

SAIL IN SPLENDOUR

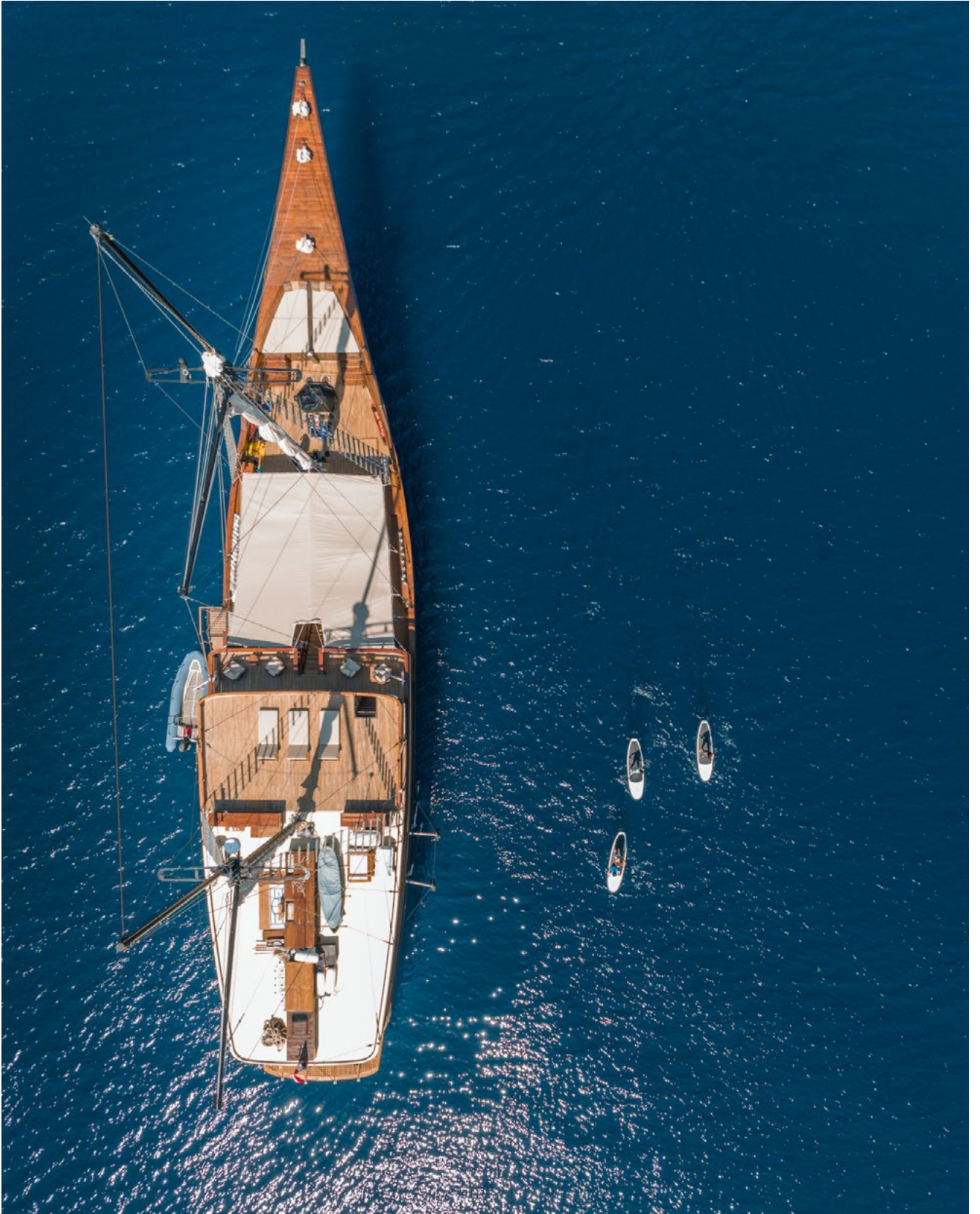
Celestia – Phinisi Yacht Sails the Indonesian Archipelago

For brother and sister duo Jasmine Chong and Jason Tabalujan, based in Jakarta and New York, the dream of building a Phinisi yacht to fully enjoy the splendours of the Indonesian archipelago finally came true. *Celestia*, which means heavenly in Latin, was a passion project for the siblings whose initial vision for the vessel was to bring their love of travel and the sea to life, and to reunite as a family in their Indonesian homeland.



