



Monaco may be the world's second smallest country in land area, but it hosts the world's largest annual yacht trade show. This year's event began on September 24th and will run through September 27th, bringing together buyers, owners and yacht enthusiasts for the 24th annual exhibition. And the 2014 show is extra special, with more yachts than ever before and an estimated attendance of 33,000 people.

Prince Albert II of Monaco rushed back from the United Nations Climate Summit on Tuesday to deliver the show's inaugural speech.

Nearly 115 of the world's most glamorous custom-made megayachts, ranging from 80-330 feet long, are gathered at Monaco's Port Hercule this week. Of the yachts on display, 40 are brand new, making their big debuts. The others are mostly contemporary models from the last few years, though there are some older classics. The 1983 [Illusion](#), for example, is a 180 foot [Burgess](#) beauty. Of the newer models, [Admiral's](#) three 2014 motoryachts [Nono](#), [Flying Dragon](#) and [Entourage](#), are all show stoppers. Overmarine's 160 foot [Mangusta](#) and Fraser's 147 foot [My Trust Fund](#) are also worthy of note.



*Nono by Admiral. Courtesy of Monaco Yacht Show*

For the first time, the committee in charge of the show kicked it off with an award ceremony. Best Interior went to the 240 foot Perini Navi motoryacht, [Grace E.](#) Lurssen's 280 foot yacht [Solandge](#) (2013) won Best Exterior for its subtle lines and sleek profile. The Best in Show award, for the most overall impressive yacht launched within the last two years, went to the brand-new 298 foot superyacht [Equanimity](#), a product of Oceanco.

As if the boats themselves aren't impressive enough, this show also hosts around 500 luxury yachting-related companies: superyacht builders, brokerage houses, yacht designers, nautical suppliers and refit shipyards.



*Flying Dragon by Admiral. Courtesy of Monaco Yacht Show*

Just in case this bustling scene on the Mediterranean coast gets too overwhelming for crew members, the Monaco Yacht Show's C&C Lounge offers them a first-class escape, fit with television, massages and beverages. It may sound silly; why would anyone need a break from a yacht in paradise? But the show can get intense and high-pressure for crew members, always on alert for potential buyers.

As Gaëlle Tallarida, the event's managing director puts it: "Offering a real lounge for crews has become essential and natural for us. We know a few crew facilities around the show already exist but our main concern was to really welcome those men and women who are the heart and soul of a yacht." And of course, there's also the Upper Deck Lounge. This is an oasis where exhibitors can bring potential clients to grab a drink and discuss purchasing options in a more private setting.

For buyers, there's no place with more high-end options than the Monaco Yacht Show. For sellers, there's no place with more potential to get contracts signed. And for yacht enthusiasts who miss this special event, a virtual tour is available [here](#). Follow me on twitter [@RachHen91](#)