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march 2007

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**GO  
BIG**

# ***Bavaria 42HT***

Words by Scarlett Steer. Pictures by Scarlett Steer and courtesy of Bavaria Boats.

*Everytime I see the latest imported offering from Bavaria Boats, I like it even better than the last. I don't consider myself the fickle sort, but when it comes to Bavaria, my preference changes with each gorgeous new model that reaches our shores. The latest object of my affection is the recently landed Bavaria 42 Hard Top (HT). She is, in a word, beautiful, and (dare I say it again) set to blaze a certain trail of success across South African waters.*





*“The operative word here is “wind-free”*”

### Whatever the weather

A Hard Top craft is always going to be a great option for South Africans. Our weather and ocean conditions are, at best, thoroughly unpredictable, and what started out as a pearl of a day is often marred by a howling gale and unpleasant swell come mid-afternoon. This is not going to pose a problem for Bavaria 42HT owners and their guests. Our test day dawned bright and breezy with a fresh westerly wind and gentle swell. As we headed out of Hout Bay harbour I settled into the thickly cushioned curved cockpit bench, basking in the totally wind-free warmth and sunshine that flooded through the electrical sunroof and large wraparound windscreen. The operative word here is “wind-free”. Even on a bright but blustery day, you and your family will stay completely protected inside the cockpit. If the weather turns ugly, the entire area can be enclosed with clears, keeping you warm and dry without compromising on visibility or available light. Cockpit layout is



hugely sociable and all upholstery is covered in heavy-duty marine fabric. A wet bar comes as standard and includes a sink and stainless steel drink holders. The cockpit table is made in GRP and can be removed if needed. The aft sun pad makes the ideal spot to stretch out and soak up some rays. Convenient storage is housed beneath the cushions of the sun bed, ready and able to fit all your safety equipment inside, including lifejackets and two six-man life rafts. A warm and cold water shower at the transom and a sun soaked extended teak bathing platform both offer brave Clifton swimmers a chance to thaw any frozen limbs after a dip in the icy sea. The great thing about the cockpit is that, although it may look and feel pretty opulent, it's actually thoroughly low-maintenance. At the end of the day, all you need to do is take up the clip-on carpets, cover your Raymarine electronics with a towel, and hose your boat down. The deck is fully self-draining making life a whole lot easier. The overall feel of the cockpit is highly genial and user-friendly, and provides a protected communal area that you and your group of friends or family can enjoy together.



A generous extended swim platform is a great optional extra



Storage for safety equipment lies beneath the sunbed cushion

## The captain's controls

The 42HT features an all-new, slick and smart helm with a flip-up bolster double seat. Analogue instrumentation includes a log, depth finder, voltmeter, fuel gauge, oil pressure gauge, rev counter, engine temperature display and hour counter. The compass is illuminated and the carbon design steering wheel is height adjustable for convenience. Although this 45-foot beauty is a big girl, she doesn't have the typical handling characteristics of a large craft. I felt in control and at ease as I took the helm. Visibility is good and I liked the fact that the curve of safety glass windscreen is fitted with two slide-down windows



A spotless saloon with excellent headroom



Plenty of space for a weekend away with the family



– one for the skipper and one for the co-pilot – that can be opened up for a blast of fresh air. Settling in behind the wheel is therefore an absolute pleasure, and I was less than happy when our joy ride came to an end. The 42HT sits really nicely in the water. She's got a lot of weight behind her (12 ½ tons dry weight) and therefore feels rock solid beneath you.

