

The
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FOREWORD



In my thirties and after a bad lake experience in an 18-foot Boston Whaler, I had decided that boating was for the rest of the world. Ten years later, after acquiring a new home on Nantucket, it seemed a necessity to purchase our 24-foot, center-console Robalo fishing boat. My wife and I tried every week that first summer to make it to Martha's Vineyard; we were never able to conquer the rough three-foot seas. I announced that we needed a bigger boat and headed for the Florida boat shows looking for 40-footer. Oddly enough we came home with 142-footer. Now this was yachting!

Soon we discovered that we were having the greatest times of our lives, sharing with our family and friends the most extraordinary destinations the world has to offer—by sea. The first *Paraffin* was a Palmer Johnson that was a delight, but after some time, her limitations and our quickly accumulated knowledge led us to want more. At this point we decided to design and build a 197-foot Feadship.

Our Dutch Captain, Niels Ackermans, and our Chef and walking yacht encyclopedia, Robert Shepherd, were very influential in pushing along our decision. During the course of the first design year, we cut and pasted blue prints and asked lots of questions of our current crew until we felt all of our dreams were represented.

Twenty-five design-meeting trips to Holland proved to us that Feadship people rarely use the word "no" to owners' ideas. We marvelled at the intricacies and quality of each phase.

For us the process was not only about building a ship, it was about immersing ourselves into a brand new culture, learning about the people and life in Holland as well as sharing this education with our family and friends.

After four years, our Royal van Lent Feadship, *Paraffin*, is our home, as well as a showcase for the finest Dutch shipbuilding the world has seen. When guests join us, after the ooohs and aaahs, we get back to what we enjoy most, sharing some of life's greatest travel experiences at sea.

Finally, I remember this thought in the beginning...Do we dare do this?

I'm very glad we did!

Michael Kittredge
Owner of M/Y *Paraffin*