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Ships 2 Shore

Yachtspotters’ alert! Keep your eyes peeled for these sleek hulls floating into port this summer.

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Among the multitude of vessels swarming Maine’s waters during the summer, some make us stop and stare. Consider the Atlantide, for instance, a 122-foot classic motor yacht that, if you’re lucky enough, you’ll spot cruising the coastline this summer. The Atlantide is a lesson in elegance and artful design. But she’s more than just a pretty hull. This vagrant from across the Pond has lived many lives.

Designed in 1930 by English Naval Architect Alfred Mylne, designer of the Royal Yacht Britannia, Atlantide—then known as the Caleta—started life as a British racing yacht. But that’s just the preface to her story. In 1939, she was drafted for service in the Royal Navy. The following year, she faced rough seas, dive-bombers, and artillery fire during the evacua-

Atlantide made two evacuation trips during the Battle of Dunkirk in 1940. Christopher Nolan’s cinematic adaptation of the battle, Dunkirk, is now showing in theaters.
tion of British troops at the Battle of Dunkirk during World War II, during which she made an astounding two rescue trips across the English Channel. Ever since, Atlantide belonged to an organization called the “Association of Dunkirk Little Ships,” of which few boats remain in operation.

The perilous evacuation has now been adapted for the silver screen. Dunkirk, directed by Christopher Nolan, is currently in theaters.

From warship to screen star, Atlantide’s life in the latter part of the 20th century took a glamorous turn. The yacht spent decades cruising the Mediterranean while under the ownership of Italian aristocracy. Good looks can get you far in showbusiness, and in 1962, Atlantide appeared in the film adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s Tender is the Night. Glimpses of the yacht’s deck can be spotted in scenes during love scenes between Jennifer Jones and Cesar Danova, according to Mega Yacht News.

Post-Hollywood, Atlantide had caught the eye of venture capitalist and super yacht aficionado Tom Perkins. Alongside Perkins’s legendary racing yacht, the Maltese Falcon, Atlantide was the crown jewel of his yacht collection until 2012, when she was caught the eye of Richard and Leslie Fairbanks of Blue Hill.

“I was browsing boats for sale online in the middle of the night when I spotted Atlantide,” Leslie says. “It was love at first sight. [Richard] wasn’t happy about being woken up—until he saw her. We love those 1930s lines and angles. And that was before we’d even heard her story! We’re so proud of Atlantide. We fly the Dunkirk Little Ships flag when we take her out.”

In what was perhaps an oversight, the production team behind the Dunkirk movie didn’t request that Atlantide reprise her role for an on-screen adaptation of The Battle of Dunkirk. Nonetheless—“We had a party to celebrate when the movie premiered,” Leslie says. “We took Atlantide out and toasted to her.”

The Fairbanks intend to keep Atlantide at their home in Blue Hill for the foreseeable future. We think she’ll feel right at home here.

–Angela Fernandez

From top: The Little Ships of Dunkirk are reincarnated in Dunkirk (2017); Atlantide stars alongside Jennifer Jones in Tender is the Night (1962); Atlantide and the legendary Maltese Falcon.

Right and inset: The interior was meticulously renovated by Tom Perkins in 1990.
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"I took this shot from my daughter’s balcony when I visited her in Miami,” Blackwood says of Cocktails. “So imagine my excitement when I saw the same yacht floating into my world last summer.” –Jill Blackwood

ISN’T THAT...

Imagine looking up from Shark Tank to see Fountainhead, Mark Cuban’s absurdly luxurious yacht sliding past your living room window as she heads for the Portland skyline… It’s just another day for Jill Blackwood, the retired former principal of Riverton Elementary School who’s turned her hobby of yacht-spotting into a high art. She snapped this picture as the 287-foot super yacht maneuvered to her mooring off Bug Light Park.

Cuban, the billionaire Dallas Mavericks owner and co-shark on CNBC’s Shark Tank, is often asked about his extravagant floating empire, which features a basketball court on the stern. The thing is, Cuban says, it’s not exactly his boat. Here he is with open-email answers on the gossip site Page Six, according to Boston Magazine:

“I don’t own a yacht. Never have,” Cuban writes. “The guy who owns the boat tells everyone that it’s mine. It’s so crazy. I got a letter from someone thanking me because the ship’s doctor had saved this person with CPR. I’ve had people email me asking if they can come aboard. Of course, I always say yes. I DON’T OWN A YACHT.”

Roger that. The real owner is Eddie Lampert, CEO of Sears department store, Boston Magazine continues. But there comes a point when you have to admit, Mark, if you keep chartering it, you own it. Fountainhead’s home port is in Miami, where she’s tied up to a skyscraper and tour boats identify her as Cuban’s.

Sleek and dashing, Cocktails was built in 2004 for auto-dealer Gene Reed, who named her Chevy Toy. But she’s nobody’s toy. The 157-foot super yacht was bought and refitted in 2012 by Tom Murphy, founder of Coastal Construction and father of former Florida State Representative Patrick Murphy. Murphy, Jr. received a backlash in the media after he celebrated Fourth of July 2016 in Nantucket aboard Cocktails while Florida was in the midst of a toxic algae outbreak. Cocktails was put on sale for $18.5 million later that year.
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Weight: 456 tons
Top speed: 13 knots
Features: Helipad, sauna, and gym

Carolina

Length: 157 feet
Weight: 499 tons
Top speed: 15 knots
Fuel capacity: 19,020 gallons
Features: Deck jacuzzi, gym, swimming platform.

Sweet Carolina
“Carolina is a regular on the charter circuit around here,” says Blackwood. “Some friends told me they met the crew in Bar Harbor last year—it was made up of 12 charming and handsome young Australian men!”

Blue Moon

Length: 198 feet
Weight: 1,215 tons
Top speed: 16.5 knots
Fuel capacity: 37,328 gallons
Price: $395,000 charter
Features: Tubular elevator, gym, jacuzzi

Wind Quest

Length: 85 feet
Top speed: 12.9 knots
Price: $80,000 charter
Features: Snorkeling equipment, wakeboards, SUPs, four bicycles, sun beds, and an 180-degree view from the master cabin.

Calling all Yachtspotters! Please send photos and captions of all visiting yachts you see this summer to portlandmagazine@gmail.com or tag us on Twitter @PortlandMEMag.
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