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JEANNEAU 409
ARCHAMBAULT M34

JUN/JUL 2011

A\$7.95 / NZ\$9.95

PP-255003/09782



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He said, she said

WITH SO MANY CRUISING YACHT PURCHASES MADE JOINTLY BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE, MATTHEW HENRY AND HIS BETTER HALF REBECCA GOT ONBOARD THE NEW JEANNEAU SUN ODYSSEY 409 CRUISER FOR AN OVERNIGHTER TO SEE HOW IT MEASURES UP FOR A CRUISING COUPLE.

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SUNDOWNER
Matt and Bec settle in for a comfy evening on the Jeanneau 409 while debating the finer points of the boat.



It takes something special to stand out in the 40-foot cruiser market. With every boat builder worth their salt fielding an entrant in this popular segment, the competition is positively cut-throat. With the new 409, Jeanneau has produced a yacht which should cause many to stand up and take notice, and it has nothing to do with dazzling technical specifications and everything to do with family-friendly features. In many ways, it's the secret to success in this segment.

From the pen of well regarded yacht designer Phillippe Briand, the 409 is built on a modern hull with a hard chine, topped with a cabin boasting an attractive blend of curves and angles in the typical style you would expect of the French marque. But the major update over previous Jeanneaus in this segment are found above deck. It's in this domain that

the French brand has made its most significant leaps forward with this boat. Featuring flush hatches and a minimalist approach to deck fittings, it's an attractive space, but the really radical updates have come in the form of ease-of-use improvements. With the optional self-tacking jib, mainsheet winches within easy reach of the helm, main in lazyjacks and a cabintop electric winch, this boat has been built from the ground up to be family friendly.

We could harp on about the specs sheet: that it's decked out with a suite of quality Harken winches, has jib cars supporting a 105% or up to 140% genoa for club racing and a sail drive engine instead of a typical shaft drive arrangement. But for many buyers in this segment, the technical aspects of rig and gear come a close second to the all important question: will my family want to come sailing on

this boat? There's not much point owning a family cruiser and having to sail it solo - or worse, having to sell it because there's no enthusiasm among the 'crew' for weekend outings. Forty-foot cruisers need to be easy to sail short-handed, comfortable to spend time aboard, easy to cook in and use for entertainment, and, in an increasingly time-poor society, fast to set up and sail. It's a fact that while many men make the decision to buy the boat, it's the wife and family who often determine whether it stays. With this in mind, to see whether Jeanneau has managed to tick all these boxes, Matt Henry, an experienced sailor, and his better half Bec (new to sailing) took the boat out on Sydney's Pittwater for a weekend. Sailing the boat for an afternoon in light airs of 8 to 9 knots and then enjoying an overnight stay, which involved cooking onboard, it was a

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much more thorough boat test than your typical afternoon spin around the harbour. What follows is a typical dinner table conversation many couples would have after their own boat test - a 'he said, she said'.

He: So Bec, for Jeanneau to win over the blokes we all know they've got to first win over the ladies. What did you think?

She: This was my first time sailing and I was pretty nervous to take the wheel, but I was surprised at how easy it actually was to sail. The self-tacking system meant that we could enjoy it together without me having to trim the sheets or be left to steer the boat on my own while you do it.

He: Yes, for around \$500 extra that self-tacking headsail is a no brainer for couples. Sailing the boat is a one-person job once the sails are set and there's very little exertion involved.

She: For me it's more fun being able to relax together rather than have to man the winch every time we want to turn. It was really relaxing, just what I hoped sailing would be like.

He: The cockpit felt well designed, very ergonomic. You can sense the quality of the hull design in light airs, and even with the smaller self-tacking jib it felt responsive. The twin leather helms are a nice touch and the instruments are easy to see and simple to use. I thought there was plenty of room to move around in the cockpit too and that centre table is just a gem - I



Matt's top three

1. Great looking yacht
2. Really easy to sail
3. Wife seems happy!

EASY DOES IT
With a self-tacking headsail, lazy jacks on the main and the winch within easy reach of the skipper, all that's left to do once you are sailing is enjoy it.



love the way it clicks so solidly into position.

