

THE TIP of the iceberg

Warren Yachts produces an award winner with its newly designed semi-custom yacht, the S87. Just wait until its S120 splashes in 2008.



Successful yacht design is no accident. It is the result of talented designers and builders patiently paying meticulous attention to the details of yacht construction. Currently, one of the best examples of capable and intelligent yacht design is Warren Yachts' S87. It combines an efficiently driven underbody with a well-considered interior layout, world-class joinery, superb engineering and it's manufactured using the most modern construction techniques available.

Debuting in 2005, the S87's distinctive lines quickly attracted the attention of the international yachting media. Standing out from the crowd it won awards, including a Yachts International award for Best Open and a ShowBoats International award for the best Semi-Custom Yacht. Editors praised the S87's intelligent space calling it a thing of beauty that hits all the right notes.

Stepping aboard an S87 it's easy to agree: Walkaround decks, clever space planning, a skylight over the country kitchen on the lower deck, retractable sun roof and spacious three- or four-stateroom interior layout options—and those are just the most obvious features.



Dave Warren, founder of Warren Yachts, has been building boats for 46 years. He founded Warren Yachts in 1983 and quickly achieved a reputation as the finest custom boat builder in Australia. This is supported by the fact that no Warren Yacht has ever resold for less than its original cost. Ultimately 18 custom one-off yachts, from high performance sailing cats to 85- and 75-foot sport yachts to a 143-foot trideck, would be built. In 2003 Shipworks Group acquired Warren Yachts and retained Dave Warren as the master boat builder. Warren had developed a 77-foot and an 87-foot sport-yacht design that Shipworks Group recognized had the potential to compete in the international market.

The company's manufacturing operation was relocated from its yard near Sydney to Brisbane, along with 15 key personnel. The workforce now totals 275, and is growing stronger on an almost daily basis. Warren Yachts isn't just a manufacturing facility.

It's a fully functioning eight-acre shipyard, including more than a quarter mile of deep-water frontage, a 650-ton travel lift, over 100-ton crane capacity, three 30-meter high construction sheds and two C&C computerized cutting machines.

As production ramped up to four S87s per year, so did the research and development of the new S120 and redesign

of the S77. Warren sold the first of each while they were in the design stage.

The S120 construction began in November 2006 and the S77 in June 2007. A new S120 build is scheduled to start every six months and the S77 every three. Both the S77 and S120 are due to launch in 2008. "We knew we had a winner in the S87," says David Price, Shipworks Group CEO, "and maintaining the high level of custom boat quality throughout the sport yacht line has been key to our success."

To achieve the desired level of quality Warren utilizes a proprietary resin-infusion system to produce a strong yet lightweight yacht. The underbody is a fiberglass lay-up using vinyl ester resin. The mold for the balsa-cored superstructure is computer cut on a C&C machine, ensuring accuracy, maximizing construction quality and maintaining weight tolerances.

Doug Nelson, production manager, says that honeycomb-backed shaved granite and lightweight panels are used throughout the interior to save weight, increase speed and deliver the custom finish. The attention to detail goes beyond the visible aesthetics. Throughhull openings, molded in during lay-up, are conveniently located under settees and behind panels, not hidden away in difficult to access corners. "It is assumed that you will need to get to them at some time. They should be easy to access," Nelson says.

Inviting and appealing, the S87 delivers aesthetically as well as functionally. An abundance of portlights delivers sunlight below, making natural light a creative design element. The aft-deck tabled settee, flanked by stairs that lead to the swim step, provides alfresco lounging and dining opportunities. Curved glass sliders across the centerline part for access to the salon. Within, the owner's choice of book-matched wood panels contrasts with the upholstery choices.

The roomy interior includes the salon, a round dining table that seats up to eight guests and a three-seat wheelhouse area. Push a button that operates the 150-square-foot sunroof over the helm and salon and the yacht assumes its open identity.

The S87 offers an option of three or four staterooms. Choosing the four-stateroom

PERFECT VIEWS
day, evening,
or night



Construction of the new S120

model delivers a boat with a creative layout that features a country kitchen on the lower deck, abaft the VIP cabin in the forepeak. The master is full beam aft, past a twin and double cabin on either side of the centerline hallway. The three-stateroom choice moves the galley aft, to a separate crew area, and the forward portion on the lower deck becomes a master suite of a size usually found on 110-foot yachts. Both layouts are fresh and comfortable.

Price says, "We are building the highest quality boats in the world; not the most, but the best." The same best-of-breed attitude the company put into the S77 and S87 is driving development of the S120. There is plenty of respected competition for the S120. That doesn't scare the crew at Warren Yachts; the yard is following its destiny. "This is the boat we always wanted to build," Price says.

The consistent quality is evident in the construction, as the S120 is built to ABS classifications and MCA code, and the details, as expected, are well considered.

The tender stores athwartships in a foredeck garage; launched and retrieved by a Besenconi davit. Forward is a U-shaped settee, served by a hi-lo table that provides a great deal of privacy. The stern garage can store up to two personal watercraft.

The aft deck includes the spacious transom settee, while a four-seat bar and settee are on either side of the entrance to the salon. Inside the salon includes seating port and starboard with a flat screen TV mounted in the aft starboard corner. The S120 also features an athwartships dining table that seats 10. A few steps up from the main deck the wheelhouse includes a single helm chair backed by a wide observer's seat. Access to the helm is on either side.

For a top speed of 26 knots, a pair of 2,400-hp MTU 16V2000 M93 diesel engines is standard. The S120 will also be stretching the motion performance envelope. It will be the first yacht to utilize the optional Ship Dynamics' zero-speed gyrostabilizer.

Real pleasure boating begins once a Warren yacht is delivered to its new owner. The Warren Yacht philosophy is that when someone buys a boat he or she is also purchasing an experience and a lifestyle. That is why the company has full-time service agents in Europe and the United States and service networks throughout Europe, North America and Australia. "It's important," Price says, "that operating a Warren yacht is as seamless and enjoyable an experience as the building process was."

It is a combination of vision, talent and commitment that allows Warren Yachts to proudly offer its yachts for comparison in the world market. The singular mission at Warren Yachts is that "there are no shortcuts, no unsolvable engineering problems and no reason to build less than a perfect yacht."

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