

NEW YACHTS



ESSENCE 33

A superyacht in all but size

More 'developed' than the Wally Nano, this Dutch daysailer from designer André Hoek shows the same pedigree, with high-quality detail finish

In spite of her glamorous looks and all-round approval by the pundits, the Wally Nano daysailer had a hesitant start mainly owing to build issues. The Essence 33 might look like the Nano, but is a completely new design, slightly smaller and, as designer André Hoek explains, "more developed". But there's no mistaking the pedigree.

The builders of Essence, Yagt BV in the Netherlands, decided to go down the mini-superyacht route with a very high standard of finish, greater emphasis on ease of handling – look at all those winches – and real attention to detail in design, something the Wally Nano initially lacked.

But first of all this yacht has to sail well and with her big bulb and 6ft 6in (2m)

draught she looks stiff. By all accounts she is quick too, especially off the wind, with speeds of more than 15 knots when planing on short waves.

The first yacht – there are five in build already – comes with wheel steering, but a tiller is an option. One has to say that a tiller, with a suitable extension, might be a better choice, leaving more space in the cockpit and providing the helmsman with a better sitting position for sailing upwind.

The pictures show a remarkable degree of high-quality detail in the finishing both on deck and below where there is room for a fairly large double in the eyes of the yacht, a couple of settee berths, a sink and a head.

Propulsion is via a 5kW electric engine powered by lithium cells driving a Maxprop,

the carbon rig is by Hall with rod rigging and a short bowsprit, which looks the part, is fitted with a furling unit and provides the tack point for a gennaker.

An important feature is that she can be handled by one person and with easy access to the mainsheet and headsail winches, sensibly set inboard on plinths, she is nicely set up for short-handed sailing.

There is a lake version and a bluewater version, the main difference being draught. The Essence is moulded in epoxy and Corcell with carbon reinforcements, so she's tough. There is no doubt Hoek's original design had people entranced. It will be interesting to see if he and Yagt can make a success of this appealing-looking sailing yacht. www.hoekdesign.com

DIMENSIONS

LOA 11.11m/36ft 5in
LWL 7.80m/25ft 7in
Beam 2.70m/8ft 9in
Draught 2.00m/6ft 6in



NEW YACHTS

with David Glenn



▲ Above: that big bulb should make her stiff. Neat deck detail. Left: smart accommodation. Main picture: huge cockpit with winches set inboard

ON THE PRODUCTION LINE

Xp 33

Latest in X Yachts' P for Performance range, the Xp 33 can be compared with the yard's successful X-99, but has a 1m longer waterline, 70 per cent higher stability and 15 per cent larger sailplan, hence is calculated to achieve a ten per cent faster VMG upwind. Further performance traits include a 1.9m T-keel and carbon bowsprit (taller carbon rig and deeper keel are options) and the carbon tiller oozes sporty appeal. Like her larger Xp sisters, she's a beamy design, while X have strived to keep weight down by using vacuum-infused laminated sandwich hulls, no hull windows, limited hatches and composite furniture.

Price ex VAT (first 30) €101,900 (£81,600).

www.x-yachts.com



Vilm 37/115

Vilm are a small, quality yard based in Rugen, Germany, that produce classic-looking semi-production boats. Judel Vrolijk draw their modern underwater lines.

Newest versions are the 37 and 115 (pictured).

Though they share the same hull, the former is the more performance-oriented at 6.5 tonnes and the 115 is a motor sailer (7.2 tonnes), which offers the comfort and protection of a fixed cockpit housing, easily managed deck and furling, self-tacking headsail. **Price ex VAT 37 €169,000 (£135,360) 115 €192,000 (£153,780).** www.vilm-yachts.com



Bamba 50

This new venture from La Rochelle-based builders BambaYachts puts the emphasis on home-from-home and offers 120m² of living space. Designed by Michel Joubert to be both a luxuriously comfortable liveaboard and highly fuel efficient, she uses a combination of minimum wetted surface area and 4,000lt tanks to provide a range of 3,000nm under engine. Plus there's that downwind/genoa auxiliary rig.

We will be looking at this boat in closer detail in a forthcoming issue on motor sailers.

Price ex VAT €954,000 (£764,100).

www.bamba-yachts.com

