

ASIA'S LEADING YACHTING LIFESTYLE MEDIA



## GROWING APPEAL OF MULTIHULLS

SUNREEF, LAGOON, FONTAINE PAJOT, LEOPARD, BALI, EXCESS,  
AQUILA, SILENT, ILIAD, NEEL, LEEN, PMG, PRESTIGE, BLUEGAME

**CATAMARAN REVIEWS:** 100 SUNREEF POWER,  
LEOPARD 46 POWERCAT, BALI 4.4

**OTHER REVIEWS:** SUNSEEKER 65 SPORT YACHT, DUFOUR 61,  
BENETEAU GRAN TURISMO 45, NIMBUS T11

**LEADER:** MICHAEL KÖHLER, SILENT-YACHTS

**INTERVIEW:** FIRST PRINCESS X95 FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

**SHOWS:** SANCTUARY COVE, DUBAI, LA GRANDE MOTTE

**RACING:** SAILGP, CLIPPER RACE

HONG KONG: HKD80

CHINA: RMB90

SINGAPORE: SGD12

MALAYSIA: MYR32

THAILAND: THB350

PHILIPPINES: PHP 450

VIETNAM: VND200,000

INDONESIA: IDR 125,000

REST OF THE WORLD: USD12



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COVER PHOTO: 100 SUNREEF POWER



# NEW 51 MODELS LAUNCH GREEN ERA

*The new Fountaine Pajot Aura 51 and Lagoon 51 are spearheading a move by the global catamaran giants into a new era of sustainability, while Sunreef has launched the first two models in its 'solar-skinned' Eco range.*

WORDS NICK HUNG PHOTOS SHIPYARDS & DEALERS



The Lagoon 51 debuted at this year's International Multihull Show in France (far left and far right); the above CGI (middle) shows the model's potential solar panel coverage

When Lagoon staged the world premiere of the Lagoon 51 at a wet, overcast edition of the International Multihull Show at La Grande Motte in late April, it completed a recent upgrade of its mid-size models among a portfolio ranging up to the flagship Seventy 7.

Following the launch of the Lagoon 55 last year, the addition of the 51 offers a second new-generation model to succeed the former 560 and 52, with the last unit of the latter leaving the Bordeaux shipyard in March.

In September, Lagoon plans to show the 51 as part of a strong display at the Cannes Yachting Festival alongside the 42, 46, 55, Sixty 5 and Seventy 7 models in Port Canto, with a Sixty 7 powercat over in Vieux Port with the motor yachts.

"With over 6,000 Lagoons sailing all over the world, Lagoon is the leader of the sailing catamaran market and we want to keep this position, so have recently come up with two very innovative models that answer customer demands in terms of modernity, comfort and space," says Thomas Gailly, Lagoon's Brand Director.

"There's a great demand on the market for mid-sized catamarans like the 51 and 55. In addition, with the commercial success of the Lagoon 42 and 46, we also see a lot of our owners looking to upgrade to larger models."

However, the Lagoon 51 is more than a new model. It's Lagoon's first catamaran to embody the brand's global strategy entitled 'Sailing for Change', which comprises five segments: shipyard certifications, eco-sourced raw materials, eco-responsible equipment onboard, hybrid propulsion and partnerships with green projects.

"The Lagoon 51 is a great example of the direction we're steering

toward," Gailly says. "It's part of a global strategy we started years ago to work on new solutions, not only on new materials but also on the way to build our boats. It's not about promises; it's about real, concrete results."

Already, two of Lagoon's production facilities are certified ISO 9001 (quality processes), ISO 14001 (environmental control) and ISO 50001 (energy management), while the brand aims for the third to be similarly certified by the end of next year. Part of the ISO 14001 certification is the life-cycle management of boats, from selection of materials and suppliers to the end-of-life process.

In terms of eco-sourced raw materials, the 51 is the first Lagoon model to have panels with eco-sourced fibres (hemp), while the aim is to reach 40 per cent bio-resin on the panels. Wood is sourced from FSC forests only, while the Lagoon 51 offers upholstery in a choice of recycled fabrics.

