

Melody: Estonia's largest sailing yacht unveiled

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The largest yacht to be built in Estonia has been launched. The 40.5-metre sailing yacht *Melody* was commissioned by a successful entrepreneur who approached [Ridas Yachts](#) to construct her but, sadly, the project fell victim to the pandemic and was put onto the market before he had a chance to take her on her maiden voyage.



Melody was conceived in 2014 following a few sketch drawings and a sighting of some superb sailing yachts off the coast of Macau, China. Her commissioning owner had just caught James Bond Skyfall on the big screen, and was besotted by the classical lines of the sailing yacht that the homonymous protagonist was making great use of throughout the blockbuster.

Being classically drawn wasn't enough though, the yacht that he wanted to build was to be brimming with modern trappings and a touch of contemporary class, cleverly disguised in a hull that wouldn't look out of place during the golden ages of yachting. Much like Bond himself, *Melody* was to be suave, sophisticated and classy.



While [Ridas Yachts](#) hadn't tackled a project of this magnitude, the owner was confident that the Estonian yard could deliver. [Ridas'](#) portfolio is impressive and the yard has launched a number of sailing yachts, but nothing this large. After the initial conversations with the owner, [Ridas Yachts](#) sourced the perfect hull for the project - a 40.5-metre aluminium unit fitted with a tender hatch.



Melody, as she's been christened, started life back in 2010 in the Netherlands at Acicio Yachts. The Dutch shipbuilder constructed her hull, but she was then transported to [Ridas Yachts'](#) facilities in Tallinn, Estonia in 2017 where she was completed. Estonia's flagship yacht was designed in full by [Olivier F. van Meer](#), who penned her with rich classical styling that embodies that Bond charm envisioned by her owner. *Melody's* exterior lines are clean, simple and designed to provide maximum functionality. She's a schooner sailing yacht that's far from flamboyant, and her simplicity exudes elegance.





But what goes unnoticed – unintentionally too, I’m hastened to add – is her keeping with contemporary standards. [Olivier F. van Meer](#) curated her interior spaces to uphold modern demands of luxury and comfort. State-of-the-art infotainment and Audio-Visual units, supplied by Bose, were installed, while all materials procured from [Awlgrip](#) to ensure that *Melody* boasts outstanding quality and feel, akin to superyachts of a higher classification.



Photo: Aivo Kallas



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Melody offers 145 GT of interior volume and four staterooms, comprising a master suite, three VIPs and an additional guest area. Her master suite is sublime and is fitted with an ensuite with a shower and bathtub. The space is also home to an office and dressing area. Alongside her master suite are three VIP suites, which also feature an ensuite and offer plenty of storage space.



Olivier F. van Meer designed *Melody* as a playground for socialising, and guests can unwind in a number of places both inside and out in the company of one another. The sailing yacht has a generous dining cum saloon area, which is home to a number of seating arrangements and a large dining table. While her deck spaces offer plenty of alfresco dining and lounging areas, as well as an impressive custom Jacuzzi, situated forward of the main mast. Thanks to the tender hatch, the deck areas are cleared for entertainment purposes.



The sailing yacht comes with a Williams DieselJet 445, which is stowed in her state-of-the-art garage. The space benefits from an onboard fueling station, as well as a refilling station for scuba diving equipment, and a tender hatch that can be operated by iPads.



Another core attribute of *Melody* is that she can be manned single-handedly. She's been fitted with a Bermuda ketch rigged and a decked stepped mast, and equipped with a single Volvo D13 diesel engine. Notably, *Melody* has been built to Lloyds Register.



The launch of *Melody* is momentous, as it not only heralds a new milestone for Estonian shipbuilding but also for Ridas Yachts. The successful launch of Estonia's largest sailing yacht confirms that it has the know-how and capabilities to build and deliver more yachts of this size and calibre. Estonian Marine and Manufacturing Initiative hold her design plans and are keen to get underway with another unit.



Melody is on the market and listed through 26 North Yachts.

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Ridas Yachts 
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