



Bellini Riva Collection

“Nowadays,” says Martina, “a vintage Aquarama can be worth up to 600-700 thousand euros, though as for cars it depends on the overall condition. For collectors, they certainly represent an investment, as the records show that they appreciate on average by eight percent per year.”

Restoring the legend

A full restoration of a Riva boat that took 3,000 hours to build, may take up to a year to complete. This is not only because of the complexity of all remedial wood, upholstery, electrics and engine work needed to bring it back to its original specifications, but also because clients may ask for additional customising. Bellini Nautica replaces damaged mahogany panels with selected knot-free timber, aged for at least five years. The legendary shine requires up to 35 layers of paint, which is oven-baked before final polishing.



Bellini family on Riva Aquarama

Rebuilding the electrics from scratch is also a must. And specialised mechanics bring back to life any of the wide range of engines used by Riva over the years, from the 60 hp Chris Craft of the first Sebino to the 350hp Corsair of the Aquarama Special.

Three generations of Bellini craftsmanship come at a cost and that's where tradition meets bitcoins. “My brother Battista has always been interested in cryptocurrency and when we were approached by a buyer who was considering buying a Cranchi yacht in bitcoins, they discussed the terms and agreed a contract.”

That sale, in 2018, was probably the very first one ever in the European marine industry. Would Bellini accept bitcoins now? “Certamente” says Martina. Certainly.



Riva boat stripped for restoration

• Alex Vincenti