SPRING EDITION 2025

FINEST MOMENTS

Inspired by the Sea

DUBAI

Gateway to Success

Dubai. A desert-based modern metropolis which serves as a luxury travel destination, a centre for trade, arts and culture and a booming economic hub. It is home to an ever-increasing number of UHNWIs and fast becoming a popular business gateway between the East and West. Dubai has been developed for success but what gives it that winning formula?

The sail-shaped Burj Al Arab is one if Dubai's most distinctive buildings

Melting Pot

With a largely expat population, Dubai is a cultural Middle Eastern melting pot. A genuinely international community attracting people from all over the globe, thanks to big business opportunities, good schooling, safe living, and positive tax benefits. Islam remains the majority religion but it is not uncommon to find churches and Hindu temples coexisting with mosques in what has become a more tolerant place over time, adapting to more and more international influences.

Historically Speaking

As the most populated city in the United Arab Emirates, Dubai's skyscraper skyline and Palm Island living contrast sharply with its Bronze Age origins. Whilst everything about modern day Dubai may seem new, invested, and created, thanks to oil being struck in 1966, there is a deep history of trade and entrepreneurship that underpins the current modernization where Dubai now stands tall. This long-time trade route for gold, spices, textiles, and pearls has been transformed from a tribe settlement area to a 19th century fishing village and from a British protectorate to an independent as one of the 7 UAEs.

Changing Landscape

You only need to stay in Dubai for a few days to understand how the landscape and skyline changes daily. Development and real-estate are big but it is the vision behind the potential which is bigger. Turning a sandbox into one of the most successful cities in the world takes money, skill, and foresight. Islands and Palms have been built, mostly thanks to the Dutch skill of building and living in and around water, to catalyse tourism and create extra living space, marinas and even beaches. Large, seven-star resorts form the heart of all tourism and ground-breaking, remarkable architecture distinguish Dubai from other Western and Eastern famous cities.

Business Gateway

Business is big in Dubai thanks to a proven record of innovation and support for entrepreneurs. From finance to construction, real estate to tourism and e-commerce to health care, business sectors tend to thrive making investment, establishment, and growth lucrative for those setting up on their own. It is an example of success breeding success with a current trend towards Dubai being used as a gateway to business between the East and West. A hub for meetings and diversification in a strategic location that makes sense for both sides of the world. A significant development that in turn generates more income for Dubai with increased business travellers and thus more opportunities for all business activities in Dubai. A win win.

Desert-based activities such as ATV and sand buggy safaris provide adrenalin-filled activities for those looking to get out of the city. In March 2024 we took a group of yacht brokers into the sand dunes for a business-based team-building adventure.

Action Packed

It is hard to think of something you cannot do in Dubai. Shopping, skiing, sky diving, boating, relaxing, museums, art fairs, exclusive auctions, theatres, trade shows and desert exploration. There literally is something for everyone. When it comes to superyachting, it is still a work in progress. The marine leisure industry continues to grow at a fast rate but there has been an increased number of larger superyachts making Dubai their home port or a destination stop off. The coastline may not match that of the Med but in terms of things to do and people to see, Dubai is more than a match for other destinations.

Dubai International Boat Show

DIBS has been a long-standing event on the annual boat show calendar for Damen Yachting. Whilst it may not match up size wise in terms of the yacht line-up with the American and European shows, that doesn't make it any less important. Infact it's the gateway and hub effect that makes it the perfect meeting place for clients and industry alike from both the East and the West. Alongside the more general marine interests and smaller boat segments, there is dedicated superyacht avenue which hosts our industry's top builders and brokers. This year the show took place from the 19th to 23rd February. We were proud to showcase our entire diverse yachting portfolio and welcome a record number of people to the stand.

On our website we have created an full overview of all Boat shows we're attending. Check our our Upcoming events!

