

FOR SUPERYACHTS AND GIGAYACHTS

by Roberto Franzoni

Inaugurated in September 2010 Porto Mirabello represents Italy's unique example of a marina built like an artificial peninsula on the water. It sports a surface area of 40,000 square metres in a water basin measuring 270,000 square metres which does not alter the coast, while adding value to its nautical vocation. The site was built in full compliance with environmental norms safeguarding nature and wildlife. It is for this very reason it has been awarded Bandiera Blu 2016 Approdi Turistici recognition.

Porto Mirabello exploits its sheltered geographic position, is well protected by the La Spezia Gulf and by the Tino and Palmaria islands and by a 620 metre breakwater. For most of the year it represents a safe cruising area. It is an ideal place to start from inasmuch as some of the most fascinating tourist spots in the north and central Tyrrhenian Sea are within easy reach from there like Montecarlo, Corsica, Elba island and Sardinia. The marina has been built to offer high quality services, state of the art solutions, heaps of



space, easy access and undivided attention to all high end users' needs and requests in addition to a vast selection of outdoor/indoor activities. The marina is well connected to La Spezia via a lovely foot bridge open only to pedestrians. It sports 407 berths on 60 year leases starting from 12 metres. 100 berths are destined to superyachts up to 130 metres. It is an ideal place for superyachts, placed in a high standing, prestigious eco friendly environment, further enhanced by nearby sea port towns

such as Portovenere, Lerici, Le Cinque Terre and last but not least Portofino, that are laden with historical value and natural beauty.

The heliport and 35 metre wide berths for megayachts is proof enough of the exclusivity of the marina itself with a 24/7 conciergerie highly qualified technical staff and security personnel. There are more than thirty shops and a wellness centre on the premises, a gym, several wine bars, pubs and restaurants for a total of eleven. An exclusive English Pub and a 25 metre swimming pool complete the picture.



Before the end of the year there will be 15 luxury suites available offering a magnificent 360° view over the Gulf of La Spezia. Porto Mirabello's vocation to serve super and megayachts has paid off with the presence of great yachts like Main a 65 metre Codecasa owned by Giorgio Armani, or the three masted Maltese Falcon Perini Navi's 89 metre and many Oceanco, Lürssen, Feadship yachts as well as Benetti, Crn, Baglietto and Sanlorenzo. Some of them are regular clients, and of the marina shipyard.

"We're currently optimizing the main Quay – says Alessandro Menozzi, CEO and promoter for Port Mirabello – in such a way as to dedicate it entirely to gigayachts, this translates into 17 berths from 60 to 140 metres which tie up stern to and not alongside. The area is benefitting from a redefinition: "Green". Palm trees highlight one side, with also a variety of plants along the street. We've therefore created a security zone accessible only to badge possessors. The Megayacht Quay will be installed with what the management team calls Sky Stairs. It is a stairway which will be leading directly from Quayside to the terrace situated at the Poet's Lounge, which is an exclusive barbecue area open to captains coming from client megayachts. Golfo dei



for superyachts and gigayachts



Poeti can be clearly seen from there and captains are invited to enjoy free grilled snacks. Porto Mirabello has obtained ISPS certification and also offers 24 hour assistance to entering/ departing yachts. The concierge staffing it will also take orders for ship stores and more when need be from guests and crews, in addition to organizing trips to nearby places. "Porto Mirabello's strength is in the offer – says Alessandro Menozzi – we do just that we offer high quality service like five star hotels, and we treat our customers the same way. The Ligure region was the first to go for marina/resorts but

unfortunately it is still missing out on infrastructures such as adequate high quality Hotels. Porto Mirabello has been created with private investors money, with no public financing. It is the largest most important investment in the La Spezia province in the last hundred years and with our imminent 15 suites we'll be contributing in offering more high level hospitality". What's does the Marina's growth trend look like today? We're growing with two digits. And with the advent of so



many more gigayachts, it's time to point in that direction. Do you think you will attract many foreign yachts thanks to your Megayacht Quay initiative?

the pedestrians' area is pleasant enough and relaxing and our very comfortable link to the town means we can walk there in a matter of minutes. for further information www.portomirabello.it

A numerically strong community of foreign captains is shaping up here in Porto Mirabello. Transits are doubling from year to year. Already in 2016 we welcomed many 80, 90, 100 metre yachts. Their guests then proceeded to Forte dei Marmi and the Cinque Terre.

Does this mean that transiting yachts are important to you?

When the client is a satisfied one he'll certainly return and perhaps one day may decide to stay.

What sort of relationship is there between port and the town?

La Spezia has become welcoming and respectably decent. Walking about along



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