Eco-responsible equipment includes solar panels and water treatment, while every Lagoon now includes ecological, biodegradable cleaning and maintenance products. And for hybrid propulsion, Lagoon's R&D department is working on electric solutions that don't compromise safety or seakeeping in challenging weather and sea conditions.

Meanwhile, the brand's recent partnerships include working with the Escape to Nature documentary team in Melanesia and AnimaMundi, the not-for-profit organisation creating a global database of plastic waste along coastlines.

In terms of design, the 51 features a more traditional aft cockpit than the 55's 'open terrace on the sea'. However, the new era is evident in the potential for custom-fitted solar panels on the flybridge and



Fountaine Pajot's new Aura 51 (left and right) is the first model launched by the brand under its new Odyssea 2024 strategic plan

optional hardtop, with the 'XXL solution' providing over 3,400W to power all systems except for air-conditioning.

Other notable features include extended transoms that double as swim platforms and a more spacious foredeck that can be sheltered by a canopy. And with the mast stepped further forward, the saloon seating area has increased so up to eight people can comfortably dine inside.

The 51 is also the first Lagoon to be fitted with Groupe Beneteau's new Seanapps technology as standard, allowing owners greater connectivity to their boat, its systems and maintenance schedule.

Lagoon sales remain strong in Asia, where big cats include units of the Sixty 5 in Hong Kong and the Philippines. The flagship Seventy 7 continues to sell well, with hulls in the Philippines, China and one cruising the Pacific having been sold to a Singapore client by Simpson Marine, a long-time Lagoon dealer.

Gailly is also proud about a new Seventy 7 soon set to arrive in Japan, where it will be the biggest sailing yacht in the country and an upgrade for an owner who seven years ago sailed his Lagoon 620 all the way from France to Japan.

"Like many of our clients, the owner is part of the Lagoon family and this loyalty towards the brand is the best reward we can get," Gailly says. "It not only shows how much people enjoy their boat but also how happy they are with the level of service they get. There's no better investment than making our customers happy and proud of their boat."

#### FOUNTAINE PAJOT'S ODYSSEY

Fountaine Pajot's new Aura 51, which will officially premiere at this year's Cannes Yachting Festival, leads a new generation of models from the La Rochelle builder as part its Odyssea 2024 strategic plan focused on 'innovation for building the sustainable boat of tomorrow'.

In immediately visible terms, the Aura 51 features four-five times as much surface area for solar panels as its predecessor, resulting in output of 2,000W. Furthermore, as part of the brand's ongoing pursuit of eco-friendly technology, electric engines are being introduced and will feature on the Aura 51 on show at Cannes.

"Putting environmental sustainability at the heart of the design of this boat and those that will follow from our shipyard was a major objective for the Aura 51," says Romain Motteau, Fountaine Pajot's Deputy CEO.

"By adding other components that favour sustainable development, such as hybrid engines or batteries that can be recharged by the sun, we've envisaged a boat with negative consumption, capable of producing more energy than it consumes without resorting to fossil fuels in normal use.

"In the same vein, electricity generated by renewable energy makes it possible to produce drinking water and run the refrigerator or the air-conditioning needed on board."

In its stated quest to "become leaders in the environmental transition of yachting", Fountaine Pajot says its mission is two-fold: to build its boats using the least amount of non-renewable energy



Launched in 2021, the Lagoon 55 (left) features an aft 'open terrace on the sea'; the Sixty 5 (right) is the brand's second-biggest sailing cat



Fountaine Pajot's Isla 40 (left) premiered at last year's Cannes Yachting Festival, while the Alegria 67 (right) remains its flagship



The Bali 4.4 is the brand's newest catamaran and among five sailing models it has debuted since 2020

possible and reducing clients' carbon emissions while cruising to zero.

To achieve the latter, the La Rochelle shipyard is focusing on energy and propulsion, equipment and the impact of waste, and sustainable material. The ODSea Lab – which stands for observe, design and save – is the company's in-house innovation hub, engaging the yard's engineering office, suppliers and other partners in the pursuit of decarbonised boating.