Discover events

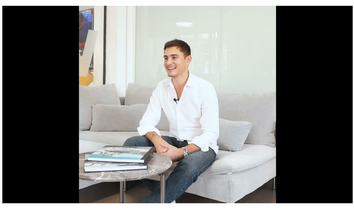
Xplorer Challenge

with Ben Ritchie

The Winning Formula

When we first introduced the Xplorer 80, we challenged some of our Captains, Owners Representatives and Brokers to test their knowledge on everything there is to know about explorer yachting and our own range of Xplorers. At stake? A once in a lifetime opportunity to win a trip heading north or heading south.

The lucky winner, Ben Ritchie from Y.CO, reveals the destination he chose and why he believes the real prize lies in the experience. Watch the video below to find out more.



Destination Decision

When it came to deciding whether to join EYOS, our design feature advisor for our Xplorer range (previously known as Seaxplorer), in either Antarctica or Papua New Guinea, the choice was harder than Ben envisaged.

"The deciding factors came down to a desire to explore a destination that offered as much in wildlife, marine life and geographical beauty as it did in remote discovery, off-the-beaten-track adventure, culture and communities."

Papua New Guinea

Explorer yachting destinations do not get much better than Papua New Guinea. It is home to arguably the best and most unspoilt diving on the planet as well as endless wildlife. For the true adventurer, there is plenty of trekking in remote mountain ranges and the only company you are likely to come across stems from tribal villages who take off-grid living to another level.

The Human Touch

Whilst Papua New Guinea has made an impression on Ben, it is the people that he met that have left the biggest impact.

"The locals really embraced our presence. We experienced tribal dances, fire dances, received local gifts and some even visited us on board. The whole trip was made extra special by Clem, a village Chief, who took us on private fishing trips with his family and helped us navigate inland waterways on skiffs. Everyone was so welcoming of us in their space and it's something I'll never forget and will always appreciate."

All in the Planning

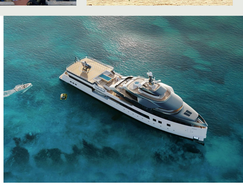
Ben's biggest take away is that explorer yachting is only as good as the planning that goes into it. Being clear on what you expect and what is possible is one side, but you also always need to be prepared for what can happen on the day.

"Anyone going to a remote destination needs to understand that life does not work in the same way as we know it. Throw preconceptions out the window, embrace each day as it comes and enjoy the fact that this is an adventure. Be prepared for the unexpected and you will experience something incredible."

The Xplorer Difference

Exploring Papua New Guinea from a boat was an absolute highlight for Ben. The freedom of being at sea and to be able to head to a new destination everyday was what made the difference. So, what is it about a luxury expedition Xplorer yacht that could have added even more?

"The Xplorer range has been well thought out, incorporating the essential features needed for remote adventure—features that may be missing in a conversion or a superyacht. Bigger tenders, a high bow, enhanced safety, long-range capability, and luxury living all come together. It's this combination of security, operational excellence, and a luxurious finish that makes the difference."

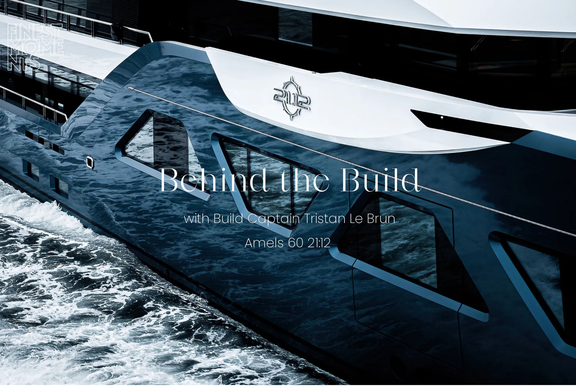


XPLORER 60 AT A GLANCE

- Available for delivery in 2025
- Xplorer 60 (60 metres / 197 ft)
- 180 GT
- 12 guests, 16 crew plus Captain
- Interior Design by HL Yacht Design
- Exterior Design by Azure Yacht Design
- Naval Architecture by Damen Yachting

Discover the Xplorer 60

A big thank you to EYOS for their part in supporting the Xplorer Challenge prize and providing the opportunity for Ben to join the Hanse Explorer yacht in Papua New Guinea. This challenge was all about embracing the enrichment and challenges that go hand in hand with explorer yachting and partnering with EYOS for this prize meant we were able to give Ben the destination of his and his fiancée Molly's dreams. Even if it did take almost 15 travel days in total to ensure 13 days on board!



