

## Skipper Norbert Sedlacek Koch



Date of birth: 27<sup>th</sup> January 1962

Place of birth: Vienna, Austria

Nationality: Austrian

Family status: Married, one child

Profession: Skipper

Norbert Sedlacek was born on 27.01.1962 in Vienna into a family of Viennese officials. He acquired a compulsory education and then he attended a waiter training in Hilton hotel in Vienna. After a military service and several years as a waiter, in 1984 he moved by his father's request to Wiener Stadtwerke, a public transport company, located in Vienna. His father wanted him to make an easy career within the public service.

After a few years of quiet life, the driving of trams in Vienna started to bore Norbert. Reflecting of his future, he decided to have a more active life and around the world.

In 1994, Norbert Sedlacek discovered sailing and he was convinced that this sport is not just a hobby, but his vocation. From that moment, he did everything to become a professional sailor.

He was persuaded to pass from the tram to the cockpit of a yacht.

**34.000 NM - NONSTOP - SINGLE HANDED - WITHOUT ASSISTANCE**

## Experienced projects

### Almost out of limits 1996-1998

Norbert's first solo-circumnavigation of the globe (26.000 nm) started on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1996 in Grado. This successfully accomplished "nutshell"-challenge took two years and ended on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1998 at the port of departure.

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### Icelimit 2000/2001

Behind this name is hidden an icy adventure, a solo nonstop around Antarctica circumnavigation from Cape Town to Cape Town. In November 2000 Norbert Sedlacek began his fire baptism in Antarctic waters.

During 93 extremely difficult days during which he was taken 14.315 nm through the most dangerous oceans full of icebergs, Norbert faced many extreme situations.

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### The Transat 2004

The Transat 2004 from Plymouth (GB) to Boston (USA) was Norbert Sedlacek's initiation into IMOCA Open 60 racing and at the same times his and his boat's final qualification for the Vendée Globe 2004/2005. With a result of 17 days, 18 hours 35 minutes and 36 seconds Norbert Sedlacek sailed into the top ten, finishing 10<sup>th</sup> out of 17 competitors at his first IMOCA race.

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### Vendée Globe 2004/2005

Norbert Sedlacek was the first German speaking skipper ever to compete in the Vendée Globe, undisputedly the hardest sailing race in the world, which starts and finishes in Les Sables d'Olonne (FRA) and is sailed single-handed, nonstop, and without outside assistance through some of the most challenging seas in the world. Unfortunately he had to retire from the race after 6.800 successful nautical miles because of serious problems with his canting keel.

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## ULTIMATE SAILING

### Vendée Globe 2008/2009

In his second attempt, Norbert Sedlacek has realized what many of the world's best professional skippers dream of. After 126 days, 5 hours, 31 minutes and 56 seconds, he arrived 11<sup>th</sup> of 30 skippers the finish line of the Vendée Globe and fulfilled a dream of his lifetime.

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