WINTER EDITION 2024

FINEST MOMENTS

Inspired by the Sea

2024 in Review

Achieving over 40 Milestones Together

What a year 2024 has been. As we enter the final days and countdown towards the end of December, it's the perfect time to look back and reflect on everything we have achieved this year. And we haven't done it alone. Everything that we as Damen Yachting have sold, built, launched, delivered, arranged, showcased, accomplished and celebrated has been in partnership with our many co-makers and partners. From employees to suppliers, brokers to clients, designers to crew and industry friend friends to many more we would like to thank you for an incredible year of fun, teamwork and delivering on our promises.

Take a look at our Year in Review video highlighting just some of the key moments that made 2024 so special.

Major Milestones

When it comes to project milestones, 2024 has been packed full of them. From arrivals launches and deliveries to introducing a new design and winning prestigious awards. There are too many to give them all a shout out but here's some of our top moments.

Amels 60

We've seen launches at our hull building facility in Poland, arrivals at our Amels shipyard in Vlissingen (the Netherlands) for outfitting, launches pre-delivery and final handovers to proud Owners. In 2024 we delivered three Amels 60s with KHALIDAH and SOLAIA both heading off for their finest moments at sea in Spring. But it was the launch and delivery of the very latest Amels 60 just a couple of months ago that caught the imagination of all those involved. Named 212, this 60-metre (197ft) Amels Limited Editions set sail for a lifetime of family adventures at sea with her stunning hull colour and defining geometric signature windows.

Yacht Support 53

It's been quite a year for our 53-metre Yacht Support with not one but two deliveries taking place. Earlier in 2024 we saw he much anticipated delivery of YS53 BAD COMPANY SUPPORT 175. The very first Yacht Support in the YS53 series and one already busy taking on a very specific vision and mission for her Owner Anthony Hsieh. This Yacht Support forms an on-water mission centre for the world's most ambitious private fishing programme ever undertaken. Following quick on her heels and making their industry debut at this year's Monaco Yacht Show was the second YS53 FIVE OCEANS. With her stand out colour scheme and host to the boat show's biggest onboard party thanks to her generous and multi-functional deck space, FIVE OCEANS turned heads from day one!

Amels 80

2024 was a big year for the Amels 80 with the build of the very first in this all new 80-metre design shaping up nicely and the arrival of number two in Vlissingen taking place in August. And whilst everyone at our Amels yard in the Netherlands is gearing up for launches and deliveries in 2025, our team in Galatz was busy with the launch of the third hull. In spectacular style, the third Amels 80 was launched marking her first splash and the start of her next phase in the build process. Amels 8003 will soon be in Vlissingen for outfitting to get started ahead of her scheduled delivery in 2026. And with plenty of exciting milestones now behind us we look ahead to 2025 which is set to be the year of the Amels 80!

Xplorer

This year's Monaco Yacht Show marked one of the most exciting milestones of 2024 with the first ever boat show showcase of an Xplorer (formerly known as SeaXplore). The Xplorer 58 PINK SHADOW made her debut show appearance at MYS and proved to be quite the showstopper. The first time ever that the industry has had the opportunity to see an Xplorer up close. The response from clients and brokers alike was incredible with them not only impressed with the unique and mind-blowing custom interiors but also appreciating what the concept behind the Xplorer range is all about. Earlier in the year, during Palm Beach International Boat Show, we were also delighted to introduce our all new Xplorer 80 concept. This 80-metre luxury explorer yacht, built for unlimited luxury and boundless exploration, captured the attention of the industry thanks to her flexible configuration designs and alternative custom interiors and exterior design options.

Connecting events

We believe in fostering a strong sense of community within the yachting world. And actively participate in a variety of prestigious boat shows and events around the globe. These gatherings bring together like-minded individuals to explore the latest trends, share insights, and celebrate the art of yacht building. We're dedicated to pushing the boundaries of yacht design and engineering, and our presence at these events allows us to showcase our commitment to excellence.

See You Next Year

Join us at one of our upcoming events next year and experience the world of Damen Yachting firsthand.