Behind the Build

with Build Captain Tristan Le Brun

Amels 60 2112

Among the impressive Amels 60 fleet already sailing the oceans worldwide, 2112 stands out in her own individual way. Beyond her striking exterior and inherent Amels elegance, quality and ocean-going reliability, this is a yacht that has been built with a vision of global travel in mind. The man at the helm of overseeing this build process of the most recently delivered Amels 60 was Build Captain Tristan Le Brun.

We sat down with Tristan to take a deep dive into his experience of building an Amels at our shipyard in Vlissingen and to take a look behind the build of the 60-metre Amels limited Editions 2112 in her preparations for her extensive global itinerary.

Part of the Process

Tristan Le Brun oversaw 2112's build journey through to the launch and took delivery of the yacht in Vlissingen before subsequently handing over to the sea-going Captain. Whilst his journey with this Amels 60 ended with the conclusion of the build, his connection to the Owner and being part of the build process dates much further back. Having played a leading role in the selection process that led to the Amels 60, Tristan has a unique perspective on the key factors that make this 60-metre Amels Limited Editions stand out.

"Having known the client for a decade, I was the first point of contact when the client decided to pursue a new build yacht project. This led to an extensive research phase, lasting over a year, where we meticulously reviewed various shipyards, new builds, and second-hand yachts. It was a voyage of discovery that included both explorer vessels and more traditional superyachts. A journey that ultimately led us to the Amels 60. It's where the search ended and the build journey began."

Referred Reliability

With such an extensive research carried out, Tristan highlighted what the deciding factors came down to. During the quest to find the ultimate superyacht to match the client's needs, the possibility to acquire an already-delivered Amels 60 came around. An opportunity that was greatly considered but ultimately, the client opted for a new build Amels 60 - the sixth in the series.

"Strong recommendations, particularly from an Amels 180 Owner, ultimately swayed the decision towards the Amels 60. It became very clear that this was a superyacht that aligned with my client's dream of circumnavigating the globe and his desire for a reliable, top-tier luxury product. While he did consider explorer vessels given his ambitious itinerary plans, the proven track record of the Amels 60 series carried a great appeal factor."

Dual Role

Tristan's role was dual, serving as both the Owner's representative and Build Captain. His experience as a knowledgeable sea-going Captain allowed him to fully understand and implement the Owner's specific requirements.

"I was particularly impressed by the Amels 60 series, noting the significant evolution in the features and technical platform compared to the Amels 180. The leap in the next gen approach to the series in quality and technology is phenomenal, and it's a sentiment I extend to the new Amels 80 series as well."

"Witnessing hundreds of drawings materialise into a stunning yacht, built by the hands of so many skilled craftsmen and women to match such a unique and personal vision of the client, was a profound experience."

Professionalism of the Yard

One of Tristan's most significant highlights of overseeing the Amels 60 2112 build was the unwavering reliability of the Damen Yachting shipyard. He was extremely pleased with the quality of the work, noting the meticulous attention to detail and the absence of any shortcuts. The collaborative spirit between the build team and the yard team also stood out, creating a positive and productive atmosphere.

"Every milestone point was achieved on time and to the highest quality standards. Decisions were made promptly throughout the process and without conflict. Once an agreement was reached, there was never a need for revisions, a testament to the shipyard's professionalism and efficiency."

An Evolution

When it comes to the Amels 60, it is the build philosophy that Tristan believes makes the biggest difference. The space and system to allow the evolution of an already exceptional yacht, with each iteration building upon the successes of its predecessors.

