



LOCAL REVIEW  
**HORIZON FD103**

# MAGNIFICENT MULLET

*Askari epitomises a perfect collaboration between a boat builder that listens and experienced buyers who know what they want.*

WORDS AND PICS **James Dumergue**



The real alluring character of the FD103 is how it blurs the line between modern living and your ideal rendezvous. Horizon has created a blueprint for urban-style living in your resort-like environment that is exclusively independent and functions just how you order it. Designed to wander, discover, and experience in a way that feels way more like living on a waterfront property without real estate limitations.

ONE WITH HORIZON

There’s no doubt these boats are leading lifestyle platforms. Bringing the full-beam as far forward as naval architecture allows creates a canvas of epic proportions to

paint your lifestyle into the fabric of the hull’s layout and fit-out.

The process of building with Horizon has become so much more than choosing from fabric and colour books. It has become a collaboration between the yard and the customer to create the ideal boat with almost limitless personification - what the local office promotes isn’t the limit on what’s possible from the Taiwan factory.

FINDING LOVE

*Askari*, the latest FD to be handed over to owners in Australia, came about almost by chance. Her experienced owners knew what they wanted out of their dream boat

BELOW The jacuzzi is a dual-purpose destination, a spa and bar



“To help offset the impact of the big beam, all FDs feature Horizon’s High-Performance Piercing (HPP) bow to provide some additional buoyancy”



ABOVE Askari is adventurous, well-thought out and sophisticated



but couldn’t achieve it with the brand they currently owned. A chance phone call to the office of Horizon Yacht Australia took them on a new path before encountering the range at the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show and setting in motion the path to perfection.

The FD87, as it was known then, (now FD90) impressed *Askari*’s owners but what they wanted was the beam and layout of the larger FD110, which was also on display. Having set objectives and a budget, they discovered that the FD110 was not achievable, however, Horizon CEO John Lu found a way to accommodate all the layout and customisation requests by extending the hull of the FD90 and configuring

similarly to the 110. Except for the beam, *Askari*’s owners received everything they wanted, and under their budget.

THAT DESIGN

As you move up the FD range the designs get sleeker, yet there is no denying they carry more beam forward than traditional superyacht hulls. To help offset the impact of the big beam, all FDs feature Horizon’s High-Performance Piercing (HPP) bow to provide some additional buoyancy, a fine entry at slow speeds, and a little bit of lift at higher speeds enabling better economy. Like the 110, the 103 features a third deck, which visually achieves a nice balance between the height and the length.



**BELOW** The generous swim platform raises and lowers at the push of a button



The foredeck is an excellent example of design flexibility. Different interpretations of the foredeck have seen Horizon install jacuzzis, lounging, and sunbathing options, but *Askari* is different. As an entertaining centric build, she is laid out with anchoring and tender business at the front and party at the back. Rather than wait for the clearing of the boat deck to free up the guest areas, the owners decided

they'd probably never use the foredeck and opted for a luxurious Costoldi Jet Tender to be stored away up front, freeing up space for guest entertainment.

**UTILITY TOUCHES**

Made for seamless days onboard that roll on without interruption or intervention by the crew, push a button to lift the transom door, and it doesn't reveal the regular

beach club option with bar and lounge. Instead, it reveals a utilitarian watersports toy shed. Everything you need for recreational fun on the water is right there and, again, doesn't require the crew to unload it all and get it ready. The generous swim platform raises and lowers at the push of a button for PWC launching and the latest electric foiling Flyte Boards and Electric Sea Scooters lining the water



**ABOVE** A third deck visually achieves a nice balance between the height and the length

sports trunk. It's clean, practical, and fast to access when you drop the anchor and easy to pack away when you're ready to leave.

**UP TOP**

The bridge deck has an all-weather al fresco bar and lounge just behind the fully enclosed wheelhouse, making it the perfect spot to while away the hours underway. Fully protected under a hardtop, you can slide open the side windows threefold to bring the fresh air into the cruising lounge. The well-equipped bar to starboard will help the storytelling embellishments while keeping an eye out where you are going through the wheelhouse windows. Fitted with a finely finished bathroom, like the rest of *Askari* this is the level where everything flows. Shade sails extending from the hardtop offer ventilated respite from the sun for up to 10 guests, who can dine formally or casually eating favourites from the nearby electric outdoor barbecue grill.



