

Cruising ahead

For KRM Yacht, Turkey's premium superyacht refitter with a reputation to match, the bigger the boat the better

Kerem Baser has always loved to tinker. As a child in Turkey, he constantly modified wire-controlled cars, extending the wires and increasing the voltage or dismantling his bicycle to upgrade it. Today, he pursues this passion on a grander scale as a marine engineer and the founder of Turkey's first professional refit facility: KRM Yacht.

The company refits, rebuilds and modernises superyachts and classic yachts. Since its establishment in 2010, it has developed its capacity to do so. Kerem has built a team of over 100 staff, who have completed more than 200 projects at KRM Yacht's facility in Tuzla, Istanbul. "We have just started assembling our new 900-tonne travel lift, the biggest in Turkey," says Kerem. "It arrived in 28 containers from Italy. It's three times larger than our previous lift, increasing our capacity from 45 metres to accommodate up to 70 metres."

When Kerem first began refitting yachts in Turkey, he worked alone, putting in long shifts in the boatyard. He aimed to meet the standards he encountered while studying in the US. Recognising that Turkey had no specialists in refitting, he established KRM Yacht. To avoid contractor issues, he hired specialists and developed in-house teams for every task, from painting and mechanics to project management and interior design. With a carefully chosen network of suppliers, KRM Yacht provides a complete refit service for yachts up to 70 metres. "We are the first and only professional facility in Turkey specialising in superyacht refits and rebuilds," he says.

In 2023, KRM Yacht was named Best Superyacht Refit Yard at the Superyacht Business Awards. It has since become a sustaining member of the International Council of Marine Industry Association (ICOMIA) Superyacht Refit Group, recognising its exceptional services and strict environmental standards. KRM Yacht has also earned ISO 9001, 14001 and 45001 certifications through globally renowned assurance authority, LRQA. These accolades are the result of hard work, inspiration and strategy.

Clients come to KRM Yacht from all over the world. Many discover the beauty of the Bosphorus coast, with the Black Sea and Mediterranean nearby. The marina in which the company's main facility is based is easily accessible from the international airport, with excellent local facilities, including hotels, restaurants and shopping, for clients who wish to monitor progress in person alongside real-time updates on their vessel's condition through the "View Your Yacht" feature. Opting for a refit in Turkey delivers high-quality results while adhering to a reasonable budget.

Beyond cost, refitting is a more eco-friendly alternative to new builds, making it a responsible choice for the environment. It is also ideal for owners who wish to preserve their superyacht's historical value and cherished memories.

"When customers see our ongoing projects and our workshop, they trust us," says Kerem. This accounts for KRM Yacht's impressively high ratio of returning clients, exceeding 90 per cent. Despite such success, he still has big ambitions for the business.

"I want to build my own facilities to accommodate the world's largest yachts," he says. "We currently hire marina space of 35,000 to 40,000 square metres, but I aim to build a 100,000 to 120,000-square-metre shipyard with larger offices, hangars and workshops for even bigger projects." The new 900-tonne crane is the first step on this journey, as KRM Yacht reinvents the yacht refit industry and sets new standards for luxury vessels.

www.krmyacht.com



