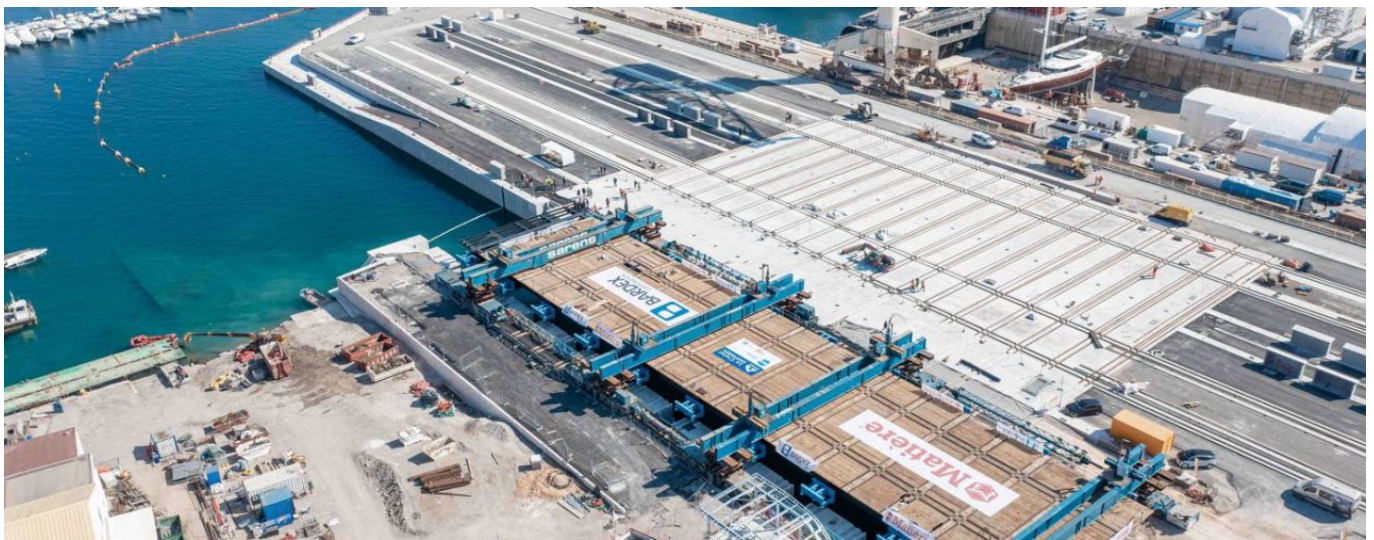


MB92 La Ciotat Superyacht Shipyard Closer To Completion

[MB92](#) La Ciotat, France's leading superyacht refit shipyard, announced that a major milestone has been reached in the construction of the platform, maintaining the shipyard's schedule for the opening of the facility as planned this autumn for yachts up to 115-metres in length.



What's new?

Following the delivery last summer of the main elements of the structure and 9 months of engineering work on-site, the Matière-Bardex team has now completed the complex task of assembling and moving the lifting platform to its final position. At 100 metres in length, equivalent to a football pitch, and 20 metres wide, the platform weighs 1,100 tonnes and required a team of 20 people and 3 hours to carry out the exceptional manoeuvre of moving the shiplift structure and 2 days for the final installation in the concrete recess.

The innovative Bardex lifting system which includes 20 chain jacks is now being installed and features a hydraulic ram and chain system expressly designed to increase safety and reduce maintenance.



The Installation of the world's largest artificial harbour-based fish nursery:

The platform's docks have been equipped with a biomimetic solution supplied by the company Seaboost. Based on the complex structure of Posidonia seagrass, this solution creates an effective, integrated, and safe environment that will encourage the reproduction of local marine species.

In addition to the nursery, La Ciotat Shipyards, the local port authority, have administered an exemplary project, implementing numerous environmental measures during the construction phase such as soil decontamination, reuse of materials on-site, installation of a double bubble curtain, and anti-sediment curtains to protect cetaceans and water quality.

Mathieu Bauden, MB92 La Ciotat Facilities Director comments:

“This is a key stage in the delivery of the 4300t platform which leaves us well-positioned as we enter the final six months of the project. The next important steps are the delivery of the control building, the installation of all energy networks, reception of the transfer system, the cradles, and final testing followed by certification by Lloyds this summer.”

Vincent Escallier, Commercial Director of MB92 La Ciotat added:

“We are all looking forward to the imminent opening of our new facility and this latest accomplishment brings us one step closer. It’s an extraordinary piece of infrastructure that complements the wide range of lifting options available to clients of our shipyard.”

For a Yacht Crew Guide To La Ciotat, [Click here](#)

La Ciotat: A Yacht Crew Guide

**A guide to all the places and
activities for crew visiting La
Ciotat and its shipyards**

Superyachts bring huge benefits to the French economy and part

of this trickle-down effect means it creates jobs and yacht crew spend their money locally. La Ciotat, located in the Bouches-du-Rhône department on the southern coast of France, is a preferred stopping off point for superyachts needing a refit, repair, and maintenance services.

