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# Sails

## HOME & AWAY

FLOATING HOMES WITH BLUE RIBBON WATERFRONT ADDRESSES

### THE RIGHT STUFF

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO LEAD A CLIPPER CREW AROUND THE WORLD?

### WING MEN

HOW TWO AUSSIE BROTHERS' OBSESSION WITH FOIL DESIGN LED TO THE NEW SEMI RIGID WING SAIL

### AUTUMN CARNIVAL

RACING HOTS UP AS THE FLAG DROPS ON A NEW SEASON OF REGATTAS

### HEAD ABOVE WATER

SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR PEACE OF MIND ON THOSE OFFSHORE PASSAGES



### TOP CRUISER RACERS

TEN OF THE BEST ALL ROUNDERS TO COMPETE IN COMFORT

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Zealand, Asia and more are all very achievable on the right boat.”

The right boat at Multihull Central is the Outremer 5X, a European Boat Of The Year winner.

“Consider a luxury five-star overwater bungalow in Tahiti, but much bigger and with your personal items around so you’re not living out of a suitcase,” says Vaughan. “You wake in the morning, enjoy a real coffee from your coffee machine then some breakfast on the back deck overlooking turquoise waters, feed the fish before slipping in for a swim then take your tender to the local secret dive spot. Once the novelty wears thin, you pull up anchor and in a few days could be in a completely different country, like the Cook Islands, Tonga or Fiji. And if you choose, you never have to go near a busy, noisy and tacky

because your beverage-of-choice is less likely to spill or land on the deck when a wave hits. Increased stability also reduces seasickness.

In terms of operation, they are easier to sail than a single hull and they come with an ever-changing, uninterrupted view in any given moment. You can sightsee from the flybridge without leaving the comfort of your floating suite.

Luxury cruising can also bring people closer together especially in the case where one person enjoys traditional sailing and the other is less enthusiastic. These cats excel in terms of bluewater performance and can get up to double digit speeds that would please the cruiser who’s fond of racing. But it’s life on board that has elevated the experience to something sublime.

John Pruim owns *Triple Zero*, a 42-

**PLAIN SAILING**  
This page, from top: Open-plan interiors on the BALI 4.3 give uninterrupted views aboard your floating hotel suite; Bathe in sunlight aboard the roof of the BALI 4.5. Opposite page: Catamarans keep the sailors and the non-sailors and guests happy in equal measure.

foot hybrid Lagoon 420 built by the French Beneteau Group and available through The Multihull Group (TMG), part of the Windcraft Group / Yoti brokerage network. Luxury was the first and most important consideration for Prium when choosing a cruiser.

“My wife is not really a sailor,” says Prium. “She came along reluctantly at first. Now, for the past 16 years, we have sailed six months of every year. Our house in Buderim has everything she wants and enjoys so to get her to join me on the water, I needed a boat that offered the same level of comfort and style. The choice had to be a catamaran. Now she has everything she loves at home in a luxury boat as well.”

John Cowpe is the managing director of TMG and says a normal approach people make in becoming a luxury cat owner is to work with the commissioning team at Lagoon on the build with an option to personally collect your new acquisition.

“You can pick the vessel up in France and enjoy the Mediterranean for a season or two before most commonly joining the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC) in a cruise in company from the Canaries to the Caribbean – arriving in time for Christmas celebrations and a glass of Jamaican rum,” says Cowpe. “A few months of exploring and come April, you find yourself transiting the Panama canal and popping out into the Pacific where another sea of adventure awaits and your cruise back to Australia continues.”

Some contemporary features of the Lagoon include: Nauta-designed cabinetry, a five-burner stove plus



“I have a young family of fairly inexperienced sailors looking to enjoy the shallow waters of South East Asia. A large cat gives us multiple areas to relax. The saloon, the cockpit, the flybridge and the foredeck are all very spacious and spread out allowing for considerable peace from the noisy kids. You just don’t get cabin fever. I would never consider anything else.”

Horsfield added the bonus of on-board staff so he and the family can enjoy more fun times on the boat than running it.

“You can make your boat as luxurious as you like. Ours is perfect with three full-time crew,” he says. “On board, you will find the finest claret mixed with the best food and all the cocktails anyone could ask for, but for us, it’s all about the toys. Jet skis, diving, wake boarding – they all make the whole adventure pure, adrenalin-fuelled fun.”



tourist location again.”

Whether you’re an owner, part of a syndicate, chartering or enjoying the free option of being a guest on board, here are some of the tough decisions you’ll have to make on a regular basis:

Would you like to dine al fresco at the water’s edge or relax with an aperitif in the air-conditioned saloon?

Do you feel like cooling off in the water with the local wildlife or shall we lounge a while longer on the deck?

Where would you like to wake up tomorrow?

It’s all about space, freedom and choice where all options are top of the line.

It’s no surprise that luxury catamarans have earned the nickname ‘booze-cruisers.’ The stability offered by these multihull vessels is a big plus



oven as well as full-sized, stainless steel kitchen appliances and glamour whitegoods.

King-size beds that you can walk around instead of climb into have become de rigeur at the high-end of the market. Multiple cabins, bespoke ensuites and the ultimate in comfortable furnishings that you can tailor to your exact specifications means every night aboard can offer a good night’s sleep.