**ABOVE** The galley and dining area with full-size wine fridge



**RIGHT** The main deck feels like modern waterfront living where the water is viewable from anywhere

The sunset double bubbles spot looks inviting at the aft end of the bridge deck. The surrounding bar and barstools have made the jacuzzi a dual-purpose destination, a spa and bar. Not everyone wants to jump in the jacuzzi, but Horizon thinks that shouldn't limit the zone's sociability, and it's been a massive hit with Horizon owners since they first introduced it back in 2016 on an E75.

The curious will find a mellow incline of steps that invite you to this third deck irresistible. Nothing in front and nothing behind you, the luxurious crow's nest is perfect for sun lounging and casual entertaining with bar facilities and a driving station for slow cruising and

anchoring. Subtly integrated as a tri-deck, the top layer is an elevated rooftop zone. It fits nicely with the overall lines of the vessel. It is the best vantage point for coming into new locations, catching the sun dipping into the water, or relaxing in the best-ventilated area onboard with shade.

### MID-LEVEL LUXURY

Zoned for moods and modes, the main deck is the home on the water with one-level living. It feels like modern waterfront living where the water is viewable from anywhere. The tones are rich, the fabrics textured with an inviting softness, and the flow seamless across an integrated



**ABOVE** The galley features the owner's designer touches that are unique to Askari

**RIGHT** Fully customised perfection



and exquisitely decorated interior. The natural tones cross a variety of colours, subtle patterns in textured panels, seating that you want to sit in and a lounge surrounded by cinematic windows. Light is subtly absorbed and not reflected on the main deck. Low cut bulwarks allow the magnificent glass panels that make up the saloon to immerse you in your surroundings. The impressive windows frame nature like an artwork of an ever-changing world outside. These windows will frame spectacular scenery over time,

and it's easy to imagine how good they'd look framing Wineglass Bay in Tasmania or Zoe Bay on Hinchinbrook Island. Soft fabrics and plush cushioning of the furniture give this deck an inviting feel. Lounging flows openly on the starboard side towards the dual-zone full-sized wine refrigerator that supports the dining table for 10, which is subtly lit with overhead feature lighting of unique hand-blown glass by Soktas, also found in the master cabin.

**CONVERSATION EXTENSIONS**  
The galley features yet more of the owner's designer touches that are unique to *Askari*. It is the space that does the heavy lifting when entertaining and features personality in its detail befitting of its use. Small touches like the island bench faucet ending with a nut and bolt outlet, controlled by a spanner as the valve gate lever, to a barbell-like grip on the refrigerator handles will spark conversation about what more Horizon and good design can do for you.



Facts & Figures  
HORIZON FD130

PRICE AS TESTED  
POA

OPTIONS FITTED

Extensive customisation not limited to: dive compressor, hydraulic swim platform, Furuno electronics suite, Abi Interiors tapware, Maretron monitoring and control systems, Miele and Vittrifrigo appliances, ABT stabilisers and thrusters, bespoke Soktas blown glass, Bridger Automation AV, additional coolstores, jacuzzi

GENERAL

MATERIAL GRP

TYPE Monohull

LENGTH 31.55m (103ft 6in)

BEAM 23.3m (76ft 5in)

DRAFT 1.94m (6ft 4in)

DISPLACEMENT 139,800kg

CAPACITIES

PEOPLE 6 (day) 6 (night)

FUEL 4550L

WATER 750L

ENGINE

MAKE/MODEL Twin CAT C-32A  
1800BHP T3R

TYPE In-line 6-cylinder

RATED HP 1800 (each)

DISPLACEMENT 32.1L

MANUFACTURED BY

HORIZON YACHTS  
Kaohsiung, Taiwan

SUPPLIED BY

Horizon Yacht Australia  
Sanctuary Cove  
44C The Prom  
Hope Island QLD 4212  
PH: 07 5577 9009  
W: horizonyachtaus.com

BELOW A guest cabin to flexibly accommodate three



“Four guest cabins below decks share a convenient night fridge for refreshments or medicine”



ABOVE The two VIP cabins aft are spacious with expansive bathrooms



ABOVE The master cabin is a treat of retreat

BELOW The master has dual bathrooms with dual entries, a toilet on each side, stylish benchtop sinks, and sublime gold taps



The grips are fitting; I think this galley will get a workout. It looks catering capable featuring benches on three sides plus a separate island bench, big upright fridges and freezers and a wide cooktop. The benchtops and the splashbacks are onyx, so they’ve got all the look and feel of natural stone with more stain resistance while being able to be backlit.

