium Gray details, or Gray Sand coupled with Charcoal Gray.

Words - Maria Roberta Morso

Photography - Alberto Cocchi



“  
All Rivas refer to a lifestyle that goes  
beyond fashion, not subject to fads.  
”

“Our priority was to create a boat with a strong identity while maintaining the Riva flavor,” Micheli says. “The sun deck on the 88’ Domino Super offers a comfortable area for the owner, and guests enjoy good views and feel a real connection with their surrounding environment; still it is perfectly concealed into the yacht’s profile. It represents the bond between the Open series and the larger flybridge models.”

The relationship between exterior and interior spaces is one of the keys to understand and appreciate this remarkable project. “From outside, the 88’ Domino Super has a bold, outstanding look yet it is also a cozy and intimate cocoon,” says Micheli, who chose to create a separation between outdoor and indoor areas. Large glazed surfaces and privacy don’t go together well, hence the designer’s decision to eschew those floor-to-ceiling openings seen on many contemporary yachts. This conceptual choice led to a sleeker exterior design with streamlined windows on both the hull and low superstructure, enhancing dynamic lines.

“The idea is that after swimming or lying in the sun, when you go inside the yacht you long to be in a private environment. We didn’t want to blur interior and exterior

Top right: The main salon hosts a lounging area furnished with Knoll white sofas highlighted by Dedar and Hermes decorative cushions. Top left: Can you spot the hidden flybridge?



environments, creating the illusion of being outside when inside. The yacht offers so many spaces *en plein air* that we felt the need to provide the owner and guests with a cozy and private retreat,” Micheli says.

Outdoor spaces are indeed vast and highly livable as I can immediately attest after stepping aboard from the stern platform. The platform allows enjoying the sea in close proximity, and it lowers below the surface to facilitate tender hauling and launching operations. Up on the main deck, spacious lounging areas inside and out are in close contact thanks to a large sliding door. And while the interior salon opens dramatically to a lovely sea breeze and views, the use of wood on both walls and floors enhances coziness and comfort. Long windows let in plenty of natural light while maintaining privacy and intimacy. A huge, curvy windshield further reinforces the sense of space and volume.

“Things change on the lower deck, where large windows have been designed to avoid a claustrophobic feel,” says Micheli. All four cabins enjoy magnificent views onto the sea through windows with portholes that can be opened. The owner’s suite, located amidships, has sizeable rectangular windows in both the roomy cabin and the bathroom.

The interior decoration combines striped rosewood with fine white and dark leathers underlined by polished

See more on the iPad edition



The guest cabins (above) and owners’ suite (below) show the interior’s signature style of striped rosewood with white and dark leathers underlined by polished stainless steel frames.