Discover more about Damen Yachting

25 Years of Success

Damen's Legacy in Galatz and the Damen Support Foundation

Damen Shipyards' 25th anniversary in Galatz, Romania, is not only a celebration of industry achievement but also a reflection of enduring partnerships. Over the years, the Galatz shipyard has played an important role in Damen's global operations, supporting various divisions, including Damen Yachting. To mark the milestone, Damen Shipyards Group Arnout Damen, together with his sister Annelies Damen (pictured here) and fellow Board members, visited the yard.

Annelies Damen, also a member of the Supervisory Board, shares her experience of what this anniversary means for the company and why this milestone is deeply personal.

"Galatz is more than just a shipyard; it's a community. The people here are part of the Damen family." - Annelies Damen

The shipyard has become a cornerstone of Damen's European operations. Its collaboration with Damen Yachting has produced a variety of vessels, including the latest Amels Limited Editions superyachts. The Amels 80 hulls, currently under construction in Galatz, exemplify this partnership, showcasing Damen Yachting's commitment to craftsmanship and innovation.

The Damen Support Foundation

Damen's commitment to Galatz extends beyond shipbuilding. Following the onset of the war in Ukraine, Annelies Damen initiated the Damen Helpt programme through the Damen Support Foundation, offering critical support to families displaced by the conflict. "The war affected me deeply," Annelies recalls. "With previously having a shipyard in Ukraine, I felt a personal responsibility to help." Since then, the Foundation has become a lifeline for hundreds of Ukrainian women and children who have found refuge in Galatz. At the heart of these efforts is the Community Centre, which provides essential services such as housing, mental health support, sports, and cultural activities. The centre has not only helped families settle into their new lives but also fostered integration with the Romanian community.

Empowering the Next Generation

A significant focus of the Damen Support Foundation is the well-being of children, particularly those affected by the war. Programmes such as the Summer School and Shipbuilder's Adventure Camp have provided opportunities for Ukrainian teenagers to gain new experiences and build friendships. Last year, the Foundation organised a Summer Camp in the Netherlands, where Ukrainian and Damen teenagers bonded through shared activities. This year, the programme shifted to Romania, offering a hands-on introduction to shipbuilding. *"They were so engaged,"* Annelies reflects. *"By the end of the week, they presented their work to Arnout and me, showcasing what they had learned. It was truly inspiring."*

Looking Ahead

As Damen celebrates 25 years of shipbuilding excellence in Galatz, it's clear that their vision reaches far beyond business. The Damen Support Foundation continues to expand, including a Christmas Camp and ongoing support for Ukrainian families across Romania and Poland. With a strong foundation of innovation and compassion, Damen's future in Galatz promises to be as impactful as the past 25 years, both on the water and in the lives of those they touch.

"We've created something truly special here in Galatz. Not only in terms of our work, but in how we've supported the community. I'm proud of what we've accomplished and excited for what the future holds." - Annelies Damen

Amels 80 at a glance

- Amels 80 (80.00 metres / 261 ft)
- 2,175 GT
- 14 guests, 20 crew plus Captain
- Interior Design Sinot Yacht Architecture
- Exterior Design by Espen Øino
- Naval Architecture by Damen Yachting

Discover Amels 80

FINEST MOMENTS

Exploring Greenland

Adventures Above the 60th Parallel

Greenland is a destination of superlatives. The world's biggest island. The most northerly capital. The lowest population density. The country is blessed with 44,000 kilometres of pristine coastline. That's longer than the circumference of the earth.

All these statistics equal one thing. In Greenland an explorer yacht opens one's horizons more than any destination on earth. Especially during the two months of daylight from late May to late July. If you want to helikit down a 2,000-metre-high mountain, or hike into a 1,000-metre-long ice cave, or scuba underneath an iceberg, you'd better bring a boat.

Where The Wild Things Are

Ice diving is a case in point. Tasiilaq fjord has ice sheets that glow underwater like the northern lights and bergs that appear like aquamarine UFOs. Humpbacks and fin whales patrol the fjord's fish-rich depths. Numb lips are a small price to pay for the experience. The good news is that the pain only lasts as long as the RIB ride back to your superyacht sauna.

Nature is the key reason to cruise in. The West Greenland Current is like a refrigerated food chain that serves pink shrimps and Atlantic cod to white-beaked dolphins and narwhals. On land polar bears and Arctic foxes chase musk oxen and Arctic hares. Your captain will pack Zeiss binoculars for this very moment.

