

SPECIAL POWER CAT EDITION

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Cover Story:

Vision 450

This new model in the Matrix line proves to be a real vision

Special Guest Editorial: Brent Hermann

A catamaran sales expert is thoroughly impressed with the crown jewel from Matrix Yachts, the new Vision 450

Perfect Vision

By Staley Weidman III



With the Annapolis Boat Show being one of the premier opportunities for boat builders to show their new boats, Cape Town-based Matrix Yachts proudly presented its new Vision 450 in October this year. This builder has established itself internationally with the highly successful Silhouette 760, and the Vision 450 is the latest addition to its range.

Having spent many years chartering in the Caribbean, Peter and Fiona Wehrley returned to South Africa to found their yacht-building business and begin production of the Silhouette 760. This yacht was specifically designed for the charter market and was completely different from anything on the water at that time. With its unique styling and unrivaled luxury it has become a favorite for charter quests in the Caribbean.

A Successor with an Envious Pedigree

The Vision 450 continues this bold styling and is also very different from any other catamaran available. While every

builder tries to make their yachts unique from one another, they all share many of the same general design features which in contrast with the Vision 450, makes them all remarkably similar. Simply put, it doesn't look like any other 45 foot catamaran available.

With its slightly-rounded plumb bows and extended coach roof it looks fast and stylish. Walking closer you can see the forward windows are vertically oriented and that the foredeck is dominated by a solid platform with hatches and storage compartments. There is a hard bimini aft that gives sun protection to the large aft table, ideal for alfresco dining in a tropical anchorage.

Entering through a large double door that slides away into its own storage area, the main saloon has a full-width settee and large table to retreat to if the local tropical heat makes you decide to enjoy the creature comforts of air conditioning. There is a separate fridge/freezer unit that is easily accessed as you enter, as well as a well-designed galley with its own window for serving people in the cockpit and for ventilation.

Whether operated as a charter boat or as your own private waterborne villa, it's clear that an enormous amount of thought has gone into the Vision 450. Its open plan living area, coupled with large windows, gives superb all-round visibility. This is definitely a vessel built for a discerning owner who expects complete luxury and is not interested in accepting anything but the best.

Stepping down into the hulls, the first has double master cabins forward with their queen-sized berths slightly angled and offering access on both sides. These are not bunks, but proper beds like you would find in a five-star hotel. Each master suite has its own en-suite head forward, with a large shower and electric toilets. It's simple, it's elegant and the quality is superb. You can also order the Vision 450 in a three-cabin layout which turns one hull into the owner's private domain.

Moving aft, there is another cabin, this time with a spacious King-sized bed that is well ventilated and airy. The aft cabins also have their own en-suite toilets and once again here it's all about quality.

An interesting detail is that there is a service compartment between both cabins, which houses all of the plumbing and electrical equipment and which is easily accessed behind a flush-fitting door. This means that if you need to service something, you don't have to disturb or dirty up one of the cabins, and nothing is hidden away under a bunk. Not only is this a great concept, but it also provides a buffer zone between the two cabins, ensuring total privacy for the guests.



The cabinetry is all European-style and there are concealed hinges everywhere, a feature seldom found on yachts under 20 meters, and the veneers are all perfectly matched.

Going outside, the steering station is well situated to starboard and out of the way of the huge aft table and seating area. With cushions everywhere, there is ample storage for the cushions and one of these areas has been converted into a pilot-style berth that would be ideal for young kids.

Effortless Performance Under Pressure

The boat just completed an 8,000 nautical mile delivery from Cape Town and looks like it just came out of the factory in pristine condition. The delivery Captain, Jan, was present during the show and says that after having sailed many different types of catamarans throughout the world, "I am very impressed by this boat." He says it is so solid and performs effortlessly in some of the heaviest conditions he has ever seen and does so without a squeak. After being hit with winds of 40 knots continuously and gusting to 50 knots for a few days in the middle of the Atlantic, my nervousness was replaced with confidence knowing that the boat was designed and built to handle these types of conditions and made me feel very safe.

The performance definitely is a welcomed strong point, and can be attributed to the use of light weight materials in its construction and outstanding design. I was fortunate enough to experience this performance for myself while doing a test sail on Annapolis Bay. While looking aft, I noticed the boat tends to glide through the water rather than push and just seems to do so effortlessly leaving virtually no wake behind. We had quite light winds on the day of the test sail but we still managed to achieve double digits on the log and regularly achieved wind speed by using the main sail and Code 0.

Cruising is about the places you visit and the time spent exploring other countries and being exposed to new cultures and experiences. It's about the people you meet along the way and the quiet anchorages you share with friends. Doing all this aboard a Vision 450 is doing it in style and luxurious comfort with nothing but the best. **MM**



Vision 450 Specifications

- Length:** 13.7 m (45 ft)
- Beam:** 7.4 m (24.28 ft)
- Draft:** 1.15 m (3.77 ft)
- Displacement:** 11 tons (24,640 lbs)
- Mast height AWL:** 19.45m (63.8 ft)
- Fresh water tankage:** 460 liters (120 gal)
- Black water tankage:** 80 liters (22 gal)
- Diesel tankage:** 400 liters (105 gal)

Sails

- Main sail:** 165 sq m
- Fore sail:** 77.2 sq m
- Mast height:** 27.6 m (90.7 ft)

For more information, visit:

http://www.matrix-yachts.com/vision_450.php

