



ADVERTISING FEATURE

From Italy with love ...

A story of people, ideas & passion

Text: Absolute S.p.A. and friends Photos: A. Cocchi



Ever since I was a girl I have always loved boats. I used to cruise around the Florida waterways with my father when I was younger and in my adult life I've been lucky enough to have a few craft of my own. It's my favourite hobby and sometimes I just can't help but share my enthusiasm for life on the water.

On a recent business trip to Europe my flight back to the US was delayed and I found myself stuck in the departures lounge with crowds of other passengers. Outside the grey clouds loomed ominously and rain thundered against the windows. I needed an escape from the gloomy weather and dreary surroundings, so I pulled out a catalogue from my bag.

Completely absorbed in the brochure, I failed to notice a distinguished-looking man sit down next to me. The first I became aware of him was when he started stealing the occasional glance at the pictures I was looking at, but soon it became

apparent he was trying to read the words too. In the end I put the catalogue right in front of him, so that he could get a proper look. Astonished by my reaction and a little embarrassed, he quickly apologised: "I'm really sorry, I didn't mean to read over your shoulder, but I was impressed by the boat, Absolute right?"

I told him he was indeed correct, this was the brochure for the new Absolute 52 Fly. "I've admired their boats for a while," he continued, "But I've yet to talk to an owner about the boats themselves."

"Well, I'm still daydreaming too," I admitted. "But I have been for a sea trial on the 52 Fly and visited the Absolute yard in Piacenza. In fact I've been looking at quite a few different boats, but this, I think, is the one for me."

I'm not usually much of a conversationalist, but with hours to kill until my flight I relished being

able to talk about a shared hobby with a like-minded traveller.

"So you've sea trialled the 52 Fly, interesting. How did you find it? I know the boats are designed to be economical, but what is the performance like in reality?" the gentleman asked.

"Yes, the trial was a real eye-opener. Absolute boats are optimised for the Volvo Penta IPS system, which means that costs are radically cut. In fact, Absolute models guarantee a reduction in consumption of almost 30%, compared to traditional shaftdrive engines," I added.

"I suppose you get that level of cost saving with all boats that have IPS installed though," the man asked.

"Not really," I continued. "Absolute designs its boats for IPS from the hull up. If you want to



advantage of the economical cruising IPS you need a boat that was really made for you. That's the only way to ensure you use the additional benefits such as extra deck space, quieter cruising and joystick control. Absolute has been building boats with IPS for years and I could really tell. The result is a class of boats from 40ft to 70ft that offer exceptional performance and efficiency with two IPS drives."

But how was the ride out on the water? Did this technical innovation lead to a better ride as a whole?" the stranger enquired.

"Indeed it did. When I did the sums I was struck by how many more cruising hours I could do on the 52 without breaking the bank. Thanks to the economical IPS set-up, running costs would be significantly cheaper and even on our sea trial I was impressed with the lack of noise and vibration under way. Quieter cruising is a real boon and with the exhausts positioned underwater, there's no smoke or soot to contend with at the stern either," I explained.

"I've only ever had traditional helms on boats previously, how did you find the joystick control system on board the boat?" he asked.





"I hadn't tried it before either but was pleasantly surprised how simple the joystick helm was to master. Berthing was easy and close-quarter manoeuvring was a doddle," I added.

"But does the boat look as good in the flesh as it does in these pictures?" he continued. "I need a cruiser with enough space for friends and family to cruise for weeks on."

"I couldn't agree more," I answered. "Boating is all about having fun and enjoying life on the water. All I can say is that when I stepped on board the Absolute 52 Fly, I fell in love with the luxurious living spaces and elegant lines. Outside the boat looks modern and cuts a dash on any quayside, while inside the interior is bathed with light and the living spaces are wonderfully large. I'm told this is another of the reasons why Absolute prefer to use IPS drives. The Volvo system is more compact and saves space in the engine room, meaning Absolute can make the living accommodation even roomier. The big hull windows are also a revelation, allowing fantastic views out and lots of natural light below decks. All four cabins have superb headroom and storage and I could easily imagine having all my family and friends on board. The owner's cabin especially feels as if it's borrowed from a much larger boat."

I could tell he was getting the buying bug and I was glad I could share my knowledge of the brand with another boating enthusiast. "After the sea trial I was invited to the Absolute factory in Piacenza, near Milan," I continued, "so I was able to see for myself the yard's dynamic approach to boatbuilding.

"The state-of-the-art manufacturing facility boasts one of the most sophisticated construction processes in the industry. Absolute's Integrated Structural System (ISS) means the solid

fibreglass hulls are strengthened with a multi-dimensional structural grid. It's this ISS system which makes it possible to fit such big windows in the hull without compromising its strength. That's why the 52 is blessed with so much natural light, even in the crew cabin," I enthused.

"Woah, that seems pretty technical," he laughed.

"Well," I said, "Look at the photos on my iPad. This is the factory, and the boats in the moulds on the factory line." We pored over the photos and the space on board was clear to see. "Have you ever seen an owner's cabin like this? And what about the other three cabins?" I asked. "I saw many other boats at the Cannes show and none compared. I thought I'd only get this much space if I stretched my budget to a 60-footer. The whole interior felt like a home from home. I loved the sense of space and the stunning sea views you get from those huge hull windows."

We continued looking at the photos until my flight was announced over the tannoy system. Before parting ways, I gave him one last piece of advice. "We could go on for hours, talking about the Absolute 52 Fly and comparing every single inch of it to other brands but that would miss the point entirely. Forget the IPS system, the ISS structure, the technology and the looks. Just try an Absolute for yourself. After a few minutes at the helm, feeling the sun on your face and the wind in your hair you'll be just as smitten as I am." With that I wished him well and boarded my flight home.

Thanks to that meeting, I decided it was time to make my own dream come true and buy an Absolute 52 Fly. Who knows, perhaps the stranger at the airport is cruising on his own Absolute as well.

Jennifer Perkins, Tampa, Florida



INVESTMENT Cementing its position and success in Europe and elsewhere, and demonstrating its commitment to the business, Absolute has invested in a state-of-the-art, ecological, and purpose-built manufacturing facility in Piacenza, Italy – a short distance from Milan. A testament to the company's uncanny efficiency and capability in product development, Absolute continues to invest in the design, development and tooling of at least two new models and two upgrades, year after year.



ITALIAN DESIGN Penned by Absolute's talented Italian designers, Absolute yachts are stylish without compromising on functionality. The beautifully finished interiors feature top-quality leathers, the finest natural woods and designer fittings integrated with smart layouts and superb ergonomics. Excellent visibility from well laid out helms, wide and safe side decks, abundant storage and spacious cabins and head/shower compartments are the result of many years' experience and expertise.



CONSTRUCTION

Absolute's Integrated Structural System (ISS) means solid fibreglass hulls are strengthened with a multi-dimensional structural grid, which encompasses the entire length of the hull. Decks are precision-mounted to the hulls, bonded with fibreglass and through-bolted with stainless steel fasteners.

Total length	52' 6"
Width	14' 10"
Fresh water tank	99 gal
Fuel tank capacity	352 gal
Number of beds	6 + 1
Max. persons capacity	14
Type approval	CE B

Volvo Penta	2xD6-IPS600 (2x320 Kw-2x435 HP)
Cruising speed	23 Kn
Consumption l/mile*	6.00
Consumption gal/mile*	1.32
Consumption l/h*	138
Consumption gal/h*	30.36
Maximum speed	30/31 kn

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