She: The drinks holders and ice bucket are convenient too (in case you feel inclined to open some bubbly one evening, hint hint). Some nice cushions on the seats would have brightened things up.

He: What about the bathroom? I know they are always tight on sailing yachts of this size and this one was certainly no exception. I had to actually step into the shower before I could close the door behind me. Not great, especially in the morning when the shower is wet.

She: I think the door needed to open outwards. And I didn't like the toilet roll being hidden away in a cupboard.

He: Well it was probably designed by a bloke!

She: Yeah well, I'm sure it's fine for guys, but it was awkward as the door it was behind opens into your legs when you're sitting down. But it could easily be repositioned.

He: Overall I thought the bathroom was actually really pleasant, with heaps of light from those big hull windows. As for the shower, it was pretty roomy once inside and the little bench for putting your soap and toiletries on was handy.

She: There was heaps of cupboard space in there for towels and toiletries, above and below the sink. Overall the interior felt really spacious. Actually with just two of us it seemed almost a little big! You could have had two more couples comfortably for an overnight or long weekend somewhere. For cruising maybe two would be enough.

He: The kitchen was really good, with lots of bench space and



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a big chest fridge. Cooking dinner on the gimballed stove was easy, and all the fold-down wooden cabinets looked good and had plenty of storage for plates and utensils. I also really liked how the dining table can be folded in half to create more space or dropped down for an extra double bed.

She: Speaking of which, I did have a cheeky little lie down in one of the cabins at the back of the boat and they were really good size beds, not just for kids. I'd be quite happy to offer them as cabins to other adult couples.

He: I loved the massive forward cabin too, although in this particular boat the big empty space to starboard seemed a bit of a waste. The owners wanted it as storage space, but Jeanneau usually offer an ensuite or writing desk in that spot. To my mind two heads on a 40-footer isn't necessary, but if you were cruising

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with a family I think it makes sense to order the ensuite.

She: I have to disagree, I like the idea of the little desk option – somewhere to sit down at a desk and use a computer if I needed to. Either way, the main bedroom was definitely big enough. I slept really well. The bed was just the right firmness and the blinds blacked out the morning sun really well, so we could sleep in!

He: The lighting inside was good too, at all times of day. A lot of sunlight comes into the cabin during daylight hours and at night the LED lighting was fantastic. Plus there are plenty of light switches so you can turn off lights in sections of the yacht you are not using to conserve power. The whole power management system is surprisingly user friendly.

She: Inside there were enough lighting options to set a nice atmosphere at night. Outside was

another story though...

He: Yes, the first thing I would do is install some LEDs for the cockpit.

She: I would also get the little tent thing for around the sitting area to make it a more versatile space.

He: You mean a bimini?

She: That's the one! We didn't really use the space at night but it would have been so nice to be snuggled up out on the deck during the evening.

He: Jeanneau does offer a bimini that can be zipped off in pieces. Speaking of outdoor space, it's a shame we didn't get to go for a swim in the morning too. That fold down swim platform is a nice design.

She: I was pretty happy with a warm shower in the morning. I was actually impressed that the water in the shower was still warm in the tanks from the night before. What about the yacht's design, did you like it?

