



Photos Patrick Roach & Duncan Kent



Originally designed for chartering,

Everitt YCA 29s are available as good value second-hand buys throughout the Mediterranean and UK. **Duncan Kent** sailed a recent returnee

Everitt YCA 29

Back in 1977, the founder of the Yacht Cruising Association and inventor of flotilla sailing holidays, Eric Richardson, commissioned Julian Everitt Yacht Design to draw up a yacht specifically for charter. Everitt and Richardson met at the London Boat Show when the designer was on the stand with the E-boat – one of his earlier, more race-orientated creations. Richardson believed the E-boat's flat decks would make for an ideal sunbathing platform and asked Everitt to design a larger version for chartering.

Everitt, who is still designing today, says, "The end result was, of course, a lot more conservative, but in those days the YCA 29 was pretty unusual as she was the first flotilla charter yacht to have race boat origins."

Despite buying the design, developing all of the tooling and putting forward an initial order for 12 boats, Richardson couldn't get any yard in the UK to build the boats, so he set up his own yard and built a total of 84 between 1978 and 1984. None was sold new to the public, but they have been available as used boats since the mid 1990s. Everitt believes some others have been built since by various yards in Europe, but none under licence from Everitt Design.

Her hull is beamy with pinched ends, similar to an IOR racing boat of the 70s era, and she sports a moderate fin keel and lightly balanced spade rudder. Her ballast ratio lends a healthy stiffness to her, allowing her to set full canvas up to a steady F5, and her helm is light and positive. She is head down with