MASTERS MAIN

For day-to-day living, the accessibility of the owner’s cabin on the main deck makes a lot of sense. Steps forward of the galley and spanning the voluminous floor plan, it feels more like terrestrial living. The convenience of grabbing something from your cabin without the inhibiting task of going below is appreciated when you spend extended time onboard. The main deck master of the FD series often seals the deal for boat buyers looking at more traditional layouts. The master cabin is a treat of retreat, and anything you might need is close at hand.





The sheer volume, immersive glass on either side, and slightly tapering full beam forward allow dual bathrooms with dual entries, a toilet on each side, stylish benchtop sinks, and sublime gold taps. They are joined in the middle by a shared shower or a shower for sharing. Adorning the king-sized master bed, two more custom light features of hand-blown Soktas glass accentuate the carefully chosen blend of tones and textures of the

fabrics. The same soft to touch leather surrounding the bed base features on the face of the accessory cabinets in front of each hull window. A multifunction display near the bed allows the owners to watch the navigation and key operational vitals without leaving the cabin.

**EXCLUSIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

The ability to monitor and control the boat is brought together by Bridger Automation

from the Gold Coast which has created the state-of-the-art audio/video system for *Askari* that was sent to the factory for installation and commissioned on arrival in Sanctuary Cove.

Located around the boat are tablets featuring Maretron Octoplex control systems. The wireless tablets can monitor and control the vessel from anywhere onboard. The system can also be updated remotely, including all the digital switching. When you need help with adjusting parameters or updating the firmware of the Octoplex system, Michael Chang from Carling in Taiwan can log in

remotely and provide the solutions and updates remotely. You don't even need to get a technician to the boat.

**DOWN UNDER**

Below decks, at the bottom of the staircase, the foyer leading to the four guest cabins has a convenient night fridge for refreshments or medicine storage. The two VIP cabins aft are spacious with expansive bathrooms. Forward the port cabin is a queen berth with ensuite, and the starboard cabin (closet to the stairs) is a twin cabin with a full-sized Pullman berth to flexibly accommodate three.



**ABOVE** Four guest cabins are located below decks



**ABOVE** Soft touch leather surrounding the bed base features on the face of the accessory cabinets in front of each hull window

**RIGHT** Sophisticated touches





**LEFT** The bridge deck has an all-weather al fresco bar and lounge just behind the fully enclosed wheelhouse

**BELOW** Designed to wander and discover

THE WRAP

A chameleon, the FD103, *Askari*, can transform from a luxurious nomadic home on the water to an exclusive large-scale entertaining platform. She's adventurous by nature, well-thought out and sophisticatedly completed by owners

that have spent some time learning what defines their boating style while allowing them to project their personality into the truly custom build. *Askari* epitomises a perfect collaboration between a boat builder that listens and experienced buyers who know what they want. [3v](#)



In this part of the world, where the crew are a big part of the experience on the water, they become part of the boat's fabric, and during the times aboard they often become part of the family. The treatment of the crew area and crew quarters on *Askari* reflect that family ethos, with the same high-quality fittings and finishes of the guest cabins seen in the crew quarters.

*Askari* is a vessel planned and built with the expectation that her owners can choose to operate all systems themselves which makes sense as the crew quarters then become overflow accommodation, a self-contained apartment within a floating paradise for those big, near home get-togethers.



**ABOVE** A state-of-the-art audio/video system was created to monitor and control Askari

About the Author



James got his sailing start young, learning the ropes on a P Class at just six years of age. Since then, he has captained both catamarans ranging from 56–82ft and monohulls up to 92 feet out of Europe and the Caribbean. He's also worked as a chef on US and Caribbean superyachts, along with stints as a divemaster in the Caribbean and New Zealand's Bay of Islands. Along the way, he has tried his hand at roles outside the maritime world, such as managing boutique hotels and as a private island manager, but even during those times he was never far from the sea, and always inevitably returned. James can even brag of a trans-Atlantic crossing made with his pregnant partner,

just before the birth of their first child in the Caribbean; another generation born with sea salt in their blood, just like Mum and Dad. Beginning in 2013, James worked in the marketing side of the marine industry, based on the Gold Coast. That role allowed him a valuable insight into the client side of the industry, up until 2019 when he changed tack again to offer his services as a photographer, videographer, and writer focusing on the world of boating. Since 2014, James has been putting his wide and varied experience to good use, bringing readers of *Trade-a-Boat* magazine authoritative reviews, mainly on the latest in power boats.