The Aura 51 is not only the flagbearer of Fountaine Pajot's new commitment to sustainable development. The third-biggest of seven sailing models ranging from the Isla 40 to the Alegria 67, the Aura 51 is the brand's first 51-footer to offer six en-suite double cabins.

Also for the first time, the builder has created three owner versions. The five-cabin Maestro features the master and a double in the port hull, and three doubles to starboard. The four-cabin Double Maestro features a master and a guest cabin in each hull, while the four-cabin Full Maestro has the master occupying the whole port hull and three cabins to starboard.

The major innovation on the main deck features a 10ft-wide opening between the aft cockpit and the indoor area, which features an aft galley, island bar, a long saloon to starboard and a huge skylight.

"This opening creates an almost unique volume between saloon, galley and aft cockpit," Motteau says. "The area for entertaining is truly immense, inside and out. This makes the Aura 51 a sailing yacht that's both pleasurable to live on and respectful of nature."



Bali is developing the Catsmart, its new entry-level model

### BALI KEEPS EXPANDING

In late April, Bali staged the world premiere of its 4.4 alongside its other five sailing models at the International Multihull Show at La Grande Motte, just a couple of hours along France's south coast from its headquarters in Canet-en-Roussillon.

The Bali 4.4 (see *Review in this issue*) is the latest of a remarkable series of new models launched over the past couple of years from a brand founded in 2014 by Catana Group owner Olivier Poncin. It started with the world premiere of the Catspace at the Boot Düsseldorf indoor show in Germany in January 2020 and continued that year with the launches of the 4.8 – the brand's second-biggest model whose layout options include a remarkable version with six ensuite cabins – and the 4.6.

Last year, Bali launched the 4.2 and that was followed by the 4.4, which officially premiered this April, extending the brand's range of sailing catamarans to six, a remarkable tight-knit portfolio that currently spans from the 40ft Catspace to the flagship Bali 5.4 that debuted in 2018.

Bali's ability to quickly entrench itself as a major player alongside Lagoon, Fountaine Pajot and Leopard in this sector is primarily because of its distinctive design innovations. The most notable is the wide 'Bali door' that electrically lifts into the ceiling and converts the cockpit and interior social space into one connected area.

Others include the solid foredeck, which notably increases living space and is complemented by a foredeck door on all but the smallest models. Sliding saloon windows, flybridges and huge fridges are other recognisable traits.

Recent Bali arrivals into Asia include a heavily customised Bali 4.8 with flybridge hardtop into Hong Kong for Asiamarine owner Eric Noyel, with the boat also placed into the company's charter offerings. Asiamarine has represented Bali in Hong Kong and key Southeast Asia markets since 2020.

And just when you thought Bali might pause for breath, the brand recently released designs for the Catsmart, a 38ft 7in cat with a 21ft 2in beam that will sit just below the Catspace as the new entry model.

Innovations include twin helm stations and a lowered boom due to the absence of a flybridge, while accommodation options range from a two-master layout featuring one en-suite cabin in each hull to a four-cabin layout with each hull featuring two cabins and a shared bathroom.

### LEOPARD SHOWING FULL FLEET

Leopard completed a refresh of their sailing models last year with the launch of the Leopard 42, which recently won the Sail 40-45' category in the 2022 Multihull of the Year awards.

Having shown the model at this year's International Multihull Show along with the 45 and 50 plus the 46 and 53 Powercats, Leopard plans to also exhibit its full five-strong fleet at the Cannes Yachting Festival in September. The brand also predicts production this year to be back to pre-Covid levels of close to 200 units and expects this to rise to 220 in 2023.

The Leopard 42, which made its Asia-Pacific debut at the Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show last year, reflects ongoing input from Simonis Voogd, the Dutch design studio that also has an office in Cape Town, home of Leopard builder Robertson & Caine.

The model comes with three or four en-suite cabins – the latter an impressive offering on a 42-footer – and retains all the brand's signature features including the foredeck cockpit with direct access from the saloon.

