

## ABOUT WILLY PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Willy Persico, the scion of a notable Neapolitan family, was born in Milan in 1939 and graduated with a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Naples in 1963.

In 1972, on the eve of the first world oil crisis, he was at the head of the crude oil procurement division of SIR, an important Italian petrochemical group, which he left in 1979 to lead the international trading activities of the newborn Cameli Petroli, where he became a partner and the vice-president.

In 1990 he was made president of the Rodriguez Shipyard in Messina, a company that specialized in fast ferries and hydrofoils, which had been bought by Cameli Group. An avid yachtsman and a sailor, in 1990 he commissioned the project of a 72' sloop to Ron Holland and decided to have it built by a small shipyard in Cape Town, together with the yacht of a friend, a 72' designed by Bruce Farr. Early in 1991, while the yachts were already under construction, Persico decided to purchase the company, which he renamed Southern Wind Shipyard.

In 1993 he left the Cameli Group in order to focus on his new company in South Africa.

At a current rate of about three sailing yachts built every year, Southern Wind Shipyard delivered 52 yachts ranging from 72' to 110'. Thanks to his vision and his great passion Southern Wind is today one of the leading players in the luxury superyacht market.

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