



ONBOARD SPACE ODYSSEY

Horizon Yachts' global launch of its FD77 Skyline in Australia gets another strong reaction for this evolving motor-yacht range.

By David Robinson



Above: Lounging possibilities abound on the sprawling forward flybridge deck.

Below: Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show saw the launch of the FD77 Skyline in May.

THE GLOBAL LAUNCH OF THE HORIZON FD77 SKYLINE model, the second hull in this series, was held at the 2019 Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show (SCIBS) in May on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. This particular model was selected by Horizon Motor Yacht Australia (HMYA), the local dealer, which considered that the Skyline version of the FD77, as opposed to the Open Bridge, would be ideally suited for Australian weather conditions.

The show premiere resulted in a sale and the yacht proved a very popular exhibit at SCIBS. The dealer told *Asia-Pacific Boating*, that he felt that the FD70, which will follow later in the Australian market, could be a better seller, due in part to its size.

Horizon's FD (Fast Displacement) series was first introduced in 2016, based on a design collaboration between Horizon Yachts and the Dutch design studio Cor D. Rover. The FD range comes in five sizes with the FD85, FD87 and FD102 launched in 2016, followed by the FD77 in 2017 and the abovementioned FD70 due this year. In the range, at least 20 sales have been signed, with around half going to the US, almost equal sales between Europe and Australia and a smaller number in Asia.

Of those 20 orders, seven comprise the FD87; six the FD85, three

each for the FD77 and FD102 and one for the FD70, and the order book for the Horizon model range extends into 2020.

The first impression of the FD77 Skyline is of its 'chunky' appearance in terms of its length to width proportions. The FD77 has an overall length of 24.6 metres (80 feet, 7 inches) and its beam is 6.9 metres (22 feet, 8 inches), and a look around the yacht suggests that within these measurements there is a much larger amount of space to be enjoyed by the owner, family and guests than one would imagine.

Generous upper lounging space

The Skyline lounge is the key feature of this model, which just falls inside the lower end of the superyacht size scale. The space on the flybridge deck falls into three separate areas, with two that are open and



Upper and lower decks offer both intimate and larger entertaining spaces – and even a Jacuzzi option.

one that's covered. The covered area is from where the FD77 Skyline derives its name, thanks to its panoramic view. The enclosed lounge area which not only provides 360-degree vistas, also houses the yacht's comprehensive helm station, besides which is an L-shaped seating area and additional space for guests to socialise, no matter what the weather is like – an area that stays dry in the rain and cool in the sunshine. Also in the lounge are cabinets, providing a good amount of storage space and a 32-inch Samsung LCD TV, integrated with full Fusion AV system. The enclosed flybridge is separated from the exterior areas by a full-length glass door.

The custom-designed helm station readily provides a full set of engine gauges; monitoring systems for all on-board equipment, magnetic compass, fuel and water gauges, bilge pump panel, navigational lights and surveillance camera system covering the aft deck and engine-room. The roof of the enclosed flybridge holds radar domes and other related navigational and telecommunication equipment.

The navigational equipment – including autopilot – is installed in the standard fit-out, and provided by Raymarine.

On the starboard side of the station, a door opens onto the fully-walk-around flybridge deck, giving access to both open forward and aft areas. And from the covered flybridge area a stairway leads down to the master stateroom on the main deck; another stairway then connects to guest accommodation on the lower deck. There is a further stairway that leads down to the main deck at the after end of the flybridge deck.

The forward flybridge deck offers a seating area and set of sun-pads for guests to enjoy the sun and relax with a drink or snack. This area also houses the anchor chamber and cable. This is a flexible zone that can be customised to an owner's requirements.

The same applies to the large aft flybridge deck area, which is capable of fulfilling a number of different functions. When required, it can house the yacht's tender, which can be up to five metres (16 feet) long, with a fitted crane to lower it into the water. The enclosing flybridge roof extends beyond the enclosed area itself, to give a shady space for seating on the open deck. The favoured features of sink, fridge, icemaker and storage lockers are included in the FD77 Skyline, as is an electric





barbecue. A Jacuzzi tub, sun-pads and stools can also be included in an owner's configuration as options.

