

# The Telegraph

## How blow-the-budget yacht games became status symbols among the super-rich

From a £200k Bugatti pool table to a robotic wine cellar, extravagant accessories are in favour among the superyacht set

*By* Caroline Siona White

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Handmade by British artisans, bespoke games tables by Alexandra Llewellyn grace some of the most lavish yachts afloat

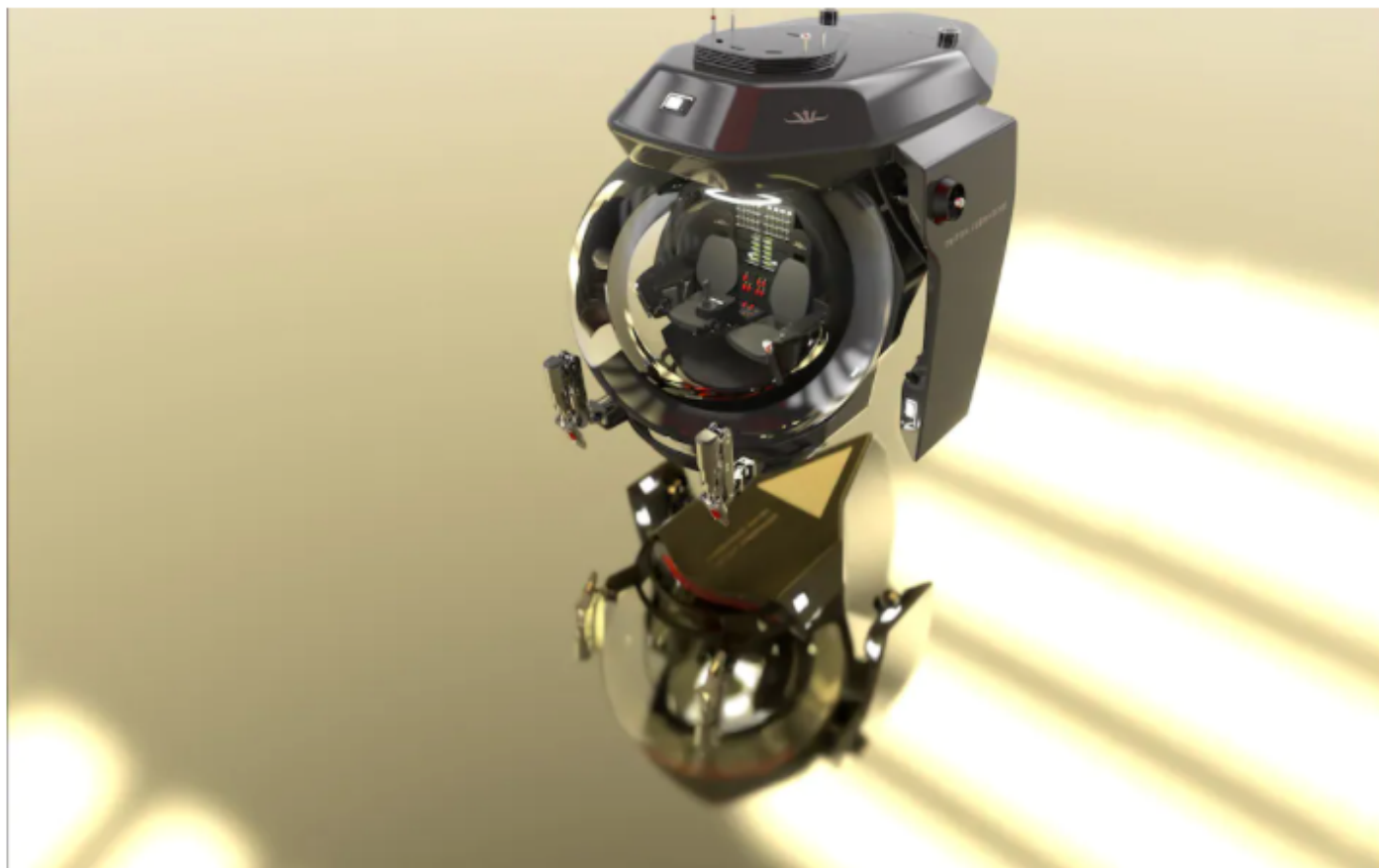


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There's something about buying a superyacht that causes some owners to cast off from reality. Many will spend more on the design and build of their boat that they would dream of dropping on a land-based home: from cutting edge tech to extravagant materials, this is the asset upon which imaginations run loose and budgets are blown.

It's hardly surprising then, that superyachts are also packed with some of the most fantastical toys and accessories on Earth. [Bugatti's £200k self-levelling pool table](#) – perfect for racking up on the high seas – is the latest to hit the headlines. But superyacht owners are snapping up plenty of other ultra-luxury kit, from submarines and sculptural gym equipment, to artisanal games tables.

