

Dean 441



Multihull Preview

BWS takes a quick look at some of the new cruising multihulls coming to the U.S. market this year

At this year's Annapolis Sailboat Show, the catamaran docks were once again lined with cruising cats from around the world and the crowds were queued up to board many of them all weekend. There's no doubt that cruising cats have found a real and avid following in North America.

So it is no surprise that interesting new designs and new models are debuting regularly. And, it should be noted that most of the new boats are built in Europe, South Africa, South America and

Australia—and, that they all arrived in North America by sailing across the world's oceans.

Here is a look at seven new cruising cats that will be turning heads and generating lines at boat shows in the year ahead.

DEAN 441

The new Dean 441 is a moderate displacement cruising cat built by Dean Catamarans in Cape Town, South Africa. The company has been building cruising cats for 15 years and has delivered more than

40 catamarans in the last four years.

The new design is based on all of those years of experience and on extensive owner feedback collected by the builders. The result is a blue water cruising boat that offers a very sensible balance of liveaboard accommodation, load carrying and speed.

While the new Dean 441 has the capability of reaching top speeds above 15 knots, the virtue of the design is its ability to maintain very good average speeds over the long haul while carrying her crew and all their cruising gear and equipment

in real style and comfort.

The fixed-keel hulls are solid fiberglass below the waterline, which ensures durability and protection against collisions or grounding. Above the waterline and throughout the deck structure, the laminate is cored with end-grain balsa wood, which saves weight while adding stiffness and insulating properties. The interior structural bulkheads are balsa-composite construction that is laminated to the hull and then covered with hardwood veneer—cherry or maple.

The afterdeck offers an L-shaped seating area around a large table, a fixed cockpit awning and the raised helmsman's station to port. The 441's cabin top is quite streamlined and looks sleek in profile. This also makes visibility from the helm above average.

The saloon, with a large dinette, is bright and well ventilated by four opening hatches. The galley can either be situated in the starboard hull or in the saloon. In the "galley up" version, the starboard hull can have either another sleeping cabin or a vast amount of cabinetry for storage.

The two main sleeping cabins are forward in both hulls. The berths are huge and the cabins are fitted out with large wardrobes that feature large hanging lockers and four drawers each. Both cabins have en suite heads with separate shower stalls.

The joinery and finish work on the Dean 441 compares favorably with the world's finest yachts and offers owners a traditional styling in what otherwise is a thoroughly modern offshore cruising boat.

Specifications: LOA 43'8"; Beam 23'6"; Draft 3'6"; Displacement 26,455 lbs.; Fuel 145 gals.; Water 178 gals.

For more information contact The Multihull Company. www.multihullcompany.com.



Dolphin 460

DOLPHIN 460

The Dolphin 460, a photo of which appeared on *BWS*'s August cover, is an advanced performance cruising catamaran designed for serious sailors who demand fine sailing capabilities from their cruising boats. With a tall rig and daggerboards, the 460 has the power to sail fast and the hull form and deep foils that make it very effective when sailing on the wind.

The 460 has proven over many ocean miles and on the race course to be roughly 20 percent faster than standard cruising cats and as close winded as modern cruising monohulls. During a recent offshore event, a 460 averaged 11 knots for 12 hours.

Dolphin cats are built in Brazil and then delivered on their own bottoms to owners around the world. Designer and builder Phelippe Poureau in league with his business partner Jr. Pimenta, have created a completely modern construction facility in Aracaju, Brazil, where hulls and decks are formed using vacuum bagging and resin infusion techniques. The hulls are cored with Divinice so the resulting laminates are extremely light while being stiff and durable. Interior bulkheads and structures are also Divinice-cored laminates that are then fully tabbed into the hulls.

With a displacement of only 10,000 pounds on the 45-foot waterlines, the 460 is light when compared to most well known cats. The working sail area is 1,230 square feet, with most of the power allocated to the huge fully battened mainsail. Fitted with both a gennaker and an asymmetrical spinnaker, the boat has plenty of horsepower for making miles in light airs.

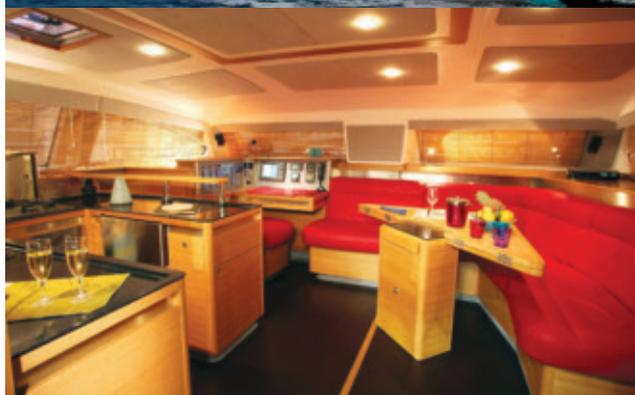
The standard accommodation plan offers a large owner's cabin with a separate office and full head in one hull and twin guest cabins with en suite heads in the other hull. Because the boats can be customized by the builder, an owner may adapt the cabin layout to fit specific needs.

The saloon has a U-shaped dinette that will seat six, a large modern galley with twin sinks and plenty of working counter space and a modern nav station. The saloon flows into the open area of the after cockpit via large, Lexan sliding doors that have robust aluminum frames. The cockpit has a second table and bench seats as well as the raised steering station to starboard. A fiberglass hardtop covers the cockpit.

