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## SEATRIAL

BY MIKE WERLING

# HORIZON V80

## A WEST COAST DESIGN BIG ENOUGH FOR A FAMILY REUNION BUT OPERABLE BY A CRUISING COUPLE

**T**he Horizon V80 is a bit of a labor of love for Orange Coast Yachts' Jim McLaren. He envisioned a large yacht with a versatile cockpit that would make the vessel a value proposition for a buyer, especially on the West Coast. When he got to looking closely at the Horizon V72 (which is really 74 feet LOA), he saw the potential. Add a six-foot cockpit, customize the interior, create as many social spaces as possible, give each of the four staterooms an en suite with a full shower, *et voila*, a boat that holds appeal up and down the West Coast.

But this isn't about him, no matter how agreeable and helpful he was before and during the sea trial. This is about the yacht.

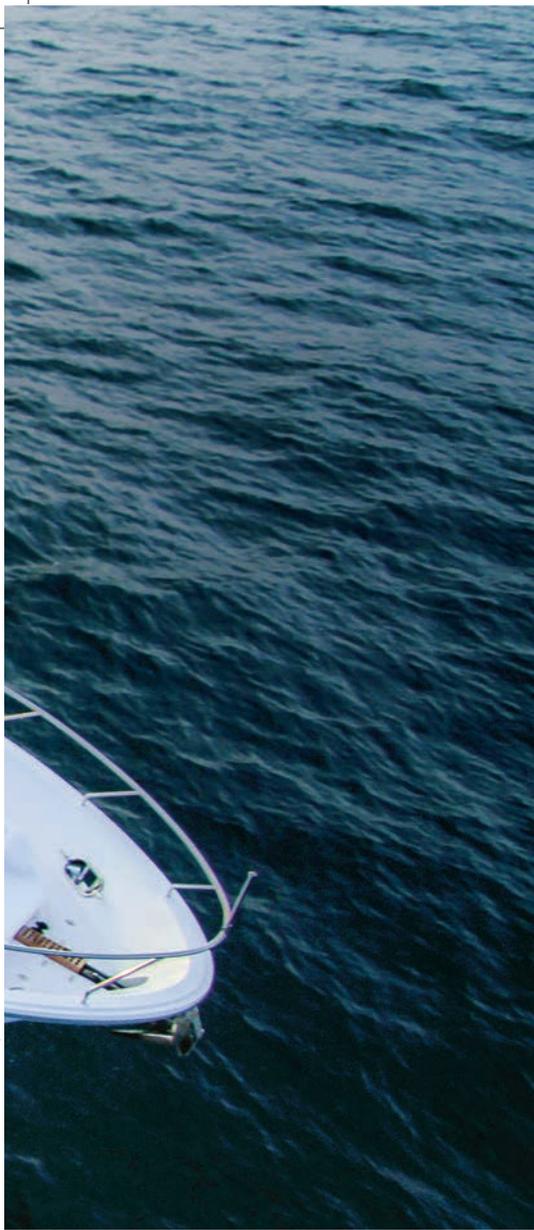
### FANTASTIC FEATURES

Inside, the V80 is a beautiful boat. The high-gloss walnut interior with zebra wood touches everywhere creates an elegant atmosphere that carries throughout the yacht. And everything from the upholstery to the pillows to the headliners to the bedding enhances the look of the dark wood. Even the outdoor soft goods extend the motif. But the features that are sure to be remembered most begin with the first step up from the hydraulic swim platform — itself big enough to

carry a PWC or serve as the base camp for a day of in- and on-the-water activities — and into the cockpit.

The cockpit was probably the most important feature McLaren and the Horizon crew decided to add to the boat, to make it as West Coast friendly as possible. With a high transom and gunwales, the cockpit is a safe spot from which to fish, sightsee, wrangle a dinghy, and access the engine room and crew quarters. And to either side are steps up to the covered aft deck, which is home to a day head, so kids with wet, dripping swimsuits don't have to track inside for a potty break. Given the cockpit's bait tank, tackle station and sink, fishermen can make a day of it.

