



## SEAFARER AT **HEART**

*CEO of the Ferretti Group, (the late) Mr. Salvatore Basile told us about his passion for the sea, the vision of the dynamic yachts of his esteemed company and how Indians will now be able to regale in the Riva*

*By Deesha Kriplani*

► **WHEN AND HOW DID YOUR PASSION FOR SAILING START?**

I was born less than 100m from the sea in a summer villa. Ever since I started walking, I started swimming as well. All my vacations and free time were always spent in and around the sea.

**WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU LOVE ABOUT THE SEA?**

The freedom and the space—when you look out at the sea, there's no limit to the horizons. There's nothing disturbing you, which makes you feel revived.

**HOW HAS YOUR PASSION FOR SAILING EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS?**

Like others, being born near the sea, I started going boating with friends, and then I started enjoying the activity and eventually participated in small competitions. I never took part in big regattas because at that time my favourite sport was volleyball and not really sailing. But I always enjoyed the freedom and the opportunity of being near the nature and the sea.

**HOW HAS THE SAILING SCENE IN INDIA EVOLVED? WHERE DOES RIVA FIT IN WITH THE INDIAN TASTES?**

The last time I came to India was 12 years ago in July 1999. I was not into the yachting industry at the time, but dealt with household appliances and was staying at the Taj Mahal hotel near Marine Drive, from where I could see the marina. Now I can compare between what it was like 12 years ago and what it is today. Earlier there were only two to five boats and today I cannot even begin to count. This reflects the better economical conditions of the Indians and the boating culture that Indians have imbibed from the British. This is a very good start as these are the essential ingredients to make India one of the most important boating markets in the world.