### Heaps of headroom

A tinted glass sliding door and short flight of steps leads from cockpit to saloon. The first thing I noticed was the heaps of headroom available – about 2.2 metres - not only in the galley and dining area, but in both

cabins and heads too. There really is just so much room and it goes a long way in cancelling out any feeling of claustrophobia one may have in similar situations. All furniture is made from mahogany teak wood and veneer, carpeting is plush and soft, and strategically placed ceiling lights create a warm and inviting effect. U-shaped seating and a good-sized dining table make a cozy alternative to alfresco eating. The galley is well equipped with a double stainless steel sink with cover, a pressurized water system, Siemens Ceran-cooking field, microwave, 12-volt DC fridge, icebox with cooling aggregate and AC outlets. Both double cabins are fantastically sized, offering great

headroom (surprisingly generous in the aft cabin especially), lots of storage space, ceiling lights and soft reading lamps. What's more, both of them boast en-suite heads. The main cabin has an electrical toilet and separate shower, while the aft has an electrical toilet and hand-held shower. The 42HT's interior appealed hugely to me, and I could definitely picture myself spending a solid long weekend aboard without falling prey to cabin fever.

### Revolutionary technology

Perhaps one of the most special things about the Bavaria 42HT is the fact that she is the first craft in the country to be fitted with the all-new Volvo-Penta IPS (Inboard Performance System) and joystick. This radical marine propulsion system is a new, improved alternative to inboard shafts. Now, I don't want to say too much about IPS in this article, but if you page forward to our features section then you can read all about it. What I will say though is how unbelievably easy IPS and the joystick make manoeuvring your boat. This system is a total confidence booster that makes negotiating tight spaces, busy harbours and pinched berths as easy as is humanly possible. The 42HT is a big boat, yet I felt quite self-assured negotiating the busy Hout Bay harbour, easily moving out of the way of fishing boats and

*"This system is a total confidence booster"*

groups of kayakers. With the IPS joystick system, reversing, docking and turning the boat all happens at the touch of a super responsive button. All 45-foot of our review craft turned virtually 360 degrees in her own length. To fully appreciate ►



Spotless installation in the engine room is a testament to German engineering

this optional extra it really has to be experienced, and once you have I guarantee you'll be hard pressed to resist installing the system on your craft. It really does make light work out of some of the most stressful chores one encounters when taking the family out for a day at sea.

Our review craft was powered by twin Volvo-Penta IPS 500 248 kW/337HP inboards, tucked neatly away underneath the large sun bed. Installation is clean and impressive, with plenty of room for movement if you ever needed to tinker around in the engine room. These IPS engines offered fantastic handling at slower speeds. As mentioned above, the 42HT is a hefty girl, and therefore a

stern drive installation could prove inefficient in propelling the craft through the water. Wiltel's Willie Truter says: "Stern drives are not really made to handle anything more than 350 horsepower. This makes the Volvo-penta IPS a much more suitable option for such a heavy boat." As it was, we had no trouble nosing onto the plane and enjoyed super smooth cruising at around 26 knots @ 3 000 rpm. Because the IPS is manoeuvrable the turning circle is limited at high speed when shipped from the factory. Once you know the boat well Bavaria can change the setting to Sport mode, allowing even tighter turns. At speed you can therefore turn very tight as you do not have the

## At a glance

Construction	J+J Design
Length overall	13.40 m
Length hull	12.95 m
Beam overall	4.28 m
Height above waterline (approx.)	3.50 m
Draught (approx.)	1.10 m
Weight (approx.)	11 700 kg
Fuel tank (approx.)	1 500 l
Water tank (approx.)	410 l
Max. persons	12
Cabins	2
Berths	4
Height in cabin (approx.)	2.2 m

### Certification

CE Category B, CE Certificate  
 Full SAMS Certification  
 Safety equipment and life raft for 12 people  
 VHF Radio  
 Dockside Package: fenders, boat hook, shore power cable, 4 mooring lines  
 CE fire extinguishing system  
 2 fire extinguishers

### Engine options

2 x Volvo-Penta IPS 400/Duoprop./ incl. propeller 217 kW/295HP  
 2 x Volvo-Penta IPS 500/Duoprop./ incl. propeller 259 kW/352HP

"slippage" experienced on shaft and stern drives.

## A new favourite

So, once again I have fallen in love with Bavaria's latest SA entry. It's often difficult to describe a boat and the way she handles in an adequate enough way. I'm not sure I've done the trick here, so my strong recommendation would be to pick up the phone and call the team from Wiltel. Seeing is believing!

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