Shipyards understand the importance of crew-friendly amenities – particularly in winter months – and are doing their best to make time off for crew more enjoyable during refit or repair projects with dedicated concierge services, gym facilities, crew lounges, and social events.

[Rebecca Whitlocke](#) spoke to local companies about the places and activities that should be on every crew members bucket list when they visit La Ciotat and its shipyards.



La Ciotat Vieux Port. Photo: Salva López for MB92 La Ciotat

About La Ciotat

La Ciotat has a great location with close proximity to Marseille and Toulon, and good connections to Saint-Tropez, Cannes, Antibes, Nice, and Monaco. City life is centered around the Vieux Port area with its restaurants, cafés and bars, and the shipyards of La Ciotat, a focal point for many maritime businesses.

La Ciotat is steeped in history – the Lumières Brothers made their first moving film there in 1895, the game of pétanque was invented there in the early 20th-century, and the city has a number of heritage buildings to visit such as the Eden Theatre (the world's oldest surviving cinema), Ciotaden Museum or the 17th-century Notre Dame de la Garde Chapel with sailors ex-votos.

Nature-lovers or adrenaline addicts are equally at home with plenty of opportunities for outdoor activities: hiking the glorious Calanques shaped by erosion and the famous Mistral wind, water sports, rock climbing, walking La Voie Douce, or mountain biking.

Crew Activities in and near La Ciotat

Joanna Mucka Rubio works at [Yachting Spirit](#) and oversees yacht chandlery needs, crew uniforms, and provisioning from their base located at the Yachting Village inside the La Ciotat Shipyards. Joanna rounded up some suggestions from the Yachting Spirit team for captains and crew who want to experience the region like a local.

Here are their recommendations for activities, as well as suggested restaurants or bars when crew need the

occasional night out:



Route des Crêtes between La Ciotat and Cassis

- Explore the Calanques de Cassis such as Calanque de Port-Miou and Calanque d'en Vau
- The Bec de l'Aigle and Calanque du Mugel at La Ciotat
- L'île verte (Green Island)
- Route des Crêtes for panoramic views
- Take a trip to the village of Le Castellet, best known for having the racing circuit for the French Grand Prix.
- Rent a jetsurf, kayak or Seabob in La Ciotat : <https://www.jetsurfmassilia.com/>
- Visit Château La Coste's wine estate near Aix-en-Provence with art and architecture tours, or Commanderie de Peyrassol which is a vineyard founded in the 13th-century by the Knights Templar
- Le Frégate Provence Golf Hotel and Spa is recommended for golf and spa days (it's currently closed for renovation)
- The Red Lion pub at Pointe-Rouge in Marseille for live music and sports coverage and the English Breakfast at La Pêcherie located at Vieux Port in La Ciotat
- Crew adventures: <https://www.laciotat-travelservices.com>



The Yachting Spirit Team in La Ciotat

Marie-Pauline Cassely is the Customer Care & Communications Manager at [MB92 La Ciotat](#) who offers dedicated refit facilities and workshops for refit and maintenance of the world's prestigious superyachts. MB92 is accustomed to crew needs with another shipyard adjacent to Marina Port Vell in Barcelona.

MB92 La Ciotat organises an exciting calendar of events and activities for crew both on and off-season, and they recommended these things:



MB92 La Ciotat. Photo: César Sebouhian

- MB92 La Ciotat's crew parties, crew gym, crew beauty salon
- In La Ciotat, there are several Irish pubs, and amongst others: Chez Béné tapas restaurant on the port and Hemingway Wine Bar.
- Browse the Sunday market
- Parc du Mugel is a remarkable garden and nature reserve with native plants of Provence right behind the shipyard, including the Mugel rocks and beach. Calanque de Figuerolles is next to Mugel and a pleasant place to visit with a great restaurant, Chez Tania, where MB92

have hosted crew parties before

- Cassis is worth exploring – it's a touristy fishing town with nice cuisine and shopping. Don't miss Les Roches Blanches Cassis: Hotel Restaurant and Spa, but be mindful it's closed in winter
- Sanary sur Mer is a nearby fishing town with a provencal Sunday market
- Wine enthusiasts can sample wine tasting at Domaine de la Bégude or Domaines Bunan, or other vineyards in Bandol and Cassis (MB92 can arrange winery tours with their partner Etoile Transport)
- Enjoy Yoga & Mindful movement classes with [Laura-Kate](#) & [Pierrick](#).
- Adventure enthusiasts can go climbing or do Via Ferrata
- Spa Annamaya for spa and beauty treatments



MB92 La Ciotat. Photo: Cyril Chauvin

- Discover the coastal walks on the Sentier du Littoral between St Cyr sur Mer and Bandol
- Crew members love going to the rugby matches in Toulon

Stadium. MB92 La Ciotat regularly takes them during tournaments.

