



“The Pilot Saloon 55 gives great pleasure when navigating and an irresistible urge to sail away”

# Pilot Saloon 55 Wauquiez

A luxury seagoing vessel

A sailboat for cruises - this is the new trend that all shipyards in France or elsewhere are following today. Faced with increasing supply in the catamaran market, the monohull resists, reinvents and enters unknown lands. Amongst pioneers, is the Wauquiez shipyard, which will launch the Pilot Saloon 55', a comfortable and luxurious 18 metre sailboat, at the 'Festival de la Plaisance de Cannes' (Cannes yachting festival).



faithful to its tradition of building sailboats «for those who sail», so dear to Henri Wauquiez, the brand's designer, the northern shipyard Wauquiez located in Neuville-en-Ferrain has created a new flagship within the framework of the strategy set up since the launching of the Pilot Saloon 47 in 2006. The fact that Wauquiez was part of the Bénéteau group has played a major role in this development. Today, the shipyard is independent and has resolutely moved away from “production” sailboats over the past two years, to set up in the luxury seagoing vessel segment. Even more comfortable than the Pilot Saloon 47, the Pilot Saloon 55 gives great pleasure when navigating and an irresistible urge to sail away. Experienced sailors who want to sail afar will consider it as their “final” boat, for very good reasons: the Pilot Saloon 55 combines marine performance and refinement. The first trials



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took place in March, in the North Sea, under a west-northwest breeze established at 25 knots and in a fully developed sea. With a self-tacking jib and a few turns in the mainsail, the GPS displayed 8.5 knots when close hauled and 11.5 knots when reaching. As for its performances in other conditions, the sailboat is pleasantly progressive in apparent wind in spite of its 22 tones in charge, and from 8 to 10 knots of true wind, it is quite amazing.

**New design signed Berret / Racoupeau**

The Pilot Saloon 55 is the fruit of Wauquiez's new collaboration with the La Rochelle design studio



Berret / Racoupeau, whose experience and success in such fields as racing sailboats or seagoing cruising does not need to be proved anymore. As for performances, the Pilot Saloon 55's hull has fine extended lines, with a fairly straight stem. The architects have planned everything to make manoeuvres easier and feel comfortable on board. The arch, for example, clears the mainsheet from the cockpit for the crew's safety, and receives the outside speakers, the bimini and lighting for evenings when moored. Designed for seagoing cruising, the Pilot Saloon 55 is easily manoeuvrable with only a small crew. Thanks to its electric winches, the entire boat is controlled from the double steering station, including the mainsail which can be fully battened or in mast furling. The deck is uncluttered thanks to the ma-





## A reliable and ecological construction

The Pilot Saloon 55's hull is built using a vacuum infusion process which guarantees an optimal fibre/resin ratio and significantly reduces the emission of polluting styrenes. The shipyard builds mainly using layers with a balsa sandwich core, which also guarantees rigidity, lightness and, sound and thermal insulation. Regular resistance tests are also carried out. «All the boats are tested in pools to make sure they are waterproof, to check the mechanics, the steering system and various items of equipment on board such as plumbing, electricity, generator, air-conditioning...»

noeuving lines which are inserted in the deckhouse coamings. Lastly, the jib is self-tacking and therefore efficient and simple to use. When faced with light air, the long bow fitting designed to receive a furling genaker or «Code Zero» will guarantee amazing performances under sail. The sails are offered as an option, as the owner often prefers to personally choose the "wardrobe" which is best adapted to the specific programme he set himself.

## Luxury layout

As per usual, the Pilot Saloon 55's specifications have been established in line with its sailing programme. Thanks to constant communication between the ar-

chitects Berret / Racoupeau, Wauquiez and the Bordeaux design studio Couëdel Hugon, the monohull is harmonious in every respect. The headroom is higher than 1.93 metres and the single-level saloon offers a 360° panoramic view, even when seated. Wauquiez produces on average 15 to 20 units of each model per year, which enables the shipyard to devote the necessary care for a perfect finish to each boat. Inside, the woodwork is made from teak, the floor from wenge, the leatherwork from Alcantara™ (or leather on request). Outside, the deck is covered with teak boards laid one by one. You will have all the necessary time to make the most of your cruise as the 600 litre fuel tank enables a cruising range of about 800 nautical miles at 8 knots. Three double cabins, a U-shaped kitchen... Hoist the sails and sail away! ●●●

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS ◀

### Pilot Saloon 55

Overall length	17.70m / 58'
Waterline length	15.42m / 50'5"
Max beam	4.95m / 16'2"
Light displacement	19.5 t
Sail plan	140m <sup>2</sup>
Power	110 HP

