BROKERAGE OUTLOOK: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN SHOPPING USED

DESIGN REDEFINED Feadship's 274-foot Savannah

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BIG-BOAT ELECTRONICS 2017 INNOVATIONS, GAME-CHANGERS

Luxury Charter Hot Spots, Great Yachts



WHEN HORSEPOWER MEANT HORSE POWER





HER NAME IS RIO

After the U.S. debut of its 42 Air, Rio Yachts is introducing a 58 GTS.

n the docks at last fall's Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, there was a fair amount of chatter about "some new builder" from Italy called Rio Yachts. Showgoers walking by its display of the open cockpit of the 42 Air were invited to kick off their shoes and climb aboard. Once inside, they noticed a belowdecks interior just as bright and open as the cockpit they'd just stepped down from.

Yet while Rio may have been new to Americans, the brand is well established in Europe: The Italian manufacturer has built more than 10,000 boats in its 55-year history. Company President and CEO Marc-Udo Broich hopes Rio's newest project, the 58 GTS, will earn even more attention here. The 58's inspiration came from a restaurateur who charters a Rio 56 GT. He decided to buy one of his own, wiring the money to the builder without so much as seeing a drawing. Standing 6 feet 6 inches, the customer presented the semi-custom builder with a tall order to fill, so Rio redesigned the molds to ensure headroom. The builder also says the interior is one of the most modern it has built to date.

The owner, a Baja 1000 racer, also has an insatiable need for speed, so Rio swapped the 711-horsepower Cummins Zeus drives it had in its 56 with straight shaft Caterpillar C18s. The 58 GTS is scheduled for completion in early spring. *rioyachts.us*

—Daniel Harding Jr.

