

Clipper Paris A Lounge on the Seine

Those who would like to organize a chic evening, an elegant cocktail party or an original wedding, do not have a plethora of choice in the capital. There are certainly the fancy hotel reception halls by default; but luckily a new space has just ruptured the monotony, offering new services afloat. This unique place is called the *Clipper Paris* and it's the first super-yacht to dock on the banks of the Seine. This sleek vessel is docked at the port de Grenelle, in the 15th arrondissement, has nothing to do with traditional boats that we normally see along the Seine. Didier Spade, the instigator was inspired to build this 54m long, 9m wide, 250 ton, and 250m² cabin space, which is not a sight unseen. On the contrary, his approach is excellence, luxury and very upscale. *"Built in Saint Nazaire from plans that I designed myself, the Clipper Paris is truly in a different category, all its own"*, confirms Spade who has already impressed us with the introduction of 'Mississippi-inspired' paddle-steamers on the river. *"I am passionate about the sea and I've always wanted to build a ship dedicated to unique receptions"*.

After having spent so many evenings with guests anchored around the table with less passionate people, or at cocktail parties where after the first cocktail the hoard of people descend down into the tightly-packed hull; Spade wanted to offer something new. *"The Clipper Paris is void of formal, monotonous space, he explains. The yacht is an out of the ordinary alternative to traditional cocktail parties by offering hors d'oeuvres, benched seating, and arm chairs, which provide a relaxed, convivial atmosphere."* In fact, different "niches" for 2 to 4 people are very inviting to curl up in. The space is festive and well decorated with warm colours, complete with: bleached teak, rich velvets, chrome, a Baroque touch, 'jungle wave' fabric, ornaments especially designed for the interior – and it is surrounded by soft, programmable LED lighting. In summer, the vast deck is the sought-after place to meet. And for the food, two talented caterers like Potel & Chabot, have elaborated upon the cocktail-dinner. The Seine has longed to receive on its waters such a pleasant promise of glamour and lounge atmosphere together. Another unique highlight of the evening out on the yacht is that you will not simply dock at the port but will cruise along the Seine at a remarkably comfortable speed, from the port de Grenelle to Bercy and back again. *"Obviously this yacht is incomparable to common canal boats, jokes Spade. It is a true cruising vessel that has made the trip from the shipyards in Saint-Nazaire, passing through Lorient, Brest, Roscoff, Cherbourg, Le Havre.....For my own tranquillity, I insisted that the boat be easily manoeuvrable. We have insisted on the utmost perfection and standards in all areas for the Clipper Paris: technical and maritime capacities, as well as the top quality atmosphere, service and gourmet food. Luxury is our priority."* In fact, large companies (HSBC, Louis

Vuitton, Kenzo, Lucien Barrière...) have already fallen for the sophisticated uniqueness. All aboard !

Clipper Paris.

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(photo) Louis Vuitton, HSBC, Kenzo, Lucien Barrière.....have already fallen for the Clipper Paris, by hosting private parties aboard the capital's first super-yacht. Docked in the port de Grenelle, this new reception space is off the beaten track : innovative décor, warm and convivial niches, gourmet cuisine, and fitting music. A true revolution on the Seine.

A fleet of projects

Didier Spade, a Parisian boat-lover, has many other projects in mind. This talented inventor foresees a luxury meeting place; a prestigious port complete with club house at the same site, abreast the *Clipper Paris*. A superb boarding dock was built with a 'high-tech' gangway to confirm the exclusiveness of the site and welcome other yachts. Coming soon to the port : a small fleet of luxurious, 'vintage' motorboats in tapered wood, resembling the famous 'Riva'. The objective is to propose prestigious jaunts on the Seine to the privileged and discerning tourists, with exceptional service. A pilot, a bottle of champagne, an historic and ecological tour – as the boats are propelled with electricity, also a first in Paris – all within royal silence, a dream moment where Parisian luxury rings with a patent of nobility.