

Baie du Marin: 20 knots of wind, and more than 20 knots on the GPS... Will we succeed in flying a hull?



TS 50

THE CRUISING SPORT CATAMARAN...

If you are looking above all for excitement, speed and pleasure when sailing, then here is the boat of your dreams: a brilliant 50-foot sport catamaran, which can take up to 12 people cruising...it's the business!

PROJECT

At the origin of this catamaran - a prolific architect and fast catamaran enthusiast (Christophe Barreau) and a well-known ocean racer, the fastest man

around the world singlehanded: Francis Joyon... With such parentage, this catamaran could only be of noble birth, and particularly fun to sail. To judge for ourselves, we had an appointment

in Martinique for a test sail. Just talking about it still makes me drool!

A WONDERFUL TEST, BUT TOO SHORT.

Except that in our profession, nothing happens as we would have hoped. We should have been able to take full advantage of the TS 50 offered for charter by Régis Guillemot Charter, but Régis had to go away for family reasons and our sail therefore only lasted for a very short

hour... In these conditions, we cannot really call this a test, but rather our first impressions.

And what first impressions! Real pleasure... After the traditional photos, we embarked aboard the TS to go for a sail. The conditions were windy: a steady 20 knots, with gusts of up to 28. As for the sea conditions in the Saint Lucia channel, they were rough, with waves of up to 2.5m and a very disorganised sea. Wedged into the bucket seat, worthy of a sea-going formula 1,



This 50-footer's 'plus'? The way it slips through the water!

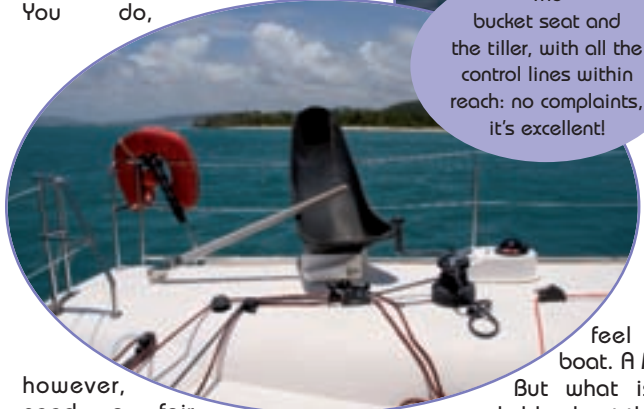
“ We went from 1 to 12 knots in less than 10 seconds. Clear, impressive acceleration which puts all your senses on the alert! ”

A boat which makes you want to leave...quickly and far!

holding the tiller, it was enough to sheet in slightly to feel the TS accelerate hard! The proof? After a particularly successful missed tack by your humble servant, we went from 1 knot to 12 in less than 10 seconds. Clear, impressive acceleration, which above all puts all your senses on the alert! Aboard, everything appears to be quite simple... No runners on the carbon wing mast, basic adjustments, but no furlers for the foresails and nice daggerboards to deal with. You do,



The bucket seat and the tiller, with all the control lines within reach: no complaints, it's excellent!



however, need a fair amount of experience to make this machine go, and above all, not to do anything stupid. Moreover, Régis Guillemot Charter only charters the 'beast' with a skipper... But what pleasure! The boat slips through the water incredibly smoothly and almost gives you the impression of being a good helmsman! And talking of the helm – the position is ideal, even though at the stern, given the speeds reached, you sometimes have the impression of facing a fire hose. The tiller is little heavy, but once the 10-knot barrier is passed (i.e. immediately...) it becomes very pleasant. It demands a bit of strength, but nothing impossible, and above all you can really

feel the boat. A MUST!

But what is most remarkable about the TS 50 is not the top speed (21.5 knots with 20 knots of wind in a wild surf...), but the impressive average speeds. Constantly between 16 and 20 knots in this rough sea, with fiendish acceleration: bear away and it accelerates. You would think you were on a windsurfer... All that remains is the accommodation: this catamaran is supposed to be able to accommodate 12 people for 10 days for a cruise to the Grenadines. In which case, comfort would be relative... It is far from what the classic charter catamarans can offer, but the essentials are there: 4 double cabins, a triple and a single, two heads and two showers. The interior is

Spartan, and you either love it or hate it. But the important thing is to be found elsewhere: whilst we had covered half the distance between Martinique and Saint Lucia in less than half an hour, we looked at each other: what if we carried on to the Grenadines? With this breeze, we would be in Bequia in 6 hours...

CONCLUSION

But who is the TS 50 aimed at? Undeniably at an experienced crew, who put the priority on performance, seakeeping qualities and life aboard in the 'nautical' sense of the term... It is a pure pleasure to helm. To such a point that since these first impressions, I have just one wish: to test the machine over a week - the time it takes for a rapid return trip to the Grenadines!



Around the saloon table, two double berths: whilst sailing at night, you must be able to react quickly...



the TS 50 remains a cruising boat: the proof – there is even a cockpit table and a rigid bimini...

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Builder: Marsaudon Composites
Architect: Christophe Barreau
Overall length: 15.24 m
Waterline length: 14.25 m
Max. beam: 8 m
Draft: 1.20 / 2.80 m
Displacement: 7,500 kg
Sail area: mainsail: 81.50m²
Roller-reefing genoa: 51 m²
Staysail: 25 m²
Lightweight genoa on furler: 101 m²
Spinnaker: 220 m²
Engines: 2 x 30hp
Water: 220 l
Diesel: 150 l
Price: NC

SPORT : ****
CRUISING : ***

THE PLUSES

- A real cruiser-racer, which could even join the 50-foot circuit.
- The tiller and the bucket seat: a treat.
- The way it slips through the water, and the acceleration...

THE MINUSES

- Minimum accommodation
- Finishing unworthy of a boat at this price level.

