

MAY 2024

Yachting World

YOUR BEST SEASON YET

12 DREAM SAILING EXPERIENCES

+ SHORTCUTS TO PARADISE REVEALED



EXPERT TIPS

Golden rules of line handling

Mid-ocean repairs

BOAT TEST DOUBLE

SHOGUN 43

Stylish, Swedish speedster

BESTEVAER 36

Genius in a small package

UNDISCOVERED GREECE

Cruising away from the crowds

SMOOTH HANDOVER

How to avoid pitfalls when buying new



Grand Soleil Blue

LOA 11m 36ft 0in • **Hull length** 9.99m 32ft 8in

• **Beam** 3.7m 12ft 2in • **Draught** 2.2m 7ft 3in

• **Displacement** 3,300kg 7,275lb

• The high starting **price** of €259,000 ex VAT reflects thermoplastic resin build technique. • grandsoleil.net

It wasn't until the end of a lengthy press conference in Düsseldorf that Grand Soleil's management team dropped what was, for me, the bombshell. It has already designed and engineered this fully recyclable 10m fast and cool weekender, which is launching this summer!

Granted, the Cantiere del Pardo yard had plenty of news to share: it celebrated its 50th-anniversary last year with over five successive years of double-digit growth, was bought by Omniverse, and has, over the last couple of years, launched its most impressive large designs to date in the GS65 and GS72.

However, for those of us with a keen eye on sustainability this stunning new GS Blue was big news to have held back. It's the first recyclable

serial production boat built in Italy.

Regular readers may well remember the EcoRacer 25 we tested for European Yacht of the Year a couple of years ago, a testbed platform by young company NL Comp and one designed by Matteo Polli. Polli has drawn the latest range of Grand Soleils, and the Blue sees the designer connecting the big shipyard with his crewmembers at this exciting tech startup.

The GS Blue is built out of thermoplastic resin, which, unlike traditional thermoset resins, can be separated from the glass or carbon fibres and reused at its end of life. Even the sails are made from thermoplastic materials. The 33ft 3.3 tonne craft is described as 'a daysailer with extended range', an easy-to-use boat with a large

stern deck area. It has a 36m² main and can fly a 100m² gennaker.

Propulsion is via a 12kW electric engine, with lithium batteries charged by solar integrated into the deck and hydrogeneration. As standard, autonomy is a healthy 30 miles at 5 knots, which can be doubled with a dual battery pack.

Nauta Design has styled an interior that can sleep four and features a small heads and galley, and an open bulkhead connecting the large forward den. All interior materials are also recyclable. The Blue is 'designed for disassembly', and Cantiere del Pardo says it wants to apply this technology to all its boats – and for a shipyard which produced 220 boats last year, that's another big statement.



Nauta Design interior of the Grand Soleil Blue is made of recyclable materials