



43

Offshore Express

RIVIERA



Sensual Seduction





Is it really possible to build a boat everyone might like? We think the new Riviera 43 Offshore Express is the one to do just that! On the one hand it appeases serious anglers with a platform that's seaworthy and fishing friendly; while on the other it placates the single-level cruiser crowd who prefer to entertain. Of course, there's nothing new about multi-purpose boats. However, only the new Riviera takes the concept further, with uncompromising utility for both catching fish and offering family fun.



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The 43 Offshore Express has a rugged sophistication while maintaining the luxurious and functional interior, typical of all Rivieras. The hydrodynamics are exceptional, with running surface and

chines that are optimised for a soft, dry ride.

The Riviera 43 Offshore Express is the second in a new line of models from Riviera – a sport utility vessel which is equally at home as a game fishing machine or a family entertainer.

Deck layout

The 43 Offshore Express is offered in three distinctive configurations – an open

boat without a targa or coverings; a version with stylish, forward-raked targa and removable bimini; and a three-sided hardtop with a rear curtain to enclose the helm deck forward of the mezzanine. The hard top, in my opinion, is the best all-weather model. Add a Riviera tower and any of the above 43's will morph into a serious tournament fishing outfit. The latter is of course the one we had the pleasure of reviewing for this edition. ☒



Above deck:

The helm deck features skipper- and companion chairs, an L-shaped lounge with a table, and an aft-facing mezzanine seat that conceals a large cool box.

The cockpit of the 43 Offshore Express is a game fisherman's dream; spacious and functional, providing everything for the most demanding angler.

The entire cockpit floor lifts, hinges forward on an electric actuator to

provide access to the engine room and allows you to do your pre-departure checks easily.

Forward of the cockpit, the raised helm deck area is tangential and spacious, allowing lounge seating for six adults.

The helm itself is vast and practical. It has plenty of room for a complete array of marine electronics and the standard

comprehensive engine instrumentation including twin lever electronic engine control units and the IPS joystick.

There is a lot of serious boating intent in the 43 Offshore Express. As with all good sea boats, the 43 has purposeful lines, a graceful, sheer, plenty of freeboard and flair. Importantly, she performs fast or slow, going forward or in reverse. For serious fishing, the big cockpit is equipped with subfloor fishboxes with macerators, a tackle and bait-prep centre and options such as livebait well, outriggers, more rodholders, tower, and so forth. For pleasure boating, there is abundant drink and food storage.

The deep and broad cockpit has toe kicks so you can gain support from the coamings when leaning outboard. The in-transom livebait tank has a light, inspection window and split lid.

Steps lead up to the side decks, which are finished in a good grade of non-skid and backed by hand and bow rails.

Amenities on the bridge deck include fridge, icemaker, outdoor television, dinette and lounges, allowing a crew of six to 'chill-out' in air-conditioned comfort and be fed, watered and entertained. Opening side windows and overhead hatches help with natural ventilation as hard-top styled cruisers can tend to get hot.



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Below deck:

The 43 will silence the most ardent non-fisher looking for luxury rather than lines when it comes to the below-deck section. Access to below decks is via a lockable sliding door, where the saloon is dominated by an L-shaped lounge/dinette.

Adjacent to the lounge is an entertainment unit with a 22" LCD TV integrated with an AM/FM stereo, CD/DVD player with iPod interface, with storage space underneath.

A full height multifunction storage centre, combining pantry, liquor cabinet and rod storage locker can be configured to the owners' needs.

Purpose-built for this system, the boat includes a full-beam aft cabin, as well as a double master stateroom forward and a single bathroom.

The galley layout features plenty of cupboards, above and below bench for storage as well as a convection microwave oven and a two-door fridge/freezer. The galley benchtop is contemporary styled solid surface and includes a stainless steel sink and dual element induction cooktop.

The master stateroom forward is equipped with a queen walk-around bed. The bed is hinged and reveals a large storage space.



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cupboards and drawers under the bed for additional storage.

The cabin opens up to the saloon with a hinged door and sliding room divider.

The bathroom features a shower stall with a frameless glass door. The vanity has a solid surface bench top and contemporary porcelain sink.

The full beam aft cabin includes a queen double bed and a single along the port side.

There are two cabins and a head with a nice, big separate shower. An island

berth lies in the bow, with a double and single bed for a couple and/or crew in the full-beam cabin back aft.

Both cabins are carpeted and replete with storage. The flip-down TV in the forward cabin is a neat touch, as is the TV in the bridge deck, and third set in the saloon. Everyone gets a TV. I kept waiting for Oprah to jump out and say that there's a TV for me under my chair!

The L-shaped lounge can seat four around the dinette. Cooks will be impressed with the two-burner



stove with potholders, separate Norcold fridge and small vertical freezer, along with decent amounts of Corian counter space.

Performance

The 43 Offshore Express is the first in this line to utilise Volvo Penta IPS (Inboard Performance System) propulsion, which is a revolutionary system. With dramatically increased efficiency, Volvo Penta IPS offers fast acceleration, quiet running and significantly reduced fuel consumption.

There were some 15 knots of south wind coming from dead ahead at

Hout Bay harbour. Being a serious offshore boat means the bow has a lot more flair to shed water and additional freeboard for punching into a headsea. This causes a decent amount of water displacement – some of which did tend to end up on the windscreen – but it was no match for the efficient wipers. We retained our view ahead and remained dry in the enclosed bridge deck, even with the ventilation windows at the top fully open.

For this review, the 43 Offshore Express has a pair of Volvo Penta's revolutionary IPS 600's which produce 435HP per side.

The hull of the 43 is designed to be wide to deliver a more stable platform for anglers and entertainers. The increased wetted surface area back aft also helps the boat jump out of the blocks.

At around 8 knots, using just 13 litres per hour, the boat is nice and quiet while trolling, or as your guests sip champagne.

Cruise speed of 23 knots was clocked at 3000 rpm, where the engines use just 45 lph of the 1 500-litre fuel supply. If you do find yourself in a hurry, expect a top speed of 33 knots.

The 43 Offshore Express feels stable and surefooted, predictable and pleasurable, all the while being plain good fun!

Conclusion

There's a lot I like about the Riviera 43 Offshore Express. It comprises excellent engineering, mouldings and finishes. It is an economical cruising machine with amazing manoeuvrability and shows great attention to fisher- and family-needs.

Perhaps the best part is that it's a Riviera, which in itself a great recommendation as being the ultimate!

For more information contact Boating World on 0861 324 754, or 082 881 2607. **LB**



PERFORMANCE DATA	
RPM	km/h
3 000	23
3 600	33
ENGINE	
2 x Volvo Penta IPS 600	
Engine type:	4-Stroke, 6 cylinder, Diesel
Horsepower:	435, 320 kW
Displacement:	5 506 cc
BOAT	
Riviera 43 Offshore Express	
Length Over All:	15.04 m / 49' 4"
Beam:	4.72 m / 15' 5"
Fuel capacity:	1 500 litres
Weight (Dry approx.):	12 500 kg
TEST SUMMARY	
Water conditions:	2 meter swell
Wind velocity:	15 knots
Air temperature:	23 C
Top speed:	33 knots at 3 500 rpm.

*The manufacturer has verified that all specifications are correct prior to print.