"Being involved from the project's early stages, I witnessed this evolution first-hand, incorporating improvements and upgrades based on observations from earlier builds in the series. This iterative process, I believe, ensures that the Amels 60 remains at the forefront of yacht design. 2112 further distinguishes herself through its improved layout and engineering, a spacious master cabin, the integration of a Dynamic Positioning System, and innovative tender solutions."

21:12 Ready for the World

Reflecting on the broader process, Tristan described the journey from the initial meeting and LOI to the final unveiling as akin a newborn entering into the world. An experience he would be happy to talk any Amels new build Captain through to share his insights.

"If you want to know more, call me! It's such a profound experience. I cannot emphasise the artistry involved in shipbuilding enough. While a yacht might be perceived by some as an object or simply another yacht once on the water, its creation is a testament to human craftsmanship and truly unique. The day before the launch was emotional and the day of the launch was particularly special, with the stunning blue hull emerging from the build shed, offering a unique perspective on the culmination of years of dedication."

Amels 60 at a glance

- Available for delivery in 2025
- Amels 60 (60m/197ft)
- 853 GT
- 12 guests, 12 Crew plus Captain
- Interior Design by Harrison Eidsgaard
- Exterior Design by Espen Øino
- Naval Architecture by Damen Yachting

More about the Amels 60 here

THE YEAR OF THE WOOD SNAKE

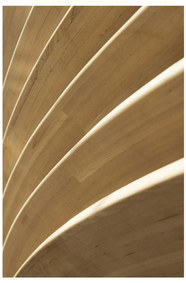
2025

The 2025 Lunar New Year brings the Wood Snake to our door. One of the more elusive symbols in the Chinese Zodiac, the Wood Snake combines wisdom, intuition, and transformation with growth, flexibility and vitality – and the potential for a pivotal year in business.

Just as the Snake sheds its skin, this year represents the opportunity to renew oneself, embrace new possibilities, and leave behind outdated ways.

Astute and insightful, the snake represents wisdom and strategy. The story of Damen Yachting is one that's been over 700 years in the making. Our Vlissingen shipyard resides on the same site as that which served warship construction for the Dutch Admiralty in the 14th Century. With every yacht built, our experience and knowledge is expanded, it's a continual advancement of excellence that has brought us to the pinnacle of superyacht construction.

The snake is known for its intelligence and ability to transform, and this year is significant for growth and renewal.



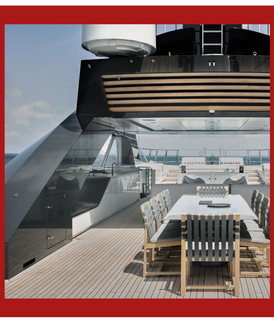
Enhancing the snake's attributes, the wood element is said to bring creativity and flexibility to the snake's traits. We have always encouraged the creativity of our clients, offering broad scope for customisation. Many of the alterations made by owners of the Amels 60, for example, have in turn been implemented in subsequent builds. We continually evolve our model lines to revolutionise the way owners can access and experience the ocean, and some of the launches coming in 2025 begin a new chapter as we look forward to delivery of the first Amels 80 and Xplorer 60.

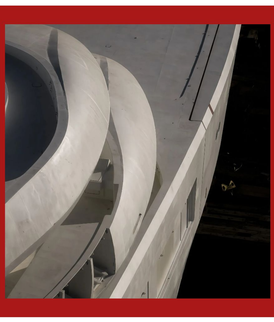
Together in unison, the snake and the wood bring stability. For the team at Damen Yachting, we're never found resting on our laurels, but taking a moment to appreciate our firm footing and industry positioning is important. From here, we can aim even higher.

The Amels 60 affords Owners a huge array of options for customisation, and design adaptations to better suit individual requirements are something we are pleased to encourage. Often, these adaptations become part of the design's natural evolution, as can be seen with changes made to the sun deck layout and main deck window configuration on Amels 6002, ENTOURAGE, which have since featured in each subsequent build.

