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Outer Reef 80

TAKING THE CLASSIC RAISED PILOTHOUSE TO A NEW PERSPECTIVE

BY CAPT. TOM SERIO

SOMETIMES, TO SEE THE DETAILS of a yacht, you need to step back for a different perspective, as with the Outer Reef 80.

Usually on sea trials, I meet the subject yacht at a marina, jump on and start going through the vessel and talking over features with the captain or sales reps who usually ride along. Then we head out and put the yacht through its paces, and I get some wheel time to judge the ride, feel, maneuverability, and so on. This all happened with the Outer Reef 80, but I was also lucky from another aspect.

I arranged to see *Illusion IV*, a recently commissioned Outer Reef 80, cruise close by from a shoreside location as it made its way to the marina, and see the boat in all its glory. This is one good-looking yacht; well proportioned and sleek, with large but not obtrusive salon windows, a large

hardtop with integrated radar arch and a good-sized aft deck. The extended rub/spray rail helps to accentuate the lower portholes. Evident also were the longitudinal drainage scuppers, side-to boarding gates and upturned flared bow. Seeing the detailed, trawler-like profile of the Outer Reef 80 gave me a better sense of what I would find when I boarded. And I wasn't disappointed.

DISTINCTIVELY DESIGNED

This is a classic-looking yacht, inside and out. Satin-varnished finishes adorn the interior teak woodwork and veneer panels. The salon is huge despite the use of exterior side decks. *Illusion IV* is fitted out with

an L-shaped sofa and separate chair flanking a cocktail table to port. Two additional chairs complete with built-in ottomans surround the built-in entertainment center with a recessed TV to starboard. Wood window blinds tie into the surrounding décor, making this area inviting for casual relaxing or as a central gathering point.

Just forward on the salon level is a semiformal dining area that seats six. Carpeting and fabric selections include earthy tans and other beige-based colors that add definition to the room and carry forward to the lower helm.

Two steps up from the salon is the port-side galley, complete with everything you would expect on a house-sized yacht. Along with standard appliances, *Illusion IV* has a Kitchen-Aid stove/oven unit with an upper

microwave, full-sized fridge/freezer with teak veneer panels on the front, and a deep sink for cleaning pots and pans; granite counters and backsplashes add to the functionality of the galley. Chances are you'll be doing some level of cooking, as this galley is so inviting. If you don't know how to cook, learn!

To go forward to the lower helm and accommodation areas, you pass through a narrow passageway. Here you'll find a full storage cabinet for china and crystal on roll-out drawers (a super way to secure these fine items). A six-drawer U-Line wine chiller is optional, built into the wall with a glass door for viewing your vintage collection. Storage space abounds with drawers and cabinets utilizing any spare space, but stylishly incorporated into the interior motif.

An Inside Look

Illusion IV's stately salon, dining area and sleeping quarters create a relaxed atmosphere in which to enjoy time spent at sea. In the galley, full-sized appliances and a spacious countertop give the appearance of a kitchen found in today's upscale homes.



TESTER'S OPINION: "This is a classic-looking yacht, inside and out. The Outer Reef 80 is well proportioned and sleek, and the ABT Trac stabilizers provide a comfortable and steady ride in a beam sea."

MULTIPLE VANTAGE POINTS

The lower helm may be one of the most popular places to enjoy a cruise. A full helm dash, large enough to house four large VEI video screens (for charts, radar, cameras and more), a Northstar 6100i plotter, VHF radio and other electronic gadgets, allows for a full complement of just about any setup you can dream of. The flat area of the dash contains the Furuno keyboards, thruster controls, Glendinning

electronic engine controls and a battery of rocker switches and knobs. Dual Caterpillar engine control displays are placed directly in front of the wheel, keeping them in plain sight.

Visibility from the lower station is excellent, thanks to the five large forward house windows. Or, you can use the several optional fore, aft or side cameras that can guide you into a slip without breaking a sweat. If you need to step out, there are port and starboard

Outer Reef

80

SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| LOA | 79 ft., 11 in. |
| Beam | 20 ft., 6 in. |
| Draft | 5 ft., 6 in. |
| Weight | (dry)179,000 lbs. |
| Fuel capacity | 3,000 gals. |
| Water capacity | 500 gals. |
| Price (w/twin Caterpillar C18 1000 hp diesel engines) | \$3,600,000 |

PERFORMANCE SPECS

| |
|---------------------------------|
| 9.1 kts @ 1100 rpm |
| 11.5 kts @ 1500 rpm |
| 14.5 kts @ 2100 rpm |
| 17.2 kts @ 2350 rpm – top speed |

STANDARD EQUIPMENT

Twin Caterpillar 3406e 800 hp diesel engines w/ZF transmissions and electronic instruments for dual stations, two Northern Lights 25 kw generators, 4-blade Ni-Bral propellers, Hynautic power steering, Maxwell 4000c hydraulic windlass, ABT hydraulic bow and stern thrusters, AC system, Glendinning 50 amp Cablemaster with 75 ft. of cable on transom, 24v and 110v lighting, Furuno radar, Simrad autopilot, ICOM radios, four automatic bilge pumps, Stidd helm seats on lower and upper stations, more

OPTIONAL FEATURES

Appliances, entertainment system, canvas package, additional furniture. Engine options include Caterpillar C18 (1,000 hp), 3412 (1,420 hp) C30 (1,550 hp) or C32 (1,650 hp).

