

STAR FLYER

The *Star Flyer*, the first of the new breed of 'sailiners' to be a real sailing ship rather than a sail-assisted power-driven vessel, is the brainchild of Swedish-born Mikael Krafft, of Brussels, who combined his merchant-shipowning experience with his love of old clipper ships to produce this barquentine and her sisters to come.

The rig was designed by Olivier Van Meer of Enkhuizen, Holland. The yards are all standing and the square sails hydraulically roller-furl inside them. There is a manual override in the event of hydraulic failure but, to date, in the first nine months of sailing the system has worked without a hitch. The braces lead to hydraulic brace winches and the square sails are controlled by joystick command and only need three men to operate them. The main topmast staysail is hydraulically roller-furled with manual override. There are no ratlines or footropes as there is no need to go aloft, but the masts are fitted with rungs in case of emergency. The other sails are hoisted and stowed in the old-fashioned way but the halyards can be led to electric winches, as can the sheets. The ship only requires ten deckhands. The speed under sail can reach 17 knots.

Under power the *Star Flyer* can cruise at 12 knots. The four-bladed variable-pitch propeller is fully feathering to reduce drag when under sail. There is a bow thruster and there are anti-roll tanks that are effective even at anchor.

There are four full-length decks: the tank top, with the engine room, tanks, storerooms, galley and crew's quarters; the 'Commodore' deck with 44 passenger cabins, the 'Clipper' deck with the dining room,

purser's office, gift shop and 37 cabins, and the Main deck with a piano bar, a library, an outdoor Tropical Bar and 6 deck staterooms. The sun deck, above the Piano Bar and main deck cabins, has a swimming pool with a transparent bottom that forms a skylight to the Piano Bar. The 'aft deck' (poop deck) has another pool and two passenger staterooms. The interior design was done by Studio Acht of Moordrecht (Netherlands).

The accommodation is airconditioned throughout. Most cabins are fitted with twin lower beds that readily convert to double beds. The cabins have en-suite shower and toilet and are equipped with video, radio and international telephone. Some cabins have a third berth, for families, etc. The dining room, which seats 210 (meals are served in single sittings) can be quickly converted to a meeting or a conference room with screen, projectors, video monitors, podium and microphone. The Tropical Bar, on deck and under an awning, doubles up as dance floor and as an alternative venue for breakfasts and buffet lunches.

The *Star Flyer* was launched on 14 January 1991 and was delivered at Antwerp on 15 May. Her home-port is Antwerp but she is registered in Luxembourg and flies the European Community ensign. She is based at St Martin in the Caribbean and operates seven-day cruises that alternate between the Virgin and the Leeward Islands. Her first sistership, the *Star Clipper*, was launched on 3 October 1991 and will be delivered in March 1992; she will operate in the Mediterranean. Both barquentines will be at Barcelona for the 1992 Olympics, chartered as 'floatels' by the Belgian and Dutch Olympic Committees.

<i>Name of vessel</i>	Star Flyer
<i>Year built</i>	1991
<i>Designer</i>	Robert MacFarlane (UK)
<i>Builder</i>	Langerbrugge Shipyards, Langerbrugge, Ghent, Belgium
<i>Current Owner</i>	White Star Clippers NV, Brussels, Belgium
<i>Current flag</i>	Luxembourg/EEC (port of registry: Antwerp, Belgium)
<i>Rig</i>	Four-masted staysail barquentine
<i>Construction</i>	Steel; teak-clad weather decks
<i>Length extreme</i>	357.0 feet (108.80 m)
<i>Length of hull</i>	300.0 feet (91.40 m)
<i>Length between perpendiculars</i>	230.0 feet (70.20 m)
<i>Beam</i>	48.0 feet (14.60 m)
<i>Draught</i>	18.5 feet (5.60m)
<i>Tonnage</i>	2,298 grt, 869 nrt; 2,018 td (light), 2,556 td (load)
<i>Sail area</i>	36,000 sq. feet (3,340 m ²)
<i>Engine</i>	1,500 hp Caterpillar
<i>Complement</i>	58 crew; 180-196 passengers
<i>Photograph date</i>	1991
<i>Photograph location</i>	Off Isle of Wight, England
