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EXERCISE IN EXCELLENCE

Riviera has elevated its Sport Yacht range to new heights with the release of a trio of enhanced Platinum Edition luxury cruisers.





Platinum status signifies extraordinary quality and value when applied to any product

Riviera's impressive new Platinum Edition Sport Yachts drew quite a bit of attention from the media and show visitors when they were unveiled at the 2019 Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show in May.

Comprising three models – the 4800, 5400 and flagship 6000 Platinum Edition – the high-spec luxury cruisers have also attracted strong buyer interest, according to Riviera, with the overwhelming majority of purchasers opting for the standard Platinum Edition packages without any changes, reports Stephen Milne, Riviera's brand and communications director.

"It's a testament to the extraordinarily high level of fitment and refinement to every boat in the range straight from the factory," he said.

Platinum status signifies extraordinary quality and value when applied to any product, from cars to watches and loyalty programs. And having spent quite a bit of time being shown around the new Platinum Edition range I have to say the new Rivierras certainly live up to the promise.

Riviera's designers have crafted a range of boats that still draw on its successful Sport Yacht range for much of the underlying structure and layouts and indeed, the Platinum variants clearly share a large amount of the same Riviera DNA and commitment to quality, driven by the company's visionary owner Rodney Longhurst.

"Over the past 14 years, Riviera has launched more than 560 Sport Yachts," Longhurst explained. "With the Platinum Edition Sport Yachts, you will see the unmistakable addition of hardtops and targa arches presented in Riviera Platinum Silver, along with a silver/grey upholstered sunbed on the foredeck. Electronic arrays, air vents and boot tops are rendered in a stealth-like black finish."

Milne explained that a dedicated team of designers was tasked with the job of delivering the new range on time for this year's Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show.

"Our designers went through the boats over a four-month period and looked at every single aspect of each model and asked themselves how they could make it better or different," explained Milne. "It took another three months to get the boats finished for the show."

In so many areas, most obvious and some unseen changes have, to all intents and purposes, created a new genre within the company's suite of luxury boats.

From an aesthetics perspective, the three new craft certainly stand out with their Riviera Platinum Silver livery on hardtops and hull flashes, and the quality of interior finishes certainly takes things to another level from the standard – and hugely successful – Sport Yacht range. Standard cabinetry is deeply varnished and polished walnut (oak is optional) throughout the range, drawers are all soft-closing and new benchtops are used in the galleys and bathrooms, while quality Sunbrella fabrics decorate the interior spaces. Exterior deck surfaces are traditional teak, but with silver corking to match the platinum hardtops and hull stripes.

There is also a raft of technical upgrades that include push-button control of everything from the blinds to the sunroofs, TVs and engines on the Platinums. CZone digital switching is used across the range, along with Volvo Penta Glass Cockpit dash systems and integrated Garmin electronics.

Engine rooms are the equivalent of a mechanic's operating theatre, with a similar level of attention to cleanliness and minute detail, and buyers can take the option of fitting a stabiliser in each model as well.

Designed as true bluewater vessels, there is abundant storage throughout each boat to cater for lengthy time on the water.

We spent a day on the Gold Coast's Broadwater being walked through each of the three craft, beginning with the 4800.



RIVIERA 4800 PLATINUM EDITION II SPORT YACHT

Of the three Platinum Edition boats, the 4800 has come in for the lion's share of model refinements – so much so that it has been designated the Series II.

Power has been upgraded from Volvo Penta IPS700s to IPS800 pod drives, giving the 4800 just over 34-knot (63km/h) performance

At the rear of the boat is a new extended hydraulically operated swimplatform, which leads to a spacious garage that can accommodate a 2.7m RIB with the help of guide rails and Muir winch.

Stepping up into the cockpit, there is a wet bar including benchtop, refrigerator, icemaker, and sink as well as an enclosed double electric barbecue.

A big feature of all the Platinums are the twin electric-opening sunroofs, which can be operated separately and really flood the interior with natural light and fresh air.

The effect is enhanced when you slide back the stainless steel-framed glass saloon door and open the rear awning window to create a flow through into the saloon. The long side windows accentuate the flood of natural light, which reflects off the rich and warm varnished walnut cabinetry.

As an entertainer, the 4800 excels, with features like a saloon cocktail cabinet with bottle storage drawer as well as drawers for glass storage.

The fully equipped galley boasts soft-closing drawers and new Platinum Edition solid-surface bench tops.

Skippers will feel right at home on the upgraded helm, which is similar in look and feel across the range and features Recaro sports-style seats, with the skipper's fully electrically adjustable.

Below deck, designers have worked hard to make the absolute most of the available space on the twin-cabin, twin-bathroom 4800, with increased floor space in the forward master stateroom, which features a bigger hanging locker, three-drawer chest and a decent-sized 32in TV.

Occupants are pampered by a king-size walk-around berth with innerspring mattress and storage under the berth, including drawers and gas struts for easy access. Hull windows either side of the bed provide water views and bring in natural light, and guests will also appreciate their own superbly appointed private bathroom.

Below: The 4800's saloon features an aft U-shaped galley and sweeping tinted windows.





The second stateroom features twin single beds to port that slide together to create a double, with an additional single bed to starboard, and also has its own bathroom, which doubles as a day head. Continuous glass hull windows, both port and starboard, include opening portholes.

According to Riviera, the 4800 Platinum Edition II Sport Yacht is ideal for cruising couples and young families as it can be easily managed with a small crew, yet still boasts plenty of living and accommodation space.

Pricing starts at \$1,361,600, with the test craft optioned up to \$1,436,359.

