

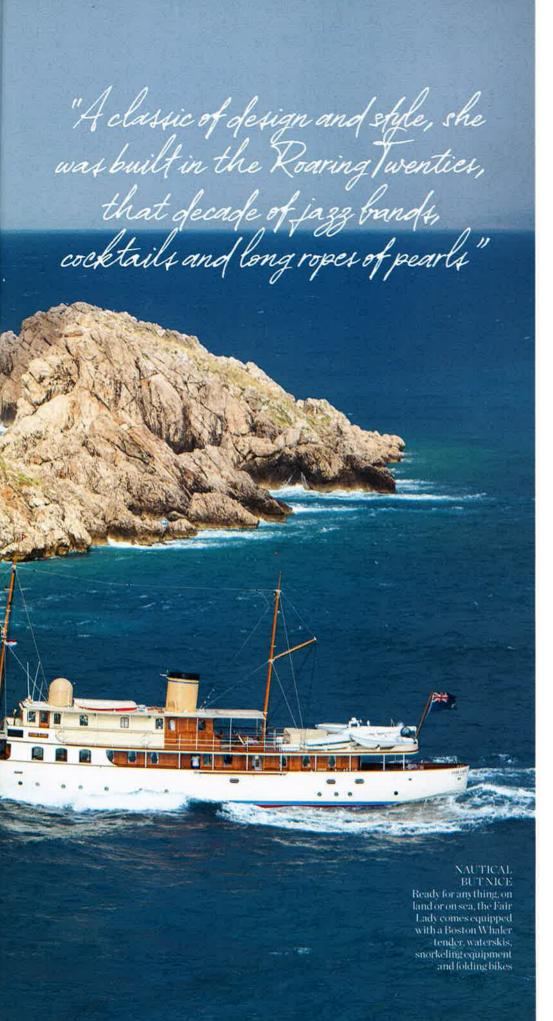




Moored off the rocky coastline beyond Dubrovnik Harbor, Fair Lady appears as a fine-boned beauty, creamy and sleek in a sea of dark blue-green. A classic of design and style, she was built in the Roaring Twenties, that decade of jazz bands, cocktails and long ropes of pearls. The emerging millionaires of the era, basking in sudden post-war prosperity before the Wall Street crash of 1929, bought art collections and superyachts to flaunt their newfound wealth. It was King Edward VIII who made cruising fashionable, sailing the 3,600 miles of this historic coastline and its islands with Mrs Simpson in 1936, when Hvar was the Saint-Tropez of its day.

Privately owned, Fair Lady is a uniquely grand traveling home with an extraordinary collection of 20th-century British art, a card room and library, a crew of six and multiple sun decks, which offer all the privacy of a villa but with the added allure of an ever-changing horizon. Since she was refitted and restored in 1996, not a whiff of plastic tarnishes the period authenticity of her teak decks (all 121 feet of her), nor the polished inlay of the mahogany cabinets in the dining rooms, the sycamore paneling of the card room or the brass details of the original binnacle and ship's wheel. Cruising at a sedate 9-10 knots through the choppy seas of the western Mediterranean, Fair Lady may not be the fastest or the biggest private yacht, but for character, romance and soul, she has no rival. Catherine Fairweather

Sleeps eight, price on request; curioushotels.com



PORTER RECOMMENDS

Blissful boats



1. Tusitiri, east africa

From the owners of Kenya's Enasoit Camp, Tusitiri is perfect for exploring the east African coast. This traditional dhow, once used for the spice trade, is all about simple pleasures, from sleeping on deck to kayaking through mangroves. redsavannah.com; enasoit.com



2. m/y pikaia i, galapagos Islands, ecuador

At the new Pikaia Lodge, after lounging around the stunning carbon-neutral hotel, step aboard the hotel's 105-foot luxury yacht *Pikaia I* to explore the natural wonderland of the Galapagos. *pikaialodgegalapagos.com*



3. XANADU, VALLEY TRUNK, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Sailing Sir Francis Drake Channel is made more memorable on a three-berth, 70-foot powerboat, *Xanadu*, which is just part of this 19-acre private island's appeal – complete with its own cinema and spa. *valleytrunk.com*