Spacious main deck

The main deck divides into three areas with the master stateroom forward, the interior saloon space amidships and an open aft area. In the standard layout, the master stateroom comprises a king-sized bed, a walk-in closet, a sofa on the port side and a vanity unit with drawers on the starboard. The stateroom is equipped with a 49-inch Samsung LCD television, Bose SoundTouch 130 home entertainment system, Blu-ray player and Apple TV. There is a large en-suite and the stateroom has two generous-sized windows, each with an opening porthole, and a skylight with an electric blind. This stateroom is open to customisation, so the owner can put plenty of their own preferred

Above and bottom left: The saloon offers apartment-size living space with large picture-window vistas.

Bottom right: Plenty of seating around the enclosed flybridge helm allows easy socialising.

Facing page: The master stateroom can be customised to an owner's preferences.

style into this key area of the yacht, to keep it personal or formal if business meetings are likely aboard.

The stairway linking the flybridge deck to the lower deck gives access from the master stateroom to the yacht's saloon area. This area too is naturally customisable to suit an owner's needs but in the standard layout it has the galley forward of the guest space in the saloon. The galley is equipped with Miele oven, microwave

and dishwasher; Fisher & Paykel refrigerator, Cambria quartz countertop, an InSinkErator garbage disposal unit and an IMC waste compactor. To give privacy between the galley and the saloon there is a privacy screen and doors which enclose the galley completely.

The saloon features full-height windows with after access through a self-locking three-panel folding and sliding salon entrance door. The standard design offers an L-shaped sofa with coffee tables and stools plus other single chairs. The saloon is also home to a 55-inch Samsung LCD TV, plus – like the owner's suite: a Bose SoundTouch system, Blu-ray player and Apple TV. The saloon also includes a breakfast bar with three stools and has handy storage for crockery or glasses under the counter. Door access is available on both the port and starboard sides.

Beyond the aft saloon access door, the open-deck area offers a dining table with seating for up to eight, a freezer, icemaker and waste bin. From this aft cockpit area there is a stairway up to the flybridge deck and a double stairway down to the swim platform, beach club and crew cabin.

Lower-deck living

The lower deck comprises the guest accommodation, with its standard layout offering a forward VIP stateroom, a port VIP stateroom and a twin guest stateroom. Both the VIP staterooms have queen-sized beds, and the forward stateroom also has two hanging lockers, a 32-inch Samsung TV and Fusion marine stereo system. Each of these staterooms has its own en-suite. The fit-out of the port-side VIP stateroom is very similar to the forward one with the exception of having one large hanging closet, rather than two. In the twin stateroom, the single beds can be slid together.

The twin crew cabin, accessed from the swim platform, has an en-suite plus Miele dishwasher and refrigerator, storage lockers and Fusion marine stereo system.

The beach club is accessed by the stern door on the swim platform. The club offers seating and storage, TV and stereo speakers plus a built-in shower on the swim platform. The swim platform is a hydraulic high-low platform with a 680-kilogram capacity.

The lower deck also houses two MAN V8 1,200-horsepower diesel engines that power the FD77 Skyline, producing a top speed of 16 knots.

In all, this just-superyacht-sized vessel, with plenty of indoor and outdoor space and amenities, is seemingly comparable to those expected on yachts of 90 feet or more, and so it's an attractive proposition. And perhaps it's this combination – a concept shared throughout the FD range – that is reflected in the number of orders received to date in the relatively short time since it was launched as a new range within the Horizon Yachts portfolio.

www.horizonyacht.com



Horizon FD77

Builder	Horizon Yachts, Taiwan
Length overall	24.5m, (80ft, 7ins)
Waterline length	21.4m (70ft, 3ins)
Beam	6.9m (22ft, 8ins)
Draft (half load)	1.6m (5ft, 5ins)
Displacement	81.8 tonnes
Engines	2 x MAN V8 1,200 hp
Generators	2 x Onan 27kW, 50Hz
Fuel	10,220 litres
Water	1,514 litres
Sea Recovery watermaker	2,650 litres/day
Guest cabin capacity	8 guests
Crew cabin capacity	2 crew