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BAVARIA 46

Performance Cruising for a Bargain Price



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BAVARIA 46

In the fiercely contested waters of the production yacht and charter yacht markets, it takes something special to make a splash. Bavaria yachts are proving that "production" can include comfort, quality workmanship and uncompromising performance. We test sailed Horizon Yacht Charters' Bavaria 46 *Jumbie* and found excellence and pleasure at every turn.

On Deck

Jumbie was berthed on Horizon's appropriately named "H" dock in Nanny Cay Marina. With clean, attractive lines and a teak toe rail, she is striking to the eye. One of the larger 46s on the market, this yacht has a beam of 14' 3" and an overall length of 46' 7". First impressions were of a lively yet comfortable boat.

This model is the four double-cabin layout (also available in a three-cabin configuration) and the huge cockpit will easily accommodate eight people. Twin helms allow access directly to and from the transom, and yet the wheels have not been needlessly reduced in size, lending to the aesthetic that this is a sailor's boat. A teak cockpit table with folding leaves and an ice

box is standard along with teak flooring and seating; the instruments have been cleverly mounted on the aft end of the table, making them visible from either helm position. Another nice touch is the throttle handle: mounted on the cockpit coaming edge, it is within easy reach of the helmsman, eliminating the need to crouch down or, erm... use your foot.

Under Way

Our test boat had been upgraded with a fully battened mainsail, 6' 11" deep lead keel, spinnaker winches and a 75hp Volvo Penta engine. We manoeuvred easily out from a confined slip and set off,



pounding through the surging swell at the mouth of Nanny Cay.

A steady south-easterly of around 18 knots was blowing briskly and, this being a large 46, we opted to start with full sail. Once sheeted in, we were greeted with an enthusiasm of pace more akin to a racer cruiser as the boat accelerated into the Drake Channel. The helm required very little correction and steering was responsive and tight. Tacking and course changes were effortless and at no stage did she feel over-powered or anxious. This is a fun and dynamic boat to sail.

Under engine, manoeuvrability was impressive. Bavaria yachts all come with sail drives as standard and these are set a good distance forward of a spade rudder. In reverse, prop walk is virtually undetectable, so directional control in confined space is easy.

The engine itself is housed in a very large space with all-round access once the side panels and steps are removed.

Down Below

Once below, the 14' 3" beam is immediately noticeable. Upon arriving in the saloon, you are greeted with a whopping 6' 6" headroom, a bright, friendly mahogany finish and a

thoughtful, ergonomic layout. The aft cabins are to port and starboard of the steps and are identical, featuring large double berths and good storage.

To port, in the saloon, is the aft head. Once again, headroom is impressive and this facility boasts a separate shower stall. Opposite the shower room is the chart table. Broad, secure and practical, plenty of provision has been made for instrumentation additional to the chart plotter and GPS.

simple conversion to create an office, work-room or closet.

The forward cabin is an extraordinary space. This is, without doubt, the largest double bunk I have seen on a production 46. At around 6' 6" in length, there are few crew it will not accommodate. Above the bunk are multiple small lockers, hanging space is plentiful and further storage exists under the bunk, even if you do opt for the extra water tank. Throughout the yacht wood has been used tastefully, lending a feel of refine-

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The galley demonstrates again that this boat was designed with both long-distance cruising and entertaining in mind. Secure enough to use at sea with an inset stove and high trim edge, also notable are the separate fridge and freezer, a multitude of storage spaces and a spacious, practical top - impressive!

Heading forward from the saloon you find the forward head and shower to starboard, and the fourth cabin to port. This is an innovative twin over-under bunk room, ideal for crew or for stowing the kids. Alternatively, it would be a

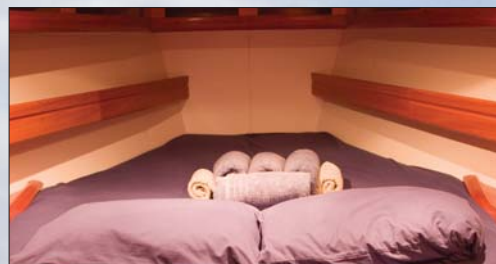
ment and elegance that fits well with the sleek appearance imparted by her lines.

Veritable Value

Bavaria has one of the most advanced, efficient and automated production processes in the world. Producing a range between 30' and 50' and over 2000 yachts per year, the labour cost is a mere twelve per cent yet they don't compromise on quality (the hull is still hand-laid with biaxial fibreglass). As regional dealer for Bavaria, Horizon Yacht Charters deals



A spacious saloon (top) leads into the main cabin (top right) and contains the well-equipped chart table (right).





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"...with their "try before you buy" option, you can charter a similar yacht... if you buy within three months, they will deduct up to a week's charter fee from the purchase price."

direct with the factory, thus generating further savings which they happily pass along to the buyer. Put all of this in a tax-free environment and these boats reflect the best value available in the region.

Horizon Yacht Charters also offer the perfect test sail opportunity: with their "try before you buy" option, you can charter a similar yacht from any of their Caribbean bases and, if you buy a boat within three months, they will refund up to a week's charter fee.

Jumbie has recently arrived from the Annapolis Boat Show where she was on display at Horizon Yacht Charters' stand and is available to purchase, fully charter ready with several upgrades, for \$269,000. A basic sail away Bavaria 46 can be purchased for as little as \$220,000, commissioned and delivered to the Caribbean.

Contact Horizon Yacht Charters at the details above.