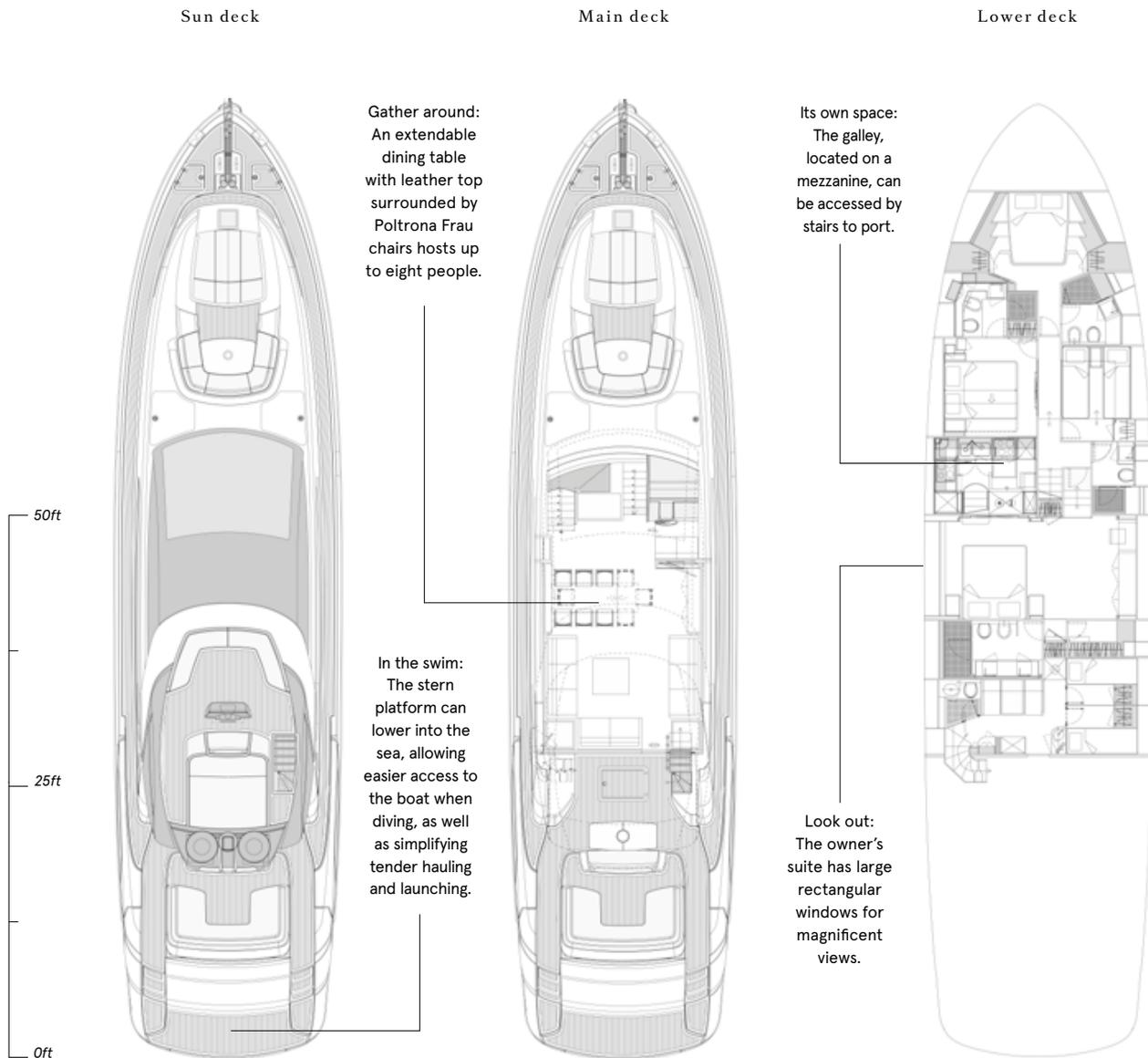
stainless steel frames. The wood’s warm and intense hue creates a homey feeling despite rigorous geometric shapes. Officina Italiana Design designed most furnishings and chose a selection of loose pieces by renowned Italian manufacturers, such as Poltrona Frau and Knoll, to name a few. The whole interior revolves around a concept of elegant simplicity and creates a highly sophisticated contemporary marine style.

In line with its sporty look, the Riva 88’ Domino Super is capable of a top speed of 38 knots thanks to twin MTUs delivering 2,435 horsepower each. A more powerful version allows for a maximum speed of 40 knots. Its blistering performance will no doubt attract owners who want to experience the thrill of driving it themselves, particularly from the helm station on the flybridge; however, the yacht has decent crew quarters (two cabins with bunk beds, bathroom, dinette and laundry area), located at the stern with access to the engine room. The galley is part of the guest accommodations but has its own space on an airy sort of mezzanine, accessed from stairs located on the port side.

The new Domino is a true heir to the Riva spirit. Since it was unveiled in May 2015, Riva has sold nine of these silver bullets (there were 30 of the 86’ Domino built). And while brand may have something to do with it, the Domino Super stands on its own merit. ■



## 88' Domino Super – Riva



**LOA:** 88' 1" (26.8m)  
**LWL:** 70' 3" (21.4m)  
**Beam:** 20' 8" (6.3m)  
**Draft:** 6' (1.8m)  
**Displacement (full load):**  
75.2 tonnes  
**Power:** 2 x 2,435-hp  
MTU 16V 2000 M93

**Speed (max/cruise):**  
38/34 knots  
**Range:** 330 nm @ 34 knots  
**Stabilizers (optional):**  
Seakeeper  
**Fuel capacity:**  
1,981 U.S. gallons  
**Freshwater capacity:**  
238 U.S. gallons

**Tenders:**  
Williams Turbojet 325  
or 385  
**Owners and guests:** 8  
**Crew:** 4  
**Construction:** GRP  
**Classification:**  
Rina B ⚡ F ⚡ Aa

**Naval architecture:**  
Advanced Yacht Technology  
Ferretti Group  
**Exterior styling:**  
Mauro Micheli,  
Officina Italiana Design  
**Interior design:**  
Mauro Micheli,  
Officina Italiana Design

**Builder/year:**  
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