

THIS CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG



The Moorings Power and Leopard Catamaran debut a new 37-foot powercat

Following The Moorings Power's successful venture into powercats last year with a 47-footer designed by the Huntington, California, multihull gurus Gino Morelli and Pete Melvin, the company went back to the well with a request for a smaller boat suited for two couples or a single family. The designers answered with an impressive 37-foot Leopard powercat just launched by Robertson and Caine in South Africa. Equipped with a full slate of cruising amenities, the model will soon be in charter service as The Moorings 372PC.

"Why thirty-seven feet? It was driven by the market, really," says Moorings Product Manager David Rohr. "That's the length it took for an efficient hull shape, to fit in two nice ensuite cabins and a full galley and to integrate the flying bridge as well as provide room for charter storage and amenities such as air conditioning and a generator."

The Moorings Power, which has rebranded from its original name NauticBlue, has found success with power catamarans in charter markets such as the Virgin Islands, the Abacos, Baja California, the Seychelles, Thailand, and Australia, and

thus its boats are designed with easy water access and lots of space for lounging out of doors, both in sun and shade. On its new Leopard 37, the dining areas on the flybridge and in the saloon can each seat six people. For ease of use, the boat is fitted with a 6 kW genset, power windlass, color chart plotter, electronic shifters, and an autopilot.

Unlike some sailing catamarans where the galley is forward on the main deck, the galley on the new 37 is aft to starboard, next to the sliding doors to the aft deck for convenience and to keep the cook from feeling isolated. In addition to a propane cooktop and barbecue, the boat comes with a microwave and convenient drawer-style refrigerator and freezer. A nav station is opposite the galley. Interior seating is tucked under the windscreen.

Down four steps to port and starboard are identical suites with a double berth aft and a spacious head forward separated by a dressing area. A forward hatch and opening portlights in each space provide ventilation for those who don't choose to run the

By MARILYN MOWER

air conditioner. The surfaces are all white except for black Corian counters and cherry cabinets and synthetic teak sole.

This new Leopard 37 power catamaran will make its public U.S. debut at the Annapolis Powerboat Show October 16, and then high-tail it down the coast to make the Fort Lauderdale

the more than 500 Leopards Robertson and Caine has built have been delivered around the world on their own bottoms.

“We’re working on that,” says David. “We are looking at alternative power assist technologies, and by planning the trip to incorporate stops at St. Helena in the South



Supporting casual living and active vacationers, this powercat puts the galley close to the aft deck for easy outdoor dining. The nav station, communications and control panel are grouped with the TV in close proximity to the lounge area. The cabins are identical with double berths and private heads with showers.

International Boat Show opening October 30. Given that it can make 17-plus knots on twin 110-hp Yanmars, the delivery should not be cause for drama. Carrying more than 250 gallons of fuel, she'll be perfectly capable of cutting corners with offshore passages on the way at an efficient cruising speed around 14 knots. In fact, like all Leopards, she's designed to cruise offshore and built with collision bulkheads. Except for this 37-footer, all of

Atlantic and then hopping up the cost of South America, we are confident the boat can do it. However, making these shows was the key factor this time.”

Yacht Sales Marketing Manager Steve Long explains that Leopard Catamarans can be customized with different interior finishes and upholstery and offer owner options for interior layouts, deck equipment and electronics. Those going into The Moorings



SPECIFICATIONS

LOA: 36' 6"

BEAM: 14' 8"

Draft: 3' 2"

Power: 2 x Yanmar @ 110 hp

Fuel/Water: 253/113 U.S. gals.

Top/Cruising Speed: 22/14 knots

LEOPARD

Fort Lauderdale, FL

888-233-4913

leopardcatamarans.com

Leopards are built in fiberglass by Robertson and Caine in South Africa. Bolster-style backrests help keep the flybridge profile low.

program are given a list of amenities essential for charter.

So, just as there's more than one way to skin a cat, there's more than one way to own a Leopard 37 powercat—either outright from the Leopard sales centers in Fort Lauderdale or Annapolis or through The Moorings Ownership Plan, an exclusive program where an owner buys the boat and leases it back to The Moorings for five years. The owner gets use of the boat (or another in the program) for nine weeks each year while The Moorings maintains

the vessel and pays the owner a guaranteed monthly amount for use of the boat. At the end of the five years, the owner can sail off with his boat or take advantage of a pre-agreed trade-in value and roll it over into a new boat in The Moorings fleet.

The first Moorings 372 power cats will be arriving at charter bases in the Bahamas and the B.V.I. during the first quarter of 2009, with deliveries to Baja, Mexico, in the second quarter followed by Thailand in the third quarter. 