Other signature features on Leopard sailing cats include the semi-raised helm to starboard, where the skipper has a flybridge view but can also communicate with those in the cockpit. In addition, and unlike her predecessor, the 42 includes an upper lounge following the lead taken by the 50 and 45, while solar panels and lithium batteries are an option.

"The flybridge lounge has been a very popular feature. Leopard engineered the lounge in such a way that you're not compromising sail area and the boats still maintain the efficiency of the protected, single-handed helm station," says Kit Chotithamaporn, Leopard's Yacht Sales Manager – Asia.

"The lounge offers yet another usable space onboard and is the ideal place to enjoy a sundowner at the end of the day."

### SUNREEF SAILS INTO ECO ERA

Sunreef kick-started 2022 by launching its first two solar-skinned sailing catamarans, the Polish builder splashing the first Sunreef 80 Eco in icy waters in Gdansk before following up in April by lowering the first Sunreef 60 Eco into the water.

The Sunreef 80 Eco, which has a beam of 38ft, was scheduled to have its world premiere at the Dubai International Boat Show in March, but after missing the event due to shipping delays, she

Leopard introduced its 42 last year and plans to show all of its sailing and power catamarans at this year's Cannes Yachting Festival



Upper lounge on the Leopard 45

remained in the UAE for sea trials and tests.

"After the show, we had customers on board for sea trials and they were impressed by how the yacht combines luxury and sustainability," says Francis Lapp, founder and CEO of a company now celebrating its 20th anniversary. "We had very positive feedback on the silent engines and efficiency of the solar panels. It was also a good opportunity to test the energy-saving air-conditioning system."

Unlike most other yachts with solar panels, Sunreef's Eco models feature a proprietary 'solar skin' that can be applied on curved surfaces. The first 80 Eco features solar panels integrated into her hull sides, superstructure, bimini roof and even mast.

The 80 Eco's sail wardrobe includes a 200sqm mainsail, 155sqm Genoa, 340sqm gennaker and 70sqm staysail. Under sail, the yacht can produce green energy continuously due to her hydrogenation system, while other green tech includes custom-engineered, lightweight batteries and highly efficient air-conditioning.

"The first tests have shown a very good performance of all the systems – a very smooth cruising experience, efficient solar-power system, autonomy and hydrogenation while under sail," says Lapp.

"Sunreef Eco yachts obviously allow for massive fuel savings and it's worth emphasising that the electric engines are almost maintenance-free. An owner of one of our electric Sunreef sail cats





*Sunreef recently launched the first 60 Eco (left); aft cockpit and saloon of the first Sunreef 80 Eco (right)*

(without solar panels) has been cruising for three years without maintenance of the engines.”

Sunreef offers Eco versions of all its current range of luxury, semi-custom sailing catamarans, which comprise the 50, 60, 70 and 80 models. Remarkably, the Sunreef 80 – which spearheaded the range with its world premiere at the 2018 Cannes Yachting Festival – is not only the largest but also the best-selling model in the existing Sail range.

**AND THERE'S MORE**

Excess showed all three of its existing models, the 11, 12 and flagship 15, at this year's International Multihull Show and will premiere the Excess 14 at Cannes in September.

Models by the young Groupe Beneteau brand are designed to offer

the ‘sensation’ of sailing monohulls with the living space and stability of a catamaran. Like the other models, the VPLP-designed Excess 14 has twin helm stations aft, while innovations include asymmetric hulls featuring redesigned windows.

World premieres at La Grande Motte included the aluminium CK 70 by Squall Marine and the Windelo 54 Yachting, which joins the Windelo 50 among eco-friendly solar-electric cats produced by the Canet-en-Roussillon shipyard. Upcoming models include the 47 and 57, with all models available in Adventure, Yachting and Sport versions.

Meanwhile, Neel showed its 43, 47 and 51 trimarans at La Grande Motte. The La Rochelle shipyard is represented in key Asia-Pacific markets by Multihull Solutions, whose offerings are outlined in the next chapter of *Multihulls Specials 2022*. ✧

*The first Sunreef 80 Eco pictured sailing in Dubai, where the yacht's solar-electric and air-conditioning systems have been well tested*