He: To my eye it's got just the right

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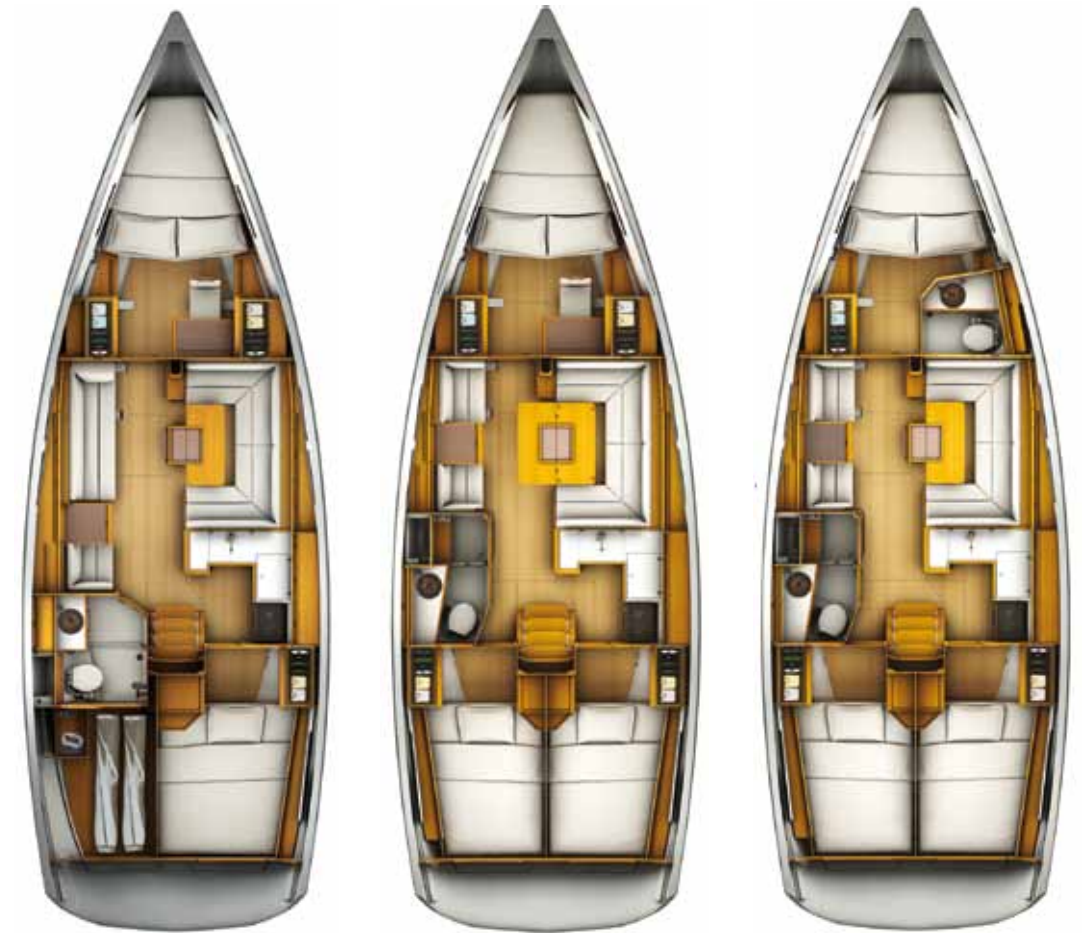
blend of angles and curves to be stylish but not overwrought. It's got that distinctive Jeanneau look, which I have always liked. It's a cool boat. So after touching back down on the dock, how did you feel?

She: I left feeling like I would be more than happy to do that more often. It would be easy to grab a bag of groceries and a change of clothes and go out pretty regularly, even just for the arvo.

He: A lot of boats are sold because the husband wants to steer his toy but the wife loses interest. I think judging by the fun we had on this boat it would be fair to say neither of these things seem to apply. This boat would definitely make our shortlist. ⚓

www.jeanneauaustralia.com

LOA	12.34 m / 40'
BEAM	4 m / 13'
DISPLACEMENT	7450 kg (light)
DRAFT	1.55 m
FUEL CAPACITY	200 litres
WATER CAPACITY	530 litres
CABINS	2-3
SAIL SURFACE	78.9 m ²
ENGINE	Yanmar 40hp Saildrive
PRICE	\$259,087 (base price)



INNER BEAUTY
Light fills the cabin through the large windows and creates a pleasing ambience in the main saloon. The panel work shows plenty of attention to detail and the galley in particular is a gem - simple and functional. Top right opposite page: the three layout options on offer include a two-cabin version and the choice of a desk or ensuite in the forward cabin.



Bec's top three

1. Cabins were really roomy
2. Kitchen was easy to use
3. Beds were long enough (1'm 6'3")

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