

SAIL ON FOREVER

WORDS FIONA HARPER

IN A FORWARD-THINKING MOVE BY MARITIMO, THEIR NEW S58 YACHT IS SLICK, SENSIBLE, AND WILL HAVE YOU SAILING FOR MANY, MANY YEARS TO COME.

Considered boat building royalty, when Bill Barry-Cotter launches a new vessel, the marine industry takes notice. Heading Maritimo, Australia's youngest luxury boat builder, Barry-Cotter has a 'Pied Piper'-like following amongst loyal boat owners. Many have followed his progression from Mariner to Riviera and now to Maritimo, where he continues to be an industry leader. He knows his stuff. Just as salt-laden boat owners know that every boat Barry-Cotter conceives is going to be a little bit special. And Maritimo's S58 Sedan, launched at the 2014 Sanctuary Cove Boat Show, is no exception.

A sleek, stylish sibling to the successful M58 flybridge, the S58 is aimed squarely at those who want the versatility of an open cockpit in a single level, luxury sports sedan. Her looks are conservative enough to suit traditionalists while also managing to exude a certain sassiness. The S58 was designed to appeal to those wanting a non-flybridge boat with a distinctive Australian look and layout; perfect for lazy summer trips, it's an open-plan style that easily flows from indoors to outdoors, with wide, walk-around side decks providing safe and easy access to the

foredeck. The layout is particularly attractive to older boat owners who find narrow, steep flybridge steps rather pesky. Knowing that many luxury boat owners enjoy boating will into their senior years, it's a truly canny move by Maritimo. The first vessel, christened Weatherly, was launched in April 2014 and is already exceeding the expectations of the new owners, Ron and Lynne Coleman.

Among the first customers to commission an S58, the Colemans previously owned a Maritimo C50. With Weatherly berthed on the Gold Coast, they have spent the past few months exploring the Broadwater harbour and Moreton Bay, getting to know their new boat before venturing further afield. The plan is to head north up to Queensland's Capricorn Coast before venturing south to Sydney after exploring the New South Wales' coastline. Delighted with their new boat, Ron says that during initial forays "the S58 has more than met our expectations."

Conscious of early boating days together on flybridge cruisers when he "frightened Lynne too much and she would not go out on the ocean", Ron says the



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S58 has quashed his wife's reservations. "It is very easy for the two of us to operate when underway or docking. Weatherly has a beautiful hull design and rides very comfortably, proven by the fact that we crossed Moreton Bay with the wind blowing 25 to 30 knots with a short chop (fairly standard conditions in sand-bar dotted Moreton Bay), cruising at 22 knots with very little spray on the windscreen," he explains.

The design is well thought out, and has a direct impact on the ease of the sail as Ron tells it. "The helm position and instruments are a dream, engine room layout is fantastic with full head height making it easy to walk around the engines". Equally impressive to the new owners is that the underwater keel profile minimises side drift, removing some of the angst endured when manoeuvring in tight marinas as well as providing protection to propellers whilst underway.

On the other hand, for Lynne it's all about comfort, safety and luxurious touches that make the boat feel more like a luxury home. She loves the galley and open cockpit combination that keeps the cook at the centre of the action, with ample refrigeration and storage to make entertaining on-board a breeze. Outdoors, the transom console conceals a barbecue, sink and freezer, providing more entertaining options for when the sun beckons. And on a point of practicality, one of her favourite features is the hydraulic duckboard aft of the cockpit, which makes embarking and disembarking from the tender safe and easy.

The appeal of the sedan style layout is evident as soon as stepping aboard. Separating the wide, teak-laid cockpit are bi-fold doors that provide security while underway, yet can be opened up to seamlessly link all areas on the one level. With this clever design the galley becomes the hub of the vessel, separating the cockpit (which easily converts to alfresco dining) from the more formal living area forward. A dining table capable of seating six comfortably and plush leather lounges for relaxed living make this a cosy retreat when the weather doesn't play nice.

Plenty of storage space is concealed behind fine cabinetry – an important consideration for extended voyages. Natural light floods the main saloon thanks to expansive windows, and the indoor helm station has great visibility and easy access to instrumentation from twin leather seats. Steps lead downstairs from forward of the main saloon where a couple of configuration options are available, including a larger bunk cabin, additional bathroom or the inclusion of a washing machine and dryer. The vast master stateroom dominates the area with an island bed, day lounge and workspace connecting to an opulent, spacious ensuite.

Delighted with their new boat, Ron and Lynne intend to be boating in Weatherly for many years to come. And that's exactly what Barry-Cotter and Maritimo intended for the S58: a feasible, long-term option for those who will never be able to drain the saltwater from their veins.

