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Unhurried Evolution

IF YOU'VE NEVER SAILED A MULTIHULL YACHT, YOU'RE IN FOR A TREAT WITH THE LAGOON 42. WITH THE NEWEST MEMBER OF ITS ACCLAIMED CATAMARAN FAMILY NOW MAKING A SPLASH AROUND THE WORLD, THE VAST STORE OF LAGOON'S EXPERIENCE IS EVIDENT IN THE 42'S IMPRESSIVE DESIGN – THE CRUISING MANIFESTATION OF A REFINED, DELIBERATE EVOLUTION.



In the world of high-end yachts, it seems at times there's an unspoken contest to which shipbuilder can make a bigger, better, and more impressive yacht. So when Lagoon unveiled its newest cruising catamaran earlier this year, conventional wisdom was turned on its head. The Lagoon 42, sporting sleek and graceful lines, certainly ticks all the boxes for a luxurious sailing cat, but measures in at a manageable 42 feet LOA, or 12.8 metres.

Of course, a 42-foot yacht is by no means a small boat, but amid a shopping list

of 50- and 60-foot yachts, the 42 might just stand out as much for its relatively smaller size as it does for its thoughtfully planned and beautifully executed design. So whether you're new to cruising or are perhaps that rare yachtsman who actually wants to downsize – or even if you'd like to make the leap from a monohull to a state-of-the-art cruising cat, the celebrated Lagoon 42 is well worth considering... and will be coming to Southeast Asia soon!

THE DESIGN: STYLE, CURVES, AND ELEGANCE

The Lagoon 42 impresses with its striking appearance even before leaving its slip. The work of Patrick Le Quément, from VPLP, has given the boat an elegant silhouette, with flowing curves and

graceful lines. The acceleration of the lines in the bows and coachroof emphasise the power and dynamism of this new model.

Inside, the “organic” architectural style also inspired Nauta Design, who have designed furnishings with gentle curves. The choice of noble woods, added to this design, contributes to an appealing living area that is aesthetically harmonious.

THE DECK LAYOUT: A NEW ERGONOMIC DESIGN, AND INNOVATIVE USE OF SPACE

A genuine structural revolution is that the deck is on the same level from the aft platform to the saloon. From the transom skirts, worthy of a bigger yacht, there are only two little steps to climb up to

reach this large same-level platform. On board, everything is designed to be readily accessible, from stepping aboard from the tender onto the new transom skirts to sunbathing on the coachroof.

On any catamaran, it's of course the saloon living space which sees the most benefit from the double-hull layout, and the Lagoon 42 excels here with a sophisticated design and flush entry to the cockpit. It's an impressive saloon indeed, boasting a modern and comfortable layout that will be both a focal point and a prime space for relaxing or entertaining. The saloon even opens onto the galley and onto the cockpit, for greater conviviality and ease of movement.

When it's time to retire for the evening, the Lagoon 42 comes in both three-cabin and four-cabin versions, each cabin having its own private bathroom. All of the cabins on the 42 offer side access to the beds, even the forecabins. And the aft cabins have queen-size beds, a worthwhile mention on a yacht of this size. Truly, the space planning on the 42 reveals a long lineage of experience, the distillation of years of knowledge gleaned from building Lagoon's other models.

THE HELM STATION: ACCESSIBILITY AND EASE TAKE THE FORE

Access to the helm station is from behind the seat or from in front of it, for improved ease of movement. All the manoeuvres



are centralised at the helm station, as is operation of the self-tacking jib. Only two winches are necessary to perform all of the usual manoeuvres.

Access to the coachroof and to the boom is from the helm station via stairs, also leading to the sunbathing area, and a composite bimini top with a sliding panel gives optimum visibility of the sails. What's more, the Lagoon 42's bulkhead helming position gives visibility over the coachroof, but still allows the skipper to take part in cockpit conversation.

PERFORMANCE: CENTRE-WEIGHTED MAST AND EASIER SAIL-HANDLING

The rigging of the Lagoon 42 takes its fundamentals from the ocean racing world that have been tried and tested

on the latest additions to the range. The mast was moved far aft to re-centre the weight, which significantly reduces pitching. With a self-tacking genoa and much smaller boom, handling the Lagoon 42's sails is made much more manageable for short-handed sailing, or even for a couple. The central position of the mast offers numerous advantages: an aerodynamically effective rig, with the possibility of having a self-tacking jib, a large foretriangle offering a wider choice of sails, and a shortened boom that is easier to manoeuvre.

Finally, particular attention has been paid to the weight distribution, and to the way the bulkheads and ceilings are made, with their weight being minimised by excellent command of the innovative injection-

moulding techniques. As the yacht's architect Marc van Peteghem notes, “The Lagoon 42 has benefitted from a real reduction in weight made by the yard and from a lot of work which has gone into the balance of the hulls and the sailplan. The position of the mast set further aft is really used to its potential because this helps create a boat which is reactive and which accelerates well. Obsession with weight is part of our racing DNA, but we had to look at this within the context of designing a cruising boat, where comfort is of paramount importance.”

For comfortable cruising with the space and stability of a luxury catamaran, put the Lagoon 42 on your list to consider. The latest Lagoon offering is fast becoming a popular cruiser for all the right reasons! ■

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