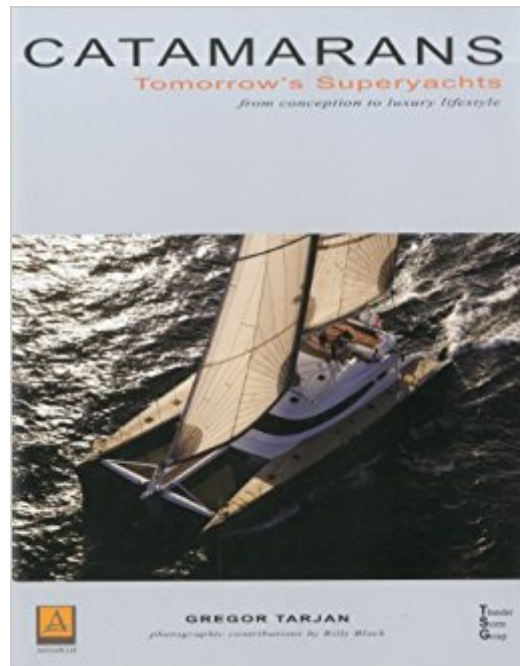




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# Catamarans: Tomorrow's Superyachts



## Synopsis

Catamarans have come a long way from their origins--the double canoes used by Polynesians and Micronesians as far back as the 1700s. The first modern, fast ocean catamaran was built in 1947 in Hawaii, and since then these craft have stretched the limits of speed and luxury for racing and cruising. The largest catamarans have become a phenomenon of naval engineering--the superyacht of tomorrow. Building on his previous book *Catamarans: Every Sailor's Guide*, Gregor Tarjan analyzes the impact of big ocean racers, the luxury charter environment, and new technologies, on the development of the luxury catamaran. With a focus on craft 65' or larger, this lavishly illustrated book, with numerous photos by Billy Black, incorporates interviews with naval architects, interior designers, experienced multihull skippers and seasoned ocean racers to paint the big picture of today's luxury performance catamarans and their evolution. The advantages of multihulls versus monohulls are examined. Readers will discover what building a large catamaran entails, and what considerations are most important in choosing and sailing such a craft, from seaworthiness to aesthetics to practical seamanship and crew training. Tarjan ends with a look at "Future Perspective" on these remarkable vessels.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gregor Tarjan has seen the future and it is multihulls. *Catamarans: Tomorrow's Superyachts* discusses the future of multihull luxury yachts, what's required to build one and important considerations on choosing and sailing a cat, from aesthetics to seaworthiness. The hardcover

exterior with dust jacket is as sleek as the 200 photos by Billy Black -- the perfect gift for any multihull aficionado in your life. (Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal) Want to see just how luxurious a catamaran can be? This book is full of exquisite photographs by Billy Black showing the latest and most decadent multi-hull designs. It includes interviews with the naval architects, interior designers, and the skippers lucky enough to sail them. (Latitudes & Attitudes) Aeroyacht founder, mastermind behind the super-catamaran Aeroyacht 110 and all-around multihull guru, Gregor Tarjan, has produced this survey of high-end catamarans 65-feet and larger. The hardcover coffee-table book, titled *Catamarans: Tomorrow's Superyachts*, is packed with lavish, colorful photographs of big, beautiful catamarans, along with numerous diagrams and computer-generated models showcasing these boats. Many of the nicely reproduced photos were taken by regular SAILING magazine contributor Billy Black. Tarjan includes a thorough discussion of the benefits of big cats, covering the familiar points of speed, stability and shallow draft, as well as other more subtle differences between monohulls and multihulls. Interviews with well-known designers and builders give insight into the evolution and design of modern performance catamarans, while input from seasoned skippers and racers of these boats provide further appreciation for the big cats. (Sailing)

Catamarans have come a long way from their origins - the double canoes used by Polynesians and Micronesians as far back as the 1700s. The first modern, fast ocean catamaran was built in 1947 in Hawaii, and since then these craft have stretched the limits of speed and luxury for racing and cruising. The largest catamarans have become a phenomenon of naval engineering - the superyacht of tomorrow. Building on his previous book *Catamarans: Every Sailor's Guide*, Gregor Tarjan analyzes the impact of big ocean racers, the luxury charter environment, and new technologies, on the development of the luxury catamaran. With a focus on craft 65' or larger, this lavishly illustrated book, with numerous photos by Billy Black, incorporates interviews with naval architects, interior designers, experienced multihull skippers and seasoned ocean racers to paint the big picture of today's luxury performance catamarans and their evolution. The advantages of multihulls versus monohulls are examined. Readers will discover what building a large catamaran entails, and what considerations are most important in choosing and sailing such a craft, from seaworthiness to aesthetics to practical seamanship and crew training. Tarjan ends with a look at "Future Perspectives" on these remarkable vessels.

