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Riviera 4800 Sports Yacht Review



by **Dom Wiseman**

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Wes Moxey, CEO of Riviera, recently said of the Riviera 4800 Sports Yacht that it reflected the way the company wanted to make boating with Riviera a rewarding experience.

After spending an afternoon on the 4800 I would have to say that I agree.

The Riviera 4800 Sports Yacht is one of their most popular models and is as much a sports boat as it is luxury cruiser with a seamless blend achieved between the two. The performance cannot be questioned while the luxury is everywhere from the external finish

to the internal fit-out.

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RIVIERA 4800 SPORTS YACHT REVIEW

<i>BOAT DETAIL</i>	
Make	Riviera
Model	4800 Sports Yacht
Year	2016

The reason for the popularity of this style of boat is the single level living offered with an expansive saloon and outdoor entertainment area. It also helps that it has sleek lines, uses classic angles and looks every bit the sports boat it is.

This boat was also the first in the world to be fitted with the new Volvo D8 engine packaged with IPS drives.

WHAT YOU GET

The external appearance of the [Riviera](#) 4800 Sports Yacht is sleek with its long nose and perfectly proportioned cabin flowing seamlessly from bow to stern. The bow deck space features a large sun bed with pull up shade built in for anyone spending too much time in the sun. The port windows are recessed and run horizontally adding to the sleek lines while the roofline is matched perfectly with the hull.

The tender garage, big enough to house a tender up to 2.8m long, is located under the cockpit and is accessed via a hydraulically operated door. A barbeque, which has twin cook tops and table space either side is built into the top part of the garage door and can be accessed when it is closed. The lid concealing the BBQ has built-in LEDs providing all the light you need when cooking.

The teak lined cockpit sits above the garage with access from the rear platform and BBQ area via stainless gates port and starboard. The centrally



located bench accommodates four and has storage underneath. Ahead of that there is an L-shaped lounge and timber table that sits against the rear cabin window on the starboard side. The rear window above the lounge opens to allow airflow into the saloon. There is a full wet bar with refrigerator, ice-maker and hot and cold water sink on the port side.

Either side of the cockpit are walkways to the bow. These are wide and comfortable with a full-length bow rail adding further safety. It’s hard to fault the layout here when you consider most owners will spend much of their time in the cockpit and on the rear swim platform. There’s ample room to move and plenty of places to sit and sip away the afternoon.

The team at [Riviera](#) have managed to create a beautiful flow into the Riviera 4800 Sports Yacht saloon via a sliding glass door set in a stunning stainless steel frame. The flow starts all the way at the stern with the cockpit, with access to the cabin via the swim platform.

Length (metres)	15.23
Hull Type	Fibreglass
Engine Make	Volvo
Price	(as tested) \$1,279,520 AUD

the way at the stern on the port side with an easy line through all areas.

The galley is pushed to port and runs along the side of the cabin. The bench top features a small rear lip as opposed to a hard wall allowing light to enter via the port side window. This not only creates a stunning view, but also allows natural light to enter the galley that is equipped with two refrigerators, freezer, small cook top, microwave and beautiful timber cabinetry.

Directly opposite, against the rear bulkhead of the cabin on the port side, is a cocktail cabinet and bottle storage drawer



including

timber bench top. Ahead of that and opposite the galley is a C-shaped lounge and dining setting that seats six and provides a commanding view out the sliding side window. Above, an electric sunroof slides open for a view of the stars at night or air and light during the day.

The helm is located to the port side on this boat with the staircase down to the living quarters to its right. The staircase takes you to a large lower lounge with an L-shaped couch with storage drawers underneath located to starboard. I don't know that older couples would get much use of the space, however, kids looking to escape the sun may use it as a games area. It could also double as an extra sleeping space.

The master suite is located at the bow with a queen-sized bed centrally located creating walking space around. There is storage underneath plus additional hanging space and cupboards set on the starboard and port sides. A hatch overhead provides airflow into the cabin. It also has an ensuite with separate toilet and shower.

The VIP cabin is located amidships and has full headroom height. There is storage plus three single beds, two of which can be pushed together to form a double. Fixed hull windows create a light filled space while opening portholes are alarmed to the helm.

The day head is located to port opposite the lower lounge. It also features space for an optional washer/dryer.

POWER

The [Volvo D8](#) that powers the is based on a truck engine and comes in both a shaft and pod drive configuration. It's an inline 7.7-litre six cylinder engine producing 600hp. When coupled with the IPS drive, Volvo also adds a supercharger to the install.

The most telling difference between this engine and others is the remarkable quietness. The engine combined with the Riviera 4800 Sports Yacht hull is one of the quietest we've been on and completely negates the requirement to yell above the engine while underway.

At rest a quiet 11kW Onan provides on water power.

ON THE WATER

The performance of the [Riviera](#) 4800 Sports Yacht is impeccable. The IPS unit offers exceptional close quarters manoeuvring with little to no lag between input on the joystick and action. The boat can spin on a dime and shuffle sideways on a whim making berthing issues a thing of the past.

The helm position itself is well laid out and inspired by the sporty nature of the boat itself.

The test boat featured

Volvo

Penta/Garmin

Glass cockpit



navigation with twin 12-inch multi function displays set into the dash. This makes control of the whole boat simple as it combines with the Electronic Vessel control features including what they call Dynamic Positioning System which uses GPS to hold station while you get ropes ready. A separate 10-inch C-Zone screen monitors and manages boat settings.

Visibility through the two piece glass window and side windows is exceptional allowing full view across all angles. Two large wipers will keep the window free of spray. The hull has a dry weight of approximately 16,000 kilograms and is constructed of GRP. Despite this it jumps onto the plane courtesy of the Volvo engines and IPS drives. I was actually shocked by the performance all round and found the boat capable in all conditions whether that be into or in a following sea.

It's supremely quiet and performs exceptionally well. It's so quiet it's hard to get a gauge on the speed you're going without looking at the Garmin unit.

OVERVIEW

Combining stunning style, single level living and performance to suit isn't easy yet Riviera have managed to combine all three here. With multiple units already sold, there's no doubt they are on a winner. The Riviera 4800 Sports Yacht can accommodate up to six on an overnighter and would be perfect for families who love to entertain locally as well as run up or

down the coast to explore new waterways. And do it in style.

POSITIVES

- Stunning appearance
- Quiet underway
- Integration onboard
- Performance

NEGATIVES

- Lower lounge

NUMBERS

THAT

MATTER

- Price: \$1,279,520 (as tested)
- Construction: GRP Fiberglass
- Length Overall: 15.23m
- Beam: 4.61m
- Draft: 1.18m
- Dry Weight: 15,725kgs
- Engines: Twin Volvo Penta IPS 800s with IPS15 drives
- Fuel Capacity: 2000 litres
- Water: 400 litres






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