

STEP ABOARD



A WHOLE NEW WORLD

MICHAEL KAY *finds a new definition of luxury*
on board the FAIRLINE SQUADRON 65.

We see them in the grand and romantic endings of Hollywood movies, in opulent adverts coasting around the south of France, and on sunny Sunday afternoons basking in the Clifton sunshine, but when the Fairline Squadron 65 ported in Cape Town, Cirque Magazine saw it up close and personal.

On her journey to her new home in Angola, the yacht made a stop in Cape Town before cruising up the coastline of Africa. While she was in harbour, I chatted to Derrick Levy, head of the Boating World team who sold her to her new owners, and whose family is now going into its fourth generation in this fascinating niche arena.

Derrick is a boat man through and through; it's both his job and his vocation. Sitting at the magnificent One & Only Hotel with him, gazing at the yacht sitting quietly on the water in all

her glory, I can tell this is a man who is passionate about boats and the ocean. His eyes light up discussing the yacht and he happily reminisces about how his father would take him out on the ocean from an early age – and continues to do so today.

The world of boating is as much a part of Derrick's DNA as the finest materials are part of a Fairline luxury yacht's construction. When I ask him what he loves most about the industry

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his answer is simple: “Everything”. But the experience of being on the ocean is the thing that drives him on a personal level. The water, the waves, viewing the whales and marine life in their natural habitat, being out in nature... You can leave your worries and problems on shore – the ocean is about man and nature in perfect symbiosis.

The Squadron 65 is designed to make this ocean experience as luxurious as possible, and it caters to every need one could think. From LED lighting that illuminates the beds and floors to immaculate wooden counter tops, quality workmanship and finishing can be seen in every detail of the interior and exterior. So pristine is this vessel that the grain of every single piece of wood used on her runs in the same direction, adding subtle splendour and flow to the whole design.

The yacht is extravagant in every sense and every aspect. Extravagant power, fuelled by twin 1150hp diesel motors that hit a top cruising speed of 35 knots. Extravagant décor, including the finest leather, carpeting, linens and furniture. Every sense is pampered, from the subtle scent of high-gloss cedar wood to the sound of the tranquil water enveloping the hull while the boat bobs gently in the port.

More like a luxurious home than boat, the Squadron 65 promises great comfort for extended periods of time. It is fully self-sustainable, with a decked-out kitchen, bar, and spacious flybridge, not to mention the ever-essential braai and lounging area, fitted with teak tables and twin sun loungers.

Three, air-conditioned and humidity-free levels, four cabins and three en suites provide plenty of space and privacy for everyone on board. All of the accommodations are exquisitely outfitted, and offer a spectacular passenger experience. Even the stairs leading from the cabins are sprung, and feel like walking on velvety air.





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With a price tag of a cool R27million, however, the Fairline is obviously not in everyone's budget. This particular vessel is owned by an Angolan businessman – a positive indication of the increasing affluence in Africa. It goes to show that our continent is in the market for the kind of luxury and extravagance that has, until recently, been largely reserved for and associated with the Western World.

A yacht is, without doubt, the cherry on the luxury lifestyle cake. Cars, houses, and other gadgets are all well and good, but for the person who has conquered the land, a yacht offers its owner the opportunity to conquer the sea. It's not just a wild extravagance, either. According to Derrick, a good yacht holds excellent long term value, and can be a sound investment when compared to cars and other “toys” that

depreciate over time. A yacht is that rare combination of instant gratification and long-term satisfaction.

Whether you're looking for a business asset for impressing and entertaining clients, a water-born party, or a home-away-from-home for family adventures, the Fairline is 65ft of versatility, comfort and exceptional quality that can be adapted to suit any and every lifestyle. It offers years of activities and endless entertainment.

There was a lot of hype when the Fairline Squadron 65 arrived on Cape Town's shores and, having experienced her grandeur first-hand, it must be said that she absolutely lives up to expectations. If ever I have R27million to spare, this exquisite piece of ultimate luxury and class will be high on my list of must-have accessories. ■