

NEEL 51

The celebrated Neel concept blends tremendous amounts of accommodation space with outstanding performance, thanks to a combination of the boats' three narrow wave-piercing hulls and a powerful, well-balanced rig: an approach that works especially well with the additional LOA that was available to veteran multihull naval architects Michel Joubert and Bernard Nivellet when it came time to draw the Neel 51. Weight being critical to making the most of a boat like this, the hull, deck and cabintop moldings consist of PVC foam cores sandwiched between quadraxial fiberglass rovings and infused with isophthalic and vinylester resins. Interior bulkheads and most furniture are also foam sandwich constructions. **Neel Trimarans, neel-trimarans.com**

OUTREMER 45

If you're the kind of sailor who rates a cruising catamaran by the number of cockpits and lounging areas it has, then you might not be impressed by the Outremer 45. However, if you're the kind of sailor who likes regularly blasting through ocean swells at sustained double-digit speeds, then this just might be the boat for you. In addition to well-apportioned accommodations the Outremer 45 features long, narrow hulls with plumb ends to maximize their sailing length; a powerful rig with a large, square-top main; super-cool outboard tiller helm stations (in addition to a standard inboard wheel set to port); daggerboards; and a low, nicely sculpted cabintrunk that works to minimize both windage and weight—all with an eye toward fast passage times and great sailing in general. **Outremer Yachting, catamaran-outremer.com**

SEAWIND 1260

Founded in Australia and now building its boats in Vietnam, Seawind Catamarans has long been known for its tough, fast bluewater cruising cats, and the newly arrived Seawind 1260 more than carries on this tradition. The boat's twin helm stations serve immediate notice that this is a true sailor's boat, as the clear views they afford both forward and aloft allow you to make the most of the 1260's shapely hull form and large rig. The two hulls' reverse sheer and windows admit plenty of ambient light, while a proprietary "Tri-Fold" hinged doorway allows you to, in essence, create a seamless whole out of the cockpit and saloon. The boat's modular composite furniture also serves to stiffen the boat's overall vinylester-infused structure. Wouldn't it be great to see more of these fine boats here in North America! **Seawind Catamarans, seawindcats.com**

VISION 444

The Vision 444 is a sleek new entry into the performance catamaran market that should be on the list of any sailor looking for boat that isn't just comfortable, but is also a good sailer. All components are vacuum-infused with vinylester resin for light weight, durability and blister resistance. The boat's low profile serves to reduce windage and also helps create a seamless transition from the helm station to starboard to the side decks. Dual helm stations are also available, and the hulls come standard with foam sacrificial bows in the interest of safety. Clean angular lines suggest a boat that looks as good as it sails. **Vision Yachts, sailawaycatamarans.com**

LEOPARD 50

The Leopard 50 takes the place of the popular Leopard 48, and includes the same rock-solid build quality and smart design for which the boat's South African builder has long been known. The hulls are vacuum-bagged in E-glass hull with an end-grain balsa core, while ring frames of carbon fiber add stiffness without adding an undue amount of weight. A pioneer of the forward cockpit, Leopard has not surprisingly included one in this good-sailing 50-footer, and it remains as fun as ever, whether you're underway or at anchor. For those in search of a better view, there's also a lounging area alongside the boat's raised helm station. **Leopard Catamarans, leopardcatamarans.com**



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