



**THE NEW FLAGSHIP BOAT**  
Neo Yachts' latest flagship boat: the Neo 620 Roma (18.60 x 5.40 m). It is the second boat designed by Carkeek and represents the evolution of the Neo 570 in the Mini Maxi category. It has a draft of 4.20 meters and displaces only 13.5 tons.

## How to build unique boats in Italy that everyone loves abroad: the Neo Yachts' "recipe"

CEO and founder Paolo Semeraro reveals the secrets to the shipyard's success (and the latest models): performance, structural innovation, design, construction

Neo Yachts & Composites, a young and entirely Italian company founded in 2018, is probably better known abroad than in Italy. In fact, out of 29 boats sold in 15 countries, only two have gone to Italian clients. Let's get to know the brand better through the words of its CEO and founder, engineer Paolo Semeraro. The first question comes naturally: "Paolo, why Neo, and why the butterfly?". "Neo is directly inspired by the name of the main character in the cult Matrix series, where NEO stands for the ONE, the Only One. The butterfly, the ultimate esoteric symbol, represents lightness, agility, beauty—and ultimately, enlightenment and spiritual fulfillment. In short, it's the journey of an owner who finally



**Neo Yachts**  
Neo Yachts & Composites  
S.P. 231 km 77,800  
c/o Città Mercato  
70032 Bitonto (BA) - Italy  
Telefono: +39 342 01 27 910  
E-mail: info@neoyachts.com  
www.neoyachts.com

reaches Neo: the destination. I must say, both the name and the symbol have become highly recognizable worldwide in just a few years".

**GdV: So what exactly is this unique DNA of Neo?**

**Paolo Semeraro:** My aim was never just to sell boats, but to build "the boat that didn't exist"—and to do it entirely in Italy. I come from competitive sailing, and I've never strayed from my roots as a sailor. From day one, I envisioned Neo Yachts as a permanent lab of ideas, where aesthetics, performance, structural innovation, and ease of use could come together. With one key principle: carbon fiber is the best construction material in the world, and my interiors would be structural. I've given all

my clients the thrill of setting their personal sailing speed record—many of them have experienced sailing at over 20 knots for the first time. And this wasn't in racing conditions with pro crews, but during cruising or transfers. The DNA of Neo can be summed up as: performance, structural and design innovation. These are extremely hard to imitate (apart from some vague external styling), because they're constantly evolving, incredibly complex to build, and not suited to mass production.

**GdV: What does the "Roma" mean after many of Neo's models?**

**P.S.:** Good question. On one hand, I was looking for a brand name that was easy to recognize and international—Neo means the same thing in at le-

### NEO 620 ROMA, "REMOVABLE" ELEGANCE



On the new Neo 620 Roma, there is the option to have lightweight yet warmer interiors, veneered in wood finishes and removable in case of regattas, so they won't get damaged.



**FAST, YES, BUT ALSO COMFORTABLE**  
The Neo 520 Roma (design by Ceccarelli, 18.00 x 4.91 m) offers a proper tender garage, two bathrooms with separate showers, and a true owner's suite in the bow — all within 9,500 kg, about half of which is in the keel.



## NEO ROMA AND COMPETIZIONE: HIGH-PERFORMANCE OR PURE RACING?



### STANDARD AND PURE RACING

Neo Yachts has launched its first production boat dedicated entirely to racing: the Neo 460 Competizione (design by Ceccarelli, 14.00 x 4.40 m). With the "Competizione" package, the shipyard provides the production structure, molds, and design plans — as well as a technical office and trusted professionals such as riggers, sailmakers, and sailors.



### LIKE A SEA "GRAN TURISMO"

The Neo 460 Roma (14.00 x 4.40 m), designed by Ceccarelli. "Roma," explains Semeraro, "is our way of saying Gran Turismo of the Sea: a synthesis of Italian design, advanced construction techniques, and functional versatility".

ast 20 languages. On the other hand, I wanted the Made in Italy identity to be crystal clear. ROMA isn't just a name—it's a vision. It represents a new category of boats designed for truly fast cruising, high-speed comfort, and the ability to race with the same boat you cruise on with your family—just by adding a few sails.

