

The Truth About Catamarans

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Over the 40 years we have been in the industry we have heard a lot of myths and rumours around catamarans, most of them quite funny to those of us who have spent time in and around catamarans. As with a lot of things that are slightly different from mainstream, people often believe these rumours as they have no source of information directing them to the correct answers. Often opposition dealers and people who claim to be knowledgeable often keep these rumours going to help sell their own products or just through lack of knowledge.

One of our personal favourites was a dealer who after boasting about all his captains credentials and time at sea, warned our customer that catamarans drive around in circles on one engine. Needless to say when the customer drove one of our boats and it planned and tracked beautifully on only one engine he quickly discounted that dealer's advice and products and now owns a stunning 33 foot catamaran.

Below are some of the other myths that we have come across in our time and we hope that this may clear the waters and provide some more accurate information.

Catamaran Myth 1

Catamarans don't track well in a following sea.

A lot of boaters worry that driving a cat boat isn't relaxing, because they think they'll have to constantly watch the sea and where they're going. This just isn't true. A catamaran is much better than a monohull, especially in a following sea, as a mono will plow into the front wave as it comes down, and then are susceptible to broaching down the face of the wave. But cats are more buoyant in the bow, almost removing this worry and as they do not have a V to roll on they are more sure footed than their monohull counterparts.

Catamaran Myth 2

Power catamarans don't look like a traditional boat.

Every boater is aware that Australians know their boats and build some of the best boats in the world. For Aussies, catamarans are different but still commonplace. In fact there are four times more power catamarans in Australia and New Zealand per capita compared to the rest of the world. They know that the smoothness of the ride, especially in our rough water, is superior to any monohull's. This is why Aussies make the best catamarans in the world.

Catamaran Myth 3

Catamarans are awkward to drive and hard to get used to.

Some customers believe that it's too difficult to learn how to drive a power catamaran, and they worry that they'll never get used to the awkwardness. But cats are incredibly simple to operate: once you learn the basics of keeping a proper trim you'll be 90% of the way to being an expert. Experienced boaters will tell you that learning to drive a catamaran was easy...and they'll never go back to a monohull. Spend the time with your dealer and you will realise how easy it really is.

Catamaran Myth 4

Cats always turn outward and can throw you from the boat.

One of the worst lies that monohull dealers tell consumers interested in a power catamaran is that they will get thrown from the boat, especially if they need to turn sharply at high speeds. While it's true that at slow speeds and slow turns, our boats do tend to lean slightly outward, the effect is so minor no one's in any danger of ending up in the water. Catamaran owners often comment how they feel odd when they get back into a mono hull and it banks inwards. At the end of the day, there is no right or wrong answer – it just comes down to what you are used to.

Catamaran Myth 5

Cats have trouble drifting in beam seas and can tip.

Many boaters believe that because catamarans have two hulls close together, the boats have a violent rock when drifting, and are even in danger of tipping. In fact, it's just the opposite: the twin-hull design allows for a smoother drift in beam seas, one that settles much faster than a monohull as they do not suffer from the pendulum effect that a mono hull can as it has an opposing edge for every movement.