Eric and Janine Cook own a TAG 60 called *Stardust*, located in Mooloolaba and appreciate the personalisation of life aboard their catamaran.

“We find that having a complete set of luxury amenities at our disposal is awe-inspiring – a five-star kitchen, a beautiful saloon with audio-visual entertainment, private cabins, laundry facilities, ice-maker, microwave, oven and a dishwasher available for our sole personal use makes for the best home-away-from-home lifestyle imaginable. Then with all this luxury, the ability to sail to any destination with a minimum of noise and fuel consumption, is a tremendous privilege.”

The TAG 60 is a South African-built catamaran that is available through Multihull Solutions and features leather furnishings along with a dining table of adjustable height. It also has safety sensors to de-power the vessel and prevent capsizing.

Grant Horsfield, owner of *Arabella*, a Fountaine Pajot Victoria 67, says stability, space and flexibility were his essential luxuries.



Mark Elkington is the Queensland-based managing director of Multihull Solutions and the largest catamaran dealer in the Asia-Pacific. One of their signature brands is the stylish Fountaine Pajot of which the Victoria 67 is the flagship. If size and space are your definitions of luxury when it comes to boats, this one sets a benchmark.

The style of these havens afloat is inspired by the world’s best hotels and like other catamarans at the high-end of the market, it affords all guests on board the thing that no hotel can match – perhaps not even a seven-star hotel – the freedom to





at the Whitsundays in his charter fleet that will be on display at the Sanctuary Cove Boat Show in May. QYC will also have the new Bali 4.0 arriving for the Sydney Boat Show, July 28 to August 1, after which she'll join the charter fleet. Like the Lagoon, it's their hybrid quality that holds a lot of appeal. Solar panels generate enough power to run big screen TVs, a full kitchen, all variety of mood lighting, air conditioning and there's the option of having a high-speed internet connection. A 'green' engine also helps to preserve the serenity of cruising.

"I have a lot of solar panels and I hardly have to run an engine," says Lagoon owner, John Pruim. "In a normal situation, I run the generator one hour a day. That produces enough power for all the domestic appliances

move those sumptuous surroundings with you.

"It is virtually impossible to equate the luxury and experience of the environment on a catamaran with any hotel," explain Eric and Jane Cook, owners of *Stardust*.

"Here, you have all the amenities for your sole use. In even the best hotels, you share everything with other guests and the premises are hardly mobile. The privacy and accompanying views on a catamaran far excel the top hotels in the best locations. On a cat, when you get bored with or tired of one place, you just move on and take all your luxury with you."

Christophe Vanek, managing director of Queensland Yacht Charters has a Bali 4.3 operating



**ON THE LEVEL**  
From the top: The Leopard 51 powercat moored; Vast space aboard the Leopard 58. Minimalist and modern interiors pervade on the Leopard 51.

and to move the catamaran from one bay to the next. Most motors are annoying. We refer to motor boats as 'stinkers' because of the fumes. We like tranquility so the less noise, the better. The propeller regenerates a lot of power so in theory, we could sail around the world without even running the motor – as long as there is wind with the back up of a generator.

"Luxury is not having to put up with the stink, vibration and noise of an engine," he adds.

Another of the exquisitely designed catamarans with every human comfort in mind is the range of Leopard vessels from the 40 to the flagship 58 available through David Flynn of Leopard Catamarans in Queensland.

DAVID FLYNN

This award-winner is constructed by South African boatbuilders Robertson & Caine with contributions to its unique, modern design by naval architects Simonis and Voogd. The flybridge has seating for up to 10 people and the outdoor kitchen and grill is better than having a barbeque at home.

Reluctantly, Pruim is selling his Lagoon 420 *Triple Zero* via Yoti but sees it as upgrading in a sense.

"My son also bought a Lagoon catamaran so I'm sharing it with him. He sails two to three weeks a year so we can have it the rest of the time. I'm 74 years old and I want to have another 10 years on the water."

True luxury can be described as a combination of what money can buy and what money can't buy with customisation being the key to having every creature comfort exactly as you want.



an inspirational adventure to nut out a creative project or contemplate their next move along the corporate ladder.

"They escape for three months or more with family or friends and have the time to get creative on their next work move. I have dozens of successful people who use Seabbaticals to re-energise their lives and continue to achieve."

A little bit of luxury goes a long way on the water.

A lot of luxury on a lavish catamaran means you unpack your bags just once, travel first class around the world and enjoy the ultimate lifestyle in your own cruising penthouse. ⚓

John and Barbara Davies ordered *Mercury*, a Fountaine Pajot Cumberland 47 built in France, which was delivered to Brisbane by car carrier. Multihull Solutions then coordinated customisation of its luxury features.

"A hardtop was constructed, clears added and extra refrigeration as well as other details, before the boat was presented at the Sanctuary Cove Boat Show and then taken south for the Sydney Boat Show," they said.

"From Sydney we took the boat to the Whitsundays with a side trip to Fraser Island and Mooloolaba then had serious fun with some family and friends for 12 weeks."

Brent Vaughan says Multihull Central specialises in 'Seabbaticals' for professional people who may need

**LAGOON LIFESTYLE**  
From the top: The Lagoon 52 sailing cat is a floating hub for the best of on-water lifestyle; The range from Lagoon spans various sizes, from the super-spacious (directly above), to the more compact (right).

