

20-30 METRES
65-100 FEET

Nautitech 82

These big French cats for Polynesian charter are something else.

Nemo has plenty of deck space, minimal but comfortable, no-frills cabins and a blistering performance to keep the breeze playing over sunning flesh

The French boatyard Dufour has been producing a range of three large catamarans since 1994. Destined for the charter market as well as individual owners, the model in the middle of the range is the Nautitech 82. So far eight 82s have been delivered, and of these, four have been fitted out in the *Nemo* configuration, whose accommodation consists of 18 double guest cabins plus eight double crew cabins.

The other four 82s are in the *Paradox* configuration and used for day charter only, and as a result are without passenger cabins, but instead have a lot of extra deck equipment for the guests use as well as adequately large bathrooms.

The Nautitech 82 responds to a new concept. VPM, the charter company that originally commissioned the project, wanted a boat with high capacity that would be simple, solid and light enabling it to be fast, reasonably priced and hence commercially viable when it came to selling charter cabins cheaply. The resulting minimalist boat has a lot of surprising features, no vanity, no interior trim and no interior mouldings. The insides of the



hulls have been finished with a filler and painted and, always with weight in mind, the cabin lockers are closed over with simple curtains. In spite of this minimalism all cabins are equipped with their own heads.

The central nacelle houses the saloon and galley. Access to the cabins is made directly from the deck and not by steps from inside the saloon. This results in the central nacelle being relatively high up, with the underside nearly a metre clear of the waterline. On a cruise between Antigua and Guadeloupe in a rough sea and 30 knots comfort was surprising. It was hard to imagine that we were travelling at over 20 knots.

To allow the stern sections of the boat to be used as a huge exterior saloon protected by a dodger, the steering position has been placed on top of the coach roof, along with a hydraulic steering wheel and electronic remote engine controls. The skipper as a result has a panoramic view which equates to increased safety and security.

The first two Nautitech 82s had carbon masts and booms, but the weight saving wasn't significant enough and so the subsequent boats have been fitted with more classical aluminium spars built by Marechal.

The commercial success of this catamaran is understandable. Simple, but no one misses anything, and the boat's performance is exhilarating for the 16 guests on board. The most recent boat delivered, destined for a private owner, had just two cabins per hull. Luxury through simplicity.

NAUTITECH 82

LOA 25m (82ft)
Beam 10m (32ft 9in)
Draught 1.4m (4ft 7in)
Displacement 30 tonnes
Sail area 206m² (2,220sqft)
Designer Joubert-Nivelt/Pierrejean
Builder Dufour