The latest launch, 6007, showcases each design enhancement made to date.

Find out more





The Wood Snake is a rare combination in the Chinese Zodiac, and it will be 60 years before it comes around again. Can we imagine where superyachting might be, 60 years from now? In Damen Yachting's more immediate future, we are celebrating the launch of the latest Amels 60, the first Xplorer 60, and the next YS52 becoming reality. Our passion for embracing and creating unforgettable experiences remains unwavering.

Setting Sail for Asia

As we embrace the wisdom and adaptability of the Wood Snake this year, Damen Yachting is excited to announce that we'll be heading to Asia. Join us at the Singapore Yachting Festival and the Asia Pacific Superyacht Summit in Hong Kong, where we'll connect with our yachting community, share new perspectives, and continue our journey of exploration and innovation.

Discover Singapore Yachting festival

Latest News

Catch up on Damen Yachting's Latest News in this issue of Finest Moments Digital.

First Xplorer 60 Makes Debut

SX6001 Launched

The first Xplorer 60, SX6001, has been launched in Antalya at Damen Yachting's dedicated Xplorer build facilities. This 60-metre masterpiece is a superyacht that redefines what it means to explore in style, comfort, and complete autonomy. Designed to Explore. Built for Luxury. This Xplorer 60 will now enter the final outfitting phase and is available for delivery in 2025.

Discover Xplorer 60

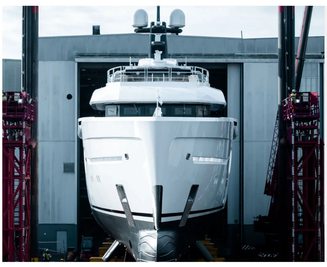
Latest Yacht Support Launched

Third YS53 Afloat

The third Yacht Support from the YS53 series has been launched in Antalya. Following in the footsteps of the two YS53s delivered last year - BAD COMPANY SUPPORT 175 and FIVE OCEANS – this latest 53-metre support yacht will be ready to take on unlimited possibilities and support any yachting need when completed later this year. YS5303 is available for delivery in 2025.

Discover Yacht Support 53

Latest Amels 60 Unveiled



Amels 6007 Launched

The seventh Amels 60 has entered her final build stage following the spectacular launch. This modern, next gen 60-metre Amels Limited Editions features an exterior by Espen Øino International and interior design by Harrison Eidsgaard. This latest Amels 60 will be delivered to her Owner in just a few months ready for a busy private and charter summer itinerary.

Read more

New Amels 80 in Vlissingen

Third Amels 80 Arrives for Outfitting

Following the recent launch at the Damen Yachting hull building facility in Galati, Romania, the latest Amels 80 has now arrived in Vlissingen ready for outfitting. Scheduled for delivery in 2026, this third Amels 80 reflects the continued success of the new 80-metre Amels Limited Editions design.

Read more

ALBATROSS Launched Post Refit

Relaunch of the all-new ALBATROSS

Following an extensive Amels Refit of the 72-metre Delta Marine ALBATROSS, the now 79-metre renewed and transformed superyacht has been relaunched. During the last 26-months at the Damen Yachting Refit facilities she has undergone an impressive refit and rebuild including a 7-metre extenision and a signficant layout transformation in collaboration with Harrison Eidsgaard. ALBATROSS is now in final outfitting and preparing for sea trials.

Read more

A Win for PINK SHADOW

PINK SHADOW wins at China Yacht Awards

The Xplorer 58 PINK SHADOW has gained further industry recognition as an award-winner at the China Yacht Awards 2024. Named Best Exterior Design (40m+), the award was presented on 6 December during the Sanya International Boat Show, organised by Oceanway Magazine. This prestigious recognition highlights PINK SHADOW's standout design, which continues to attract global attention.

Read more

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