

# SUPERSAIL







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with David Glenn



### HOEK PILOT CLASSIC 85

# Lift keel classic cruiser

This attractive, tough, long-distance cruising sloop should possess the enjoyable handling qualities designer André Hoek normally guarantees. And the yacht's telescopic lift keel opens up her choice of cruising grounds

◀ **Left:** a powerful, good looking world cruising yacht from André Hoek.

**P**lumb bows and good looking counter sterns are in vogue in superyachting and the style is demonstrated well in this new André Hoek-designed cutter *Windhunter* 11. Hoek first looked at this shape in 2001 with the very attractive 36ft/10.9m *Tintel*, but this is the first time he has used the combination at this size.

Interestingly, a much larger version of Hoek's idea is currently taking shape at Royal Huisman (see overleaf) who are building a potent looking 151ft/46m ketch with a powerful sailplan. She's due for launch next year and will be a yacht to watch especially if she makes it onto the racecourse. It will be interesting to see how she compares with the Dijkstra-designed, 182ft/55m *Kamaxitha*, also by Huisman which will feature in the October issue of *Supersail World*.

*Windhunter* is an appealing size for those intending to cruise the world at pace and want to restrict crew numbers to just two. However, she seems a large yacht for only two permanent crew, particularly with a slab-reefed mainsail which will take some handling when it needs to be flaked and stowed. Her fully battened main should maintain its shape when reefed.

She is rigged for quick and easy headsail changes from the big, bowsprit mounted genoa for lighter upwind and off-wind work to a fractional 100 per cent jib which looks useful for fresher conditions. Runners can be set up when this sail is being used in earnest.

*Windhunter* steps a Hall spars carbon rig and boom but has opted for rod standing rigging.

Her flush deck is relatively clean forward and is dominated by the large, timber-clad deck saloon, a hallmark of Hoek designs. Aft of this is a very large cockpit with

Photo: James Wardell





▲ **Top:** simple deck saloon offering superb views. Above and right: mahogany joinerwork and leather skinned soles are distinctive features.



sheet winches set well outboard of the coamings where they can be operated from the side decks and are clear of cockpit occupants. There's a large wheel which allows the helmsman to stand well to weather to view headsail tell tales. The mainsheet is kept out of the way by running through blocks mounted on top of the deck saloon, while the open taffrail gives the yacht a touch of class and tradition.

One of the issues with a long counter stern is it restricts accommodation and as can be seen in the accommodation drawing most of the aft end of the yacht is devoted to stowage rather than cabin space. There are two double guest cabins forward of the saloon and the two crew are accommodated further forward in a single cabin.

*Windhunter II* is built in aluminium by Aluboot BV in the Netherlands and benefits from being the sixth yacht completed by the company to a Hoek design. The yacht is fitted with a retractable fin keel with a T-shaped bulb at its extremity. In fact the keel fin is telescopic. There's a fixed 5ft/1.5m deep fin shell and the moving part of the keel with the bulb attached moves up and down within it. One of the advantages of this design is that the keel mechanism doesn't intrude into the accommodation and take up space. Everything remains below the level of the

sole boards. Draught can be reduced from 13ft 8in/4.2m to 10ft 6in/3.2m, which is enough to give *Windhunter* the chance of using an extended range of anchorages.

André Hoek said that considerable emphasis has been put on insulating stainless steel fittings from the aluminium hull and deck shell to reduce or eliminate corrosion. Fairleads, decks drains, the stainless steel bowsprit and hatches are examples of where this work has been carried out and the builder's experience in constructing vessels for the Dutch lifeboat organisation is likely to have come into play.

Judging by the pictures she is beautifully finished below. The accommodation design is by Hoek with soft furnishings by Esra Gunray of Istanbul as *Windhunter* was commissioned by a Turkish client. A distinctive design feature below is the leather skinned floors.

At 55 tonnes this is a moderate displacement vessel for her size. She should provide her occupants with a comfortable ride and her helmsman with an enjoyable experience if Hoek and his team have worked their normal magic on hull shape and the design of appendages. The spade rudder is designed with balance and the steering system uses a manual cable arrangement which should provide plenty of feel.

**Windhunter II** Beautiful proportions but the long counter means living accommodation cannot extend right aft.



## DIMENSIONS

LOA	25.7m	84ft 5in
LWL	21m	68ft 11in
Beam	5.8m	19ft
Draught keel up	3.2m	10ft 6in
Draught keel down	4.2m	13ft 8in

**Huisman ketch** André Hoek also designed this 151ft ketch which is currently under construction at Huisman.