When it comes to multihulls, you won't find anyone more passionate, more knowledgeable, more

connected than Gregor Tarjan. All of that comes through in *Catamarans: Tomorrow's Superyachts*. If you are interested in large multihulls, and certainly if you plan to hire a naval architect and build one, this is a "must have" book. Tarjan's passion is consistent and contagious. He clearly lives, sleeps, and breathes catamarans, and that means the depth of his knowledge shines through. Since he seems to know everyone (and credits them all in a lengthy "Acknowledgements") we get to hear from top designers. There are some beautiful pictures of stunning boats. But the book is also deeply flawed. The most broad flaw is that it is an advocacy book, somewhat defensive in tone, rather than one containing insight. If every mention of catamaran superiority because it doesn't heel is removed, I bet the text would be 10% shorter. Eliminating mentions of the need to pick a good naval architect would eliminate another 10%. Organizationally, it is a bit of a mess. The Table of Contents is logical, but the content itself veers all over the place. For example, take the chapter "Catamaran Design." It starts with a discussion about sleek versus ungainly design in very general terms. Then discusses using computers versus hand drawing. Then selecting a naval architect. Then a section called "Smart Engineering" containing such gems as: "The recent super catamaran phenomenon has brought grandeur of lifestyle and artistry to yachting that has not been seen since the early part of the last century. The new breed of large multihulls has elevated the expectations of luxury and design innovation and has summoned expertise among a broad range of disciplines, necessitating a team approach to the creative and technical process of design." Imagine this kind of relatively content-free prose going on and on, and since I could, too, I'll get to the point: Where was the editor? Where was the copy editor? This is some of the most unfocused, undisciplined writing I've seen in a large book. Sincere, though, very, very sincere. Some of the pictures are beautiful. Others are Photoshopped placement of CAD renderings in actual environments, without acknowledgement. Check out page 27, captioned "Aeroyacht 110 motoring in Antartic waters." It should be captioned "Rendering of an Aeroyacht 110 motoring in Antarctic waters. My overall sense is that this book represents an opportunity missed. I bet Tarjan has a lot of great opinions, but it appears he's not willing to take the risk of expressing them. C'mon Gregor, take apart the ten most interesting large cats, showing us where they made tradeoffs, and what works and what doesn't. Be brutally honest and perfectly clear and let the chips fall where they may. Or tell the real story of the Aeroyacht 110; we could learn a tremendous amount about multihull superyachts in a narrative form. Most importantly, you need a real writer as a collaborator, because your subject is fascinating and your knowledge is unsurpassed. I'd give this five stars for subject matter, one star for writing, four stars for the real pictures, two stars for the fake ones, and therefore three stars overall.

Perfect gift for the boating enthusiast.

Great book with lots of information on luxury cats.

Awesome book a large array of yachts types has helped us build our knowledge of what type of yacht we will build

It is an excellent work. If you are a Catamaran enthusiast this is the best book you can have. The book has a lot of nice pictures and offers the reader a lot of useful information. If you are a sailor thinking of buying a boat, this book will convince you that Cats are the future boats. I used this book also as a present and was proud to offer it to sailors friends. Marc Anassis, Yacht designer and builder, Patchogue NY

This 280-page book isn't EXACTLY a coffee-table volume; at 11.5" x 9" it's what I would call trade-paperback size (though this one anyway is hardbound.) There are some great pictures, but somehow the book disappointed me - nowhere do I find quite the spectacular spread I was expecting in a book this expensive. The language is quite flowery and as other reviewers have pointed out more than a little repetitive. All in all it's ok, but not something I'd call a must-read on the subject of luxury catamarans. Published in 2009, this book is essentially a promotion of the catamaran to wealthy people looking for a luxury yacht. A lot of text is spent on favorable comparisons between monohull and multihull designs, there is some discussion of yacht design and building, with a heavy emphasis on the primacy of the naval architect, and interviews with noted catamaran designers like Joubert and Barreau (I'd've liked to hear something from builders like Sunreef, Blubay, or Yapluka.) There's a directory of builders and designers, and a registry of super cats, though a number are seen only as computer renderings. Although I didn't find this especially off-putting the Aeroyacht 110 keeps popping up, but all we ever actually get are computer renderings? And there are some mistakes in the text; at one point Sir Richard Branson's yacht the Lady Barbaretta is listed as 138 feet in length - in the registry she's identified as 110' (which as I understand it is the correct measurement.) I'm no expert, but the word \*I\* hear is that the Lady B has spent a LOT of time out of the water. No doubt the intent of this book forbids it, but there are no more than a few passing references to post-construction problems with supercats. A bit of environmentalism gets dangled here and there, but in the end it's all about style.

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