

MIAMI SIZZLES
BOAT SHOW UNDER THE SUN

ShowBoats

INTERNATIONAL

THE
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Top
100
SUPERYACHTS
LIST



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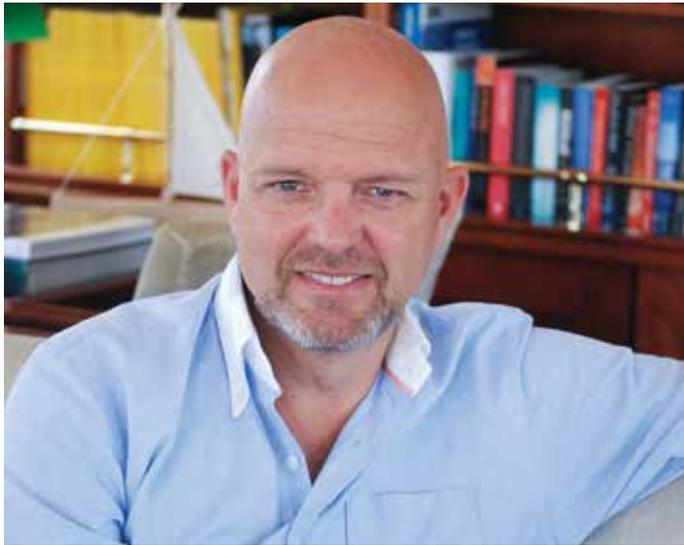


Fall in Love
The seductive Society Islands

A BOAT INTERNATIONAL MEDIA PUBLICATION

MORE FIRSTS & FLAGSHIPS

Italian Sea Group's *Entourage*
Viking's 92 crossover sportfish
Baglietto's new-generation 46m



Sietse Koopmans

Several years ago, Sietse Koopmans set out to change his life. His first step on the journey of self-discovery was aboard an expedition yacht, exploring the world. Many stories can be told of the adventure, including painting his yacht battleship-gray to trick hijackers in dangerous territory. With knowledge gained from that trip, he's constructing a new expedition vessel, as the journey continues unabated.

INTERVIEW BY GRACE TROFA

Age/Profession: 52/Designer, engineer, entrepreneur

Residences: Gstaad, Switzerland, a home in Belgium and a residence in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Current yachts? 121-foot expedition yacht, *Zeepaard*, built in France by JFA, and my Z44, built by my company, Zeelander

First boat? A speedboat when I was 14 growing up in Holland

Is there a boat on your wish list? A 164-foot explorer, which will be finished in two years, built by my own company

Favorite cruising ground? It depends on the season, my mood and the guests. I like Croatia and Nantucket for the architecture, The Bahamas for nature and the Galapagos Islands for diving.

Favorite port? I love Venice; everything is about boats. I am fascinated by the watercraft on the canals.

Most memorable yachting experience? I took a sabbatical and traveled around the world for three years, visiting 42 countries aboard *Zeepaard* with family and friends.

First job? A mechanic on excavating equipment; I was 19 years old.

Your personal credo? Say what you do and do what you say.

Favorite pastime? Designing—boats, houses, factories, components, doorknobs, anything

What do you obsess about? Waste, I can't stand wasting energy or wasting effort.

Favorite music? I like live jazz music. Other than that, I never listen to music. I like quiet.

Favorite wheels? My Mercedes SLS, but the car that is the most fun is my Rolls-Royce Phantom Drophead Coupe, a big convertible and a very impressive car.

What do you do to relax? I have a massage every day. It's my meditation, my creative and decision-making time. I have a concentration problem, but having a massage helps me focus.

What would we be surprised to know about you? I enjoy dancing.

Who do you admire most? Lee Kuan Yew, the first prime minister of Singapore. He put his country on the map for the good of the nation, not for himself. I don't think people should do things for free. He has provided for himself, but he has also built a beautiful country with a great system.

Craziest thing you've ever done that you'll admit to? Diving Crystal Rock in Komodo National Park, Indonesia. We were warned about the downward and upward currents. I could barely hold

myself on the rock because it can draw you down 200 feet in no time. Later, our guide told us he had been pulled down by the currents not long ago and had to be put in a decompression chamber. We should never have done that.

Do you have a prized possession? My father's old yacht, a 62-foot Doggersbank. It was the first one I took from Fort Lauderdale to New York on my own in 1983.

How did you get involved in boatbuilding? Honestly, I got sucked into it. But boats have been a part of my life since I was a young boy, so I decided to have it as a hobby business. It takes up 95 percent of my time, but I own five companies in the oil well industry, where I have earned my money.

During your world trip, what was the most impressive stop? For natural beauty, Cuba. You drive through the mountains and see land that has not been cultivated for 56 years, so gorgeous because it is unspoiled.

Since traveling the world, what is your biggest environmental concern? Plastic is a serious pollutant, particularly in Indonesia, where they dump everything in the ocean.

If you had a chance to do it all over again, what would you change? I wish I had been more financially aware earlier on. I would have achieved my goals sooner, but that is the flaw of visionaries—the difficulty in having both the left and the right side of your brain working in equal measure. ♦