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NEW BOATS

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Large flybridge is supported by a superb foredeck lounge (main pic)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Foredeck lounge
- Huge saloon windows
- Powerful IPS drives

Sealine F530

The Palma boat show was the launch venue for Sealine's first all-new flybridge boat since Hanse took control. Like the rest of the current range, the F530 is built in Germany but it can still claim some British heritage courtesy of designer Bill Dixon.

Some of the style cues pioneered on the C330 make an appearance on the F530 too, including the near vertical bow and the pair of elongated hull windows along each side. But it's the

size and height of the saloon windows, emphasised by the cutaway bulwarks, that make the biggest impression on first time viewers. There is an option to upgrade both of these to sliding patio doors (the small one by the helm is standard) but even with the fixed windows and relatively dark wood fitted to this first boat, they let in an impressive amount of light.

Bi-fold cockpit doors and a Ferretti-style lift-up window further emphasise

this indoor/outdoor feel and mean guests can sit at the aft galley bar for morning coffees or evening cocktails. This is just one of four outdoor dining options; others include a large cockpit table just behind and a flybridge dinette up top. But it's the foredeck lounge which really sets the F530 apart, thanks to a substantial U-shaped seating area complete with a sunshade, pop-up deck lights, proper backrests and a large enough table to host a meal for six. The table can also be lowered and infill cushions added to create a secure sunbathing area. Wide side decks with protective pillars and deep bulwarks ensure it's safe for adults and kids to come and go, while a hydraulic bathing platform with integrated folding steps makes it just as easy to launch the tender and access the water.

The saloon itself is a qualified success, offering excellent headroom, light and floor space but some questionable ideas, such as a helm

bench that flips backwards to become a rather unsatisfactory chaise longue. The adaptable seating opposite is clever and the galley is impressively well specced, but the finish is still one step behind Sunseeker and Princess.

The full-beam owner's cabin is suitably spacious with the obligatory oversized hull windows but there is only enough headroom for most people to stand at the foot of the bed. In this



Deep bulwarks and wide covered side decks are a major benefit



Sofas can be reconfigured to make more seats when needed



Floor to ceiling windows can be upgraded to sliding doors

Spacious full-beam master but standing headroom at the foot of the bed only



Surprisingly generous third cabin is a boon



respect the forward VIP cabin fares better, while the twin guest cabin is particularly generous for a 53-footer. There is even a small but useable crew cabin in the stern.

Power comes from Volvo's new range of IPS600, 700 and 800 pod drives so keep an eye out for our full sea trial report in next month's issue of *MBY*. The first signs are very encouraging for the F530 but with a new Princess 49 and Manhattan 52 also due to launch

this summer, the competition is about to get a whole lot stiffer.

Contact See website for dealers.
Web: www.sealine.com

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