

Midnight Lace 52'



Hargrave's take on a legend.

Talk about a winning pair. Mike Joyce, owner of Hargrave Custom Yachts, teamed up with yacht designer Tom Fexas to create the Midnight Lace 52-footer, *Zorro*.

Fexas, who died last December, grew up in New York surrounded by boats. "I worked on a commuter boat as a teenager and that is where my interest grew," Fexas said. "These boats inspired my later Midnight Lace design." In 1966, Fexas established a one-man operation, and three years later, he caught a break when he was asked to design a 50-foot trawler—an assignment that set the stage for Midnight Lace. Its moniker is taken from a 1960 Doris Day thriller. The design is "black and sexy," Fexas said, "and Midnight Lace seemed like a very good name for it."

In '03, Fexas reworked the design of the Midnight Lace 44', and its new lines, additional horsepower and larger flybridge caught Joyce's eye. *Zorro* debuted at this year's Miami show—a posthumous tribute to Fexas.

This limited edition's sleek black hull is accented by red striping and a polished stainless cutwater on the bow. Its innovative fuel-efficient hull incorporates a fine entry and a deep, non-pounding fore body for a smooth, dry and level ride. Powered by twin 715-hp Cat engines, *Zorro* can reach speeds of 32 mph—without lowering fuel efficiency.

Remarkable changes were made to the original design, incorporating many features and equipment normally found on 80-foot megayachts. In addition, *Zorro* boasts overhead air-conditioning vent systems, a double-door entry to the master cabin, full-size Headhunter toilets in both the master and VIP suites, marble and granite counters, and polished cherrywood floors.

Take the helm at four control stations: on the flybridge, aft and bow cockpit, and inside. The cockpit offers plenty of room for enjoyment, with a large bench aft and a teak sole. A ladder to port leads up to the flybridge, which has an open design, reminiscent of the commuter boat days. A large settee aft allows guests to keep you com-

pany while you navigate. Electronics from Furuno, C-Map and Simrad come standard.

Looking forward from the flybridge gives the feeling that you are on a much larger yacht. The foredeck appears to go on forever. The bridge, which sits aft on the hull, affords great visibility fore and aft. Looking back emphasizes the tumblehome on the aft flanks.

The main salon features a chocolate brown leather sofa to port with accent pillows in chocolate and celadon blue. Found throughout the main salon and the extended living areas is a high-gloss cherrywood with a contemporary cross graining and camphor burl accent panels. More seating is available in a pair of armchairs starboard. Completing this space is plenty of hidden storage and a coffee table, with the helm station forward and to starboard.

The cherrywood continues into the atrium-style forward galley, steps down from the salon. Granite countertops extend into a backsplash. Stainless steel appliances and Grohe fixtures accent the open layout.

Starboard, across from the galley, is the master stateroom, which sports a queen berth and an en suite head with a full shower, storage cabinets and marble vanity. The VIP stateroom lies forward and features a queen-sized V-berth and en suite head. A three-stateroom layout is also available.

The Midnight Lace No. 1 of the early '80s sported outstanding lines and performance. But *Zorro* is better, more substantial, with a larger engine and more weight, and a go-anywhere draft of 3 feet, 6 inches.

The interior of *Zorro* is on par with the best out there in terms of design, quality of materials and ambiance.

As a builder and designer, Joyce and Fexas obviously loved what they did. On this project they held nothing back, and it stands as a worthy legacy to Tom and a celebration of their collaboration.

Specs

LOA.....	52'
Beam.....	16'6"
Draft.....	3'6"
Weight.....	54,000 lbs.
Fuel capacity.....	720 gals.
Base power.....	T/Caterpillar C-12s (715 hp)
Base price.....	\$1,450,000

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