Back in 1973, the year Nautor Oy launched its new flagship, the Swan 65, a new race around the World, sponsored by Whitbread, brewers then, hoteliers today, set off from Portsmouth, with one of the first of the new Swans, Sayula II, in the fleet!

Designed by the World’s preferred firm of naval architects at the time, Sparkman & Stephens, renowned for their heavy-ballasted, wind-hungry machines, the 65 was a full 10ft longer than Nautor’s previous largest yacht, and by far the largest GRP and production yacht yet built anywhere.

Sayula II went on to win that inaugural Whitbread, and four years later in the second Whitbread, Swan 65’s finished 2nd, 4th and 5th. Forty-one 65’s were ultimately built. Fifty years on nearly all are still actively owned, with two recently refurbed veterans, Evrika and translated9 (adjacent), racing in the Ocean Globe 2023, a reenactment of the 1973 Whitbread.

Racelist