

RIVIERA 4800 SPORT YACHT



Growing Family

The Riviera 4800 aims to attract new owners to this builder's burgeoning fan club.

By Daniel Harding Jr.

On a recent trip Down Under I discovered just how large the group of Riviera Yachts owners is, and how fanatical they are about their boats. At the Riviera Festival of Boating, thousands of past, current, and future owners swarmed through the gates of the 100-acre factory complex to take a boating class, climb aboard new models, and explore brokerage boats. But the main reason they attended in droves was the family atmosphere—akin to a home-town carnival—that Riviera cultivates.

After climbing aboard the new Riviera 4800 Sport it became apparent to me; the Riviera family may be big, but as anyone belonging to a large family will tell you, it's always exciting to have a new addition.

Construction

The Riviera 4800 Sport Yacht takes aim at the more entry-level boater (compared to the company's SUV and Flybridge lines) who uses his boat for day and weekend trips.

A full-scale plywood mockup, resting on an immaculate shop floor, was the first step in the life of the 4800, and indeed, all Rivierras start out this way. The approach allows the design team to climb through the spaces and locate any problem areas they aren't able to discern on a computer screen.

From there they invite future owners and prospective clients to walk through the plywood yacht. "Our clients spend more time on the water than we do, so we need to get their feedback," says Riviera CEO Wes Moxey.

This step was critically important in the building of the 4800 because, while she shares many styling and design characteristics with her larger siblings, the 5400 and 6000, this boat sports an all-new hull to maximize the performance of its Volvo Penta IPS800s.

Accommodations

Step aboard the 4800 from the swim platform and you'll be face to face with what might be one of the most popular spots aboard: the aft grilling station. Whether you're at the dock or on the hook, the double Kenyon grill should keep everyone around you well fed. Stepping into the cockpit there's a nice couple-sized settee with a hi-lo table that converts to a sunpad.

Australians, and indeed most boaters, like to feel connected to

the water when they're boating; a large window in between the cockpit and saloon swings up and out of the way to provide an indoor/outdoor feeling.

While this boat will predominantly be used as a weekender by most owners, the galley provides the comfort of a long-range cruiser. There's a large stainless steel fridge and freezer, plenty of countertop space; fine handmade furniture (built in-house) dresses up the space.

The helm obviously belongs to nothing other than a sport yacht. The black helm seats, recessed 12-inch Garmin MFDs, and raked windshield give the impression, even when the boat is tied up, that she can really move.

Stepping down past the helm takes you into a space that most won't expect to see, an L-shaped sitting area to starboard in between the forward master stateroom and the aft VIP. Both staterooms, while comfortable and spacious in their own right, lack such a lounge area; if you're in either stateroom odds are that the day is over and you're heading to bed. I can't help but think this



sitting area would be a nice spot to enjoy a cup of coffee and flip through the paper, or a favorite magazine, before greeting the day and your nosy neighbors on the dock.

Performance

The Sport Yacht line is filled with boat driver's boats. However, it's not exactly because of the 4800's speed that she's so attractive (top end is 34 knots, says Riviera) but because of her handling and comfort underfoot. Tight turns and the ability to eat the notorious Australian chop without needing to pull back on the throttles is an unbeatable duo. □

Riviera Yachts, +61 7 5502 5555; www.riviera.com.au

LOA: 50'0"
BEAM: 15'1"
DRAFT: 3'10"
DISPL.: 42,000 lb.
FUEL: 555 gal.
WATER: 106 gal.

TEST POWER: 2/600-hp
Volvo Penta IPS800s
OPTIONAL POWER: 2/550-hp
Volvo Penta IPS700s
PRICE: Upon request

RPM	KNOTS	GPH	RANGE*
600	4.8	1.4	1,712
1200	8.5	7.8	544
1800	10.9	27.6	197
2300	19.6	40.4	242
2800	30.9	50.7	304
3025	34.0	56.8	299

*Range based on 90% of advertised fuel capacity. Test data provided by manufacturer.