So, just how compact are today's spaces? The typical Micro or Studio apartment is a single room – no larger than between 20 to 40 square metres – that combines a bedroom and dining room with a small kitchenette and bathroom. Blok developments in Sea Point also offer added amenities such as a laundry, a communal gym, co-working spaces, meeting rooms and a deli - serving delicious delights to digital nomads and locals alike.

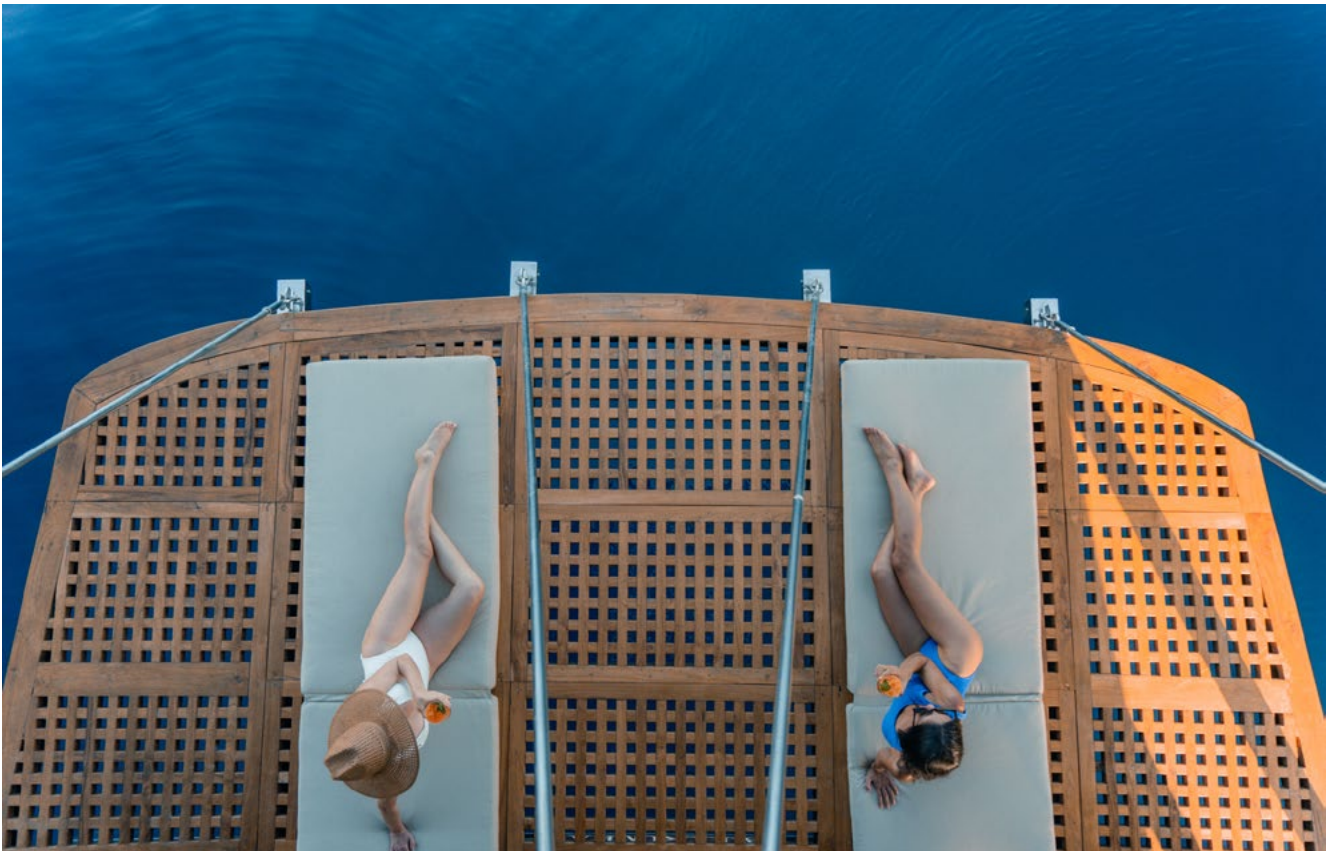
South African interior designer Deidre Renniers was commissioned to do the architectural drawings and interior design for the *Celestia*. “The clients wanted a luxury charter yacht that would also be a family boat, so the brief was very personal, almost like designing a private residence. Jasmine is a fashion designer in New York, so she really wanted a quirky interior that resonated with her brand and the American market,” explains Renniers.