Length overall:	15.70m
Beam:	4.61m
Draft:	1.25m
Displacement (dry):	18,565kg
Fuel capacity:	2100lt
Water capacity:	400lt
Power:	Volvo Penta D8-IPS800 (x2) 600hp each
Base price:	\$1,361,600

Above: Guests are pampered in the 4800's aft stateroom with three single beds, two of which can make a double.

Middle right: On the 5400, the single-seat helm is positioned close to the centre-line for maximum visibility.

Right: Like all its siblings, there is a seamless flow on the 4800 between the saloon and superbly appointed cockpit.



RIVIERA 5400 PLATINUM EDITION SPORT YACHT

Occupying the middle ground in terms of size, the 5400 has already earned a reputation as an outstanding single-level entertainer so it's had less in the way of a comprehensive make-over compared to its smaller sibling.

Standard power is a pair of Volvo Penta IPS950s that deliver a touch over 34 knots (64km/h) if you're in a hurry, but are more comfortable and fuel efficient at around 24 knots (44km/h), where they'll achieve a range of up to 350nm.

A key feature of the single-level lifestyle of the 5400 is the aft-facing cockpit seating beneath the rear awning that creates an al fresco dining and socialising hub overlooking the rear swimplatform. Beneath the cockpit is a tender garage and large storage compartment.

Guests can access a wet bar, including benchtop, refrigerator, icemaker, sink and two-plate electric barbecue.



There is also a raft of technical upgrades

With more saloon room to play with, the 5400 really does feel like a very social boat, particular accentuated by the large side windows and sunroofs.

Accommodation comprises either a three-cabin/two-bathroom layout or an optional two-cabin layout with a lower lounge area.

A full-beam master stateroom is a haven belowdecks and boasts exceptional headroom and king-size bed, with natural light streaming in via the hull windows and opening portholes.

Pricing for the 5400 starts at \$1,837,200, with the test craft options taking the tab up to \$1,923,274.

Length overall:	17.29m
Beam:	4.88m
Draft:	1.45m
Displacement (dry):	24,752kg
Fuel capacity:	3000lt
Water capacity:	800lt
Power:	Volvo Penta D11-IPS950 (x2) 725hp each
Base price:	\$1,837,200

Above: Premiering at this year's Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show, Riviera's stylish new Platinum Edition livery and lifestyle improvements wowed showgoers.



RIVIERA 6000 PLATINUM EDITION SPORT YACHT

Below, left to right: The 6000's master stateroom is a classic by name and by nature; The 6000's bathrooms are at another level.

The 6000 is, by definition, the ultimate showcase for the Platinum Edition concept, a point not lost on Riviera boss, Rodney Longhurst.



"There's an exuberance about this yacht, a sparkle and a presence that reflects her star quality. The 6000 is a world-class performer with a global vision and purpose," he enthused.

Beginning at the waterline on the large rear swimplatform, there's a sizeable tender garage that can accommodate up to a 3.3m RIB or jetski. The rear also boasts plenty of stowage for water toys, plus a utility cabin that Stephen Milne says owners have configured into crew quarters, a wine cellar and even a gymnasium.

Twin 10.8lt Volvo Penta IPS950s producing 725hp each purr almost silently beneath decks.



In fact, at one point Stephen Milne opened the door that leads directly into the engine room and up until then I hadn't even noticed the big diesels were running.

Given that the 6000 is more than two tonnes heavier than the 5400, its performance using the same IPS950 engines is down around six knots to 28.6 knots (53km/h) WOT, with an ideal cruising pace of around 21 knots (39km/h) for a range of 330nm.

As with its smaller stablemates, the 6000 delivers light into the saloon via large side windows and twin sunroofs, while the portside galley features a waterfall feature and an impressive level of equipment and fitout.



New-style Recaro helm seats with Alcantara inserts and feature stitching give the helm station the feel of a luxury sports sedan.

Guests transition to the lower accommodation spaces via a large atrium, with natural light spilling down from above.

Cabin layout options vary according to buyer preferences. Owners can opt for a two- or three-cabin layout, and also have the choice of a palatial full-beam Presidential master suite option.

Pricing for the 6000 starts at \$2,499,800, with options on our test craft taking the price up to \$2,741,430.

Length Overall:	19.30m
Beam:	5.38m
Draft:	0.45m
Displacement (dry):	26,964kg
Fuel capacity:	3300lt
Water capacity:	800lt
Power:	Volvo Penta D11-IPS950 (x2) 725hp each
Base price:	\$2,499,800



We build our boats to a standard, not a price

SUMMARY


In a segment of luxury boating in which we've come to expect high standards, quality finishes and wow factors everywhere, Riviera has managed to raise the bar and create a unique concept to appeal to boaties who want to really stand out from the fleet.

Quality and sophistication are everywhere you look and the level of fit and finish was simply flawless and epitomises Riviera's commitment to uncompromising quality under Longhurst's ownership.

Underway, the smoothness, quietness and impressive performance of all three boats are testament to the work put in by designers and also the craftsmen out on the workshop floor who have implemented their visions in fibreglass, timber and steel. Riviera's Platinum Edition boats really are Sport Yacht flagships.

As Stephen Milne said of the Platinum Edition at the close of proceedings on our day on the water: "We build our boats to a standard, not a price."

Riviera isn't the only local manufacturer building world-class luxury motor yachts, but it has certainly developed a large and loyal customer base that keep coming back for more. I predict the Platinum Edition will continue the trend.

You can see more by checking out the Riviera Platinum Edition Sport Yacht video at clubmarine.com.au or for more information, go to: rivieraaustralia.com.au. 

Above left: The 6000's dash is a symphony of stunning design and functionality.

