

Absolute 45 Fly

Absolute is a major player in Europe and this new model deserves to be a serious contender in the UK too. It's the perfect size for British waters and is one of the few 46ft flybridges to come with a proper full-beam owner's cabin as well as a generous forward VIP. But the biggest bonus is the third cabin tucked behind the engine room – we'd normally call it a crew cabin but with a transom window to brighten it up, its own sink and toilet, and the same fit and finish as the other guest cabins, it's the perfect hideaway for a teenager.

The saloon is pretty special too with an aft-galley layout, two electric windows, plenty of natural light and bleached wood floors that strike an informal beach-house vibe. The main side windows are made from a single vast pane of glass with non-structural GRP slashes stuck on the outside to break up the lines and fit in with the styling cues of the larger Absolute models. We can see why the designers have done it but can't help feeling how special it would have felt on the inside with nothing to break up the sight lines.

The beach-house theme extends below decks with some of the largest fore and aft hull windows you'll find on any craft of this size and luxuries like a small walk-in wardrobe, sofa and lobby area that few direct rivals can match. Only the ensuite bathrooms felt a little tight by comparison.

The flybridge gets a wet-bar and a full wrap of seating around the stern, although it would be a struggle to seat more than five around the fixed teak table. Both helms benefit from excellent ergonomics and a healthy

dose of Italian style, while Absolute's uncanny ability to build efficient hulls ideally matched to IPS drives (it's claiming around 1mpg at 27 knots) bodes well for fuelconscious owners.

AT A GLANCE

Price from €624,000 inc VAT Length 46ft 4in (14.13m) Beam 13ft 7in (4.15m) Engines Twin Volvo 435hp IPS600 Top speed tbc Contact www.absoluteyachts.com