

Mega year

Last year marked a return to multiple significant megayacht launches in the post-pandemic era, with *Lady Jorgia*, *Starlust*, *Rocinante* and *Lusine* leading the fleet

— such as the nine-figure sale of *Aquijo*, the world's largest Ketch at 86m, sold by Edmiston to Y.Co. (A Ketch is a two-masted sailboat whose mainmast is taller than the mizzen mast — or aft-mast — and whose mizzen mast is stepped forward of the rudder post.)

Upward Curve reflects on the biggest deals of 2023, starting with Lürssen's *Ahpo*, now known as *Lady Jorgia*.

Above: Formerly known as *Ahpo*, *Lady Jorgia* became the biggest brokerage deal in history last year when she was sold for asking price

Sailing past forecasts of a 'slowdown' year, the superyacht industry recorded an 8.3% uptick in the total amount of sales secured in 2023, according to market industry intelligence BOATPro, powered by BOAT International construction and sales data.

The collective value increased from US\$6bn (€3.6 bn) in 2022 to US\$6.5bn (€3.9 bn) in 2023, excluding a number of asking prices that have been withheld

LADY JORGIA BY LÜRSEN

Thanks to an astounding €330m asking price, the biggest brokerage deal in history made May 2023 the single-highest-grossing brokerage sales month on record. New owner Canadian billionaire and former ice hockey goaltender Patrick Dovigi, unveiled the German-built gem at the 2023 Monaco Grand Prix.

Stepping aboard from one of her two custom limo tenders, across the length of her 115m *Ahpo* boasts a helicopter pad, wellness area, multiple bars, a hammam, jacuzzi, plunge pool, counter-current swimming pool, gym, 12-seater cinema, space for a crew of 37 and a glass walkway through the engine room.

The main deck features a large conference room, a self-playing Steinway piano and a grand

staircase with a striking hand-made crystal sculpture.

Exterior and interior designers Nuvolari Lennard have conjoined a timeless, elegant bow and graceful superstructure sweeping aft, designed to link all the elements of nature. Perhaps *Ahpo*'s standout, most innovative feature is the duplex owner's apartment on the decks below, made up of a large 245m² master cabin — with his and hers bathrooms — and a 95m² panoramic salon joined together by a private interior staircase. lurssen.com/en/new-build/yachts/lady-jorgia

STARLUST BY ABEKING & RASMUSSEN

First unveiled as *Soaring*, the €38m *Ocean Independence* in-house sale of this 68.2-metre beauty by Abeking & Rasmussen has seen her renamed as *Starlust*. Delivered in 2020, her original owner tasked Focus Yacht Design with an exterior that "wouldn't be mistaken for any other", culminating in the yacht's ►



Left: *Rocinante* pool Above: *Starlust* bedroom Below: *Lusine* living deck and in full glory with London's Tower Bridge and The Shard behind



distinctive scalloped windows, "eagle-beak" bow and vivid orange bootstripe to go with her pale grey hull. *Starlust* also comes equipped with two Compass Tenders, each marked with an identifiable orange band along the bottom to evoke the style of the mothership. The superyacht boasts an impressive library, a bar with an integrated Jacuzzi, a Beach Club and a swimming platform.

ROCINANTE BY LÜRSSEN

Madsummer (now known as *Rocinante*) was the sale of the spring as the Harrison Eidsgaard/Laura Sessa-designed 2020 World Superyacht Judges' commendation award-winner was sold in-house by Moran Yacht & Ship for the asking price of US\$244m (€227.5m).

Built in steel and aluminium by German yard Lürssen, she was first delivered in 2019 and commissioned by US Real Estate mogul Jeffrey Soffer (former partner of Elle MacPherson and friend of Tom Brady worth more than US\$2bn) who was in the market for a new plane as well as a boat. As a result, there is a dedicated deck for the owner's seaplane.

Eisgargaard and Sessa created a subtly masculine-looking 95-metre superyacht with a riot of colour inside, as well as a fully certified helideck at the bow, cinema room, Teppanyaki bar, Steinway grand piano, gym, jacuzzi, wellness retreat, circular ice shower, beauty and hair salon, massage room, Hammam and sun shower, 12-metre swimming pool

and accommodations for up to 12 guests in beautiful, distinctively-coloured staterooms.

lurssen.com/en/new-build/yachts/rocinante

LUSINE BY HEESSEN

Adding to a bumper May 2023, Dutch-built *Lusine* was sold for US\$82m (€75.5m), with Fraser introducing the buyer, and Burgess and KAYZ Marine both acting for the seller. Heesen's largest steel superyacht to date, *Lusine* features exterior design from Omega Architects, securing a Judges' Commendation at both the 2023 World Superyacht Awards and the Design & Innovation Awards. The yacht's sophisticated lighting plan showcases elegant joinery, rich textures and rare stone surfaces

throughout (including actual pieces of moon meteorite to match her lunar theme). The open-plan main salon and dining room highlight the distinctive aesthetic, beautifully exemplified by the use of rare woods and veneers, the finest fabrics, exquisite leathers and bespoke metals and glass, as well as custom-built furniture.

The full-beam owner's stateroom offers 180-degree panoramic views; 50m.sq of refined luxury, a haven of opulent serenity overlooking a private aft terrace with a whirlpool. The central king-size bed island commands the room. The sleeping area is delineated by a bespoke silk carpet, while the rest of the room is finished in a Versailles parquet.

heesen-yachts.com/fleet/lusine ■