

Tiara 4000 Sovran

The first boat in the U.S. specifically designed for IPS.

by Tom Thompson

Tiara took a revolutionary step by equipping the 4000 Sovran with Volvo Penta's Inboard Performance System. This model was the first American boat to be designed from the keel up specifically for IPS drives. IPS is the innovative drive system that puts the horse before the cart, so to speak, by placing the propellers in front of the drive housing. The idea is to put the props in clean water, unaffected by turbulence from anything hanging off the bottom of the hull.





Volvo Penta claims IPS improves maneuverability, speed and fuel efficiency. I can attest to that. Of all the 40-some-foot express cruisers I've driven, none handled as well as the 4000 Sovran. The most impressive thing about an IPS-equipped boat is the way it takes turns. The 4000 Sovran goes into them tightly and aggressively. You feel as though you're in complete control. When taking a tight turn in a boat with conventional power, there's usually a loss of rpms on the outboard side as well as prop cavitation. The 4000 Sovran's track is steady and solid, and the steering is precise. You feel like you're at the helm of a 20-foot runabout, not a cruiser twice the size that weighs in around 15 tons.

The IPS 500 diesels are rated at 370 hp each. From a standing start, it took only eight seconds to reach 3000 rpm and 20 mph. Optimum cruising speed is about 27 mph, and the fuel range is nearly 300 miles.

Slow-speed performance is nimble, too. IPS drives provide you with the best characteristics of sterndrive and inboard propulsion when at the dock or in tight quarters. Put one drive in forward and one in reverse and the boat will spin on itself, with the center of rotation being the center of the boat. To spin faster, just turn the steering wheel. The 4000 Sovran comes with a standard bowthruster, but you may not use it much.

Mounting the IPS engines low and well to the stern opens up some new possibilities for interior layout, especially in an express cruiser configuration. There is a spacious salon amidship on the 4000 Sovran that is done in teak with contrasting light-toned Ultraleather and fabrics. A seating area is to starboard, with the galley to port. An arched room divider between the two spaces holds a 20-inch LCD TV. Our test boat had a large cabinet forward of the seating that held a washer/dryer combo below and a storage compartment above. The L-shaped galley countertop has a double sink and a two-burner stove. An 8 1/2-cubic-foot upright refrigerator/freezer and a microwave oven come standard.

The master stateroom lies forward and is arranged around a pedestal queen berth. It has a private head with a separate shower stall. The vanity sink is an elegant glass bowl, an unusual decorator touch. A cedar-lined hanging locker extends floor to ceiling in the starboard corner. The master stateroom has its



own A/C unit, and Tiara thoughtfully located the compressor in the engine compartment instead of under the berth.

Tiara's designers took full advantage of the extra room made available with the IPS installation by creating a spacious aft cabin with twin berths and its own head. A separate compartment holds the toilet and shower. The vanity sink, another elegant glass bowl, sits on a countertop along the port side. There's about 6 feet, 6 inches of headroom in the dressing area in front of the vanity.

Above-deck, the 4000 Sovran layout has a few features you won't find on many other boats. Usually, the lounge seating opposite the helm is at deck level. On the 4000 Sovran, the L-shaped bench is two steps above, giving it a commanding view. There's a doublewide bench at the helm that faces a large control panel. Our test boat had a pair of 10-inch Raymarine E-Series displays mounted side by side.

The helm deck has a high expanse of glass on three sides, plus a standard integrated hardtop to protect you from the weather. A powered vent in the center of the windshield allows good airflow. In addition to that, Tiara arranged the vents in the hardtop so that one opens forward and the other aft to catch breezes no matter what direction the wind blows.

There's a wetbar aft of the helm station with a standard refrigerator. The lower cockpit has a U-shaped bench seat with a removable table. The 4000 Sovran's standard canvas package closes off the entire cockpit and helm deck area. Having the space air-conditioned is an option.

The 4000 Sovran is an impressive vessel. The styling and amenities are first-rate and the looks are classic Tiara. Add to that the performance improvements of the IPS drives and you have another compelling package from this Holland, Michigan boatbuilder. ⚓

Specs

LOA	45'3"
Beam	14'9"
Draft	3'7"
Bridge clearance.....	10'7"
Weight.....	26,800 lbs.
Fuel capacity.....	375 gals.
Sleeps	6
Power	T/Volvo IPS 500 diesels (370 hp)
Base price:	\$537,900



616-392-7163
www.tiarayachts.com