



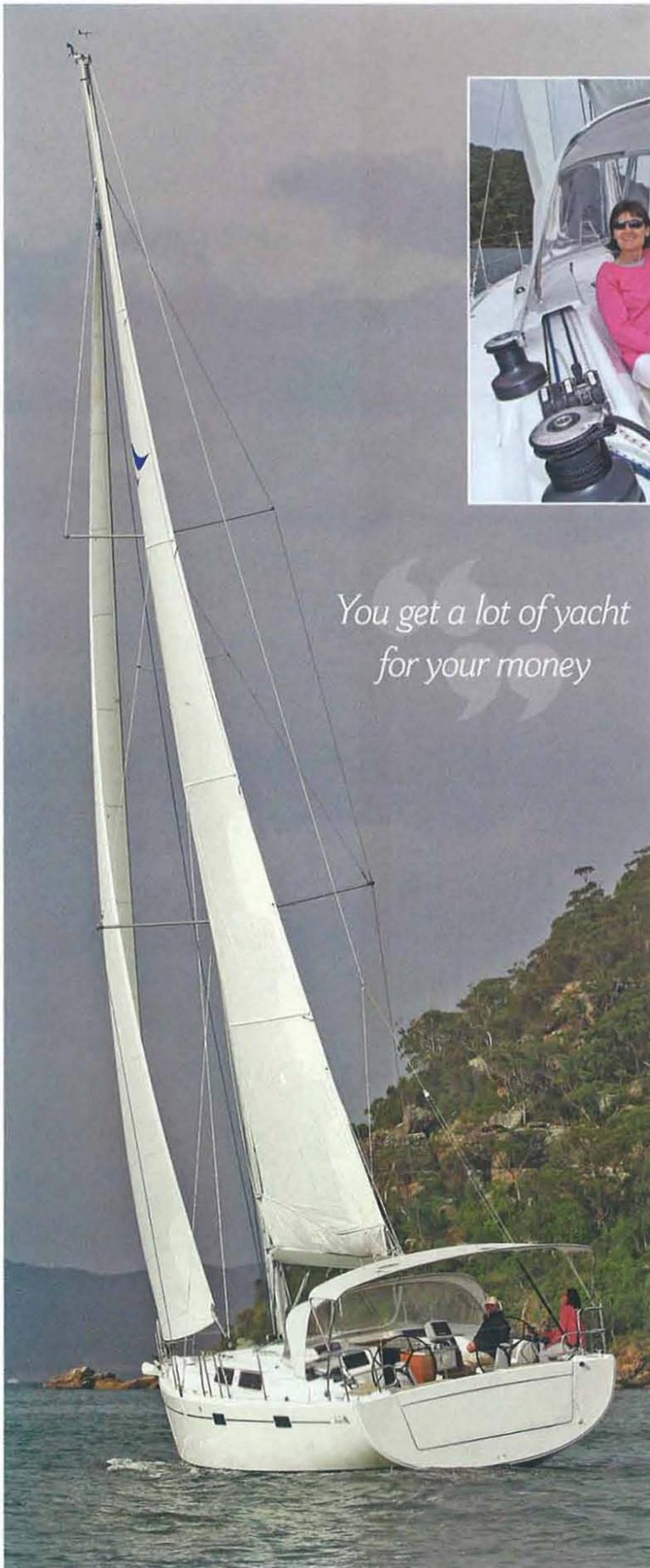
New Sail

Class and comfort

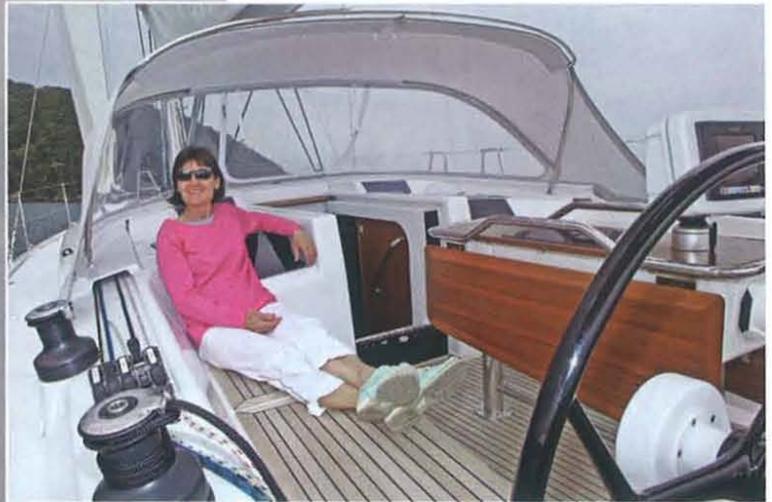
German builder Hanse has done it
again with its compact but surprisingly
spacious 415 ...



