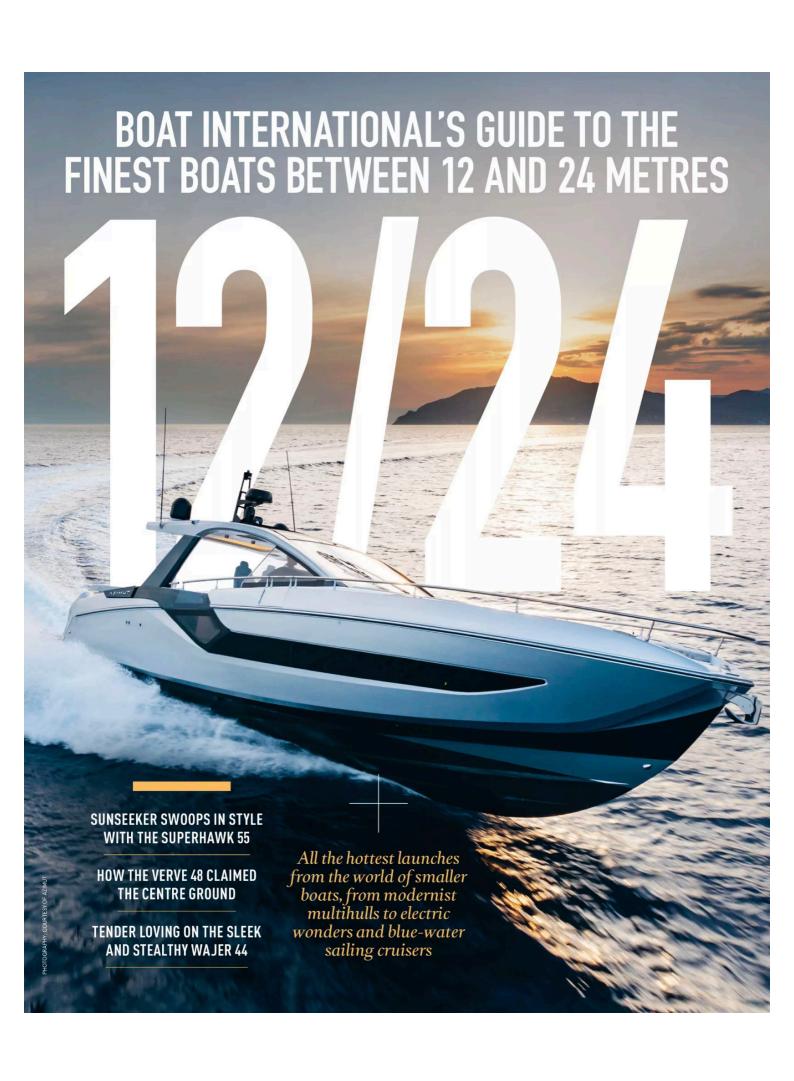
BAHAMAS BOOM: why more big yachts are visiting





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LOVE OR LOATHE: 10 YEARS OF BELOW DECK



An optional soft-top can shade up to 10 diners on deck

VanDutch 75

Ravenna studio BurdissoCapponi Yachts&Design injected a contemporary Mediterranean aesthetic into the design of this flagship model from VanDutch (a Cantiere del Pardo brand). The 22.3-metre is due to splash at the end of 2024. The standard layout comprises an open-plan kitchen with an owner's cabin and twin cabin aft and a VIP cabin forward, while a second configuration sacrifices the twin to make way for a larger owner's suite with a desk, sofa and dressing room. There's an up-down swim platform and tender garage, while three IPS engines push the 75 to 40 knots.

Pardo 75 T-Top

The first Pardo 75 T-Top will be delivered in 2025

A year after launching a 23-metre flagship, Pardo has produced a new iteration of its original walkaround design. Fold-down wings and up to three 1,000-horsepower IPS drives are again options, but now guests can enjoy the shade of a dashing carbon composite T-top. The power package gives speeds up to 36 knots.



Built on the proven hull of the V68, the first V74 out of the Taiwanese yard last spring was destined for Australia. It was customised to suit conditions in the region with an enclosed upper deck and four guest cabins. The yacht offers plenty of volume, with a marble-clad "country kitchen" style galley and a hi/lo dinette that serves for watching TV. The hydraulic swim platform can take a 450-kilogram tender, while the beach club is fitted with lounge seating and a wet bar.



GALEON 450 HTC

Galeon's new 14-metre Hard Top Coupe is looking quite alluring from the dock, but when I peek inside I see there's lots more in store. "It has the outdoor spaces of a dayboat and the inside accommodations of a cruiser. This is one of the biggest achievements," says the model's designer, Tony Castro.

Covered with a swoop of a hardtop, the coupe's main deck opens to the sun and fresh air through a series of design feats. It also grows when the cockpit bulwarks fold down to make balconies. "All these innovative design features are difficult to implement, and Galeon can do it and still have a lower price than its competitors," Castro says.

The V74 is

her 22.7m length

To embrace the outdoors, the sunroof, side windows and aft pantograph door open, while the awning over the cockpit fully retracts. Seating swivels and backrests flip, allowing a plethora of configurations. On the swim step is a proper barbecue area with sink. A hydraulic platform is an option here, able to lower a small tender or jet ski into the sea.

When it's time to settle in for the night, there is a generous owner's cabin stretching the full 4.2-metre beam. This is tucked low in the hull, but ample glazing keeps it bright and airy. Another good-sized cabin is forward with a double berth that splits into twins. A third cabin is an option.

The Polish builder builds all furnishings in-house, giving it fastidious control over fit and finish. This quality extends to performance, which is defined not as speed, but as comfort by Bob Burke, Galeon brand manager for US dealer MarineMax. "It's the most comfortable boat in this size range in a seaway," he says. Combined with spacious decks and airy interiors, it's a beautiful balancing act. Kate Lardy

