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STATUS

n pursuit of an assassin, James Bond pushes the powerboat throttle to its limits. The river Thames explodes behind him. The world may not be enough, but the boat gives him the speed he needs. However, had he a VanDutch 40, the assassin would have been terminated long before Bond cracked a sweat.

The VanDutch 40 is for those who like their luxury a little on the wild side. This is a powerboat that managed to pull off the potentially impossible feat of holding its own in Formula 1. Partnering with the Red Bull Renault team and in league with Patfer, which distributes the Dutch craft in Italy and Monaco, the VanDutch 40 starred at the 68th Monaco Grand Prix.

The nautical technology makes it as agile and nimble as an F1 race car. The concept is original too, as Patfer boss Patrizio Ferrarese, who managed the 10 VanDutch 40s used as tenders by the Red Bull team in the Monaco Marina during the race weekend, explains. "This is no ordinary boat. It's something completely new. Much simpler, less pretentious, more human. I like to describe it as a minimalist boat but not one that will go unremarked."

Designed by Frank Mulder, the hull and deck are vacuum-bagged fibreglass sandwich with Kevlar reinforcements at critical stress points. The result is a solid, reliable boat that's light, agile on the waves, quiet and vibration-free. It has an Esthec deck that is not only very clean and linear, thanks to hideaway deck hardware, but also superbly elegant too. Engine-wise it goes a long way towards achieving perfect weight distribution, improved performance and lower fuel consumption.

Fitted with a hydraulic motor hatch and two Yanmar 480 horsepower engines it will reach a top speed of 45 knots.

It is so well liked that no less than 35 were sold in two years. We'll get to the cost later, but that's a pretty impressive feat.





This is an uncompromised boat. The standard specification includes everything an owner could possibly want. "It wants for nothing and everything is absolutely first-class quality," stresses Ferrarese. "On the other side of the coin, I think I can sum up this boat in a comment made to me recently which I took very much as a compliment. I was told that it looked like a 'poor' boat. And it's true in a way because it is simple – there's nothing aboard that isn't necessary. It's a powerhouse of substance."

The inviting cockpit seats eight guests on the immense white Silvertex L shaped seating while the rear sunbathing platform will lounge three comfortably.

So imagine yourself in the black sleek hull of the power boat with almost a thousand horsepower underneath you, cutting a fine line through the water, because now you can.

The VanDutch has recently arrived in Australia courtesy of importer and distributor VanDutch Australia who are now taking orders for the 40' and 55' versions.

Importer Dick van Damme says the VanDutch represents a new level of boating in Australia.

"We've never had anything like it in Australia before. VanDutch is for the discerning boat lover who understands and appreciates excellence, exclusive motors and sheer sophistication on the water," says van Damme.

"Australia with its impeccable waterways and harbours is the perfect setting for the VanDutch."

VanDutch provides not only a superior boating experience but also an entertainer's heaven with two refrigerators, air conditioning, sound system and microwave. Available in a range of custom colours, the VanDutch distinguishes itself by its intelligent underwater ship, making slamming and spray a thing of the past.

The deck is fitted with pop-up cleats, flush deck hatches and pop-up navigation lights.

The swim ladder and the fender storage are also recessed. Such thoughtful design allows the smooth lines to be fully appreciated. The bridge, floor and swim platform are created in Esthec, a material offering all the advantages of teak without the high maintenance. TGR

VANDUTCH SPECS

- » VanDutch 40' starts at \$825,000; delivery time is 12 – 24 weeks.
- VanDutch 40' is available in a range of colours.
- » Vacuum technology, Sandwich construction, Colour in two component "AWL-grip".
- » Sandwich technique, Swim Platform, Cabin, Side Decks, Deck and Cockpit floor covered with Esthec®.
- » Hydraulic Motor Hatch, 2 x 260hm or 2 x Yanmar 480hp, Automatic fire extinguishing system, fan.
- Flush desk hatches and anchor hatch, pop-up navigation lights, pop-up cleats, LED floor lighting.
- 2 x Yanmar digital canbus combo instrument, Electronic canbus throttle controls.
- East Manoeuvring System, consisting of bow and stern thrusters, including joystick control.

