



A line-up of the best sailing yachts and powerboats of 2022

The Oscars of boat building

The winners of the two prestigious awards, 'European Yacht of the Year 2022' for sailing yachts and 'European Powerboat of the Year 2022' for powerboats, were announced this Friday as part of a virtual awards ceremony. The watersports industry's 'Oscars' are traditionally awarded at the end of January at FLAGSHIP NIGHT, the maritime industry event organised by publishing house Delius Klasing and 'Boot' Düsseldorf during the world's largest watersports trade fair. As a result of the pandemic, the awards ceremony was held online once again, and the announcement of the prize winners is now available to view on the [YACHT tv](#) and [BOOTE tv](#) YouTube channels.

Bielefeld/Hamburg, 21 January 2022. The international 'European Yacht of the Year' awards have just been presented for the 19th time, and the 'European Powerboat of the Year' accolades for the 16th time, albeit virtually again because of the pandemic and not live in front of a large audience. As always, the winners of these prestigious awards were chosen by an expert jury consisting of the testing coordinators and editors-in-chief of Europe's leading twelve sailing and eight powerboating magazines. The jury is chaired by the two editors-in-chief Jochen Rieker from YACHT and Torsten Moench from BOOTE. This year's virtual awards ceremony, which was recorded in the Hamburg editorial offices of YACHT and BOOTE magazines, was hosted by Jochen Rieker and BOOTE deputy editor-in-chief Ralf Marquard.

A large number of new sailing yachts are launched in Europe every year; however, only five boatbuilders can claim the title 'European Yacht of the Year 2022'. Travel restrictions and quarantine regulations once again hampered the necessary and complicated job of putting each of the 24 nominated candidates through their paces in La Rochelle on the west coast of France and in Port Ginesta to the south of Barcelona back in autumn 2021. The jury members from the twelve sailing magazines from Norway (Seilmagasinet), Sweden (Båtägande), the United Kingdom (Yachting World), the Netherlands, (Zeilen), Switzerland (marina.ch), France (Voiles et Voiliers), Spain (Náutica y Yates), Denmark (Bådmagasinet), Austria (Yachtrevue), Italy (Vela e Motore), Finland (Vene) and Germany (YACHT) covered almost 3,000 nautical miles to determine boatbuilding's best in class for 2022.

Over the past 19 years, the sailing jury has awarded the title of 'European Yacht of the Year' some 90 times, with more than 400 yachts nominated in total.



The most successful boatbuilding nation is France with 34 awards, followed by Germany with 10, and Denmark and Italy with 8 award-winning sailing yachts each.

This year's winner in the **Cruising Boat** category was the **Hanse 460** – a completely new development by Germany's largest series-production shipyard boasting visual appeal courtesy of French designer Olivier Racoupeau. According to the jury's verdict, "Hanse has brought the most sought-after yacht of this size onto the market with a French flourish. Not only is the Hanse 460 a clear winner from a design perspective, but this 'big one' from Greifswald also stands out in everything it has to offer." Price: around 322,370 euros.

The **JPK 39 Fast Cruiser** won the 'European Yacht of the Year' award for 2022 in the **Performance Cruiser** category. As the name suggests, she is an exhilaratingly fast cruising boat that performs exceptionally in every respect. The jury ultimately decided in favour of the French shipyard and its JPK 39 in an extremely competitive field since it ticks every box from a sailing perspective – and virtually every other box besides. Price: around 244,000 euros.

In the **Luxury Yacht** category, the **Hallberg-Rassy 50** triumphed. According to one of the jury members, "This is a boat made up of every right decision it's possible to make." Winning the title in this class is next to impossible, but this luxury tourer has no notable shortcomings, is a joy to sail, and manages to preserve the very essence of the brand while incorporating some exceptionally innovative features. Price: around 1.57 million euros.

This year, the 'European Yacht of the Year' award in the **Special Boats** category went to the **Saffier SE 33 Life**. The members of the jury were unanimous in their praise of this daysailer, designed in IJmuiden in the Netherlands, describing it as a "thing of pure pleasure", a "sensationally cool boat" and even "the philosopher's stone". The daysailer specialists from Saffier Yachts won over the experts with the SE 33 Life in every aspect, with its intrinsic qualities and sailing characteristics entirely worthy of the highest scores. Price: around 160,000 euros.

