

Yachting World



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- Helm fast downwind

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NEW YACHTS



Jeanneau Sun Loft 47

This is the first in an entirely new 'monomaran' line for Jeanneau. The innovative concept is the result of requests from charter operators, primarily Dream Yacht Charter, which operates almost 1,200 boats from 50 bases. The boat is based on the already proven Philippe Briand-designed hull of the Sun Odyssey 490, but the accommodation layout – both on deck and below – is radically different.

The only living areas, including galley and lounging/eating zones are on deck. Protection from the elements is provided by a solid windshield and large sprayhood, plus a hard-top bimini with central sun roof and removable side panels that enable this area to be completely enclosed when necessary.

Below decks accommodation is completely given over to six double guests cabins. The two aft cabins are accessed directly from the cockpit living area and each has an en-suite heads

compartment. The four remaining cabins are accessed via a more conventional companionway, and share two shower/toilet compartments. There's also a single skipper's cabin, with heads, right forward. Overall, it offers an impressive amount of space for a boat whose hull length is barely more than 43ft.

The large galley, which has provision for up to four fridges, is at the forward end of the on-deck accommodation. Behind the twin helm stations are seating areas each side with tables that convert to sun beds. There's also a double sunbed on the foredeck.

A paradigm change

This boat represents a complete paradigm change for the charter market. Granted others have tried in the past, right back to the Dufour Atoll 43 and 50 of two decades ago. However, the execution of these models was less sophisticated, while sailing performance



Jerome Kelagopian

Galley is on deck, along with all other living and entertaining areas

and handling under power was marred by undersized shoal draught keels.

Beneteau's Sense range also seeks to blend interior and exterior accommodation in a similar manner to catamarans. However, the living areas and galley are below decks and the format means much less space is available for sleeping cabins. Equally, custom and semi-custom models such as Ted Fontaine's Surfari (see YW August 2018) and Bernard Heyman's Pocket Pilot House 40 (see YW July 2019) offer

NEW YACHTS

WITH RUPERT HOLMES



Jerome Kelagopian



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many similar benefits, but still don't have the total distinction between below-decks sleeping and on-deck living that Jeanneau has developed.

The original drive for the Sun Loft 47 was to produce a cost-effective boat for younger people to book by the cabin. Loic Bonnet, executive director of Dream Yacht Charter, describes it as "... an original, versatile sailboat designed to offer easy and comfortable living spaces to a young and more urban clientele at a reasonable price."

However, the arrangement clearly also reflects how private owners actually use boats that are based in sunnier climes.

Given this I asked Jeanneau's sailboat product director, Antoine Chancelier, whether he expects the format to also appeal to private owners? "Maybe – we have had a strong interest since the launch, although it is not the original targeted market," he told me.

The prototype Sun Loft 47 is already sailing in the South of France, while production boats are now in build, with

Med cruisers spend most of their time on deck, so the Sun Loft 47 is configured to reflect that

delivery to charter fleets scheduled from October 2019.

Considering the many parallels with the layout of catamarans, what's the advantage of a monohull configured in this way? Although Jeanneau is not revealing pricing at this stage, cost is clearly a key factor – multihulls are much more expensive to build, especially one of a size that will provide six cabins, plus skipper accommodation. Chancelier says that Jeanneaus' target is a 50% cost saving per cabin compared to a catamaran.

A second reason is more practical – it's much easier to find space on crowded Mediterranean quaysides and marinas for a monohull than for a catamaran.

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Length (bowsprit)	14.00m	(46ft 0in)
Hull length	13.24m	(43ft 4in)
Beam	4.49m	(14ft 7in)
Draught	1.85m	(6ft 6in)
Displacement	15,000kg	(33,069lb)