

SPOTLIGHT > ABSOLUTE 50 FLY



# BORN FREE

THE ABSOLUTE 50 FLY OFFERS YACHTSMEN A STYLISH, SPORTY AND WELCOME ESCAPE FROM THE EVERYDAY. **BY PATRICK SCIACCA**

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*Effervescent can be defined as vivacious and enthusiastic. I think these words aptly describe Hull No. 1 of the Absolute 50 Fly. With twin 435 hp Volvo Penta IPS600 diesels, our 50 Fly danced across a scalloped sea off Cannes, France. Her fly-by-wire steering was set at a moderate rate, inspiring confidence during hard-over turns at her 24-knot cruise speed and 30-knot top end. During one straightaway, I turned back to see my fellow 11 guests sprawled about the flybridge, taking in the warm sea breeze and smiling.*



**CRUISING CAPABLE**

Absolute says cruising comfort is the 50 Fly's main objective. ● **WIDE BODY** The yacht carries a good part of her 14-foot-6-inch beam throughout her length, keeping interior spaces (the salon and three staterooms) and exterior spaces (the cockpit, flybridge and foredeck) voluminous. Still, the width does not detract from the yacht's entry and overall performance, even at wide-open throttle. ● **BUILT FOR THE SEA** Safety is key on blue water. To that end, Absolute builds its boats for the sea with solid fiberglass hulls. Further supporting the structure is a grid stringer system with both longitudinal and transversal reinforcement. Plywood bulkheads and decks are fiberglass bonded to the grid, adding strength and creating a monocoque structure. ● **WEATHERPROOF** You will spend the majority of your time under the flybridge hardtop when operating this yacht. The spot offers unobstructed sight lines for almost 360 degrees. Just glance down the molded-in fiberglass steps for a look at the starboard corner when backing into a slip. On a foul-weather day, the lower helm offers protection with equally good sight lines. A door next to the wheel gives you side-deck access when short-handed, and a U-shaped dinette to port keeps your guests within earshot. ● **BE COOL** If you'll be cruising your 50 Fly in warm climates, the yacht has two air-conditioning options: 48,000 and 60,000 Btu systems called Mediterranean and Tropical, respectively. At press time, these options ran about \$31,635 and \$36,408. In thinking about future resale, it's probably worth the upgrade to the larger cooling setup.



**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

The Absolute Yachts flybridge line offers eight models from 40 to 72 feet LOA. The builder also has a three-model sport yacht line from 40 to 56 feet, a 40-foot sport boat and a two-model Navetta series at 52 and 58 feet LOA.

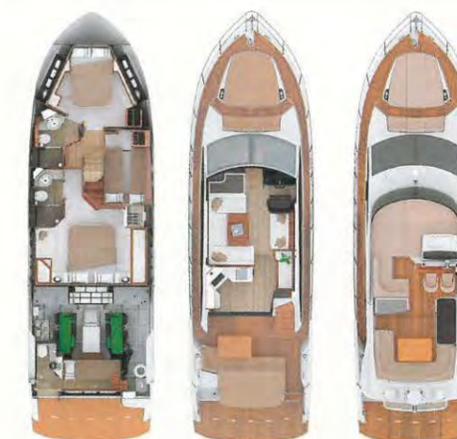
**AN INSIDE LOOK**

*When it comes to layout and decor, Absolute keeps things clean and contemporary.*

A catty-cornered aft galley is a clever concept. It opens floor space and adds a sense of interior volume. The galley's location, adjacent to the cockpit dining area via sliding glass doors, makes serving guests outside as easy as reaching guests inside at the U-shaped dining table forward.

The light oak salon sole and satin-finish Canaletto walnut cabinets, combined with 360-degree glass and wheat-colored, leather, U-shaped dinette seating, create an open feeling on the 50 Fly's main deck. The expansive glass also provides a constant connection with the sea.

Her full-beam master is made possible by reduced engine-room space for pod drives. Three vertical hull-side windows and one porthole allow in natural light and provide relaxing views. The forepeak VIP has an ensuite head. The third stateroom (for the kids) offers twin berths.



**OPEN SPACES**

Maintaining the 50 Fly's beam for most of her hull length results in an engine room with workspace both inboard and outboard of the IPS600 diesels, room for six guests to stay on board, a dinner-party-size salon and galley, and a flybridge that can accommodate at least 11 guests comfortably (as we found out on test day).

Who doesn't want to sit on the settee in the master stateroom, sipping hot coffee at your favorite anchorage and taking in a view like this?



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ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS

*The Absolute 50 Fly is designed to accommodate, well, everyone.*

If you want to carry a small tender for ferrying the family ashore for dinner or exploring a secluded cove, or if you just want easy access to the water for swimming, the optional hydraulic platform (about a \$21,000 upgrade at press time) can accommodate up to 990 pounds.

The flybridge is the outdoor centerpiece on this yacht. A sun pad forward of the helm and a settee abaft it keep the captain in good company underway. The dining table with U-shaped seating aft under the hardtop is the place for alfresco meals prepped at the wet bar and grill.

In addition to the flybridge setup, there is room for a few more guests on the foredeck sun pads, which can be raised for reading time or lowered for serious sunbathing. An additional sun pad is in the cockpit abaft a teak table for a couple more guests. So many spots. If everyone on board lays out, you could be mistaken for a group of iguanas.

READY FOR PRIME TIME

When you get aboard a Hull No. 1 from any builder, you often see where improvements can be made. Having spent time at Absolute's facility and seen the attention to detail in the builder's design and build process, I can tell you the 50 Fly is as complete a yacht as I've seen recently. Her performance is not meant to be fastest in class, but instead to be the most comfortable at speed. She is designed to be a versatile cruiser and entertainment platform. Her layout and amenities prove that point. And her build is bluewater-capable. The hard part? Choosing where to go.

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Subtle style: Light-colored Corian countertops in the galley are a near-perfect match to the leather settee and dinette seating.