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Arcona 50 is the first of a new design collaboration with Niels Jeppesen. Below: twin rudders and transverse tender garage



much wider aft sections than previous models, with more flare above the waterline and soft chines fairly high up the topsides. Twin rudders are positioned further aft than a single rudder, which allows more of the hull's length to be used for accommodation and stowage. This leaves room for a transverse tender garage, without pushing the aft cabins too far forward.

Below decks there's a minimalist Scandinavian style with lots of natural light. Aft cabins can be converted between twin and double formats, while there's a large forward owner's cabin.



Grand Soleil 40 Performance

Hull length 11.90m 39ft 0in **Beam** 4.07m 13ft 4in **Draught** (std keel) 2.40m 7ft 10in
Displacement 7,500kg 16,500lb **Ballast** 2,500kg 5,500lb
Price TBA grandsoleil.net

In recent years there's been a dearth of new performance cruisers of this size, so this model is a welcome addition to the market. It's intended to capitalise on the success of the Grand Soleil 44, which won last year's ORC World Championship, yet has a comfortable and spacious interior. Like the larger boat it's offered in both Performance and Race versions.

Designer Matteo Polli says the hull lines are "an evolution of the concepts studied for the Grand Soleil 44, giving maximum attention to the balance of volume as heel increases." Nevertheless, the bow profile has been kept fine by today's standards to reduce wetted surface area and minimise motion and slamming in a seaway.

The Performance version has a self-tacking jib as standard, while the Race model adds transverse jib sheet tracks, an extra pair of winches and a recessed mainsheet traveller. It also comes with a bowsprit and hydraulic backstay. Both have a single rudder positioned well forward of the disturbed water near the transom.

Three keels are offered – a 2.4m draught with cast iron blade and lead

torpedo optimised for IRC racing, a 2.1m version aimed at ORC competition and a 1.85m shoal keel for cruisers who need the flexibility to enter shallow harbours and anchorages.

Interior design and external styling is by Nauta, which has created a spacious three cabin layout, including a large owner's suite forward with a peninsula bed and plenty of floor space. The port side of the saloon is given over to a 2.6m long linear galley, which has much more stowage and worktop space than is generally associated with performance cruisers of this size. The first example is scheduled to be unveiled at the Cannes boat show in September 2022.

