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A good sport

UK designed and German built – Sealine's new S330 is the freshest powerboat in Hanse's stable.

By James Hill



There was a fresh wind of change for powerboat lovers at this year's Sydney International Boat Show and it was blowing from the direction of the Eyachts marina stand. Specifically, it came from the chic new European Sealine S330 sports cruiser with its cutting-edge hull lines.

Everything about the new Sealine S330 makes it stand out in the marina, beginning with a dramatic square-cut bow, generous side decks, and sports wheelhouse with dual sunroofs.

This design, by talented British naval architect Bill Dixon, confirms why Europe is the pace-setter in motor cruiser design.

Above and below: The open sunroof transforms the interior.



The square-cut bow is just one manifestation of an exciting, fresh design approach. It's a practical craft, too, with the longer waterline making for a bigger, more spacious hull while contributing to better wave-cutting action and fuel economy.

With the chine edges starting further forward, the Sealine S330 delivers more hull volume up front and that means a more spacious foredeck plus a big master cabin with double berth. Dixon has cleverly utilised the cabin and cockpit space, making the S330 superb for day-boating and a good option for overnight stays.

Below decks there's a reasonably sized bathroom with hot water shower, and a compact, but fully functional galley. Going forward there's a comfortable, private master cabin with wardrobe, while aft behind the stairway is a guest cabin with athwartships double berth. There is also a dedicated lounge/dinette opposite the galley, so you have a place to chill out and dine below or to put your feet up and read in the comfort of deluxe cushions and sophisticated concealed lighting.

Sealine has also produced a fully enclosed cabin version of the same 33ft (10.3m) hull for those more into overnight liveaboard boating – the C330 – that costs around \$50,000 extra. My guess is the S-model is probably the right



choice for many people and certainly delivers great value for around \$400,000.

CHIC AND PRACTICAL

A striking feature of this craft is the feeling of light and space. Natural light floods in through the large hull windows and the big wheelhouse windows above, with the sunshine really lifting the mood further when you fold back those sunroofs.

There is also a feeling of lightness about the S330 – even at night, thanks to the light-toned

... superb for day-boating and a good option for overnight stays.

timber cabin panelling. Our test boat had Florentine oak surfaces that are very pleasing to the eye and no doubt easy to clean. Unlike earlier-generation European boats, the Sealine S330 feels right at home in our warm, sunlit Aussie environment.

Below: Semi-enclosed cockpit layout provides shelter when needed.





... the Sealine S330 feels right at home in our warm, sunlit Aussie environment.



The upper deck is ideal for summer boating, with both a comfortable helm station and a wide passenger seat opposite. You also get a big six-seater lounge extending back into the rear of the cockpit and forming an L-arm across the stern. Included here is a teak-top dining table and outdoor

wetbar sink/icebox with optional barbecue.

A stainless steel tube gate (starboard side) gives access to the rear landing deck, which has a foldaway swimladder. The rear lounge across the transom also reverse-hinges to form a grandstand seat for guests or fishing enthusiasts.

While the standard moulded, nonskid deck finish is pretty good, there's the option of real teak side decks (add \$7265) for those wanting a more traditional look. Personally, though, I think the white fibreglass looks pretty nice with the modern styling.

There's a lot to like about the new Sealine, especially the convertible roof design. This is so much more practical than the usual targa roof setup, which can look cumbersome after the addition of canvas tops and vinyl clears. At the helm, you have better vision through the clear glass windows and can still enjoy that 'top down' feeling without being blasted by rushing wind.

Powered by twin 220hp Volvo D3 Duoprop sterndrive diesels, our test boat performed like a sports craft should. It's quick to the plane and easy to drive, with electric steering supplied standard with the twin-engine set-up (but not standard with the single-engine model). An electric bowthruster made docking easy.



The hull design accommodates surprisingly large spaces belowdecks, with a master cabin forward (far left), and guest cabin with arthwartships double bed (left), the galley, and a lounge/dinette (top left).



Underway, we found an economic cruising speed at 3000rpm of 20 knots (37km/h), a little quicker at 3500rpm and 28 knots (51.8km/h), and WOT at 4100rpm produced 34.5 knots (63.9km/h).

SUPERB BUILD

The S330's build quality is impressive, but perhaps not surprising, given Sealine comes from the same stable as the multi-award winning, German-built Hanse and Moody sailing yachts.

This sports cruiser will appeal to those moving into their first big cruiser, or downsizing from a bigger cruiser so they can dock with greater ease. It fits both bills very nicely and is well-equipped for the price.

Our test boat was equipped with an optional Cruising Pack that includes electric windlass, Delta anchor, trim tabs, stereo sound system, remote-control spotlight cockpit, helm covers, fender and mooring kit. A Raymarine navigation electronics package is another optional extra, as is a safety kit. However, commissioning and antifouling are included in the price of \$405,120.

A compact, but well-equipped galley (above) and a bathroom (right) complete with hot water shower feature below deck.



... a nice blend of practical features along with the glamorous appeal of a sports cruiser.



Other practical features aboard the S330 include safe, wide side deck access to the bow, high handrails, and an electric arm lift for the engineroom. Holding down a button on the helm dash raises the cockpit floor – including the table – and gives walk-in access into the engine bay. It's an efficient and reassuring feature of the boat that comes in handy when checking the engine and power systems.

The Sealine S330 has come to the motor cruiser market at the right time. Its looks are very different to the conventional, but will still be fresh and modern in a few years' time. Overall, this is a highly appealing package with a nice blend of practical features along with the glamorous appeal of a sports cruiser. 

SEALINE S330	
LOA:	10.31m
Beam:	3.5m
Engine standard:	2 x Volvo Penta D3 220hp/ Duoprop
Engine optional:	Volvo Penta D6 330hp/ Duoprop, or D6 400hp/ Duoprop
Fuel capacity:	570lt
Water capacity:	220lt
Berths/capacity:	4/8 persons
Price from:	\$358,000
Priced as tested:	\$405,120
More information: Eyachts, tel: (02) 9979 6612. Web: eyachts.com.au.	