Engineered by naval architect Tresno Seery, what ensued was the careful crafting of a yacht using traditional methods passed down through generations of Phinisi builders. “Jasmine chose to support Indonesian craftsmanship, so we had all our fixtures and fittings made by carefully selected makers in Indonesia. The custom brassware was sourced in Cape Town,” says Renniers.

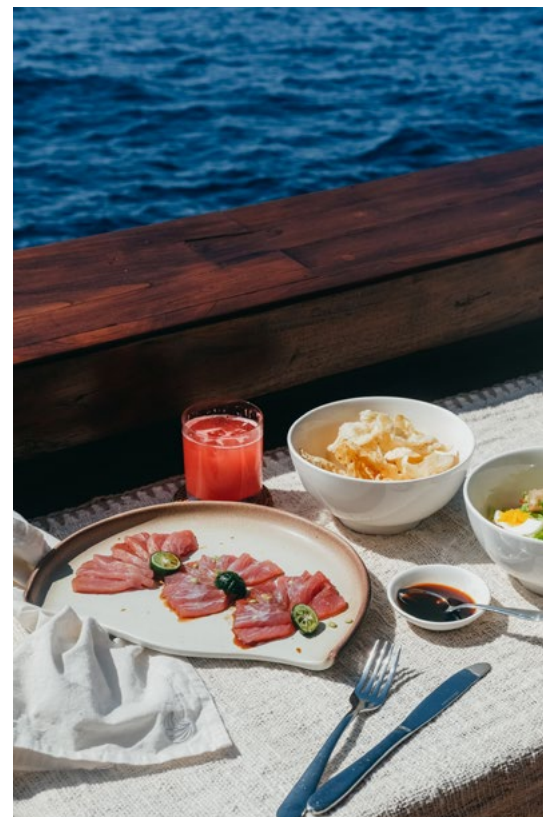
Renniers and Chong worked closely on the interiors, wrangling the different time zones of Cape Town, New York, and Jakarta, and worked in Bali in person. As a fashion designer, Chong learned that there were many parallels between apparel and sailing. “Designing the interiors and the hospitality experience onboard Celestia, from concept design



to final execution, is much like preparing for a runway show. The most rewarding aspect was seeing all our hard work coming together in person, with the materials we had selected and other details coming alive as Celestia fleshed out as a beautiful sailing vessel,” explains Chong.

The collaboration results are showcased in the main suites on the upper deck. Each suite features a daybed and spacious writing desk, and opens onto a private terrace with panoramic ocean views. A collection of books, curated according to each sibling’s tastes, ranging from astronomy to poetry, fashion to business, is one of the many personal touches. Another is the rattan that echoes the furniture from their childhood.

The colour palette of the interiors emulates the hues found in the Indonesian landscape and echoes the convergence of ocean and sky. Tiles by Balinese artisans were hand-glazed a soft blue to complement the ocean