Seventy-odd feet away on the bow of the V80 is an area the non-fishing crowd will find very attractive:



The elegance of high-gloss walnut with zebra wood touches carries throughout the V80. The single-level main deck is a dining and entertaining champ, while the belowdecks accommodations will have everyone sleeping in and lounging.

the Euro foredeck. Complete with a C-shaped settee that seats five around a fiberglass table and a double sunpad, the head of which folds up to reveal a bench settee for three, the spot is great for a sunset cocktail and *alfresco* dining. An easy-to-deploy canopy can be unfurled over the larger settee to create a shaded reading, or perhaps napping, area.

Up top, just aft of the enclosed flybridge, is the boat deck, which has room for a davit and a dinghy, sure, but it also has a sit-down bar, a large

## Testers' Opinion

➔ With room aboard to host a couple of dozen people at once (with the elegance to play it up formally, if so desired), enough staterooms to sleep eight people and an aft end that can facilitate a number of different activities, the Horizon V80 is sure to bring family and friends together on the water.



## Don't Overlook

- ➔ The ceiling features throughout are unique and interesting.
- ➔ The exterior lighting and underwater lights create a notable on-the-water display.
- ➔ There is redundancy throughout, including the water-pressure and AC systems.
- ➔ The engine room is voluminous and well laid out, so there's room to get at everything important.
- ➔ Port and starboard wing doors in the galley/dining area create a great cross flow of air when they're open.
- ➔ The battery switches are electric and move on their own with the push of a button.
- ➔ Thanks to the larger stabilizer fins, roll is eliminated at rest and at speed.

grill, a sink, a refrigerator and counter-top space for mixing drinks or staging appetizers.

### CARE TO DINE?

While finding room for eight to dine on the V80 won't be a problem, getting everyone to agree on one location might be. See, there are three places on the yacht that eight people can eat comfortably: the covered aft deck, the "official" dining room adjacent to the galley and on the previously mentioned foredeck. Heck, six people can take their meal in the enclosed bridge, and three can have drinks and snacks at

the bar aft of the bridge.

The formal dining area is situated to starboard, opposite the galley. Its table is surrounded by four upholstered chairs and an L-shaped settee that seats four. Above it is a mirror with zebra-wood trim and hidden lighting, which nearly matches the one over the galley and the one in the salon, though that one is sunken into the ceiling.

Feeding all those people requires a fully functional galley, and the V80 has it. A full-size side-by-side refrigerator/freezer, oven, four-burner cooktop and microwave anchor the gray-stainless-and-cream-colored galley (sort of elegant industrial), while 12 drawers and three double cabinets — the overhead one retreats into the ceiling when not in use — provide lots of storage, and Corian countertops, including an island, deliver plenty of work and presentation space.

### EIGHT IS ENOUGH

Belowdecks are four staterooms with en suite heads, each with a separate shower enclosure and a heated marble floor. To port and starboard of the companionway at the bottom of the stairs is a guest stateroom. Both have hanging lockers, twin beds, a port window and an opening porthole and an en suite head. The VIP is forward, with an island queen berth, opening portholes, a TV, a vanity and drawer storage.

Spanning the full 20-foot, 6-inch beam, the master stateroom is an owner's retreat. A queen berth takes center stage, thanks to its soft, upholstered headboard, with a mirror and zebra wood accent to each side, and a patterned overhead ceiling feature of curved walnut and mirrored stainless strips. A built-in bureau with 12 drawers sits to starboard, while an easy chair and a large vanity occupy the port side. The head entrance is to starboard, and it is split into three "rooms." A double-sink vanity occupies the first room. Through a door is the toilet, and through another door is the shower. The walk-in closet is through a door to port.

### ENTERTAIN LIKE A PRO

As we've already established, the V80 has many places for drinks and dining, and you can throw entertaining into the mix, too. The main deck of the V80 is one level, from the sliding glass entry door to the stairs that head belowdecks, so the flow from the salon to the dining area to the galley is unimpeded, though there is a sliding partition between the galley and the salon, if the occasion calls for a bit of separation. With the partition open, it's easy to pass appetizers or drinks back and forth.

