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## **Miami company buys Italian luxury motor yacht manufacturer**

Investor David Schwedel and Rafael Barca will lead the combined company, which will be based in Miami with all manufacturing in Italy. They plan to redesign the entire line of Uniesse motor yachts.

"We are excited to introduce new models in the coming years, with our first 'reveal' to come in time for the 2019 boat show season," said Barca, president for Uniesse Marine Group LLC. He is credited with introducing the Uniesse line to the United States in 1994.

Schwedel led the acquisition of the luxury brand, which has sold more than 500 yachts around the world in the past 25 years. Uniesse creates semi-custom yachts from 49-115 feet.

"We have streamlined operations, consolidated the manufacturing process, and are implementing technology applications which will dramatically enhance the owner/operator experience," Schwedel said. "Customer service will be completely revamped as our top priority going forward."

The acquisition increases the reach of Southeast Florida's \$11.5 billion recreational boating industry. The sector represents about 130,000 jobs and \$4 billion in wages, according a study by the Marine Industries Association of South Florida.



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*Miami-based Uniesse Marine Group LLC has acquired assets of luxury motor yacht manufacturer Uniesse Marine S.P.A. of Italy.*

*Terms of the deal were not disclosed.*



**Design, Service & Administrative**

75 Valencia Avenue, 6th Floor  
Coral Gables, FL 33143  
+1 (305) 740-5199

**Manufacturing**

Via dei Filaracci, 219,  
Massarosa LU Italy 55054

[www.uniesseyachts.com](http://www.uniesseyachts.com)