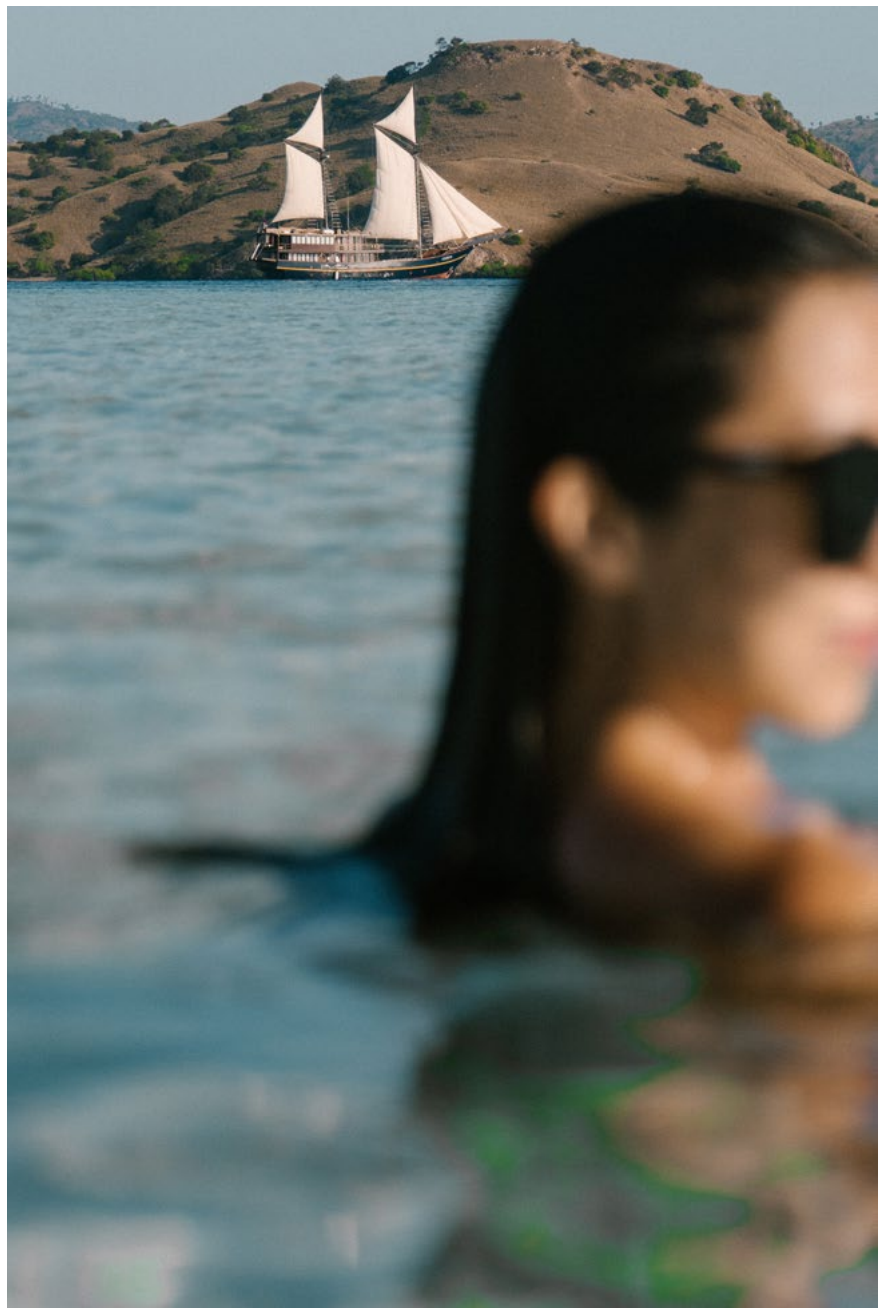
views. The colours are pulled through the soft furnishings where duck's egg blue plays with crisp, white linens and earthy decorative pillows. Teak and hand-woven rattan panelling provides an elegant setting for the glow of the brass hardware. In the windows, the Roman blinds have custom-made leather tabs to avoid rattling. The seven cabins each feature en suite bathrooms with Villeroy & Boch and Geberit finishings, and white Carrara marble counters.

TRAVEL IN BYGONE STYLE

The brother-sister team envisioned a vessel where guests could immerse themselves in the romance of travel from a bygone era. The result is a 45-metre handcrafted, double-masted Phinisi luxury yacht that offers a unique hospitality experience amongst islands renowned for their marine biodiversity. Snorkelling is an amazing experience as the area is home to 75% of the world's coral species, and the underwater world teems with colourful fish.

Balinese chef Wayan Kresna Yasa has taken the role of executive chef, designing all the culinary experiences onboard, including special beach meals. Yasa is known for blending classical French cooking techniques with Southeast Asian flavours.

Celestia launched in May 2023, with Chong, Tabalujan and their family sailing from Bali to Komodo, an experience they will both fondly remember as a dream



come true. "Jason celebrated his birthday along with our sister, Jacintha, on the maiden voyage. The crew prepared a lavish lunch and serenaded us while we dined alfresco. We believe it's the first of hopefully many special and festive days we'll be spending on Celestia."

Since the maiden voyage, Celestia has become a space for guests to share their milestones and fondest memories with their loved ones, while experiencing the splendours of the

Indonesian archipelago. "It's beyond fulfilling to see the glowing feedback and special moments that our guests often share with us," says Chong.

Celestia offers guests a tailored experience with bespoke itineraries. Private charter trips range from four to seven nights in the Komodo area to seven to 14 nights in other regions of the Coral Triangle. Inquiries and reservations can be made online at www.celestiyacht.com or by calling +62 812 4637 3025. 📞