A cruising boat designed by avid catamaran sailors for sophisticated owners who are looking for the best in performance, construction and



Catana 50



accommodations, the Dolphin 460 will sail by most of the cats in the cruising fleet and will deliver her crew into port after a long passage safe and well rested.

Specifications: LOA 45'9"; LWL 45'4"; Beam 24'0"; Draft 3'7"; Dagger board draft 7'5"; Displacement 10,000 lbs.; Sail area 1,230 sq. ft.; Water 118 gals.; Fuel 118 gals.

For more information contact The Multihull Company. www.multihullcompany.com.

CATANA 50

Catana cats have been plying the world's oceans safely and swiftly for 15 years and have proven to be

one of the most popular brands in events like the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC), and shorter rallies in Europe.

The cats are designed and built in France where the design team has consistently developed new and interesting features in their boats to make them safe, stable and fast. And, they have never been slaves to fashion. Catanas are all distinctively Catanas, with a purposeful, modern look, and hull forms that will be easily recognizable across a crowded harbor. First and foremost, Catanas have been created to be world cruisers and fast passagemakers.

The builder has stressed safety and comfort in the design of the hulls and offers unique shapes below the water to reduce the pitching motion and enhance windward ability. The 50 has daggerboards that greatly enhance windward

sailing ability, so the 50 has the capability to beat off a lee shore in heavy conditions—something you never want to do but someday may have to.

The 50 has a carbon fiber mast, an aluminum boom and advanced rigging systems that have evolved from the offshore racing fleet. The sail plan offers plenty of power yet the boat is meant for a cruising couple so hardware, sheet leads and winches are arranged to be convenient to the helm stations. The 50 is a performance sailboat first and a commodious home afloat second.

You can fit a lot of living space in a 50-foot cat. With a beam of almost 26 feet, and high volume hulls, the cabin spaces inside the hulls are huge and comfortable. In the standard version, the owner's suite is in the starboard hull with a large sleeping cabin, head, shower stall and acres of storage. The guest cabins are fore and aft in the port hull with separate heads with a large shower stall between them.



Orana 44

The saloon is vast, with a dinette that can accommodate six adults, a galley suitable for gourmet chefs, a large nav station and even a self-draining wet locker for foul weather gear. The interior finish is modern and elegant and the views from the dinette expansive.

The Catana 50 comes very well equipped with a long list of high quality standard equipment that has proven to be both durable and efficient. If you are looking for a floating home in which to explore the world in safety, comfort and high speeds, the 50 offers a proven and unique solution. As soon as you step aboard, you know the boat was designed by sailors for sailors and equipped to meet the rigors of the sea.

Specifications: LOA 52'6"; LWL 49'3"; beam 25'11"; Draft 3'11"; Daggerboard draft 9'8"; Displacement 33,000 lbs.; Sail area 1,433 sq. ft.; Water 211 gals.; Fuel 211 gals.

For more information contact The Multihull Company. www.multihullcompany.com.

FOUNTAINE PAJOT ORANA 44

The new Orana 44 from French builders Fontaine Pajot incorporates many innovations in a design that promises to be a great floating home and a capable cruiser. Designed by veterans Joubert/Nivelt, the 44 packs a huge amount of interior volume in 44 feet. With a beam of 24 feet, the hulls are voluminous and the saloon and after deck are as large as those found on much larger cats.

Notable about the new design

is the raised helmsman's station on the starboard side of the cockpit. The wheel and controls are in a half-flybridge that offers excellent visibility forward and of the sails. Although somewhat separate from the cockpit, the person at the helm can still see and converse with those reclining below. The genoa sheets and main sheet can be led to the helm so one person can control the boat singlehanded. There is a large area aft of the helm where mats can be spread out for sunning and relaxing.

The owner's or Maestro version of the 44 offers a huge owner's suite in the starboard hull with a large atharwships berth aft, the head and shower stall amidships and a study and storage area forward. The two guest cabins are in the port hull with large double berths, en suite heads and lots of storage.

The saloon area is expansive. The dinette has a teardrop shaped table surrounded by comfortable sofa-style bench seats that will seat up to eight adults. The galley to starboard faces aft and has twin sinks and a four-burner stove/oven. The counter space has been set up so drinks and snacks can be passed easily aft to those in the cockpit or so glasses and beverages can be set up when entertaining a large crowd of friends. Certainly, given the breadth of the cockpit and saloon, a gathering of 20 people is not out of

the question.

Fontaine Pajot has been building high quality cruising cats for more than 20 years and continues to be a leader among French builders. With cats ranging from 36 to 60 feet, the builder serves the cruising market with innovative designs that also have proven over the years to be great values. The new Orana 44 will certainly fill that bill.

Specifications: LOA 43'1"; Beam 24'11"; Draft 4'0"; Displacement 18,000 lbs.; Sail Area 1,388 sq. ft.; Water 144 gals.; Fuel 92 gals.

For more information and to contact a dealer near you log on to www.fontaine-pajot.com.

FOUNTAINE PAJOT SALINA 48

The new big sister to the Orana 44 is the Fontaine Pajot Salina 48 and like the 44 footer, the new 48 offers a lot of volume and accommodation in a trim and well laid out design. The 48 has the same style raised helm station as the 44 but the half-flybridge is really huge and has a three-person seat, ready access to the sail control lines and a good area for sunning.

The cockpit and saloon, which are connected via large sliding doors in heavy aluminum frames, join together to create a vast indoor-outdoor living and playing area. The cockpit table will seat eight while