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## Making Waves

Traditional wisdom holds that women drivers are a menace in traffic. Put a woman behind the steering wheel – get ready to take cover. For a good laugh, watch her try to parallel park. Even more fun, get her to drive in reverse. The list of womanly failings, deficiencies and inadequacies when it comes to operating a motorized vehicle appears endless. Deservedly so? Apparently not. A newly published study offers straightforward evidence – facts and figures – debunking the myth that women are born to be passengers and not drivers. The newest statistics show that women drive a lot more safely than men, speed less and are more likely to heed traffic regulations. Surprising results? Only to anyone who has not been out on the road lately. And let me say that this recognition of our driving qualities is long overdue, considering the enormous amount of flak we've taken about our driving skills – let alone parking issues – over the years.

But enough about cars. What about boats?

It turns out that this too, is a heavily male-dominated arena, at least when it comes to taking the helm. While obviously, there are a number of famous women who have left their mark on the yachting world, they remain more of an exception than the rule. Boats are still, to a large extent, boys' toys. So when the invitation came from the Italian association UCINA to tour a number of their member yards, an invitation that included a Sea Test Day, I hesitated not a moment. The chance to test drive a selection of luxury motor yachts, to really make some waves, was too good to pass up.

And when my turn came to actually take the wheel and to man the throttle, I quelled any inward qualms by concentrating on the task at hand – the same strategy I have found useful since embarking at SuperYacht Industry just under two months ago. After all, taking the helm as chief editor of this leading internationally-oriented Dutch-based industrial publication has also

meant stepping into the highly competitive, testosterone-driven world of superyachts. So far, it has been a great ride. Putting out SuperYacht Industry for the first time has convinced me that behind the wheel is the place to be. And I sincerely hope that my readers will agree. Oh, and Sea Test Day? Aced it.



Karen Gribling  
Chief Editor

# Super Yacht

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Cover photo: Amevi (Y701) emerging from oceAnco's custom building hall in Alblasterdam, The Netherlands. The launch marks the start of a significant new era in the development of oceAnco as the leading megayacht builder in the 70 - 110 m range.  
Photo courtesy of oceAnco.

