

BENETEAU FIRST 44

Racer-cruiser royalty





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he First 44 designed by famed naval architects Robert Biscontini and Lorenzo Argento. The First 44 is the latest in the famed line's rich history. She is an exquisite sailing yacht with an intriguing design, offering through her architecture and build quality and quality performance and experience when underway.

With the intention of making serious performance even more accessible, Beneteau used the knowledge acquired with the Marc Lombard-designed Figaro 2 and its ballast systems to deliver this technology to First 44 owners; twin 300 ballast tanks, activated electrically from the helm stations, offer the possibility of reaching the boat's full potential with a reduced crew.

From a performance standpoint, deck ergonomics were studied and developed with fully-crewed regattas in mind. Equipment and systems are totally geared towards racing, among which should be mentioned the foam non-skid surfaces that replace the teak on the cockpit sole, six well-placed winches and a conventional mainsail traveller.

The rigging and sail setup include a 1.5m bowsprit, a hydraulic backstay, a powerful in-hauler system and a performance keel/mast combo that will satisfy the most demanding captains and crews.

Her three-cabin, two-head layout is an assemblage of quality materials interwoven into an impressive finish. In the salon the six-seater transversal table lays opposite of the couch and nav station; its positioning in relation to the mast eases the movement between galley and master stateroom, thereby accentuating the feeling of space.

"First was born 45 years ago with the launch of the legendary First 30, and we doubly celebrate the occasion this year with the announcement of the First 36 in January and the arrival of the First 44 today, finalising the renewal of a standard-bearing range now entirely redrawn and complete," says Yann Masselot, Beneteau general manager.

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