

# Riviera 4400 Sport Yacht



An Aussie design  
that's great for the Great Lakes, too.

BY TOM THOMPSON

When I tested Riviera's 3600 Sport Yacht about a year ago, I was impressed by the layout of the main deck. It's both a closed cabin boat and an open—buttoned-up for foul weather yet free to take in the sun and breezes when they come. My first impression was that it couldn't get any better than this. Well, the boatbuilders from Down Under have proven me wrong.

The two-cabin, two-head 4400 SY boasts an enclosed main deck—you're surrounded by a solid enclosure that's rain-, wind- and chill-proof—allowing you to extend your season by at least a few weeks at both ends. However, when the weather is good, you can open up and let in the great outdoors. A large powered sunroof in the hardtop comes standard. The forward half of the side windows slides aft and completely overlaps the rear. Then there's the cabin's aft bulkhead. A heavy stainless steel framed door is to starboard. The top half of the rest of the space is taken by a similarly framed glass window. Open the door, lift the window and secure it to the underside of the hardtop for a feeling of expansiveness. The cockpit becomes part of the salon.

A leather L-shaped sofa and an adjustable table run across the port side of the salon. A flat-screen TV rises from the handcrafted wood cabinetry to port under the windshield. The starboard cabinetry houses a full galley that's equipped with a two-burner electric stove, refrigerator, microwave, sink and optional dishwasher. A full set of dishes and cutlery, all housed in dedicated storage holders, comes standard, too. In the cockpit, you'll find a wetbar with sink, icemaker and another fridge. A bench runs across the transom with a dining table, which lowers to create a sunpad in front of it.

The helm station has a pair of comfortable leather three-way adjustable high-back seats. Visibility is excellent. During the sea trial it was pointed out to me that if you want to get a better look astern, just slide open the window panel beside you and stick your head out. How many closed cabin boats let you do this? In addition to space for your own smaller accessories, a large panel to the left of the

steering wheel accommodates an 18-inch electronics display.

Standard power is a pair of Volvo Penta IPS 500s, rated at 435 hp each. What more can we say about these revolutionary drives? They make handling flawless. The joystick comes standard, so the hassles of docking are a thing of the past. Cruising speed is about 30 knots, with the top end just under 34. Fuel burn at cruise is 34.6 gph, giving a range of 306 miles.

But there's a lot more to like belowdeck. The forward stateroom has a queen pedestal berth and hanging lockers on both sides, as well as drawer space underneath and cabinets along the sides. You might think this would be the master suite, but wait until you see the aft cabin. Although it's tucked under the helm deck and there's restricted headroom over the berths, the amount of lateral space here is quite surprising. There's not only a queen berth but also a single that can be used as a sofa. The berths aren't wall-to-wall, either—there's space to sit on the edge of either without your knees in your chin. The forward portion of the cabin does have limited stand-up headroom.

The two head compartments are about equal in size, with separate stall showers and attractive glass bowl sinks. There's a cabinet in the companionway that holds a combo washer/dryer and storage shelves.

Overall, the option list is rather short because most everything you'll want comes included—air conditioning, simulated teak Amtico flooring throughout the interior, even the towels and bed linens. The Riviera 4400 Sport Yacht, with its Great Lakes-friendly design, will definitely make for a "g'day" on the water.

## Specs

LOA .....	49'7"
Beam .....	15'
Draft .....	3'11"
Weight .....	27,600 lbs.
Fuel capacity .....	396 gals.
Base power .....	T/Volvo Penta IPS 500s (435 hp)
Base price .....	Contact dealer

[riviera.com.au](http://riviera.com.au)