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VISION 450 : THE RIGHT PROFILE

Pay attention, a new boat is entering the hotly disputed 45-foot market ! The South African builder, Matrix Yacht, is arriving with its Vision 450, which, whilst not claiming to revolutionize leisure sailing, offers a distinctive design and deals seriously with all the fundamentals of a successful cruising catamaran. First glimpse, at the last Miami Boat Show...



The Vision 450 is available in charter or private owner's versions.

For the Cape Town based builder, extending the range to the smaller sizes is a major strategic orientation, as it launched its activity in 2001, and developed it with different versions of its 76-footer, called, accor-

by the bridgedeck is quite satisfactory. Once past the entrance, there is more than enough space to dance before you reach the saloon... This occupies the whole of the width, offering impressive

views at sea. Everywhere in this living area the crew enjoy the view of the exterior and there is a lot of light, thanks to large glazed areas: both on the forward part (protected by a nice extension) and towards the cockpit (large glazed sliding door and matching window for the galley) or the sides of the coachroof. Moreover, it is the latter which give the boat its visual identity, extending a long way forward to stop just a metre from the bows. A successful aesthetic bias, but one which imposes a long way round to reach the mast foot. This arrangement

moreover offers two nice storage spaces for long or voluminous objects: windsurfers, diving bottles, cockpit or sunbathing area cushions... Stowage which unfortunately is only accessible from the interior.

On the lower level, the four cabin version, with four bathrooms and separate showers, gets the majority of the votes. The forward cabin stands out because of its bed, which is accessible from three sides, but is relatively high. Aft, the height is more reason-

THE WIDE SUGAR SCOOPS AND THE AFT DECK ASSIST NAUTICAL ACTIVITIES...

ding to the model, Mirage 760 (Yacht Charter), Vision 760 (Day Charter) and soon (as it is under construction, for a launch at the end of 2013) Explorer 760.

Offered in three or four-cabin versions, the Vision 450 is intended as much for charter use as for private owners. In both cases, the space offered

useful berth length, which two mobile 'pouffes' complete. The navigator occupies the port end of the sofa, opposite a nicely-sized chart table, but well away from the entrance. Still to port and facing aft, opposite the cockpit, the galley is elegantly fitted out in Corian, and is also of an impressive size. Its U-shape offers a good amount of stowage space and good ergono-



Undeniably original looks!



The Vision's accommodation is classic, as is its deck plan.

nable, but arranged classically. In the three-cabin version, the starboard hull is reserved for the owner, who benefits from a genuine suite over its whole length: an office, workshop or stowage can be fitted into the space leading to the forward bathroom, which is absolutely identical to the first version. The standard equipment is comprehensive (full electronics, fridge, freezer, leather saloon soft furnishings, mainsail, genoa, windlass...).

Outside, everything has been arranged for serene cruising. The wide sugar scoops and the aft deck assist nautical activities, whether disembarking from the dinghy or getting ready for a dive. You can thus pass from one sugar scoop to the other without disturbing the guests enjoying the asymmetric cockpit: U-shaped seating and table to port, steering position to starboard. The deck plan is simple and very readable. The mainsheet track has been moved to the rigid bimini, and all the control lines return to two winches, one at

the steering position, the other to starboard. Long handrails run along the coachroof, thus accompanying the crew members almost as far as the bow seats.

The construction in polyester sandwich seems in principle to be untouchable, with notably a bright gel coat and stainless steel of a quality which has become rare. The interior woodwork even uses honeycomb, to keep the weight down to a minimum. The whole package should give attractive performance. According to its crew, the catamaran exhibited at the Miami show even covered 200 miles per day on the way to Florida from the Virgin Islands. The hulls have a generous amount of volume, which helps with safety, and should accept a load suitable for its various programmes. The mechanical propulsion benefits from two clever technical features: double access, from the aft cabins and from the sugar scoops, and diesel tanks positioned



The nice interior accommodation and the good finishing are appreciable.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Shipyard: Matrix Yachts
Overall length: 14.30 m
Hull length: 12.80 m
Beam: 7.40 m
Draft: 1.15 m
Displacement: 11 T
Mainsail: 74 m ²
Genoa: 42 m ²
Mast height: 19.45 m
Engines: 2 x 30 hp
Price: 595,000 Dollars exc. tax

- ◆ Coachroof lines
 - ◆ Space on the bridgedeck
 - ◆ Stowage volumes
-
- ◆ Only two winches to do everything?
 - ◆ (Too?) classic interior design
 - ◆ Mastfoot access

on the upper level, at the mastfoot, thus feeding the 2 x 30hp engines by gravity and avoiding the tiresome task of bleeding the system in the case of running out of fuel.

With dynamic exterior looks, its interior and the seriousness of its construction, the Vision 450 is not lacking in trump cards, and is clearly fishing in the same waters as the market's leading trio. Charter, coastal or even offshore cruising – it will attract the atten-

tion of buyers looking for modern volumes dealt with in a traditional style. But the sector is extremely competitive, the prices offered by the leaders are very tightly controlled, and new boats are coming out at a frantic rhythm. It is therefore hard to find even the smallest place in the sun. So for Vision, the evolution of the exchange rates will make this serious challenger competitive, or not, faced with its colleagues and their long-established reputations.



The cockpit table can accommodate the guests aboard with no problem, whilst thanks to the aft deck, the children can enjoy the anchorage...