An Icy Commute

Transport is the main issue on land. Greenland has mile-thick glaciers and only a few kilometres of asphalt road within the capital of Nuuk. Islanders commute by dog sled or snowmobile. The only solution? Join them. Sledding or skiing across the ice often leads to the world's most remote barbeque spot and a memory to last a lifetime. An explorer yacht lets visitors position up and down the coast near the best activities.

Kayaking is unmissable. Harp seals and minke whales seem entirely unafraid of splashing oars. Icebergs bob like wobbling cathedrals of ice. Indeed kayak, or qajaq, is one of the few Greenlandic words gifted to the English language. Kayaks are how Greenland's current Inuit inhabitants crossed the 26 kilometres from Canada, with earlier migrants arriving via an ice bridge 5,000 years ago.

Microbreweries and Michelin Stars

Five millennia of history awaits. Greenland has a magical Indigenous culture involving animal skin drumming, psychedelic sweaters and imaginative microbreweries. (Immiaq brewery produces 40,000 pints per year seasoned with Arctic thyme and black crowberry.) Inuits colonised this two-million-square-mile island by sledding enormous distances to find iron meteorites in order to craft harpoons and axes. This far north you need to get creative.

But harpoons aren't needed at the world's loneliest fine dining address. Koks is a two-star Michelin restaurant located on Ilulissat fjord. Head chef Poul Andrias Ziska smokes, salts and ferments local ingredients including sea snails and ptarmigan wings. (Only a fool would import Evian or wagyu beef this far north.) Koks' tasting menu is a 22-course voyage through halibut tartare and raw shrimp with wild chamomile kombucha. For Greenland's 100,000 annual visitors, every experience is once-in-a-lifetime.

Moving on? Just as the Inuits journeyed here from Canada, some yacht Owners use Greenland as a stepping stone to the Americas instead. The quickest crossing from Nuuk to Newfoundland and Labrador is just over 1,000 kilometres. Look out for whales en route.

And for the ultimate Greenland experience, don't forget it's an explorer yacht that truly opens horizons and makes sure you are fully ready to take on everything this incredible destination has to offer.

Xplorer 60 at a glance

- Xplorer 60 (60m/197ft)
- Available for delivery in 2025
- LY60 GT
- 12 guests, 16 Crew plus Captain
- Naval Architecture by Damen Yachting

More about the Xplorer 60 here

Crew Connections

Crew of AXIS during FLIBS 2024

For Damen Yachting, fleet engagement is all about recognising the professionalism, hard work and dedication of our own fleet as well as superyacht fleets worldwide. Something truly important to us as a company and our values of teamwork, fun and delivering on our promises. The event agenda of recent months has meant we've had a great opportunity to create connections with crew from around the globe and here's some of the highlights!

Crew from our fleet of showcases enjoying the team dinner at MYS 2024

FLIBS & MYS

From Europe to the United States, this Autumn we've been connecting with crew whilst we've been out on the road. During MYS 2024, alongside hosting our own crew from our extensive range of showcases on display at the boat show we also reached out to the wider crew communities in Monaco through the ACREW Crew Lounge at La Rascasse. It was here that we challenged those Captains and Crew visiting the lounge to turn the tide when it comes to ocean conservation with some interactive and competitive fun! We made sure we took the fun stateside later in October and were delighted to host a number of Captains and Crew aboard the Yacht Support 5009 AXIS for an incredible social mixer.

Crew Awards 2024

We may be the ones who build the yacht that will take Owners and their guests on adventures and journeys on oceans far and wide, but it is those running the yachts on a daily basis that ensure the experience. That's why we, under our flagship brand Amels, were delighted to sponsor this year's Crew Awards hosted by ACREW and held at the Anantara Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky in Amsterdam on 16th November.

"The "Crystal Gala" set an enchanting atmosphere to recognise the remarkable achievements of all the Captains and Crew, including those from our own Amels, Xplorer and Yacht Support fleet." - **Sarah Flavell**

One of the deserved award winners at the Crew Awards 2024 was Captain Marlies Sanders (pictured here (right) with Captain Malwenn (left) who we recently interviewed for her incredible achievements as an Ice Navigator in the North West Passage). We had the wonderful honour of interviewing Marlies, an advocate for and member of our Damen Yachting Women in Yachting initiative, earlier this year after she visited our shipyard in Vlissingen as part of a Crew Fam trip designed to introduce non-Damen yachting / Amels Captains to our company, product range and facilities. Here's a look at some of what Marlies has to say on working as a female captain in our industry and her journey from the Boardroom to the Bridge.

