

# Darsena active even after the Genoa Boat Show event

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di Alberto Quarati



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the development works, four months since the agreement that finally mothballed the former disputes regarding the Darsena Nautica, and more than 13 years after the construction of this large water surface facing the Fair of Genoa, Alberto Amico is preparing to host the first dozen yachts that will liven up this area, always vastly underused apart from during the Genoa Boat Show, in the weeks right after the Show. **The entrepreneur**, whose refit shipyard Amico & Co has a 20-year concession for 60% of the Darsena (substantially the Southern portion of the surface) had guaranteed at a conference at the start of the summer that the facility would be operational in October. Promise maintained: in less than six months paving has been installed, a portion of the 15,000 m<sup>2</sup> surface has been raised, cables and plugs for the shore power and cold ironing have been laid and installed together with the fibre for internet Wi-Fi, water distribution systems and black water collection systems.

**A new dock has been constructed**, complete with LED lighting. The entire investment comes to €3.7 million, with the works at sea being carried out by Genoese companies Icam and Spartacus. When fully operational, the area will be able to accommodate 25 super and mega yachts, up to 110 metres in length. **Darsena berths will be rotational**, because Amico's idea is not to sell them outright. Vessel permanence will range from a few weeks to a few months: whilst in the past yachts were used by their owners for just a few weeks over the summer period, today they guarantee a constant income, chartered throughout two summers, that of the Caribbean and the Mediterranean.

**Just like ships**, they require constant maintenance, a prerogative of the European shipyards - Genoa competes with La Ciotat and Barcelona, whilst Holland and Germany appear aggressive in this sector. The Darsena area (where no industrial processes will be carried out) will exploit its proximity to Amico shipyard and over 50 other companies in Genoa operating in professional yachting. **In the development's second phase**, crew infrastructures will be installed, but one of the ideas includes a walkway above the seawall closing the area to the South: a novel structure for Genoa, that would open up a panoramic view directly on to the entrance to Italy's largest port for the very first time: "It has been a tremendously hard year, with the large yachts in flight from Italy from March to May - explains Amico - and with American, Arab and Russian Owners unable to visit Italy during the summer season, which has brought a decline in turnover of more than 30% for us. - continues Amico - But we haven't given up on continuing our investment campaign that now has been going on for many years."