



Appletree Surfboards

Klokhous and Klokhous Noseless

Appletree Surfboards come from humble beginnings on a Dutch fruit farm, and now have their own bespoke production facility in Portugal, crafting a comprehensive range of fully customizable boards. Catharina, who has done admirably on the GKA Kite-surf competition circuit over the last few years, talks us through her Appletree quiver.

PHOTOS ANDY TROY AND SAMUEL TOMÉ

BOARD DIMENSIONS: 5'6 and 5'0 (Noseless) // RIDER WEIGHT: 60kg // RIDER HEIGHT: 174cm

I have been riding the Appletree Klokhous for two years now. It comes in two models – the standard Klokhous and the Klokhous Noseless. The Klokhous has the pointy nose that we recognize on most classic surfboards and the Noseless version is shorter, with a stubbier and wider nose, but its shape for the rest of the board remains the same.

The Noseless is the best option for small to medium waves in my opinion, while for overhead waves I go for my Klokhous 5'6.

Both versions have a squash tail and gently rounded outline, so feel lively. They have a generous rocker in the nose, flattening out in the tail, which makes the boards plane earlier and helps upwind performance. They have a flat rail but give you plenty of stability while surfing the wave or going for strapless airs.

I like to feel in control and light under my feet. If you ride a board too big in size, you will feel like you have to work really hard in your bottom turns and will struggle to make smooth, sharp bottom turns. If you have too small a board it will feel very unstable.

Unfortunately, a lot of brands don't make board sizes suitable for women. Appletree have extended their standard board size ranges and you can find the right size in all their models. I also think there is potential to make a women-specific board after seeing how the sport and interest amongst women has grown over the last few years.

My other favorite board from Appletree is the Malus Domestica in 5'0. It is my partner in crime for typical messy and choppy conditions often found in northern Europe. The deep bottom rail gives you great support and I love having the quad or thruster fin options. The quad setup is excellent to ride upwind and gives great control through bottom to top turns. Meanwhile I find the thruster setup more playful and great for strapless freestyle.

You can customize your board from Appletree and choose between carbon or glass layers, as well as different colors, type of fin boxes and inserts.

I haven't been that involved in the R&D side of things with Appletree until recently. I gave some feedback for changes I recommended on the Klokhous 5'6, and it turned out that they had actually already been implemented in the latest version, which I'm very pleased about.

I was on my FLYSURFER STOKE 2 for this shoot, and for my three-month trip to Cape Town I brought size 5, 6, 7 and 8m kites, which worked out perfectly.

These photos were taken south of Cape Town. Many people have mixed feelings about this spot since it is often cross-offshore and can be very gusty. But I love it – it's challenging and I always feel like I am learning and that I progress even after a bad session.!