Left to right: Malwenn Baodle and Marlies Sanders.

Captain's Call with Marlies Sanders

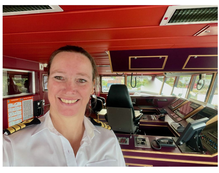
Some people choose yachting as their career, and sometimes yachting chooses them. Marlies Sanders is one such individual. Having turned her back on a corporate career in Paris and Rotterdam, Marlies ventured to India to quench her thirst for travel. She was invited to join a yacht for an Atlantic Crossing and the rest, as they say, is history.

"She was invited to join a yacht for an Atlantic crossing and the rest, as they say, is history."

"Every-other-week I was away and I never saw anything – just the inside of a conference room, a hotel room, etc. I asked the company for a sabbatical, which they declined, so I left! I bought a plane ticket to Delhi and spent the next 18 months seeing the world I'd been missing out on." - **Marlies Sanders**

"When I took up the invitation to do an Atlantic crossing, I had very little comprehension as to what yachting was all about. I got to the other side of the Atlantic, and I still didn't know! I met a Captain in need of a Chef and before I knew it, I became the chef, accountant, and mate aboard a 80ft yacht. This experience helped me identify two things. Firstly, that I wanted to be in yachting and, secondly, that I was particularly interested in a role on deck." - **Marlies Sanders**

Years and yachts later, now qualified as an Officer of the Watch, Master 500, and most recently, Master 3000, Marlies reflects on her career in yachting and why she now strives to be a dependable and inspiring leader.



"I really love what I do. The camaraderie that comes with solid teamwork has always appealed to me. I know what it's like to try and ascend the ranks. I've been the deckhand, the chef, the chief officer, the captain, the engineer, and the stew. And whilst there's a natural progression to things, there are challenges. I always try to remember what it's like to be on the receiving end of an instruction or feedback." - **Marlies Sanders**

Discover our Damen Yachting Fleet

DAMEN yachting

Mastering Mixology

Inspired Cocktail Creations

Mixing up the perfect cocktail is one thing, turning it into an art form that can enhance any onboard experience is another. That's why we invited Dutch mixologist Gies Neienhuijsen, to join us during the recent Monaco Yacht Show and take our guests on a sensory journey that perfectly aligned with the yachts hosting them.

Gies Neienhuijsen: A Passion for Craftsmanship

For Gies, the path to becoming a master mixologist was rooted in his upbringing in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Born into a family of catering entrepreneurs, he was introduced to the world of hospitality from an early age. At just 14, Gies began working in his parents' restaurant, quickly becoming captivated by the art of serving guests. His fascination with mixology grew as he moved from the back of the kitchen to the bar, where he discovered his true calling.

At 18, Gies took a bold step, leaving for Aruba to work at a beach club. There, he spent his days perfecting tropical favourites like Mojitos and Piña Coladas, but more importantly, he began to develop an understanding of how to balance ingredients to create something truly special. Upon his return to the Netherlands, Gies set his sights on perfecting the craft of mixology, learning and experimenting at a celebrated cocktail bar back home.

Now, with seven years of experience and countless hours of perfecting his techniques, Gies is ready to open his own cocktail bar. But before he embarks on that journey, he brought his artistry to Monaco, where he crafted a set of cocktails that seamlessly blended his personal story with the refined atmosphere of the yachts on which they were served.

"What made the sunset cocktails on MOONSTONE and PINK SHADOW so memorable was not only Gies's technical skills but the way he captured the essence of each yacht in his creations. For Gies, crafting a cocktail is about more than mixing ingredients; it's about evoking emotion, storytelling, and drawing inspiration from the environment around him. Each drink told a story, one that resonated with the yachts themselves." - **Pim Nordt**

Cocktail Creations Inspired by MOONSTONE and PINK SHADOW

Amels 200 MOONSTONE—with her elegant, modern design—called for cocktails that embodied timeless sophistication, yet offered a bold edge. Gies took classic cocktail elements and elevated them, much like the yacht herself. His drinks aboard MOONSTONE mirrored this balance, presenting flavours that were familiar yet unexpected, inviting guests to indulge in the refined art of mixology.

