

Blue Water Sailing

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The Dolphin 460, built in Brazil by a veteran French builder and his Brazilian partner, is the result of more than 25 years of cruising catamaran design and construction. The 460 is designed to be a performance ocean cruising catamaran that is capable of good windward performance. The hull shapes are modern and efficient with fine bows to cut through chop and enhance surfing down waves and broader transoms that carry most of the boat's load. Fitted with daggerboards, the 460 will draw seven feet, five inches when sailing to windward; the boards offer a lot of lift and will help the boat chew to windward.

The fractional carbon fiber rig is tall, light and efficient and was created to give the boat good bursts of speed in the right conditions while being simple for a shorthanded crew to manage. All working lines lead aft, so you can hoist, trim and douse sail from the cockpit.

The cockpit is commodious and fitted with a simple but elegant Bimini top. The helmsman sits to starboard and has a good and full view of the sails for trimming and of the bows for docking.

The interior can be had in three variations—with three, four or five cabins. The three-cabin owner's version makes the most sense for a couple who is heading out for a while. In the three-cabin version the whole starboard hull is the master suite with a double berth aft, plenty of storage nearby, a large study and a huge head.

The port hull will offer guest accommodations with a double cabin aft, a smaller single and a head with a shower in between.

The saloon features an oval dinette and a good seagoing galley that faces forward and is narrow enough to allow the chef to work both counters at the same time. A desk that doubles as the nav station is next to the door to the cockpit.

A boat to live aboard and to take across the ocean at a good clip, the Dolphin 460 offers a lot of cruising quality and excellent boatbuilding value in a design that is eye catching.