When reflecting on the **Outremer 55**, the jury determined: "When budget doesn't even factor into the equation, those with a penchant for fast travel will find there is no better boat on the market for enjoying long ocean passages with a large crew than the Outremer 55. The winner in the **Blue Water Yacht** category combines the speed and range of a high-performance catamaran with the comfort of a fully fledged long-distance yacht." Price: around 1.48 million euros.



For the first time this year, the jury members of Europe's leading sailing magazines have given a **Special Commendation** to three innovative developments: **Elvstrøm eXRP Ekko** – the first sail made from 100 per cent recycled material. Another commendation was awarded to the **Windelo 50** as the boat with the most sustainable construction concept. The jury also commended the **TriCat 6.90** as the most versatile of the nominated new designs.

The presentation of the 'European Powerboat of the Year 2022' for motorboats is always an exciting affair – and this year was no different. The expert jury comprised editors-in-chief and testers from eight leading European powerboat publications from Norway (Båtliv), Italy (Boatmag.it), France (Neptune), the Netherlands (Motorboot), Spain (Nautica y Yates), Switzerland (marina.ch), Austria (Yachtrevue) and Germany (BOOTE).

More than 200 new powerboat models are launched every year. The experts from the powerboat media outlets had to decide on the 23 nominees for the European Powerboat Awards 2022 with the aid of a sophisticated points system. Besides the usual quality features of a powerboat, such as workmanship or handling properties, the jury focused in particular on the candidates' layouts, safety and value for money. Ultimately, the implementation of innovative ideas and concepts can also be a decisive factor.

In the small **Sports Boats up to 8 metres** class, the **Axopar 22 T-Top** ultimately won the race in 2022. The factors that tipped the scales in favour of the Axopar 22 T-Top were its overall concept, which is aimed at a young target group, and its great handling characteristics. It really does raise the bar in both areas as well as offering good value for money. Price: around 59,200 euros.

With the launch of the **Galeon 325 GTO**, the Polish shipyard has successfully recreated the proven concepts of the larger Galeon models in a 10-metre model to qualify for the category of **Motor Boats up to 10 metres**. The folding sideboards and open bow area in particular offer an entirely new level of comfort in the 10-metre class. Price: around 279,600 euros.

If there's a name that's synonymous with Scandinavian boatbuilding quality, it has to be Marex. In fact, the latest model to join the Norwegian fleet is yet another prime example of why this reputation is so well deserved. Sophisticated solutions for every last detail and the safe handling characteristics of the **Marex 330 Scandinavia** are what clinched the win in the **Motor Boats up to 14 metres** class. Price: around 400,000 euros.



In the **Powerboats up to 20 metres** class, the jury opted for the **Absolute 48 Coupé**. With the 48 Coupé, Absolute has once again combined a groundbreaking design with the very best boatbuilding skills to really blow the competition out of the water. With features including on-board solar panels, the Absolute is almost entirely self-sufficient at anchor. Price: around 916,300 euros.

In the non-LOA-dependent **Displacement Hull** class, the 2022 'European Powerboat of the Year' award went to the **Beneteau Grand Trawler 62**. The jury stated: "The Grand Trawler 62 is brimming with new ideas for future touring boats and definitely has what it takes to be a real trailblazer in this class. What's more, she also won us over with her handling characteristics, range and great workmanship. It's not just the XXL flybridge that makes the Grand Trawler 62 a major player, either. Price: around 1.65 million euros.

The jury of Europe's leading powerboat magazines has awarded the **Innovation Award 2022** to the **Mercury 7.6L V12 600HP Verado**, saying, "The latest and most powerful Mercury outboard has an ingenious steering system: it's not the entire engine that moves when steering, but just the shaft – up to a maximum angle of 45°. The engine also has a 2-speed automatic gearbox, which allows it to operate in the optimum range at all times."

What's more, the electrically powered **X-SHORE EELEX 8000** motorboat has received a **Special Commendation** from the jury. According to the expert panel of motorboat media outlets, "We would like to highlight the Eelex 8000 at this point, as it is an impressive example of the potential pathways and technical solutions to the high-speed electric boats of the future."

Detailed reports on all the award winners are set to follow in YACHT 4/2022 (available from retailers from 2 February) and BOOTE 3/2022 (available from retailers from 16 February) as well as on the online portals at www.yacht.de and www.boote-magazin.de.

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