



# The sunshine yacht

Taking the fuel out of yachting, and putting the pleasure back into cruising, Silent Yachts offers a world of solar powered luxury that puts both the owner and the environment first.

by Julia Zaltzman

**P**ure solar-powered luxury – that is the yachting promise that Austrian company Silent Yachts provides. With a growing range of yacht models to its name, and even a VIP ferry, the progressive company prides itself on being the first to develop oceangoing production yachts that are fully solar sustainable and powered by solar energy. Even a sailing yacht requires a diesel engine to leave the marina or bay, and diesel power is also required when the wind is too weak to be used for sailing, or if it is blowing from the wrong direction.

Silent Yachts can be driven for hours at around six to eight knots, and even the whole night at a reduced speed without need to start the generator. And depending upon the motor configuration, some models can accelerate to a top speed of up to 20 knots for a limited period of time. Whether at anchor or when cruising up to 20-30 miles per day, life aboard continues without the need to engage the generator – not even for household appliances, such as when cooking, running the air conditioning, or switching on lights.

Now, after years of meticulous development, Silent Yachts is soon to be launching its first Silent 80. Scheduled for delivery in April 2020, and currently under construction in Ancona, Italy, the Silent 80 is the brand's largest solar-powered electric catamaran to date. With interiors designed by Marco Casali and naval architecture by Insenaval, it's nearing superyacht territory.

A flexible design means models of the Silent 80 can be built with either four or six guest cabins, depending on the owner's requirements, with additional quarters for crew. Also available with the option of a retractable fly roof, the compact 24m yacht can accommodate a tender inside the port hull and jet skis inside the starboard hull. Even more impressively, it can carry a gyrocopter on floats on the hydraulic stern platform, making it a day cruiser with an explorer edge.





Four Silent 80 models were sold even before the latest incarnation was unveiled at the Cannes Yachting Festival in September. Also making waves at Cannes, the new and improved upgraded version of the Silent 55. With the yacht sporting a completely revised drivetrain with significantly more battery power, two times more powerful e-motors and structural improvements from its 2018 forerunner, one Silent 55 has already been built with three more on order.

“Our best-selling 16.7m innovative solar electric catamaran has been upgraded and become even better than it used to be,” says Michael Köhler, Silent Yachts founder and CEO. “We did these updates and changes because we always try to improve and to install the best and latest technology available to satisfy our clients. We have built one new Silent 55 already and we’ve got three more orders for this model, which shows that we’re heading in the right direction.”

With 30 high-efficiency solar panels rated for approximately 10 kilowatt-peak, the Silent 55 uses maximum power point tracking (MPPT) solar charge regulators and lithium batteries, which enable it to cruise all night non-stop. A 15-kVA inverter provides power for all household appliances, and the electrical system even extends to a powered aft swim platform and a 1,500-watt electric windlass. On the rare occasion that the batteries require charging when out at sea, the generator can be used.

Owners can choose from five different layouts to tailor the boat to individual needs, ranging from three to six staterooms with three or four heads. All staterooms offer double or twin berths, and all heads include a separate shower. Lounging in the sun is afforded on the large open foredeck, while the hub of the yacht is located on the flying bridge where guests can gather for panoramic views. The uniqueness of silent cruising is at its best.