Further Afield

- If you've got a crew car or rental car, you can't go wrong with a detour to explore further afield. Highlights include karting at the renowned Paul Ricard Circuit at Le Castellet, exploring Marseille's vibrant restaurants, brunch spots and shopping at Les Terrasses du Port, discovering the boutiques and restaurants of Aix-en-Provence or visiting the art exhibition at the Carrières des Lumières in Les Baux de Provence.

Rebecca Whitlocke, Founder of [Antibes Yachting](#) based on the Côte d'Azur, recommends:

Driving the Route des Crêtes that goes from La Ciotat to Cassis passing Cap Canaille and the Soubeyranes cliffs; the highest maritime cliffs in France (394 metres).

"The views are amazing and there are plenty of places to stop for a photo. Cassis is a lovely setting for a drink at the traditional fishing port and it's more laid-back and authentic than Saint-Tropez."



Cassis. Photo: Antibes Yachting

"About 5 minutes drive from Cassis port, you can easily park and explore Calanque de Port-Miou with walking trails amongst pine trees. If you're not pushed for time, it's worth visiting Calanque de Sormiou located closer to Marseille with turquoise water set against the towering cliffs of the Calanques National Park – just be aware that in high season you can only get vehicle access down to the beach car park by booking a lunch reservation at Le Château restaurant."



Calanque de Sormiou. Photo: Antibes Yachting

La Ciotat is well-positioned to continue as a leading refit and maintenance hub for the Mediterranean and it's proven there are plenty of places to see and things to do that appeal to locals and yacht crew alike.

For more of the latest superyacht news, click [here](#).

MB92 launches sustainability

plan

[MB92](#), the world leading superyacht refit, repair and maintenance group, announced today that it will be embarking on an intensive drive towards becoming more sustainable.

[MB92](#) has been working towards more environmental practices for several years but in 2020 the Group decided to vastly increase its efforts and make sustainability one of its principal strategic pillars across both shipyards. As such, the Group has launched a 2021-2025 sustainability plan with which it aims to consolidate its position as a leader in environmental care in the superyacht refit industry.

The result is a 5-year plan, which will tackle six key areas of focus:

- Reducing the shipyards' carbon footprint
- Reducing combustible gas emissions
- Minimising non-recoverable waste
- Improving port and sea water quality
- Reducing VOC emissions
- Improving social responsibility

“The problems we face as an industry are simply too big and too important to face alone so we must all work together to evolve, as fast as possible, towards a more sustainable future” **said Pepe García-Aubert, CEO of MB92 Group.** “The journey ahead of us is long and we understand that there are many challenges to overcome that will involve major changes not only for our company, but also for our supply chain and in the nature of solutions we propose to our clients.”

Local and international commitments.

As part of the plan, MB92 has forged alliances with local and international organisations such as the United Nations, the Water Revolution Foundation (as one of the first anchor partners) and the Catalan Government, through the Climate

Change Agreements.

A large scope of initiatives

A significant multimillion euro investment will be allocated for the next 5 years enabling the Group to execute the goals that have been set with a large proportion to be invested in environmentally efficient infrastructure and Innovation.

A number of initiatives are planned for this first year and are designed not only to reduce the impact that the activity has on the environment but will offer benefits to clients in terms of greater efficiency and simplifying many processes such as shore power connections and waste management.

In Barcelona

Marc Hervás, Sustainability Coordinator, was recruited to oversee a thorough review of the organisation, its facilities and processes, and form partnerships with local, national and international organisations dedicated to sustainability. With a masters degree in energy efficiency and sustainable development Marc, brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this new position having previously worked on several environmental initiatives, principally related to the sea, including coast line preservation, underwater emissary control, hydrocarbon control and energy efficiency consulting.

[MB92 Barcelona](#) is currently working with the Water Revolution Foundation on the development of a pioneering system for assessing the yachting industry's environmental footprint. This Yacht Assessment Tool (YAT), will allow the shipyard to address the impact generated by its activity and those generated by client's yachts while in the facilities, in order to reduce it. As such, MB92 is committed to better assisting its clients in reducing the environmental impact of the work carried out and also offering them the possibility of making an equivalent economic contribution to the regeneration of underwater ecosystems.



MB92 Barcelona

In La Ciotat

A sustainability committee was formalised and is composed of representatives from throughout the shipyard, including procurement, HSE, project management and communication.

[MB92 La Ciotat](#) is currently undertaking research and development of a new filtration system for VOCs and is working with La Ciotat Shipyards on a number of projects to improve shore power connection and water treatment. In addition, the company is investing over 40M€ in the future 4,300t Atlas yachtlift, where it will provide clients with an environmentally friendly dry docking solution with features such as the largest port-based artificial fish nursery in the world.



Finally, an important part of the plan is oversight and reporting of progress. As such, the Group will begin to publish a yearly sustainability report outlining its actions and deliverables. The oversight committee will include external sustainability auditors and will be EMAS Certified (European Union's (EU) Eco-management and Audit Scheme).