

Contact: Jean Walcher / Jacqueline Edelman, JWalcher Communications  
(619) 295-7140, [jean@jwalcher.com](mailto:jean@jwalcher.com) / [jacqueline@jwalcher.com](mailto:jacqueline@jwalcher.com)

## **YachtFest San Diego '07 Sets Record With Largest Show Ever**

*40 yachts and increased attendance at West Coast's only superyacht showcase*

**SAN DIEGO - September 25, 2007** – The docks of Shelter Island Marina were busy with eager attendees, all wanting to step aboard some of the world's most luxurious floating vessels at this year's YachtFest San Diego, presented by San Diego Marine Exchange.

YachtFest kicked off Thursday, September 13 with a stellar showcase of yachts, cars, jets and numerous other sea-faring accessories on display. The festival brought together potential buyers, charterers and admirers to view 40 yachts and mega yachts over the course of the four day show.

The show featured more yachts than previous years, with yacht slips for the event sold out, and had the largest number of paid attendees yet, reflecting the growing interest in yachting and San Diego's commitment to becoming a premier destination for superyachts.

"San Diego is increasingly popular as a mega-yacht destination and homeport, thanks to efforts of local boatyards, brokers and the Port of San Diego," said Diane Fraser, a yacht charter broker with Fraser Yachts Worldwide. "In addition, the quality of the attendees at YachtFest rivals that of the shows in Ft. Lauderdale and Monaco."

The conclusion of the event brought awards to four exquisite yachts, announced at the Martinis by Moonlight party hosted by The Marine Group on Saturday night. Doug Sharp, of Sharp Design and the YachtFest Board Chair, presented awards in four categories: People's Choice, Best Interior, Best in Show, and the first ever, Broker's Choice.

- People's Choice: Endless Summer  
The People chose Endless Summer, a 92' luxury yacht built by Paragon Motor Yachts, as their favorite in show. The yacht features two hot tubs and a \$320,000 entertainment system.
- Best Interior: Endurance  
Taking home the "Best Interior" award was Endurance, a 77-foot Northern Marine trawler that was custom built in 2003. Featuring three floors of glossy mahogany walls, and a galley with traditional wainscoting and nautical tiles, the interior was designed by the owner's wife.
- Best in Show: Status Quo  
Status Quo, a brand-new 142' superyacht built by Richmond Yachts, was also the largest in the show this year. It is the only Richmond Yacht that is used specifically for chartering to the Caribbean and Bahamas. It features six guest cabins that sleep up to 12 people, a personal chef, four crew cabins that sleep eight, a dining salon that seats 12, and 13 bathrooms. The "toys" include two wave runners, a Jacuzzi, steam room, barbecue and a wet bar.

- Broker's Choice: Thomas Spirit  
Thomas Spirit, a 115' Motor yacht built by Christensen previously earned the 2004 "Mega Yacht of the Year" award from YachtBroker.com. Thomas Spirit includes four staterooms that sleep up to eight, a formal dining room that seats 10, flat screen TVs throughout, a redwood sauna, and a state-of-the-art kitchen featuring GE Profile appliances, plus crew quarters below deck.

The first in line for the season of international superyacht shows, YachtFest San Diego is nestled along the San Diego harbor and offers visitors an ideal relaxed atmosphere for viewing millions of dollars worth of boats for sale and charter, along with luxury goods and accessories. This year's show featured a variety of activities and events to keep visitors entertained and informed.

On Friday, September 14, models walked the dock in Saks Fifth Avenue's latest Fall fashions at YachtFest's second annual "All Decked Out" fashion show, with proceeds benefiting the San Diego Armed Services YMCA. Money raised will go to over 40 of the YMCA's free programs that support San Diego's military families.

On Sunday, September 16, YachtFest San Diego presented "Your Career in Yachting – A Ticket Around the World" presented by Merrill-Stevens Crew Placement. The free seminar featured a panel of yachting experts who spoke about employment opportunities in the luxury yacht industry.

### **About YachtFest San Diego**

YachtFest attracts visitors from around the world for an impressive showcase of mega-sized, luxurious yachts. Showcasing San Diego as one of the best destinations for yacht enthusiasts, the relaxed atmosphere allows visitors to be a part of this elegant lifestyle. The show is an excellent place to buy, sell, or charter a yacht and to experience the excitement of this upscale lifestyle. There are superyachts to tour as well as the latest equipment and other related luxury products for sale and on display.

YachtFest '08 is scheduled for September 11-14, 2008 at Shelter Island Marina/Island Palms Hotel, 2051 Shelter Island Dr. For more information log on to [www.yachtfest.com](http://www.yachtfest.com) or call (858) 836-0133.

YachtFest sponsors include San Diego Marine Exchange, Fraser Yachts Worldwide, Bartell Hotels, Shelter Island Marina, Driscoll Boat Works, Sharp Design, Wright & L'Estrange, Platypus Marine, Jimsair, The Marine Group, Luce Forward, U.S. Trust Bank of America Private Wealth Management, Prudential Coronado Cays, Riviera Magazine, Knight & Carver, Biz San Diego and the Port of San Diego.

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