



The Q52, which was used as a VIP tender at the 2009 Monaco Yacht Show, made the waves waiting at the entrance of the harbor quite exhilarating. Speedy and maneuverable, this stylish 52-footer built in Holland proved quite a performer in rough surf, especially with Arthur Oskamp, managing director of the 't Wije shipyard, at the helm. The yard, located in Loosdrecht, southeast of Amsterdam, builds a range of semi-custom tenders under the Brandaris name. The Q52, with naval architecture and design by Vripack, is the flagship.

Even novice Q52 drivers can get some fun out of this small yacht. It easily reaches 40 knots, but for a more serene and fuel-efficient ride, it excels at 30 to 32 knots. We crossed our own wake repeatedly just for the sheer fun of it. Passengers lounging on the sun pad and seated on the banquettes set against the boat's curvy aft deck did not even get wet, as the shapely hull is able to deflect spray efficiently. Only once a rogue wave leaped above the port side, landing on the teak railing and deck by the helm. Let's just say the driver had been asking for it.

Vripack conceived, designed and engineered the Q52, which features a planing hull and drives like a sporty automobile. Three comfortable seats face the console equipped with a nicely sized flat screen, electronic compass, GPS and easy-to-grasp

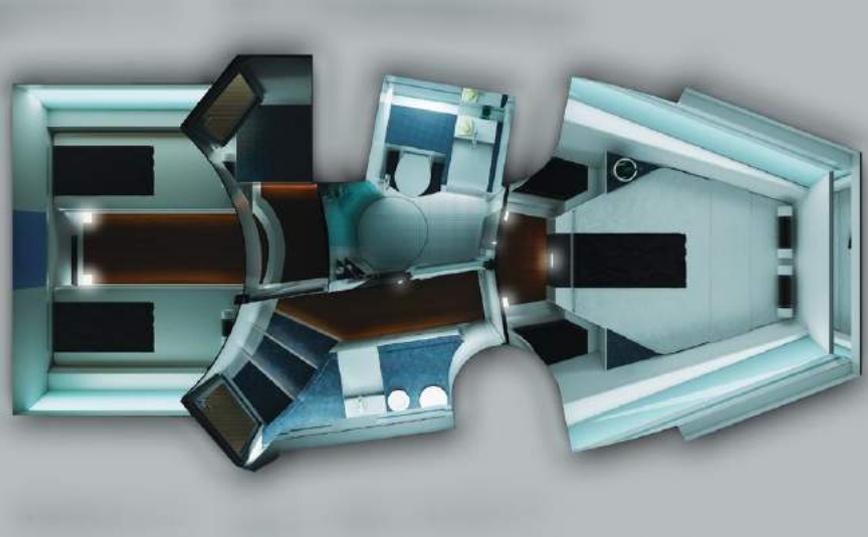
LOVELY Brandaris Q52 TENDER

Returning to a yacht at a mooring off the coast of Monaco is not always fun. Conditions in the bay can change on a dime and what may start as a quiet ride out of Port Hercules can quickly turn into a bouncy wet mess, making you wish you'd dressed in foul weather gear. Of course, it all depends on the craft you are riding in.

STORY Cecile Gauert | PHOTOS Brandaris Yachts



ABOVE: A bird's eye view of the Q52 in action reveals the sunpad and swim platform. **RIGHT:** A stylish master cabin, efficient galley and guest cabin, all aglow in LED diffused lighting



wheel. It must be the fact that being close to the action is so much fun that prompted the builder to install two companion seats flanking the comfortable pilot chair.

For close-quarters maneuvering, a joystick is also available. The Zeus counter-rotating props allow the boat to do that little sidestep away from the dock that never fails to amaze. With 600 mhp each and electronic fuel injection, the Cummins diesel engines have no trouble allowing the boat to reach its top speed in no time.

If the name Q52 evokes James Bond, so does the ride. In this craft, a spy would be able to evade villains in style. We attracted quite a few looks due to the boat's updated classic styling, enhanced with a silver finish (Bentley Silver Tempest) and composite hard top painted black (it looks like carbon fiber) with built-in tinted glass. Other color schemes are available, but this one is truly chic.

There is a large, comfortable white sun pad aft of the center console roomy enough for a bevy of "Bond girls," and even a comfortable and private retreat below deck. An automatic glass door keeps the elements out and natural light in. Inside, the design is contemporary (no varnished wood here), and the facilities surprisingly complete. Forward is a VIP with a double bed; the bathroom features a shower and head; there is a small but serviceable galley and, on the starboard side, counter space with built-in storage. Aft is a second

cabin with twin beds. For added fun, the interior features a versatile color scheme. To change your mood, just change the ambient color from white to turquoise to amber. Translucent panels diffuse the light from LED lights mounted behind them so that the walls appear to glow. To complete the mood, switch on a nice sound system by Bang & Olufsen.

Back up top, the large sun pad conceals an optional pop-up Jacuzzi. Once the cushion is off, the Jacuzzi, large enough for two, comes up on command. A glass door leading to the swim platform allows soaking in the sun with views of the water. Take a few steps aft and you can easily take a dive directly from the swim platform into the Med.

Vripack, based in lovely Friesland, offers a complete range of services. The firm does naval architecture, engineering, interior design, and exterior styling for both large and small craft. Sales Director Marnix Hoekstra seems to relish the side of the business, that allows designers to condense years of experience into tight spaces. Currently, the firm has 33 smaller boat designs on its drawing boards. "The great thing about small craft is that it pushes your engineering and design skills," Hoekstra said. The Q52 expresses that ability very well. Two more Q52s are currently under construction. ■



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Brandaris Q52

LOA: 52'6" (16M)
BEAM: 14'8" (4.5M)
DRAFT (INCL. PODS): 3'3" (1.02M)
FUEL CAPACITY: 449 US GAL. (1700 L)
WATER CAPACITY: 135 US GAL. (510 L)
CONSTRUCTION: COMPOSITE
HULL TYPE: PLANING

ENGINES: 2 x 600 HP CUMMINS ZEUS 3800 QSC
PROPULSION: ZEUS POD PROPULSION
MAX SPEED: 40 KNOTS
DESIGN: VRIPACK
NAVAL ARCHITECT: VRIPACK
ENGINEERING: VRIPACK
BUILDER: BRANDARIS YACHTS

*Original dimensions are provided in the metric system