CONSTRUCTION

Hand-laid-up fiberglass deck, house, flybridge and hull, with PVC core sandwich construction above waterline, vinylester barrier lamination for osmosis protection, full-length longitudinal engine and athwartship stringers, rubrails with stainless steel capping.

COMPANY PROFILE

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Headquarters | Ft. Lauderdale, FL |
| Years in business | 21 |
| Boat lines | Outer Reef, Moloka'i Strait, Newport Yachts |

BUILDER

TANIA YACHT COMPANY; Kaohsiung Harbor, Taiwan

DEALERS

Outer Reef Yachts, Seattle, WA;
(877) 213-1416

Outer Reef Yachts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL;
(954) 767-8305
www.outerreefyachts.com

side doors from the helm that can expedite transiting to exterior locations.

And the captain does not have to be alone at the helm. Dual Stidd helm seats keep you and your lookout comfortable. Guests can sit around the large U-shaped settee and dinette table aft of the helm, keeping everyone together, even inside.

But why stay inside when there are many spots around the Outer Reef 80 to enjoy the great outdoors? Forward of the lower helm is a Portuguese bridge setup. Pass through to the forward-facing padded bench seat, great for several guests to take in the sights. A pair of padded storage boxes offers additional seating. *Illusion IV* is equipped with a pair of Maxwell 4000 anchor windlasses for assorted ground tackle. An added touch for this Outer Reef 80 is the ship's bell, manufactured by Bellingham Bells of Maine, with the yacht's name and burgees not etched, but in raised lettering.

Don't care for bow seating? Head down either covered sidedeck to the aft seating area. Built-in seating along the aft section is comfortable, and with the large table and additional chairs, you can relax with a cold one or dine alfresco. The bridge deck extends all the way aft, covering this area from sun and rain. Twin staircases lead down to the integrated teak platform for boarding or access to the engine room and crew quarters via a full-sized bulkhead door.

In my opinion, however, it seems as if the crowds will most likely head to the bridge, where there is ample space to sit and lounge. For the captain, the upper helm is large enough for a full complement of electronics. *Illusion IV* is fitted with a Northstar plotter with accompanying video screen, a Furuno NavNet plotter, engine monitors, autopilot, thruster controls, radios and more. I found it to be a surprisingly full setup for an upper helm.

Aft of the helm are two seating areas, port and starboard, with L-shaped settees and triangular-shaped tables. Behind these are cabinets that house the refrigerator/ice-maker, barbecue, sink basin, storage cabinets and more. The extended bridge deck can

store tenders or other water toys, accessible by an optional beefy Brower Systems davit. If you like, keep the deck open and toss in a few chaises for additional sun lounging or sightseeing.

ADDITIONAL AMENITIES

Propulsion for the Outer Reef 80 comes from a pair of Caterpillar C18 diesels, producing 1,000 hp each. Heading out to the inlet, we met 3-plus foot seas and whitecaps all around. "No problem," said Walt McCuiston, sales representative and all-around guy for the AGYG (American Global Yacht Group - AGYG builds several brands in addition to Outer Reef, such as Moloka'i Strait and the Newport Yachts line). McCuiston punched through the waves, with the yacht taking on a gentle fore-aft pitch – nothing sharp or neck-breaking. Turning beam-to, which would normally increase side-to-side rolling, McCuiston then demonstrated the usefulness of the ABT Trac stabilizers. With the flick of a switch, the roll from the beam seas suddenly and almost completely stopped. The stabilizers were activated and doing their job.

Skipping this yacht by day will most definitely call for some generous sleeping quarters at night, and the Outer Reef 80 doesn't skip there, either. Four staterooms are pleasantly appointed, with a VIP forward (double island berth, en suite head/shower), port-side twin bed layout, starboard-side upper/lower bunks (for the kids, or convert it into an office) and full-beam master amidships.

The master has a vanity on one side, bureaus on the other and plenty of drawer storage for a liveaboard. A large walk-in closet (capable by removing the private stairs to the master suite) is the envy of some land-based homes, as is the his/her en suite head/shower room. At the back of the closet is an access door to the engine room, mainly as an additional emergency exit from the lower areas.

On the 80, the area aft of the engine room is fitted out for crew quarters with a double-bunk room, small galley/dinette and laundry room with washer/dryer.

Experience the Outer Reef 80, where superior craftsmanship and finery is no *Illusion*. ♡