

Week 43:

With MY INDEPENDENCE and guests a trip around Elba. A beautiful island with very good anchorage places. In the summer very crowded, at the moment nobody, with beautiful weather.



Marina di campo, small town with harbour on the south side of the island.



The beach at Marina di Campo was abandoned.



Beautiful anchorage en good place for swimming. The water was still warm.



Marina Di Campo, beautiful place and doesn't the Independence look pretty...



View on Portoferraio, main city of Elba.



Evening mooring in Portoferraio, Elba.



Week 39/40:

Read the story of the crew that sailed the motoryacht Independence from Port Napoleon to Genoa: <http://www.nauticalessi.blogspot.com/> Due to rather stormy weather over the first couple of days (with a pit stop in Cannes), the journey took four days. The turbulent waters ensured a real baptism of fire for the yacht.



Week 38:

After a short stop in Stavoren, Independence sailed to Maasbracht via the IJssel river. Here she was hoisted out of the water at Van der Laan Yachting for transport to France.



41 tons of yacht.

Van de Wetering in Loosdrecht is the only company in Europe that can perform this type of transport with regard to size and weight. It is a unique firm that designs all its means of transportation itself and even sells complete trailers to other companies. Van de Wetering has over 40 trucks and 40 escort vehicles, responsible for between 150 and 200 transports in Europe each week.



On the road to Port Napoleon, near Marseille in the south of France, where the yacht will be re-launched and sail to the Genoa Boatshow. We didn't have enough time to sail the yacht to Genoa via the Bay of Biscay and Gibraltar. Another option had been to transport her as deck cargo on a large carrier but that would have been considerably more expensive. As driving can only be done at night, the journey to the south of France took five days.

Week 36:

Unveiling the yacht to the public, colleagues and the media. Auke van der Werff brought along three boats: The Sturier 500 (50ft), The Sturier 600 (18 metres) and the 555 demo yacht. The entire fleet was painted in new, light colours; quite a change from the traditional Sturier look with navy blue hulls. Despite the bad weather, a good crowd of positive potential buyers gathered, all of whom were looking for 'new horizons': A seaworthy yacht that is ready for long journeys.

(Photo will follow)

Independence at the HISWA Amsterdam Seaport Boat Show 2008.

A large crowd onboard Independence – including a full maritime delegation from Vietnam, organised by the NCH.

(Photo will follow)

There are many gatherings and barbeques organised during the HISWA – this photo features drinks at the Mastervolt stand with Howard in the middle, the CEO of Selene Yachts China, and on the left the owner of a new 18-metre Selene Trawler.

(Photo will follow)

Week 35/36:

On Friday 29 August, Independence was christened in the presence of a large number of guests at the yacht's home registration point (Independence Demonstration Yachts BV) at Nigtevecht on the river Vecht. Nearly 100 guests enjoyed the lovely weather and music.



Independence moored on the beautiful, rural Vecht river near the festive location in Nigtevecht.



Guests listen to a speech by Auke van der Werff.



Auke van der Werff narrates the history of the yard and the specifications of the yacht he designed.



Project backgrounds, explained by Roel ter Heide. Read [Here](#) his story.



Funky jazz sounds.



Alwine Hoeben, wife of Roel ter Heide, christens the yacht with champagne.



A launch is not complete without lots of food and drinks.



Paul Kenninck (right), Mastervolt CEO, and Mastervolt board chairman Herman Olde Hartmann discuss the meaning of life.

Week 35:

Because the time leading up to the official launch party was too short to carry out an elaborate trial on the Wadden Sea, the yacht was tested on the IJsselmeer lake, visiting many marinas to test its manoeuvring skills. This went amazingly well: You can do everything singlehandedly if you have too, including mooring! The stabilisers were also tested while sailing and when moored. It took a while to understand the panel but once we had worked out the programming we had control over every possible situation. The stabilisation ensures genuine comfort and has proven to be a valuable investment.



Independence in the municipal harbour of Workum. An ideal starting point for a walk through this lovely Frisian town.

Our three-day trip (Enkhuizen/Lelystad/Workum/Stavoren) reminded us once again of the true pleasures of sailing. A yacht is the perfect way to get from A to B, visiting towns on the way, going for long walks on shore, taking in the local sights and then returning to the peace and quiet of the water.



The picturesque marina of Hindeloopen: Independence has no problems with mooring port side.



Visiting attractions such as the ice-skating museum in Hindeloopen: The photo shows Japanese ice-skates with silk shoes.



Ice-skate factory from before WW II (reproduced in the museum).



The weather conditions on the IJsselmeer lake varied: Wind force 5 was no problem at all and we only had light spray over the side. The yacht stayed stable when turning into the Stavoren marina thanks to the stabilisers.

Week 34:

Making the yacht technically ready to sail, testing the various installations, fitting the furnishings and adding the finishing touches took a total of four weeks. In late August the yacht was finally handed over to the owner (Independence Demonstration Yachts BV) during a barbecue and drinks for the entire staff of the Volharding yard and various Whisper Power employees. Thanks to the great efforts of the craftsman at the yard, the yacht was 100 percent ready on time - despite the extensive nature and complexity of the installations! After a short speech by Auke van der Werff and Roel ter Heide, the yacht set off on a short sailing trip on the IJsselmeer lake with the Whisper Power employees.



Speech by Auke van der Werff and Roel ter Heide during the yacht's pre-launch.



Whisper Power personnel enjoying the first trip.

Week 30:

The time has finally arrived! Demonstration yacht Independence has been launched in Warns by the Volharding yard from Stavoren. The first trip takes us through the Stavoren locks to the yard. The image speaks for itself – a seaworthy motoryacht with lovely lines enters the Stavoren marina after her first miles on the IJsselmeer lake, fully equipped with a wealth of handy gadgets and technical solutions that make the life of a sailor so much more comfortable.