

SPORTING PROPOSITION

Indoors or out, summer or winter, the new Riviera 505 SUV excites with single-level luxury and alfresco entertainment, plus dashing bluewater performance and capability.



By John Willis
Photography
supplied

Proud Australian boatbuilding icon Riviera Australia is celebrating its 40th year of production and the launch of more than 5500 vessels with the release of some very special craft. The first of these for 2020 sets new standards in luxurious design, seaworthy ability, flowing layout, inviting accommodation and blistering performance – introducing the all-new Riviera 505 SUV.

Riviera has recently enjoyed unparalleled sales growth by taking its ability to produce premium craft to a demanding international market. Mark these words – I believe the 505 SUV is destined to become one of the most successful boats ever produced, not only in Australasia, but on a world scale.

Its existing SUV range has been met with excitement and success with more than 130 SUVs launched to date – yet there was a missing link between the 445 and 545, hence the introduction of the 505.

SOCIAL FLOW

The SUV configuration creates a highly sociable flow throughout the entire boat starting with the transom platform. There's immediate access to the cockpit via dual transom doors and the transition really does make the platform part of the useable deck space. I could only imagine the hours of aquatic fun to be had from the launching pad whether for swimming, lounging, fishing, diving or dispatching water toys and tender craft.

The rear deck is a surprising 6.5sqm and teak-laid, with a ton of useable space, high coamings, moulded livebait well and plenty of



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Above right and opposite bottom right: Alfresco or formal dining, the choice is yours aboard the Riviera 505 SUV.

Opposite bottom left: The master stateroom is palatial in size and decor.

Below: The big aft galley is ready to cater outside through a lift-up servery window.



storage options including underfloor self-draining wet boxes. There's immediate access to the spacious engine room via a large floor hatch in the mezzanine, and serviceability of the pod drives via the lift-out wet boxes. The cockpit also features a large barbecue/wet bar centre and 130lt top-loading fridge/icemaker compartment.

The saloon is simply magnificent, with light Sunbrella fabrics, oak composite flooring, lush leather upholstery, gloss walnut finishes, Corian benchtops, ceiling liners, superb cabinetry and premium fittings. Up in the front is a formal L-shaped dinette complete with foldout gloss timber dining table, plus there's another lounge to starboard rear with an ottoman featuring a reversible upholstered top that turns into a handy coffee table.

The galley is fully fitted with electric cooktop, microwave convection oven, dual-drawer fridge/freezer, stainless steel sink, an optional dishwasher, icemaker, plus loads of storage, plenty of cabinetry and drawers. You can easily cater for a party or a





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long holiday, and have the portable power to run the lot with a 13kWh/50Hz Onan generator. You will also love the array of functional LED lighting throughout the entire boat no matter your mood.

I simply loved the large electric sunroof over the helm and formal dinette, plus plenty of opening windows and doors that enhance the expansive feel. If it gets too hot outside, simply fire up the 12,000BTU air-conditioning, and there's Fusion sound systems, plus a large 43in LCD TV to keep you entertained.

LUXURY BELOW

A major advantage of pod drives over shafts is that they allow space for a full-width master stateroom amidships, and this one's a pearler. In fact, the entire downstairs accommodation feels like that of a much larger vessel, with its three-stateroom two-bathroom configuration.



Top: Plush helm can be specified with electronics from brands Garmin, Raymarine, Simrad and FLIR.

Right: Saloon's starboard lounge has an ottoman that doubles as a coffee table.



The master invites you to relax in ultimate comfort provided by the queen-size berth, chaise longue and bureau. There are full-length dressing mirrors either side of the bed and flooding natural light from large hull windows complete with opening portholes. You'll also love the water-level views and feel safe in knowing that the glass is 26mm thick – the same as the hull. The en suite, with full-size shower, vanity and marine head, is light, roomy and well-appointed.

Up in the bow is the VIP stateroom, complete with hanging wardrobe space, TV/entertainment and a large island bed, and shares its bathroom with the guest bunkroom. There's even a hidden



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laundry complete with front-loading washer and dryer in the companionway.

GO WIDE

The Riviera 505 SUV's demeanour is exceptionally sporty, but seriously seagoing. This is not just a lush harbourside cruiser – indeed, she's a practical and efficient coastal explorer with true bluewater credentials.

Riviera has selected twin 600hp (447.4kW) Volvo Penta D8-IPS800 turbodiesels as standard power, complete with joystick controls to both helm and cockpit. Our demonstration unit had the optional upgrade to twin 725hp (533kW) D11-IPS950s which rocketed the craft along confidently, and almost playfully up to a top speed of 33 knots (61.1km/h) at 2750rpm WOT. At this speed she's using 282lt/h combined or 8.3lt/nm – but it's great fun. It also provides the confidence to be able to run home quickly if the weather turns sour.


The efficient hull design and full fibreglass construction strength reflects a very soft and predictable ride with exceptionally low noise levels. The wide beam and weight configuration forge terrific stability, however this one was also

assisted by an optional Seakeeper stabiliser and automatic trim tabs.

For extreme long-range travel, where fuel efficiency is vital, the 505 SUV returns pleasing figures of 25lt/h at 900rpm for 7.7 knots (14.2km/h) allowing a 915nm range with 10 per cent reserve. However, you will just love the fast cruising speed of 28.9 knots at 2300rpm, where she returns a pleasing 220lt/h and a range of 390nm.

BOTTOM LINE

Standard pricing for the Riviera 505 SUV starts at \$1.6M, while a fully optioned package such as our demonstration boat is nearly \$1.9M. This is a package suited to those who appreciate the exceptional quality of a genuine seafarer that is loaded with all the goodies, performs brilliantly and presents with class-leading 2020 grace and style.

Remember, premium quality never goes out of style, plus it always demands terrific resale value when it comes time to update. 

| RIVIERA 505 SUV | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Length overall: | 17m |
| Beam: | 4.96m |
| Weight (dry): | 22,500kg |
| Fuel: | 3300lt |
| Water: | 460lt |
| Power (as tested): | Twin 725hp Volvo Penta D11-IPS950 |
| Price from: | \$1.6M |
| Price as tested: | \$1.9M |
| More information: Riviera Boats, tel: (07) 5502 5555. Web: rivieraaustralia.com. | |

Above: Even the submersible swimplatform is roomy enough to be an entertainment zone in its own right.