



RIVIERA FLAGSHIP Restoring the Historic Wooden Sailing Boat Cynara



The Cynara, Lady of the Sea, is a rare beauty, built in the United Kingdom in the early twentieth century. Today she serves as one of the finest examples of excellence in ship craftsmanship from that time. At Riviera, we believe in perfecting the best of the past and preserving it for future generations. This is why in 2017, her 90th year, we started a full-scale restoration of the Cynara.

Japan has a long tradition of mastery in shipbuilding, but restoring a historic wooden sailing boat built in a European style presents unfamiliar challenges. We decided to make it our mission to introduce the necessary restoration expertise to Japan. To this end, we invited highly skilled shipbuilders from overseas to join Japanese craftsmen in a team made up of experts from 10 countries worldwide.



Photo by Yoichi Yabe

Each part and plank is removed with care, cleaned, and polished, and around 70% of this original material is in good enough shape to be reused in the restored vessel. The restoration work continues in order to give the Cynara, together with the workmanship and materials of master

craftsmen from a century ago, another hundred years of life.

We consider it our duty to both build partnerships to enable traditional skills to be passed on and to document this process as teaching material for future generations learning about the environment and the ocean.