

The hammerhead yacht

Built for the Russian multi-billionaire, Alexei Mordashov, Nord presents a striking pose with the angular snub-fronted bow design never before seen on a superyacht, as Frances and Michael Howorth explain

The magnificent superyacht Nord is to yachting, what a hammerhead shark is to fish. Her brutally blunt bow bestows on her sinister splendour, in much the same way the unusual and distinctive lateral projections from the sides of the head of the hammerhead leaves us intrigued. While in the case of the shark, the two protrusions of the hammer gives it superior binocular vision and depth perception, the forward section of *Nord* is just one of many delightful design details that make her stand out from other yachts.

The superyacht left the shipyard in 2021 and began her maiden voyage almost immediately. Lürssen, the yacht's German builders, called her Project Opus during the

construction period, but her designers describe her as something else. Dan Lenard, her principal designer, defines *Nord* as "A warship wearing a tuxedo". At 142 metres overall, she has the dimensions of a warship – the British Royal Navy's current class of destroyers are just 10 metres longer.

Lenard adds: "Whether you like the design or not, it must strike you... *Nord* is a serious ship first and foremost, but she also transcends the traditional language of yacht design".

Warship or not, there is no denying *Nord* is a good-looking explorer craft with all the elegance of a gentleman's yacht. With

a beam of 21 metres, a draught of 5.4 metres, a steel hull and aluminium superstructure, she is a go-anywhere, do-anything yacht. Powered by four immense Rolls Royce MTU engines, her top speed is in excess of 20 knots, although it is more likely that she will cruise the seven seas at a far more economical 15 knots. The yacht is fitted with on-anchor stabilisation, meaning she is less likely to move with the swell when stopped in a bay. This feature is much loved by guests who want to go ashore in one of the yacht's many tenders, because it allows them to board such craft without getting wet. ➤

Below: *Nord* at night





In the league table ranking of the largest yachts in the world, at 10,100gt., *Nord* is currently listed at number 12, and to date she is the sixth-largest yacht ever built by Lürssen. But given the way billionaires are currently ordering superyachts, we can expect that figure to become outdated very shortly.

Construction costs have been estimated at over US\$3.5m per metre of length, a figure way above the industry average of \$2.7m per metre, making *Nord* a yacht truly costing half a billion to build. Constructed to the Passenger Yacht Code (PYC) rather than the more usual Large Yacht Code (LYC), she can carry up to 36 guests instead of the 12-guest limit imposed by the LYC. Guests are accommodated in 20 cabins, each individually designed and decorated for comfortable and independent worldwide cruising. Throughout her six decks, she is feature-rich with high-end amenities that delight and cater to every imaginable onboard whim. Features include an enclosed helicopter hangar, two helicopter platforms, a rather large swimming pool, two elevators, a cardio gym and fitness centre

Above: The 142-metre Megayacht *Nord* – built by Lürssen/Lurssen and designed by the Italian studio Nuvolari Lenard Below: *Nord* is moored in Lemwerder at the shipyard

with sauna, spa room and a beauty salon. Currently, there are no official pictures of the yacht's interiors but insiders and those who know *Nord* well, report being wowed by the immense size and technical features of the onboard cinema.

Carlo Nuvolari and Den Lenard, the Italian yacht design duo behind *Nord*, have drawn some sensationally stand-out yachts in their time including *Lady M*, the 64-metre Palmer Johnson yacht also owned by Alexei Mordashov. They are responsible for the stunning good looks of Steven Spielberg's 86-metre *Seven Seas* launched in 2010. They even had a hand in designing the interior for *Black Pearl*, the magnificent 107-metre, square-rigged super sailing yacht built for another

Russian billionaire, Oleg Burlakov, and launched in 2018 by Oceanco in Holland.

But *Nord* is different in so many ways and is being talked about in awe by the superyacht cognoscenti and not just because of the hammerhead shape of her bow. Dan Lenard says, "*Nord* was designed with one idea in mind: she must cause strong emotions in every observer, not only through her sheer size, but with the design itself. Having seen her, no one should be left indifferent." ■