The salon can seat up to 10 people on settees to port and starboard



and two armchairs. A walk-up bar between the salon and galley includes storage for bottles of your favorite drinks, an ice-maker, a wine refrigerator and a refrigerator for mixers and fruit garnishes. A cruising couple can always take over the entire salon for a movie or the big game on the 55-inch TV. Adding a bit of elegance to the setting is a recessed, backlit, mirrored ceiling feature. Large side windows flood the area with natural light during the daytime, and a minimum 6 feet, 7 inches of headroom provides plenty of vertical space.

### COMFORT UNDERWAY & AT REST

Given the enclosed nature of the flybridge, our test V80's only helm station was up top in the bridge, where the captain never has to feel alone, since there is a U-shaped settee and two stools around a table. Eliminating the lower station created more room for the galley, especially in the storage department, which will come in handy on a long haul up to Alaska or down to Central America. The helm, as you might expect, is full of all the screens, gauges, switches and buttons necessary to run a yacht. Three custom 19-inch glass displays running NavNet 3D dominate the helm and provide all of the chartplotting, radar, weather and digital instrument information

a captain could possibly need; plus, video feeds from onboard cameras can be viewed.

From the dual captain's chairs, the view is 360 degrees, since there is glass all around. It was from this perch we conducted the sea trial, during which we reached a top speed of 25.8 knots at 2360 rpm, about a 90 percent load for the twin CAT C32 ACERT diesels, each 1,622 hp. Total fuel burn at that speed is roughly 160 gph. Slow it down to 20 knots, a good cruising speed for the V80, and fuel burn is just more than 100 gph. To stretch the yacht's range a bit, slow down to trawler-like speed, where 9.8 knots yields a range of about 460 miles at a fuel burn of 26 gph (that's with a 10 percent reserve built in).

The ride was very smooth at all speeds, thanks to the ABT stabilizers, which McLaren went big with to provide stability at top speed, trawler speed *and* at rest. He reasoned that owners are going to appreciate stabilization most at anchor, and while smaller stabilizers would have easily kept the boat stable at speed, the larger 12.0x TRAC-STAR (Stability At-Rest) model will provide the at-anchor stability that's so important for comfort. We had to use our own wake to create some roll on the Pacific on test day, but we drove through it with the stabilizers on and with them off,

## ➔ SPEC BOX

LOA	81 ft., 11 in.
BEAM	20 ft., 6 in.
DRAFT	5 ft., 9 in.
DISPLACEMENT (LIGHT)	136,687 lbs.
FUEL	1,400 gal.
WATER	300 gal.
POWER	Twin CAT C32 ACERT diesels, 1,600 hp
PRICE (AS TESTED)	\$4,681,000

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### BUILDER

HORIZON, Kaohsiung, Taiwan; [horizonyacht.com](http://horizonyacht.com)

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ORANGE COAST YACHTS, Newport Beach, Calif., (949) 675-3844; Alameda, Calif., (510) 523-2628; [orangecoastyachts.com](http://orangecoastyachts.com)  
 Emerald Pacific Yachts, Seattle; (206) 587-0660; [emeraldpacificyachts.com](http://emeraldpacificyachts.com)

and the difference was definitely noticeable.

A yacht this size can present a challenge at docking time, but this V80 is equipped with 38 hp ABT hydraulic bow and stern thrusters, so even when a captain has to parallel park in the wind, the challenge won't be too overwhelming.

Two gensets — one 27.5 kw and one 17.5 kw — and a 4 kw inverter mean cruising away from the luxury of shore power won't be an issue. The 1,800-gallon-per-day FCI water-maker helps, too.

With room aboard to host a couple of dozen people at once (with the elegance to play it up formally, if so desired), enough staterooms to sleep eight people and an aft end that can facilitate a number of different activities, the Horizon V80 is sure to bring family and friends together on the water. But even at 80-plus feet long, the yacht can be run by a cruising couple, thanks to powerful bow and stern thrusters and a helm station with everything at hand. Alaska, Mexico and all the nearby favorites are definitely in play. 🍷