



Horizon Yacht Charters and Fountaine Pajot Catamarans

By Jamie Millar

Horizon Yacht Charters, dealer for Fountaine Pajot Catamarans and Bavaria Yachts, has bases in the British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Antigua and St. Martin. They offer yacht ownership solutions for private purchase and charter management across the Caribbean region.

With the ever increasing popularity of catamarans, particularly in the charter sector, Horizon chose Fountaine Pajot for their quality of construction, innovative designs, appeal to the charter market and proven blue water capability.

Fountaine Pajot was founded in 1976 but it was a few years before they made their first production catamaran, the *Louisiane 37*, in 1983. Since then they have launched more than 1,500 vessels across 21 models and continue to lead the way in design, innovation and production.

Based in and near La Rochelle, France, Fountaine Pajot have

recently made considerable investment into their production facilities. Manufacturing five sailing cat models—*Mahe 36*, *Lavezzi 40*, *Orana 44* (new), *Salina 48* (new) and *Eleuthera 60*—and two (soon to be three) Trawler Catamaran models—*Highland 35* and *Cumberland 46* (formerly 44)—the Fountaine Pajot range covers the complete requirements of the cruising cat customer. Each model comes with a choice of layouts and a host of options from engine upgrades to a new spinnaker design.

The in-house design team works closely with internationally renowned naval architects such as Joubert/Nivelt and Berret/Racoupeau to produce power and sailing cruising catamarans that are not only sleek and purposeful, but incorporate quality, dependability, safety, performance and comfort in equal measure.

These catamarans are a great value for the money and are brimming with innovative features: light and airy interiors with 6-foot,

3-inch headroom and more throughout; an extended coach roof lip (FP original design and copied by other manufacturers since) that protects the saloon from the heat and glare of the sun; the solid section to the bimini giving walkway access to the entire length of the boom; the highest bridge deck clearance in their class, eliminating the pounding in a seaway experienced on other cats; clear side decks (no shrouds in the way) for easy access forward; optimized hull shapes and careful volume distribution, making the boats fast and seaworthy; the boats are “unsinkable,” and with a crash bulkhead forward, as well as keels that are sacrificial, the hulls are able to remain entirely watertight in the event of an underwater collision.

All boats (except for the *Mahe 36*) are built using infusion: the hull mold is laid up with the required materials and sealed over with plastic. A vacuum is created under the plastic followed by the infusion of the epoxy (using the vacuum to suck it through and saturate the materials inside). This ensures an even and thorough distribution of the epoxy throughout the hull materials and removes the necessity of applying it all by hand, a considerable time-saving innovation. The interior features are then fitted before the deck is craned onto the top prior to completion and subsequent testing in the test pool.

The *Mahe 36* is being built using an entirely new method of injection molding. Using two molds, the materials are laid into the first mold and an inverted mold is secured on top. This is followed by a shot containing the entire amount of epoxy required being injected into the mold in one go. Using this method, Fountaine Pajot is already building more than 50 *Mahe 36*s per year. In fact, this year the factory has



already increased production by 15 percent, and they are intending to increase by 20 percent again in 2008.

The two newest models, the Orana 44 and Salina 48 were launched in June/July. Both models continue to represent the key features of Fountaine Pajot while demonstrating the drive to innovate and exceed customer expectations. Featuring huge social space and large cabins, they also maintain a performance legacy, a consistent ethic at Fountaine Pajot.

Horizon Yacht Charters is renowned for their meticulous yacht maintenance, exemplary customer service and great value. Whether buying a new yacht for charter management or for private use, Horizon has a wealth of

experience in sales and systems specifications and can guide a buyer safely through all the stages of acquiring a yacht. They also offer flexible charter programs designed to suit the needs of the owners who want more of a personalized boutique service as opposed to the more common department-store style of service.

Each Horizon base is operated locally by individual owners, so wherever you go or choose to sail, you do so knowing you have the support of people who really care about making it a successful purchase or charter. Even if purchasing a boat to



realize the ambition of an extended cruise throughout the Caribbean, there is a network of support that is never far away.

If you are looking for a catamaran that combines blue-water capability along with luxurious comfort and safety, and you want to start your sailing in the Caribbean, look no further than Horizon Yacht Sales and Fountaine Pajot Catamarans. ≈



Mahé 36



Fountaine Pajot Catamaran

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Mahé 36
New



Lavezzi 40



Orana 44
New



Salina 48
New



Eleuthéra 60

www.horizon-yacht-sales.com

www.fountaine-pajot.com

info@horizonyachtcharters.com
877-494-8787
1-284-494-8787

