

MY LIFE IN BOATS

CHERYL COPHAM

With yachts named after a winery, these owners are all about cordial cruising, learns *Grace Trofa*

Me and my husband, Dave, celebrate our 55th anniversary this year. We raised our children in a town in Minnesota called



Forest Lake where they enjoyed waterskiing, but it wasn't until we moved part-time to Fort Myers, Florida, in the 1990s that we bought our first boat, a 35ft Sea Ray. The next five boats got progressively bigger and then in 2008 we built *Tò-Kalòn*, our 101ft 6in Burger yacht. It is a Florida boat with a shallow draft as the size of the boat is limited to 101ft 10in where we live on the Caloosahatchee River. She has since been sold but our new *Tò-Kalòn*, a Horizon yacht, is scheduled for delivery in June – and fortunately she came in at 101ft 6in. People ask me about the name; while I would like to say it originated from the Greek word for highest beauty, I have to confess we are big wine people and fans of To Kalon Winery. The new boat will carry a small amount of soil from the winery, a gift from the owners.

Our best memories have been on board. During our Sicily cruise, we viewed Mount Etna by helicopter, and in 2005 we brought *Tò-Kalòn* to Monaco for the Grand Prix. My husband has a car collection, and our son owned a racetrack called Brainerd International Raceway and Resort, so my husband has done some racing. While we love watching the Indy races, viewing

an F1 race in Monte Carlo on board our yacht at the private dock was very special.

When it comes to boats my husband likes to know that the boat can go fast, so the first *Tò-Kalòn* was built for speed, up to 30 knots. The new Horizon is built for comfort in the Caribbean, although it still cruises at 18 knots, which is not bad. Without the big engines, we have more room on board. Cor D Rover designed both yachts and we couldn't be more pleased. Having the master on the main level was important to me, and down below we have four nice staterooms and can now host our small family. The crew also has a nice space and can directly service the guest quarters through a hallway. The upper deck is an entertainment area and can easily seat 25 for dinner. Dave and I always have a lot of guests and stock more than 100 bottles of wine. I like my red wine and don't worry about wine stains. We enjoy our boats and time spent with family and friends.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Tò-Kalòn's owners, center, with long-time captain Pierre Ausset, second from left, and crew. Above: their Horizon in build is the yard's second FD102 model



FAST TIMES
The Cophams had front-row seats at the Monaco Grand Prix



CUSTOM FIT

Dave and Cheryl (below) built their first *Tò-Kalòn* at Burger. The 30-knot custom yacht fit on their Florida dock with four inches to spare