By Crosbie Lorimer



*You get a lot of yacht
for your money*



The Hanse 415 places convenience high on its priority list, with all the comforts of home and a simple rig and sail configuration that can be readily handled by two people.

You get a lot of yacht for your money with the Hanse 415, which has more than a few natty features. The smartest is the navigation table that can be lowered to form the central part of the portside bench, which with the C-shaped starboard bench allows eight people to sit around the saloon table – good going on a 40-something-footer. The starboard bench also pulls out to form an extra berth.

The galley features two access points to the fridge, a sink with separate drainer, microwave and oven, and oodles of locker space.

The 415 is available in either a two-cabin or a three-cabin format, although Team Windcraft says the former is proving particularly popular, given the additional storage space it affords.

RIGGED AND READY

On deck the similarities with other Hanse yachts in the '5 Series' range are evident: a low and level coachroof, numerous skylight hatches, and a clean foredeck.

The 415 is set up well for shorthanded sailing and non-sailing guests. The mainsail can be hoisted by the helmsman with a push of a button, the jib unfurled and sheeted likewise and the Simrad plotter on the back of the cockpit table stands just below the helmsman's forward line of sight.

The coachroof aft bulkhead has been angled for a more comfortable reclining position for guests along to enjoy the ride, while the dodger



adds weather protection and there are drink holders and small weather-proof lockers for sundry items.

The swim platform also forms the counter of the yacht and is easily raised and lowered by hand. When lowered the platform reveals a neat locker space in the stern for stowing the boat's liferaft.

MODERN DESIGN

A look at the 415's hull reveals the relatively beamy stern doesn't reflect the waterline configuration at all. Indeed, the topside shape from the cabin aft tucks quickly under the cockpit to the area once known as the 'bustle' forward of the rudder, forming a very modest waterline area. The design nuance helps prevent a hull shape with a plum stem and stern from looking squat and offering all the upwind performance of a bluebottle.

Indeed, in a fitful 8 knot northeaster the 415 slipped along smoothly on Sydney's Pittwater. The double-wheel steering gave a very direct and balanced touch and in these breezes the boat made a steady 5.5 knots (10.2km/h) in 8-9 knots of breeze, with a predicted top speed under gennaker of 10 knots (18.52km/h) – respectable enough for a boat of this size.

As the day drew to a close, a quiet saunter up the pontoon back at the marina allowed me to inspect other Hanse yachts. It's a fine fleet full of worthy options, and it's that pedigree – combined with the 415's clever features and design – that will surely see Hanse's latest find plenty of favour.

To read a detailed review of this boat, go to www.clubmarine.com.au to view the digital version of *Club Marine*. 

SPECIFICATION: HANSE 415

Length overall:	12.4m
Beam:	4.2m
Displacement:	8.9 tonnes (short keel option 9.4 tonnes)
Total sail area:	87sqm
Power:	Volvo, 27.9kW/38hp
Fuel capacity:	160lt
Price (as tested):	\$326,400

For more information contact Windcraft, tel (02) 9979 1709, web: www.windcraft.com.au.

P128/129: The small chamfer on the gunwale reduces the perceived height of the topsides and complements the squared-off bow.

P130: The Hanse rig is not high aspect but seems visually in proportion nonetheless.

P130 inset: The 'guest' spot in the cockpit has all the creature comforts.

Above left: The cherry wood finish and the ample skylights provide a light and airy cabin.

Below: The bimini and dodger provide ample protection while sailing and the cockpit can be entirely enclosed with side panels when at berth or anchor, while still providing all-round vision.

