



Story - John Heselwood

Michael Antalec is the Managing Director of Australia Yachts, a company he says is positioned to become a significant global brand in the coming years.

"We are here to build motor yachts that will not succumb to reactionary tactics or short-term trends, but rather will focus on longer term strategies for servicing our customers, having timeless designs built to the highest standards and ultimately create value for our customers," Antalec says.

The 'Secret Harbour 46' is no longer a secret. It is a boat, Antalec says, that has achieved a standard of finish and safety that no ordinary production could achieve. "It is the best of the best product using the latest infusion technology – we are one of the first Australian companies to use all infusion – as a result the boat is about 30% lighter than any of our competition."

The hull design started back as a cray boat to which Antalec and his team made some subtle changes. It has a sharp entry, acute reverse chines and a rounded-out bottom to increase efficiency and cruising comfort.



"It is a high quality boat that we have built to 2B survey. Others do not do that and the reason we are able to is because of our latest technology. When you build a boat to survey it normally makes it heavy but with the vacuum infusion technology and different strengths it gives us the light weight."

The first hull is out of the mould and Australia Yachts are fitting up the interior. "It is not just what we have done on the outside," Antalec explained. While the range of Secret Harbour yachts are being built using the latest techniques, old fashioned hands-on boat building skills are being used on the classical lines and well appointed interior."

The Secret Harbour 46 is the first Australian built boat to have Zeus drives installed. "We specifically designed this boat to take the Zeus drives but the way we have designed the hull is that we can use inserts in the tunnels when making the hull so that a client can have any sort of drive they want. They can have props or water jets or IPS. But I think the best combination for this boat is the Zeus drives."

When Michael Antalec first started talking about starting his yard in Western Australia he had a lot of smart people giving him advice. "We were told that we should be doing it in various places overseas where there is cheap labour," he said. "We have only been in business since the end of March this year and we now have a fully functioning shipyard and a high quality product which we would not have achieved overseas in that time frame."



From having an empty factory to delivering the first boat will take them about eight months. "There are not many places in the world you could do that."

Mike Antalec has an impressive business history in yacht building. In Australia, he was previously the co-founder and Managing Director of Hanseatic Marine, which he built up from establishment to success, with 120 full-time employees. Hanseatic Marine was the builder of the 74 metre yacht Silver, the world's longest aluminium-hulled motor yacht and forerunner for new yacht designs.

Growing up in Fort Lauderdale, Florida he had a strong interest in boat building - building powered models and rafts of his own design from aged eight and then purchasing his first power boat at eleven with the proceeds from a lawn mowing business. He has been eating, breathing and sleeping boats ever since.

The first boat has been sold and Antalec is hoping that Australia Yachts' second order will come following big interest from the Mandurah show.