









Fine Point

Not a detail was missed in the exquisite Mach F-29 from DCB.

an you imagine buying a fine automobile and never driving it? That's common for a lot of high-end car collectors, and it makes sense. A collectible car is an investment—one that depreciates the more you drive it. Best to store it in a climate-controlled warehouse and forget about it, lest temptation get the best of you, or your teen-ager pulls a Ferris Bueller and joy-rides your vintage Ferrari through city streets.

Like a fine automobile, the Mach F-29 is one of those rare products that is so finely wrought, so breathtaking in design and execution, that a buyer could entertain notions of stashing it away. But that would be criminal, despite that the catamaran is a piece of mechanized art. The Mach F-29 is meant to be driven.

In our case, fast meant a top speed of 143.1 mph on radar, where the 29' cat with stepped sponsons and a center pod still felt balanced and stable. Providing the power was a pair of 800-hp carbureted engines from Teague Custom Marine with IMCO Xtreme Advantage SC drives.

You can't help but be impressed by the efficiency of a catamaran that runs 96 mph with its engines turning 3,500 rpm. Drivers who feel like slowing down can back off the throttles—drop the engine speed to 3,000

rpm—and watch the scenery go by at 75 mph.

The F-29 also turned exceptionally well in slalom drills, as well as full circles. It leaned inward through corners at midrange speeds. In high-speed turns, it held a predominantly level attitude. The boat exited turns gently without sliding or catching.

The F-29 boasted the same impeccable craftsmanship and attention to detail for which Dave's Custom Boats has become renowned. Gelcoat was immaculate. Mold work flawless. Rigging sanitary. A noted perfectionist, DCB principal Dave Hemmingson demands the best from his team and obviously gets it.

The F-29 was outfitted with DCB's new bucket seats, with sturdy fiberglass backs, for the driver and co-pilot. Clear polycarbonate F-16-style quarter canopies were supplied at both positions, as were directional vents for the boat's forced-air cooling system. The system makes great sense, because the canopies keep all wind—even the welcome cooling kind—off the driver and co-pilot. To cut canopy glare, the builder applied black surfacing to the tops of the dashboards.

Wraparound design gave the F-29's helm an upscale aircraft look and feel, which was enhanced by pewter bezels and rims for the Livorsi Marine gauges. The Latham Marine throttles and shifters in a pod to the driver's right were color-matched.

We'd be remiss not to mention that DCB provided the Mach F-29 with a simple cabin, though we don't believe owners and their guests will spend much time in it. This astounding cat is meant to be driven. ©

Clockwise from far left: With a paint job inspired by the Bacardi Silver boat, Dave's Custom Boats took it to a new level with its Mach F-29. Notice the sharp lines and fades on the catamaran. At the starboard helm, the gauges were enhanced by pewter bezels. Under the hatch, the owner opted for 800-hp mills from Teague Custom Marine. Handling the power were IMCO Xtreme Advantage SC drives.