

tradeboat
HALL OF FAME
Family Friendly

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Riviera SUV 445



Family *First*

BUILT TO FILL A WIDENING GAP
BETWEEN SPECIALIST VESSELS, THE
NEW RIVIERA 445 SUV IS BILLED AS A
JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES



“The family that plays together stays together and as you will see, *both the cockpit and the saloon are good examples of this philosophy*”



CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE TOP

Safety is everything with children and the 445 SUV presents many features with this in mind; Two of the three bunks located in the children's cabin; She's versatile as well, turning on the charm for a romantic night out; The master cabin is setup with an island berth in the forepeak; The indoor dining options are tailored for a family of five.

Although I had heard rumours something significant was in the pipeline for some time, my first viewing of the Riviera 445 SUV (Special Utility Vessel) was at its world release during the Sydney International Boat Show back in August 2012. The warm tones and relaxed styling immediately got my attention. Kind of like a friendly neighbour inviting you over for a barbecue, this demo boat felt welcoming to step onboard.

A time was set the following week for an extended private cruise on Sydney Harbour with Riviera's director of brand and sales Stephen Milne. This first tour was so successful we soon arranged for a more indulgent family-focused day on Pittwater.

QUICK ONCE-OVER

The Riviera 445 SUV is presented as a contemporary single-level, two-cabin liveaboard cruiser. In the current market the exterior lines are distinctive – crisp and refreshingly clean. A wide, fully enclosed cockpit leads through to a spacious saloon with round-table seating to starboard, a galley to port and the helm station forward.



The accommodation spaces can be somewhat customised but were presented today specifically to suit a family of five, with a double cabin forward and three single berths in the full-beam cabin amidships.

In summary, the single-level 445 could not be better configured to ensure all are involved as much as possible. After all the family that plays together stays together, and as you will see both the cockpit and the saloon are good examples of this philosophy.

NEPTUNE'S PLAYGROUND

Those who like to think outside the

Highs

- Specially tailored with versatility in mind
- New approach to internal styling includes warmer colours
- Children's cabin amidships is a master stroke
- Low-fuss factor before and after excursions
- Excellent balance of space between key living areas
- Very dry and fume-free in the cockpit
- Dealing with Riviera

square should picture the cockpit of this boat as a well-fenced floating backyard with unparalleled sea views. Entertainers will find plenty of space to set-up for alfresco dining and can enjoy tasty morsels straight off the barbecue and hotplate centrally located in the transom. There's a drinks fridge and an icemaker within easy reach under a tidy, teak-trimmed counter top and the galley and serving benches are only another step or two away through the saloon doors.

Divers and fisherman will be pleased to see features like the two oversized self-draining wet-lockers in the cockpit sole and toe-kicks around most of its circumference. Avid bathers and watersports enthusiasts will find the water access via the oversized swim-step more than adequate and Riviera has included a stainless steel tender bracket on the back as well.

For safety reasons, particularly with small children onboard, I personally favour the double-locking transom door featured on the 445 over the stainless steel gated walkthrough option often seen on Portofino-sterned cruising vessels.

FENG SHUI

Balancing the use of space on any mid-sized vessel is a challenge and given the Riviera 445 SUV has made the most of its opportunities in the cockpit, I was pleased to see the saloon and galley area hadn't paid a heavy price for the room allocated outside.

A five-seat (perfectly matches the

number of berths) U-shape couch surrounds a classic timber three-piece foldout dining table. Directly opposite, and in almost a mirror image to the U-shaped lounge's configuration is the galley. While it is true this area could be described as compact, it works well. Two can easily prepare gourmet delights, while the lucky remaining three languish in comfort ready to leap in and assist if required. “Yeah right,” I hear the mother's groan.

SOUND OF LAUGHTER

In a move contrary to recent vogue, Riviera has not located the master cabin in the full-beam space amidships, instead opting for a more traditional double vee-berth forward, complete with private en suite. Fear not, it remains comfortable and spacious, and tailored to a level worthy of the captain and his queen.

Alternatively, the full-beam space has been cleverly configured as a children's cabin complete with three independent single berths, individual sets of drawers and of course, the all-important TV. Although this cabin can be optioned differently if single berths are not your thing, as a family man I view this presentation as a real coup de grace in a boat of this size.

To be honest, the broad description above does not do justice to the living spaces of the Riviera 445 SUV. It's a classic case of the whole package, with its fresh styling and warm tones, being worth more than the sum of the parts.

TRADE-A-BOAT SAYS

In the Riviera 445 SUV it seems likely this company has found the perfect formula to enter a new era of affordable boating. Highlights for me include its versatility and its unshamed appeal to any family whose primary vehicle is an SUV – regardless of whether it's a Porsche or a Prado. ■

facts & figures

Riviera 445 SUV

GENERAL

TYPE Planing monohull
 LENGTH 14.46m overall; 13.61m hull
 BEAM 4.57m
 DRAFT 1.2m
 WEIGHT Approx 13,750kg (dry)
 PEOPLE (NIGHT) 5+2
 FUEL 1800lt
 WATER 460lt
 ENGINE 2 x Volvo Penta IPS600

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