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Beneteau Oceanis Yachts 60

LOA 18.80m 61ft 8in **Hull length** 17.64m 57ft 1in **Beam** 5.30m 17ft 5in

Draught (std keel) 2.65m 8ft 4in **Displacement** 21,500kg 37,400lb **Price** TBA beneteau.com

Beneteau's new flagship is the yard's third model to come out of the collaboration with Lorenzo Argento and Roberto Biscontini.

The design philosophy follows on from that of the First Yachts 53 and the Oceanis Yachts 54, which share the same hull design. The new boat has proportionately slightly fuller forward sections shape, but it's by no means extreme. As with the smaller models, Biscontini opted for a transom with lots of flare and low waterline

beam, rather than wide stern sections with marked chines. At the same time, there is more rocker in the aft sections below the waterline.

The combined effect is to reduce wetted surface area to an extent that will markedly boost light airs performance, at the expense of a very small loss of speed when power reaching or in marginal surfing conditions.

Although hull length is 70cm less than the old 62-footer, overall interior volume remains

the same and there's more space in the owner's suite which occupies a third of the length of the interior. This was achieved in part through abandoning a completely level cabin sole throughout the boat, which wastes a lot of volume below the floor.

The changes also helped save a whopping five tonnes of weight, yet the sail area remains very similar to that of the previous model.

The need for any deck work is kept to a minimum thanks to the standard fitting of Harken's Unwind winching system. This uses electric winches to both wind in and to ease a line, controlled from consoles at each helm station. The steering positions are inboard of a substantial coaming and benefit from large helm seats with high backrests.

Argento has stamped his clean minimalist style on the interior, where attention to detail includes concealed lighting and switches. A big L-shaped navigation centre, with a designer swivelling chair, is clearly aimed at those who work from home while on board. This will be Beneteau's first model with a full width forward galley, designed to maximise stowage and worktop space.



Wraparound deck saloon windows contribute to a sleek look for Grand Soleil's 72 LC

Grand Soleil 72 LC

Hull length 22.00m 72ft 2in **LWL** 19.84m 65ft 0in **Beam** 6.20m 20ft 4in

Draught (std keel) 3.70m 12ft 2in grandsoleil.net

Another model to launch from the Italian yard this year, the LC (Long Cruise) variant of its 72 has a pronounced coachroof, with continuous wraparound glazing on the sides and front. This will give a 270° view from the raised saloon, yet the external profile is considerably sleeker than that generally associated with deck saloon

yachts. The raised saloon floor also gives more space for tankage, machinery and systems underneath, and frees space for larger aft cabins.

The forward part of the cockpit is particularly spacious, even compared to the superlative standards in this part of the market. Positioning the companionway slightly off centre to

starboard allows for C-shape seating around a table to port, in addition to L-shape seating and a second table to starboard. There are also double sunbeds at the aft end on both sides.

Overall it offers a level of accommodation that until a few years ago could only be found on small superyachts. Yet this is not a chunky cruiser – it shares the same Matteo Polli-designed hull as the Performance model.

The standard keel has a 3.7m draught, which promises excellent stability and windward performance, although a 2.6m draught keel is offered as an option. The first GS72 is scheduled for launch late this summer. ■