

Teak Without Sacrificing Nature

With the ongoing fight to do right by nature, is there a way to have beautiful teak while maintaining eco-friendly standards? According to Bob Steber, marketing manager of Ginnacle Import & Export, yes. As a direct supplier of Burma teak from sawmill to yachts anywhere in the world, they create yacht decking, flooring, furniture, or construction. In the case of doing a refit, they've sold teak to several superyachts, like *Octopus*, *Nero*, and *Topaz*, sometimes for emergency repairs. They stand by the guarantee that no new forests are cut and no machines will tear up virgin forest soil.



Several decades ago, he initiated a project in Burma that recovered more than 2,000 teak logs and 500 Rosewood logs from the depths of the Rangoon River. "This is the first environmentally good Burma teak to be available because trees were cut 20 to 100 years ago and lost in transit via rafts," says Steber. "We like to say that we are recovering a forest of valuable teak without cutting a tree [and] without damaging the delicate balance of the ecosystem of natural teak forests."

According to Steber, his company has done their due diligence in speaking with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). As a result, their log recovery may be accepted for their FSC certification. "This means that you can purchase our recovered timber and the certification will pass to your yacht construction helping to make your yachts the envy of all environmentalists." www.teak.net

INFLATED DREAMS

There's no question that inflatables are an essential item in any onboard toy collection. However, when it comes to the responsible disposal of them, the answer isn't always as black and white. But it looks like that's soon to change with the launch of The Rainbow Revival, an Antibes-based startup dedicated to breathing new life into old inflatables.

With the catchy hashtag #NoWasteOnOurWatch, founder Heather Patrone is taking pre-loved water toys and transforming them into a smart product range that includes beach bags, makeup bags, and toiletry bags. Patrone has pledged five percent of all profits towards Sea Shepherd France's marine conservation efforts.

"I've really been inspired by the many upcycling movements around the world and realized there was a need for this on a local level," she says. Along with pool rings, Patrone is rescuing unwanted pool covers, PVC tablecloths, vinyl deckchair covers, and even zodiac tenders, and is entirely reliant on donations. "My dream

would be a bouncy castle as I'd be able to turn it into a whole series," she says.

Like other businesses, Patrone has had to delay the launch of The Rainbow Revival. Her hope is that she can bring this to market this summer, when she'll release 50 to 60 pieces.

If you are spending time on the French Riviera this season and want to save your inflatables, both Patrone's workshop in Antibes and Brittain's Home Stores in Valbonne are serving as a drop-off point. For larger items, she recommends getting in touch via email to organize collection. Contact her at info@therainbowrevival.com. www.therainbowrevival.com
— CHRISSIE McCLATCHIE



PHOTOS: (LEFT) PAULVINTEN; (RIGHT) HARRY HULL

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