## **A submarine to tour the Titanic**



The Triton 13000/2, from Florida-based, submersible manufacturer Triton



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Exploration is the biggest trend in superyachting and a submarine is the most sought-after adventurous accessory (perfect for capturing souvenir footage).

The ultimate example is the new 13000/2 from Florida-based, submersible manufacturer Triton. It will be the world's deepest acrylic pressure-hulled submarine – the type you can see out of – and will dive to 4,000 metres, deep enough to visit the Titanic.

These depths are dark and those who film in them often take two subs – one to light and one to record marine life (doing both from the same angle makes for poor footage). The 13000/2, however, features fold-out wings that allow a single sub to film and light a subject from different angles, ideal for homemade (or professional) documentaries.

*Triton 13000/2, \$14.5 million; [tritonsubs.com](http://tritonsubs.com)*



## Personalised backgammon tables



a bespoke games table by Alexandra Llewellyn

Handmade by British artisans, bespoke games tables by Alexandra Llewellyn grace some of the most lavish yachts afloat.

The designer was inspired by the backgammon she played as a child with her step-grandfather in the backstreets of Cairo and her creations weave personal details into whimsical designs, exquisitely rendered in materials from ebony and obsidian to malachite, mother-of-pearl and 4,500-year-old bog oak.

Many are convertible from card tables, to chess and backgammon boards – usefully space-saving in the (relatively) limited confines of a superyacht.

*Palm Ebony Games Table, £28,000; [alexandrallewellyn.com](http://alexandrallewellyn.com)*



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## A cutting-edge jet board to out-surf the pros



RÄVIK S, the electric jet board from Swedish brand Awake

Surfboards may be perennially cool but they're not much use in a glass-calm Caribbean bay (you really have to tug at hairs to find 'problems' in this scenario). Luckily the Rävik S electric jet board from Swedish brand Awake allows you to surf, even without waves.

The most advanced model on the market, the board hits 55km per hour – several times faster than the most powerful roller could propel a surfer naturally. A wireless hand controller, low buoyancy and a slim tail mean tight carving that would put any salty-haired action man to shame.

*Awake Rävik S, €12,900 ex. VAT; [awakeboards.com](http://awakeboards.com)*



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## A robot wine cabinet with an AI sommelier



WineCab's WineWall, a digital wine cellar | CREDIT: WineCab

You may not be able to replicate the cool caverns of a cellar on a yacht, but you can still keep your vintages in perfect condition. Winecab's WineWall is a digital "cellar" with temperature control, a wine management system for up to 600 bottles and a robotic arm to dispense them.



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An AI sommelier assists with personalised suggestions, while facial recognition can be used to lock expensive bottles to all but certain individuals. The WineWall comes in three sizes and can be customised with exotic wood finishes, metal trims, interior wallpapers and bespoke engravings.

*WineWall 6'; from \$180,000; [winecab.com](http://winecab.com)*

## **Artisanal canoes with modern gloss**



Itasca, Wenonah's hand-crafted canoe

About as far as you can get from a garish plastic kayak, Wenonah has been hand-crafting canoes on the banks of the Mississippi river in Minnesota for 50 years – and turns out seriously smart boats.



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The 5.8m Itasca is built for coastal touring, with a lightweight, seaworthy hull for two that cuts through waves and packs plenty of expedition gear (or a lavish picnic, depending on your ambitions). It comes in 12 colours of gel coat finish and the premium option includes a wooden trim.

*Itasca, £3,395; [wenonah.com](http://wenonah.com)*

### **Gym equipment to lust after**



Diabolo Dumbell, sold as part of a set | CREDIT: Colin Hawkins Photography/paragonstudio.co.uk



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It's a shame to spend millions on your yacht's interior design, then load your gym with bulky black machines. Luxury gymnasium specialist Gym Marine was founded by a former superyacht crewmember familiar with such concerns – as well as with the challenges of maintaining fitness kit at sea.

Its products are therefore aesthetically and ergonomically pleasing to those who use them – but make light work for crew. The company's latest wood-focussed collection, Paragon, includes the Diabolo Dumbbells in marine grade stainless steel (which won't rust in sea air) or aluminium bronze, with quick-drying wooden handles.

Concave end disks mean they won't tip over and roll away on a listing deck – or leave a scratch should they be placed on a polished surface. They can be customised to specific design requirements, as well as engraved, painted or monogrammed, and are sold alongside pared-back, Scandi-chic storage racks.

*Diabolo Dumbbells (sold as a set), from £4,500 ex VAT; [paragonstudio.co.uk](http://paragonstudio.co.uk)*

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