In short, Roma is our way of saying "Gran Turismo" of the Sea: a blend of Italian design, advanced construction techniques, and functional versatility. The fact that Ferrari launched a model called Roma in 2020 (our 430 Roma came out in 2019) is just a pure coincidence. Today, Roma for Neo embodies the Italian spirit reimagined in a modern, fast, and global key—and it stands in contrast to our Competizione line, which is focused on pure, no-compromise racing. **GdV: What's new for 2025 and the years to come?**

**P.S.:** 2025 is definitely a year of expansion. Thanks to new clients who once again put their trust in us by investing in the N1 (we build only custom boats, by order). We've now completed the lineup

of the Roma series, which—with the launch of the brand-new Neo 460 Roma, Neo 520 Roma, and Neo 620 Roma, joining the existing Neo 430 Roma and Neo 350—offers a truly complete range for different budgets and sailing needs.

**GdV: Aside from size, what are the key features of the new models?**

**P.S.:** The 460 Roma, just one meter longer than the 430, but a meter that makes a big difference, effectively offers the comfort of a second bathroom for cruising. And thanks to optimized structures, its displacement is only 200 kg more than the 430, staying between 6,200 and 6,500 kg depending on the systems installed. The 520 Roma is the minimum size needed to offer a truly functional tender garage. It comes with two bathrooms with separate showers and a real owner's suite in the bow—all in 9,500 kg, with about half of

that in the keel. Both the 460 and the 520 are designed by Ceccarelli.

Then there's our new flagship: the Neo 620 Roma. It's the second



Paolo Semeraro, 63, a two-time sailing Olympian, is the founder and CEO of Neo Yachts & Composites. His boats are very popular. Especially abroad.

boat designed by Carkeek and represents the evolution of the Neo 570 in the Mini Maxi category. It offers the same tender garage as the 570, but inside it adds a third bathroom with a separate shower and an intriguing fourth cabin that can be used for crew or converted into a large nav station or dining area. On the 620 we also offer the option of having interiors that are just as light but warmer, finished with real wood veneers, and removable for racing to avoid damage. All of this comes in at 13,500 kg. These three boats strengthen the brand's identity and showcase a unique design consistency, while still addressing different market segments.

**GdV: But there's one last innovation we hear you're particularly proud of...**

**P.S.:** That's right. For the first time, Neo Yachts has decided to launch the world's first true production pure racing boat: the Neo 460 Competizione. We've seen that the Neo Roma models can go head-to-head with pure racers like the TP52 in nearly every

class—often even beating them when the wind is steady and not too light (we've had several overall offshore race wins). But in light airs, they inevitably lose out to stripped-down, ultra-light boats.

The current rating rules don't separate classes—races are run overall. Fleets are increasingly splitting, with more and more full-on racing boats joining the scene. For an owner, building a one-off racing prototype usually demands an extraordinary level of effort, organization, and money. So Neo Yachts decided to offer a ready-made "Competizione" package, providing not only the production structure, molds, and designs, but also a technical office and a network of trusted professionals—riggers, sailmakers, and sailors.

Like all Neos, the 460 Competizione is highly customizable: single or twin rudders, tiller or wheel steering, fixed keel or canting keel... tailored to the type of racing and usage—offshore, inshore, coastal, or short-handed.

### THE LONG KEELS OF NEO YACHTS

"Since a sailboat's performance is directly linked to the righting moment and therefore to keel depth, Neo Yachts feature significant draft", explains Semeraro. To address the issue of access to shallow harbors, Neo Yachts offers telescopic or lifting keels on all its models. The company has also developed and patented a "high-performance retractable keel."