

# Riviera

## 70 & 85



Riviera is Australia's most-awarded luxury boat manufacturer of Open and Enclosed Flybridge models, Sport Cruisers and Sport Yachts. This south-east Queensland company produces around 350 boats annually at the largest pleasure-boat-building facility in the southern hemisphere. These yachts are exported to more than 30 countries globally, including South Africa.

Words: CHARL DU PLESSIS  
Images: © RIVIERA YACHTS

**B**oating World, one of South Africa's leading yachting outfits, represents Riviera from both its Durban and Cape Town premises. A three generation boating family, current owners Derrick Levy and Suzanne Glock make no secret of their enthusiasm for their Australian friends' yacht-building capabilities. We met with them recently to talk about some of the larger Riviera models suitable for South African and regional waters.

### The 70-foot Enclosed Flybridge

Derrick first waxes lyrical about one of the flagships of the Riviera fleet. With a massive cockpit that is fully equipped both for game fishing and entertaining, it is a four cabin/four bathroom model with sleeping capacity for between 10 and 14 people. That sounds like a great weekend away. But not only for the fishing braves. Company is welcome, as the fully enclosed flybridge is air conditioned, along with the rest of the yacht. Seating includes a central helm chair with three companion chairs and a large L-shaped lounge with coffee table facing a liquor cabinet and entertainment unit. An external viewing platform aft has seating for up to three people, with mezzanine seating forward under a lift-up stainless steel hopper window. The captain and his crew are never far out of sight of their guests, and one can easily sense why, since its first launch in 2008, this model has performed so well around the world.

Inside the saloon, a U-shaped lounge can seat eight in comfort. A straight-line staircase on the starboard side leads to the enclosed flybridge. The dining area, with seating for eight, and the galley are one step up from the lounge area. Forward of the dining area is a utility room equipped with separate washing machine and dryer and a multi-zone temperature-controlled wine cellar. The galley is equipped with a four-burner electric induction cooktop, two refrigerator



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units with two drawers each, and a two-drawer freezer unit. There is also an under-bench dishwasher. Clearly, the yacht could serve equally well on a quick day-trip as on an extended cruise, for you have every creature comfort onboard.

Down a wide companionway, the accommodation includes three cabins forward and the master stateroom aft down three steps. The stateroom spreads across the boat amidships, with fixed portholes on either side offering light and lovely waterline views. A king-sized bed is flanked by bedside tables. Walk-in wardrobes are built-in on both sides. The en suite features quality quartz tile flooring and a marble/quartz benchtop with porcelain bowl. A separate shower stall has a frameless glass door and a teak seat. An opening

porthole is recessed into the hull.

The forward accommodation includes a twin cabin to port, a twin or double to starboard and a forward cabin that can be fitted out with either a double bed or four tournament bunks. Derrick quips that people who buy a boat suddenly make a lot of new friends, and listening to how much fun one could have out in the blue, and how many friends one could bring along for the ride, it seems to be a pretty good investment opting for one of these beauties.

### New Motor Yacht Range

So, I was almost sold on the Enclosed Flybridge, when Suzanne drew my attention to the range of large motor yachts Riviera launched late last year. The Riviera 73, 78 and 85 motor yachts (MY) all bear Riviera's hallmark styling and impeccable build quality, and are sure to become the epitome of luxury for a few discerning owners.

These beautiful new boats are designed by the New Product Development team at Riviera's Coomera headquarters. The design studio team claims to be second to none in luxury boat design. Together they draw on experience not only in developing the flagship Riviera 70, but having worked with Azzura, with Sunseeker in the UK, and with Austal building superyachts. And it shows in the styling of a yacht series that could be either workhorse or water-hotel, whatever your preference.

From the large enclosed flybridge, with its interior and exterior lounge areas, to the accommodation space offering a minimum of four cabins and three or four bathrooms, these Riviervas set a new standard in luxury for long-distance cruising, relaxing at anchor in a secluded bay or when docked at the marina.

The massive saloons encompass a lounge area, generous U-shape galley amidships and separate dining area. Owners have a wide range of options including a garage housing a tender or space on the flybridge deck to store said tender or other water toys. With the garage option, the flybridge exterior can be a large entertaining area with lounges, tables and bar fridges.

At the top end, the 85 MY standard inclusions encompass four cabins, including a full-beam master stateroom with full-beam bathroom equipped with shower and bath, dual basins and toilets and twin walk-in robes; the enclosed Sky Lounge, hydraulic swim platform, hydraulic bow and stern thrusters and windlass. Engine options will give owners a wide range of boating lifestyles, from long-range cruising of more than 1,500 nautical miles to planing speeds around 24 knots.

This range is evidently meant for the discerning and successful individual who is used to only the best. And in terms of getting only the best advice, service, and maintenance support, there is no one better to speak to but the people at Boating World. Boating World will have a clear presence at this year's April Boat Show in Durban, so be sure to stop by.

Other new Riviera models to lookout for in the Flybridge range are the all-new Riviera 43 with twin IPS pods, and Riviera 51 Enclosed with 3 Zeus drives. In the Riviera Sports Yacht range the all-new 5000 Sport Yacht with Zeus drives and the Riviera 5800 Sport Yacht with 3 IPS pods are winners about to debut at the Sanctuary Cove Boat Show in May. If you are interested in one of these models and would like to view them at the Sanctuary Cove Boat Show in Australia, get in touch with Derrick Levy. 🌟

**Boating World has offices in Durban and Cape Town, contact:**

- Tel: 0861 324 754
- Email: [info@boatingworld.co.za](mailto:info@boatingworld.co.za)
- Visit: [www.boatingworld.co.za](http://www.boatingworld.co.za)