
A Word from the Captain David Roberts

A PERSPECTIVE ON VIJONARAS
SET-UP AND SAILING PERFORMANCE.

As detailed by her owners, Vijonara's modus operandi is to sail. As such, she has garnered impressive sailing miles versus engine hours for a yacht of her size. Captain David runs a more stripped-back programme than that of the typical luxury superyacht, with limited furniture and awnings on deck, so that Vijonara is always in 'ready-to-go' sailing mode. Whether it's a boss trip, delivery or crossing, the crew are encouraged to sail as much as possible.

It helps, therefore, that Vijonara's design performs well in all conditions. As David describes, "the chemistry of the modern hull design with the sail plan and rig package has created a yacht that moves extremely well through the water. Vijonara's light wind capability is an impressive attribute within the design, which is supported by the sails. When sailing in under 10 knots of breeze, we can easily match the speed of the wind."

After four years of heavy sailing and with upcoming plans to cruise the Pacific, David recently pulled the trigger on a new sails package from Doyle. Working with Andre, they ran a study of different sail design and plan scenarios that focused on optimising Vijonara's range for cruising.

"We wanted to find the right balance between performance and durability," says David. "We're not doing any racing currently, but we go sailing every day and obviously still want the boat to perform – everyone is always watching the numbers on the dial! As such, there have been quite a few small modifications to the sail design and the evolution in the technology used has led to significant weight savings."

With the priorities being performance as well as durability, David selected Doyle's based on the technology used to build the sails. By utilising a percentage of carbon in each, the overall weight of the sail reduces drastically, which means less load on the rigging and systems. In addition the carbon resistance to stretch is greater than any other aramid yarn available, and much more effective than polyester.

David concludes, "We've got a lot of miles to cover to reach the Pacific and beyond, so it's going to be extremely beneficial to have this fresh set of sails as we start going further afield."

