

Shipyard Capabilities:

Cairns

[BSE Cairns Slipways](#)

[Norship – Cairns](#)

[Tropical Reef Shipyard – Cairns](#)

[CLASS](#)

[TCS Shipyards](#)

QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA ACKNOWLEDGES 50 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL SUPERYACHT VISITATION AND REFIT WITH THE TRANSFORMATION OF M/Y SPIRIT

Australia's relationship with the international Superyacht set is now 50 years old. Initially, lured by big fish caught by famous film stars and the amazing underwater world of the Great Barrier Reef captured on film for the first time in colour, the numbers steadily increased. Australia breaking America's 'America's Cup' record in 1983 and bringing the race down under to Fremantle caught the attention of curious Superyacht owners worldwide. The birth and future potential of an international Superyacht refit market in Australia coinciding with the installation of marine infrastructure on both the West and East coasts. Fast forward 30 years, the growth of the global Superyacht fleet continues and Australia has met their refit and maintenance needs with new Marinas and Shipyards all around the coast.

Great business comes from great relationships, and great relationships are established over time. In this particular case study, the relationship between Queensland and Martin and Jo Debanks began in 2005. As Captain and Chef on board M/Y Valkyrie 36m Crescent, the largest purpose built sports fisher of her kind in the world at that time, they entered into Australian waters with the help of a Cairns "Super" agent for haul out at a Gold Coast shipyard. In the following 10 years, Valkyrie returned to Queensland many times for extensive refit work involving many companies from Cairns, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. In addition, her American owners flew in for multiple adventures, exploring the whole length of the Great Barrier Reef, the Northern Coast and Australia's unexpectedly beautiful interior. Valkyrie was sold in 2015 and Martin and Jo chose to settle in Cairns.

A new chapter and a new project for the couple started in May 2016. The project was to breath new life into the 34.9m wavepiercer that won a global SY award when she was launched in 2004. The vessel was purchased in Europe and brought via heavy lift ship to Singapore. She made the passage via Bali to Cairns (with the help of an ipad) and sailed into BSE Cairns Slipways 60m Drydock in August to start stage 1 of her transformation.

The comprehensive refit included a smart navy paint job, major engineering, electrical and electronics overhaul and a total interior refresh. The work was completed using Cairns shore-based support businesses and other specialist Queensland companies. Stage 2 of the refit, which was to install a spa on the extensive bar deck was completed in April 2017 after the vessel had completed a busy Christmas and New Year Charter Season.

The vessel is based at Cairns Marlin Marina to advantage of the luxury charter market potential of the Great Barrier Reef, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Micronesia. The vessel is totally equipped for "Adventure in Splendor"

Captain Martin is delighted with the finished product and the whole experience overall. He has estimated the project has injected over AUD\$2.5million into the local economy

The finishing touches to M/Y Spirit refit were completed in April 2017, incorporating a spa onto the impressive bar deck area.

For contact, please email: chef@luxuryspirtcharters.com.au.