In contrast, Xplorer 58 PINK SHADOW's spirit called for a different approach. With her striking design and adventurous nature, this yacht inspired Gies to push boundaries in his cocktails, experimenting with surprising combinations and unexpected garnishes. Just as PINK SHADOW stands out in any harbour, Gies's creations dared to be different, with drinks that were as visually striking as they were flavourful. What made these cocktails truly unique was their ability to transport guests beyond the drink itself.

Gies carefully selected ingredients that reflected the Mediterranean setting, the spirit of adventure on the open sea, and the luxury of life on board. Whether it was the delicate sparkle of champagne paired with a vibrant splash of passionfruit, or the complex notes of bourbon complemented by an unexpected dash of sea salt, each drink was designed to be an experience in itself, a journey in a glass.

"I have devoted all my free time to learning everything there is know about the mixology and mastering the art of cocktail making. It's creative and fun and yet scientific and precise all brought together to challenge both the mixologist and the one experiencing the end result. It's a refined form of taste, balance, art and entertainment that takes patience and time to master. But with passion and determination, anything you truly want is possible." - **Gies Neienhuijsen**

The Art of Connection

For Gies, the art of mixology extends beyond taste—it is about creating connections, both between flavours and between people. Gies's cocktails act as a bridge, connecting guests with the spirit of the event; bringing people together in celebration.

His approach to cocktail-making is rooted in a deep respect for tradition, while simultaneously embracing innovation. Each creation is thoughtfully crafted, with every element—whether it's the base spirit, the garnish, or even the glassware—playing a role in telling a story. Gies's story is one of passion, perseverance, and a relentless drive to perfect his craft, and these qualities are reflected in every drink he serves.

Discover more about upcoming events

Latest News

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

Latest Amels 80 Launched

Splash time for our 80-metre

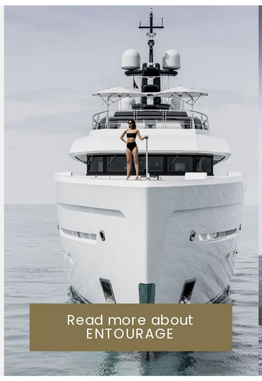
The third hull from the Amels 80 Limited Editions design has been launched at the Damen Yachting hull-building facility in Galati, Romania. Following her impressive splash, the 80-metre (261-foot) superyacht will now enter the next phase of her build with outfitting set to get started at our shipyard in Vlissingen the Netherlands.

Watch the video of the Launch

ISS Awards 2024

2 Finalists at This Year's ISS Awards!

We were delighted to see two of our yachts named as finalists at this year's ISS awards. Both the Amels 60 ENTOURAGE and the Xplorer 58 PINK SHADOW were put in the spotlight during the award ceremony which took place during Fort Lauderdale International Boar Show. Congratulations to all the winners!



Read more about ENTOURAGE

Read more about PINK SHADOW

Explorer Yacht Summit 2024

In November we headed to Monaco as key partner for the only industry summit dedicated to explorer yachting. Hosted by BOAT International, this one-day event brings together some of our industry's most brilliant minds, builders, adventurers, scientists, Owners, Captains and ocean conservationists to discuss pressing topics and first-hand experience with an audience keen to find out more on what explorer yachting is really all about.Hosted by BOAT International, this summit is the premier event for the global explorer yacht community. As a key partner, Damen Yachting is dedicated to advancing the explorer yacht industry, uniting adventurers and industry leaders to discuss topics such as remote travel, crew development, and ocean conservation.

Discover Xplorer Yachting

Amels 60 21.12 Delivered

On the 16th October we waved farewell to our most recently completed Amels 60. Named 21.12 this 60-metre (197ft) Amels Limited Editions embarked on her maiden voyage to Dartmouth in the UK. We wish her Owner and crew fair seas and following winds!

Read more about Amels 60 21.12

CuriCurious to read more? Keep up to date on all things Damen Yachting

All latest news