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HODGDON HEAD-TURNER

If you Google “limo tender,” Hodgdon Yachts most likely pops up as a top result. While certainly not the only builder in this relatively new niche, Hodgdon has made a significant splash in the superyacht market during the past six years.

In this case, the word tender is somewhat a misnomer. These exquisitely crafted custom boats fall in the \$1 million to \$2 million range. This 34-footer (10.5-meter), created by Michael Peters Yacht Design, is the archetype of Hodgdon’s Venetian Custom Tenders series, which ranges from 28 feet (8.5 meters) to 39 feet (12 meters).

She is discernibly different because of her color scheme. Her sea foam-green exterior paint, combined with an Hermes-orange leather interior, is visually arresting. When asked who picks the colors, Ed Roberts, Hodgdon’s global director of sales and marketing, said with a smile that he had noticed that same color scheme on an Aston Martin, but that Hodgdon either designs to order or uses its own creative license.

An informal sea trial in Monaco last fall revealed a vessel that is as sporty as she is well-appointed. Cruising at 24 knots (she has a top speed of 34 knots) she delivered a dry, comfortable ride and laudable handling.

The steering station forward is separated from the guest space. The hardtop rises hydraulically, allowing full-height headroom for boarding and 360-degree visibility. Port and starboard windows power up and down once the hardtop is lowered. Much of the stainless hardware and interior wood veneer is custom. Tricked out with a high-definition entertainment system, refrigerator, bar and climate control, she seats 11 with two VIP seats aft. The seating arrangement can be customized. You can even order club seating similar to that aboard private jets. Construction takes about 12 months.

Based in East Boothbay, Maine, Hodgdon will celebrate its 200th birthday this summer, making it the oldest shipyard in America to be continuously operated by the same family.

—Jill Bobrow

For more information: 207 633 4194, hodgdonyachts.com

