

Let Activa entertain you

Versatile and luxurious, the 6400 is a top-of-the-market masterpiece, says **Mike Rose**

THE Adventure Bay Motor Yachts' concept is a quintessential example of how the global village works. The mainly trawler-style vessels are built by Activa Marine on the Lou River, close to China's largest seaport, Shanghai. Headed by Taiwanese naval architect, Charles Chang, the purpose-built factory covers some 3000sq m on almost 34,000sq m of land.

The boats Activa builds for New Zealand based Adventure Bay are commissioned and designed by Adventure's John Winter. He also specifies the interior fit out.

The spray strakes, the lines moulded into the hull to deflect spray away from the hull and provide more lift, are by Kiwi designer Max Carter.

Winter is well-positioned to both commission and specify these boats, especially for the New Zealand market where many of them will be used for top-of-the-market charter.

A member of the Danske Mobler Winter clan, he and his family also own and operate Pacific Mermaid, New Zealand's most internationally famous luxury charter vessel.

Winter's experience in the business of high-end furniture manufacturer and luxury charter is clearly evident here. There are four separate entertaining areas. Each is either a C or L-shaped settee, positioned so that guests can see each other and the view.

This allows different age or interest groups to relax separately or a smaller group to migrate to the best position for the weather and the time of day. The largest of these areas is the saloon, where eight can sit comfortably. The other three, each seating six, are in the cockpit (safely under the flybridge overhand), up on the flybridge and in the pilothouse.

The Activa 6400 includes a cockpit suitable for such essentials as fishing, diving and playing with small boats, PWCs and water toys.

The aft cockpit area is generous and includes a shower nozzle, bait board, live bait box, rod holders and plenty of storage for rods, scuba tanks and other such necessities.



CLASSY: Designed by John Winter, the Activa (top) has a flybridge with a barbecue (left) and alfresco capacity (right).

Transom engine controls, including a remote for the bow thrusters, are positioned to make it easy to manoeuvre close to that ideal fishing, diving or picnic spot.

A special feature is Activa's huge, hydraulically-operated swim platform. Easily large enough to accommodate the ship's 4m RIB, it can be lowered to a semi-submerged position when at rest. This increases the boat's stability and provides a great, safe launching pad for kayaks, swimmers and even an adventurous skier.

When not supporting its tender, the platform cradle transforms into a bait board, complete with a brace of rod holders. When raised, the push-button

platform becomes a well-sought after spot for fishing or sunbathing.

The cockpit seating area provides a great place from which to watch the action further aft. For the convenience of those using this spot, there is also an adjacent day head, complete with shower, toilet and wash basin. The area features paua detailing and marble benchtops. The day head's position means crew can use it without bothering the guests.

While under way, many guests will choose to relax up on the flybridge and, once there, they might never come down. Not only is there the six-seater settee, there are also a couple of spare helm chairs (depending on the number

of crew) and a fridge and a barbecue.

The flybridge's aft deck is also spacious and is easily able to house all the "toys" (such as the two two-person kayaks and the 2.7m beach tender), the main tender's outboard and the davit to launch these.

The main dining area in the saloon can be accessed from the flybridge, but the joining stairway can be closed off with a glass hatch, allowing various groups to enjoy different areas without disturbing each other.

Because the boat will be used for a variety of functions and styles of events, Winter's watchword throughout seems to have been "versatility". A good example is in the saloon where



WELL-FITTED: The Activa's saloon exudes traditional luxury (above), seats eight people comfortably and has great flow to the cockpit.

the main table can be electronically raised or lowered, depending on whether one wants to use it as a dining or coffee table.

There is a sophisticated home theatre entertainment system with a large flat-screen TV, but this is hidden behind tambour doors when not in use.

Accommodation is in a full-beam master cabin, a queen-size guest cabin and a twin. All have their own flat-screen TVs (although the one in the master cabin is also linked to the helm station for obvious reasons).

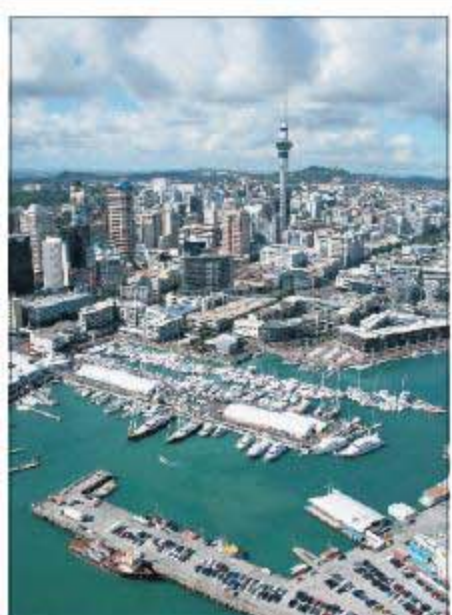
The master cabin features an athwartship berth (better, according to Winter, in a jiggly anchorage) and windows at either end, the latter providing a flood of natural straight-through light. The comprehensive ensuite includes such extras as heated towel rails, twin sinks and marble bench-tops.

There are also separate stations for those wishing to apply make-up and those needing to work on a laptop.

With solid hand-laid e-glass construction below the waterline and vacuum bagged foam/balsa/e-glass composite construction above, the Activa 6400 is powered by twin Volvo D12 775 hp diesels. These give a top speed of around 22 knots and a cruising speed of 17 knots. The vessel carries 6000 litres of fuel and has what Winter describes as a "Pacific passage-making range" of around 2000 nautical miles at a leisurely 7-8 knots.

For a full review of the new Activa 6400 see the November/December issue of *Seaspray*, on sale now.

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Show's new hall set on hallowed ground

A new Cruising and Safety Hall is set to be a major feature of the 2009 Auckland International Boat Show at the Viaduct Harbour (left) on March 5-8.

Organisers say the aim of the hall, in the original Team New Zealand base, is to "help keen boaters plan their next adventure".

"It's about making sure you have what you need in equipment and information to cruise safely around New Zealand and offshore," says boat show co-ordinator Kerry Ellis.

"The relaxed atmosphere in the Cruising and Safety Hall will enable one-on-one contact with the experts

while free, 30-minute seminars will cover general issues from maintenance to how to access the best weather forecast for the area."

Whiting Power Systems will use an engine to demonstrate the basic checks to run before leaving port and Coastguard Boating Education will discuss safety equipment, weather forecasts and boat-handling through multimedia presentations.

Environment Waikato will discuss the various by-laws managed by harbour masters around the country. This, says Ellis, will help boaters understand where fishing regulations

may be different in different locations.

"This will be particularly useful for people planning to sail or tow their boat away from their home port," she says.

Line 7 will showcase its technical and lifestyle clothing, and other exhibitors will include Maritime New Zealand, Hutchwilco, Yacht Lifeline and Island Cruising Association.

Ellis says many of the seminars will be complemented by on-water activities such as PWC manoeuvres, powerboat handling, liferaft demonstrations, kayaking skills and safety displays. The seminars will run daily

from 10.30am to 4.30pm.

Visitors to the event also go in the draw to win a Moorings sailing charter for two in Vava'u, Tonga.

The Auckland International Boat Show will follow the Louis Vuitton Pacific Series and the Millennium Cup Series, both of which are also being run out of Viaduct Harbour from January 26 until February 14. The annual conference of the International Institute of Marine Surveying will be held in Auckland at the same time.

Organisers have chosen yachting commentator Peter Montgomery as the face of the 2009 show. *Mike Rose*