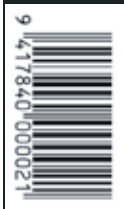


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# Marten 49

Luxury without compromising performance

By David Rhodes  
Photography - Francolini / Azzura Marine





The name Marten Yachts has been synonymous with composite performance yachts since first established in 1972. Among the numerous off-shore racers and America's Cup boats constructed by Marten over the years is KZ1. A 90-foot monohull built for New Zealander Sir Michael Fay in a bid for the 27<sup>th</sup> America's Cup challenge. The boat now stands on display outside The New Zealand National Maritime Museum in Auckland.

In late 2005, Australian-based yacht builder Azzura Marine acquired the Marten range (the Marten 49, 67, 72 and 85) and has continued to produce a number of these stylish cruiser-racers. In particular the Marten 49 has proven to be an extremely popular yacht, attracting clients worldwide. Marten Yachts are currently preparing for the world launch of the highly anticipated Marten 67, a unique, semi customised vessel which also offers enhanced luxury and performance.

With an appreciation of this iconic brand, I was keen to view the latest addition (hull # 14) to the growing fleet of Marten 49s. The new owner is a Brisbane-based proprietor of a luxury charter boat company, Ocean Dynamics, and he intends adding the aptly named *Ocean Affinity* to the company's operating fleet.

Stylish, clean lines with a stunning profile is my first impression of the 49. Flush decks, flush hatches, halyard and sheet lines leading below deck to jammers and winches, a retractable centreline gennaker pole and an anchoring system that stows the anchor below deck aft of the bow combine to provide an incredibly clean deck layout. Designed by Reichel/Pugh, the 49 hull, bulkheads and decks are constructed from carbon fibre with a foam sandwich core. Carbon fibre has been utilized for its strength and weight saving properties. To enhance the objectives of weight saving and strength, the mast and boom are also carbon fibre. The decks and cockpit sole of *Ocean Affinity* are teak laid and demonstrate the fine craftsmanship of the Azzura Marine team. Perfection personified. The walk through transom provides good deck space around the twin helm station wheels and all winches are located within easy reach of the cockpit, enabling the yacht to be easily handled by two people. Another innovative feature that comes standard is the hydraulic lifting keel. Apart from reducing the draught for access to shallow waterways, the deep keel foil achieves maximum efficiency upwind.

Below decks *Ocean Affinity* is equally uber-stylish with a spacious, functional and comfortable three cabin design to accommodate up to six guests. For racing, these cabins may be replaced with adjustable sea berths and sail stowage space. The contemporary interior uses a mix of painted surfaces with timber veneers. Cabinetry is lightweight in construction and all doors have an aluminium honeycomb core with a veneer surface. Aft, either side of the central companionway steps (which lift to provide access to the 75HP Yanmar auxiliary engine) are the double berth guest cabins. Complete with hanging lockers and cupboards they are light and airy despite their location beneath the cockpit. Forward and to starboard of the aft guest cabins is a chart table and galley. The galley is well equipped with a fridge/freezer, gas oven/cook top and provides plenty of bench and cupboard space. Opposite to port an 'L' shaped sofa graces a large pedestal dining table with a moveable seat completing the casual saloon arrangement. Forward of





the saloon is a day head/guest bathroom. The master cabin is located forward in the bow section. The cabin has a large double berth portside with hanging locker and cupboards to starboard and an ensuite located forward of the cabin. I particularly like this layout as it creates a spacious master cabin with plenty of walk-around space.

While the interior may be considered austere by some, I like the clean minimalist lines. Small unobtrusive halogen down-lights and the extensive use of white panels in the cabins and main saloon provide a sense of space and openness. I also noted that the housing for the lifting keel has been cleverly disguised in the design layout.

When designing the Marten 49, Reichel/Pugh's emphasis was on striking the difficult balance between high-performance and comfort in the highly competitive cruiser/racer market. The design encompasses

all the elements for this yacht to be a superb family cruising yacht, a top performer at regattas and a fast and comfortable passage maker for distance cruising. In addition, the deck layout and innovative features incorporated results in a racer-cruiser that can be easily sailed short handed. While I didn't have the opportunity to test the 49's performance for myself, the record books certainly attest to its capabilities. This year alone the Marten 49 has won a number of regattas, not to mention the numerous wins logged over previous years.

Based on the 49's well-established sailing pedigree and the yacht's functional and practical layout, *Ocean Affinity* is sure to provide its new owner and many of Ocean Dynamics' charter clients comfortable and exhilarating cruising. 🚢

Further information can be found at [www.martenyachts.com](http://www.martenyachts.com)

