

Ship's log book INTERNATIONAL

Paris Yacht Marina

(photo) Didier Spade has introduced luxurious yachting in the heart of the capital, with a very original concept.

It has been a year since the *Clipper Paris* arrived in the port of Grenelle, not far from the Eiffel Tower. This 54m steel vessel has a lovely silhouette inspired by classical yachts from the beginning of the 20th century; a rare sight in the capital where we are used to seeing only 'bateaux-mouches'....After the launch of this prestigious cruise liner, Paris Yacht Marina did not stop here. Five motorboats have joined up with the *Clipper Paris* on the docks, one of which is an imitation 'Riva', crafted in Dubaï by Monte Carlo Marine and propelled by an electric engine. The rest of the fleet includes a Tullio Abbate and constitutes the Paris Yacht Limousine fleet, offering a luxury tour service on the Seine, complete with hostess, champagne and hors d'oeuvres...

To complete PYM's ambitions, a 300m² club house on the docks should provide comfortable quarters for guests. This idea, original and unique in the City of Lights, came from a passionate man, Didier Spade, an all-time, veritable boat-lover. Fifteen years ago he started to design '*Compagnie des Bateaux à Roue's*' whole fleet, and a chain of boat restaurants that he finally sold for this new adventure. "I have less an entrepreneurial approach than that of an enthusiast..." he explains when referring to his motivations. He alone, following in his grandfather's footsteps who'd equipped cruise liners in Saint-Nazaire, conceived the *Clipper Paris* designs, aside from the hull design that was provided by HT2 naval architecture in Nantes. He has a very precise idea of what he wants : "I design the tables and then the boat around...." The result is a very elegantly shaped and a comfortable interior with sofas and armchairs, and a bow-shaped bar at center. Toward the front, a small sitting area on the lower level provides a bit of intimacy. And for ambiance, all the LED lighting changes colors....Today the *Clipper Paris* has found its cruising speed. Propelled by two Cummings 290hp engines, it either heads toward Boulogne, or upstream toward downtown Paris when the tide allows. www.parisyachtmarina.com

(photo) The superb imitation 'Riva', one of Paris Yacht Limousine's motorboats