

# Stylish Sportfishing

Words and pictures courtesy of Boating World

*When Boating World's Derrick Levy first saw the new Riviera 41 model, he really got excited because he knew that South African sport fishermen would be thrilled with this 46ft fishing battle wagon.*



**leisure**  
**boating**  
SA's leading power boat magazine



“She is a masterpiece,” says Derrick, importer of this spectacular craft, “The new design incorporates so many great features, it is hard to believe they can all fit in a boat of this size, yet there is still an amazing sense of spaciousness and she is ideal for long distance game fishing trips to Mozambique, for instance.”

He ordered both a Riviera 45 and a 41 from Australia and when they arrived in the country the new owner of the Riviera 41 had her taken up to his moorings at the Richards Bay Marina. (If you happen to be in the area you simply can't miss her. She's that sleek, streamlined boat with a trendy, contemporary appeal!)

In fact Derrick was so impressed he asked the owner for permission to bring her down to the 2008 Durban Boat Show where she wowed the crowds for the weekend. Boating World's technical manager Duncan Maple and sales manager Hans Dettman had

the privilege of taking her home, and thoroughly enjoyed the sea trip.

Maple was thrilled to find she had two thruster motors, bow and stern, which makes manoeuvring in tight spaces an absolute cinch. “Both are incorporated into one control unit (almost like a boat-shaped joystick) which allows

easy, simultaneous operation of both thruster motors. Even in difficult windy conditions moving this beauty in and out of the moorings is easy,” he says.

“Despite potentially inclement weather we left Durban confident that the Riviera 41 has what it takes for safe passage, thanks to the upgraded ▶



The Riviera 41's funky, contemporary helm area is not only stylish, but it puts a wealth of information at your fingertips.



With excellent seafaring capabilities, the Riviera 41 is ideally suited for our notorious coastline.

powerful, twin Cummins 540 motors. These are an excellent choice for our coastline and if necessary they have that extra "oomph" to get one out of trouble," he continued. And he noted that with a fuel capacity of 2,000 litres (with an option of a 535-litre forward tank) long distances are simply not an issue.

The ride to Richards Bay was soft and dry thanks to the new tunnel hulls, with no spray on the bridge at all and the zip-up clears kept out the odd rain squall, typical off our coast.

Dettman added that they had to contend with a swell of around four metres passing under the boat from the starboard stern quarter. "Under

these conditions the factory-fitted autopilot did an exceptional job of maintaining stability and tracking. The boat also comes with the new electric interceptor-type trim tabs with position indicators integrated into controls at the helm for easy handling. These trim tabs are ideal should you need to back-up on a marlin suddenly because unlike the flap-type they will not be ripped off."

Game fishermen will appreciate the large cockpit area – the transom access door makes getting big fish on board that much easier and there's plenty of room for friends and family. The large mid-transom live-bait well with double hatches can also serve as an icebox (or for storing those crayfish when fishing off Dassie Island in the Cape). There is also ample storage space including under-floor fish boxes, a spot for a game chair or a table and chairs – another great area for entertainment – that is well protected by the extended flybridge overhang. A factory-fitted braai is optional.



Game fishermen would be pleased with the craft's large cockpit area and excellent fishability.

Dettman says: "The new non-slip toe-under cut outs on the sides are extremely practical, allowing you to lean right out of the boat while fighting the "big one" – with your weight supported on your thighs rather than damaging your big toes."

"I was also very impressed with the positioning of the comfortable high-back pilot and passenger chairs in the flybridge area, which gives a good view over the fishing deck. "This is ideal for the pilot to keep the boat appropriately positioned when an angler is fighting a fish," he says.

He said: "Unlike some of the other designs around, the layout of the flybridge is carefully considered. The compact Slimline helm (with its two 12" electronic display panels and Lowrance fishfinder and GPS units), creates extra space for guests and can easily accommodate up to nine people."

The leather upholstery in the saloon is luxurious without being ostentatious, and the L-shaped dinette starboard is great for entertaining. This is found on a slightly raised platform (with a table) which can be converted into a cushioned daybed.

"A practical feature of the Riviera 41 is the stainless steel overhead handrail which is recessed into the saloon ceiling which also includes an electric-opening fishing rod storage locker to keep the boat free of clutter," Hans says.

"While we took a picnic lunch along, we could have had a cooked meal which would have been easy to prepare in the galley. Here you'll find a stainless steel sink, two-burner electric cooktop, convection microwave oven and a two-door refrigerator/freezer to make life even easier," said Dettman.

Crew, family and friends and five overnight passengers can be comfortably accommodated in the two cabins – complete with two bathrooms. A further two adults can sleep on an optional trundle bed that tucks neatly under the saloon lounge.

"It was so tempting to disappear



The L-shaped dinette starboard is great for entertaining and the saloon's upholstery is luxurious without being too flamboyant.

into the master cabin which sports a comfortable, island double bed with innerspring mattress. Special hinges and two gas struts lift the entire bed which hides large storage space underneath, while the vanity has below-bench storage."

A frameless glass door leads to the large en-suite shower stall with a new non-slip tile pattern and satin-finished chrome shower pole and showerhead. This latest model features a new second guest bathroom en-suite. (Riviera also offers a larger second cabin which is not en-suite, but this is obviously personal preference).

"I sneaked off into the starboard cabin when I was feeling drowsy and I had a great snooze on one of the bunks." Dettman continued. "This light-filled area with porthole is equipped with twin fore and aft bunks and a top bunk that discreetly slides away underneath wide storage lockers with feature mirrored fronts."

Overall we reckon the Riviera 41 is a safe, versatile, long-distance cruiser and fishing machine of note.

For further information, contact Boating World on (021) 421 5010, or 082 881 2607. You can also email [info@boatingworld.co.za](mailto:info@boatingworld.co.za). ■



A frameless glass door leads to the large en-suite shower stall with a new non-slip tile pattern and satin-finished shower area.