



Bella Una

Bella Una, a 127-foot superyacht, visits 'birthplace' in Manitowoc

STORY BY BENJAMIN WIDEMAN

The name says it all — Bella Una, meaning “beautiful one.”

“It’s a gorgeous ship, absolutely beautiful to look at and it’s built with such skill and craftsmanship,” said Joe Anderson, who along with his wife, Mary Dewane, recently bought the 127-foot, tri-deck superyacht built by Burger Boat Co. of Manitowoc.

The yacht was on the market last year for nearly \$15 million.

Burger Boat Co. launched her in 2003, under the name Sis W, for Charles R. Walgreen Jr. of Walgreens pharmacy fame. At the time, it was the largest yacht Burger created.

Since renamed Bella Una, the sleek yacht — sporting a blue paint job on the hull instead of the original white — was back in Manitowoc this past summer as Anderson, Dewane and the ship’s crew and guests docked at Burger Boat Co., where they

An aerial view of the Bella Una, a 127-foot superyacht built by Burger Boat Co. of Manitowoc in 2003. The boat, usually docked in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was back in the Lakeshore this past summer. PHOTO COURTESY BELLA UNA

threw a picnic lunch for employees.

"We thought it would be nice to meet and say thank you to the people who helped build the Bella Una," Dewane said. "They did such an amazing job."

Dewane knows this area well, having been raised on a dairy farm in rural Denmark. She also attended school in Cooperstown in northern Manitowoc County, and worked at a Mirro facility in the area for two summers several years ago.

"It's very nice to be back," added Dewane, who has several family members still residing in east-central Wisconsin.

Anderson and Dewane, proprietors of Benovia Winery near Santa Rosa, Calif., said the Bella Una was everything they wanted in a yacht.

Anderson said they looked at more than 100 ships in their quest to upsize from an 85-foot Burger yacht they owned.



The galley on the Bella Una. PHOTO BY BENJAMIN WIDEMAN

"We just fell in love with this one," Anderson said. "We chose it because of the quality and value we saw in it. It's world class. This, Mary and I felt, is a step above everything else we saw out there."

The Bella Una, normally docked in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is powered by two Caterpillar engines, each sporting 1,400 horsepower. The ship can hold 14,000



TOP: The dining room on the Bella Una.
 BOTTOM: Joe Anderson and his wife, Mary Dewane, owners of Bella Una. They are proprietors of Benovia Winery near Santa Rosa, Calif.
 PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN WIDEMAN

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gallons of fuel and comfortably cruises at about 15 knots.

The lower deck features a main salon and dining room that have been opened up to make it more spacious and modernized (part of the renovation included removing a fireplace and piano), as well as a fully-stocked galley and large master suite. The yacht can sleep up to 12 guests in various cabins.

The main deck houses a lounge (what Anderson calls his “man cave”), pilothouse, captain’s suite and back deck that houses a 22-foot boat, barbecue grill and exercise equipment. There also are four kayaks on the yacht.

ON THE NET

For more photos
 of the Bella Una, visit
www.htnnews.com.

The top level, the flybridge, houses additional seating and a bar area.

In addition, there is an elevator, although not routinely used anymore.



TOP: A sculpture of a great blue heron stands near a bookcase in the main salon of the Bella Una. BOTTOM: The main bedroom on the Bella Una. PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN WIDEMAN

David Steehler, captain of the Bella Una and one of five crew members, said the ship is both visually pleasing and solidly constructed.

"Some boats, when you're sailing from place to place, you'll hear creaks, but not this one," Steehler said. "This is solid, extremely well built. Burger Boats have a very good reputation in the industry."

Added Jack Nock, a guest of the owners: "This ship isn't ostentatious and over the top. It's not gaudy. It's just very classy. Real wood. Real craftsmanship. It's a work of art."