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BROADBLUE

RS550

RAPIER 550

Broadblue Catamarans, founded in 2001, has produced over one hundred, hand-built, British-design catamarans.

At Broadblue, we pride ourselves on a deep understanding of the needs of multihull sailors. Our catamarans have many thousands of sea-miles under their keels, and proven credentials as safe, comfortable and sea-worthy vessels, designed by catamaran sailors for catamaran sailors.

The Broadblue Rapier range of Performance Cruisers was introduced to provide an option for owners who enjoy long-distance cruising, and appreciate more speed, luxury and safety as priorities.

Broadblue Rapier owners are engaged and experienced sailors, who look for the thrill of sailing at wind-speed or faster when conditions permit, but also appreciate that during long passages the vessel will often be on auto-pilot.



When we designed the Rapier 550 we put your long-distance sailing adventure at the heart of our vision. The Broadblue design team chose to set aside previous features of cruising multihulls and introduce several new and exciting features:

“Old fashioned catamaran designs have an enclosed saloon with separate cockpit, dividing bulkhead and door, indoor seating plus outdoor seating, and a helm position at the back of the boat, meaning the helmsman can see nothing except the high saloon roof and the sails, or a fly-bridge cutting down sail area and creating huge windage problems.”

Mark Jarvis, Design and Production Director

The Rapier 550 discards these principles. By combining the two living areas (cockpit and saloon) an open living area is produced – social experiences can be created, and speed can be gained as weight is reduced.

The Rapier 550 rethinks catamaran design, responding to the needs of catamaran owners who truly enjoy sailing.

The Rapier 550 asks ...

- What do we use our catamarans for?
- How do we use our catamarans?
- Where do we want to go?



What do we use our catamarans for?

Broadblue catamarans are for sailors who want to go anywhere, safely and enjoyably. This is why our helm position forward makes so much sense. Other helm positions all have obscured vision forward – either from the sails or from the cabin top – the view underway from the R550 helm is completely un-obscured. Our forward bridge is sited within the Rapier 550's living space, offering un-paralleled watch keeping visibility and yet still allowing you contact with crew and passengers.

You want to arrive at your destination and relax in luxurious surroundings. This is why our luxurious interior can be transformed, with a few easy manoeuvres, into a tranquil sundeck where you and your guests can bathe in glorious sunlight from the comfort of your Italian leather sofas.

Once in port there are 3 private cabins with en-suite berths and excellent dining and relaxing spaces for crew and guests.



How do we use our catamarans?

Yes, we want our boats to be safe.

Safety arises from speed, from technology, ensuring you do not have to leave the interior of the boat in bad weather, and from the onboard systems ensuring you have the best information and control at your fingertips at all times.

Yes, we need to use our boats single-handed

The central sail station and the forward bridge mean that this boat can be controlled by one person on passage, and if necessary, one person docking. All achieved in safety and without risk to skipper, boat or crew.

Yes we need to be in control.

Masthead cameras, digital displays and remote steering offer the opportunity to manoeuvre your boat from a variety of vantage points. Whether with family or on your own, you can bring your vessel into a marina berth easily, simply and safely. You can stand at the back of your boat and gently ease your cat alongside. No heavy bow thrusters - just remote engine controls, and a good view of the pontoon.

Where do we want to use our catamarans?

You want to be able to go anywhere, everywhere or swing at anchor in a secluded shallow Caribbean bay unreachable by deep keeled monohulls, even at 55'. The choice of fixed, low aspect ratio or lifting keels keeps the draft to a minimum but still provides great sailing performance.

From your helm position you can immediately alter your sail plan, effortlessly. This is why all lines and halyards run back to an interior sail station, running on electric reversing winches controlled by the touch of a button.

And not forgetting the holy grail of long distance cruising – your Rapier 550 can easily achieve 280-320nm per day in comfort and safety.

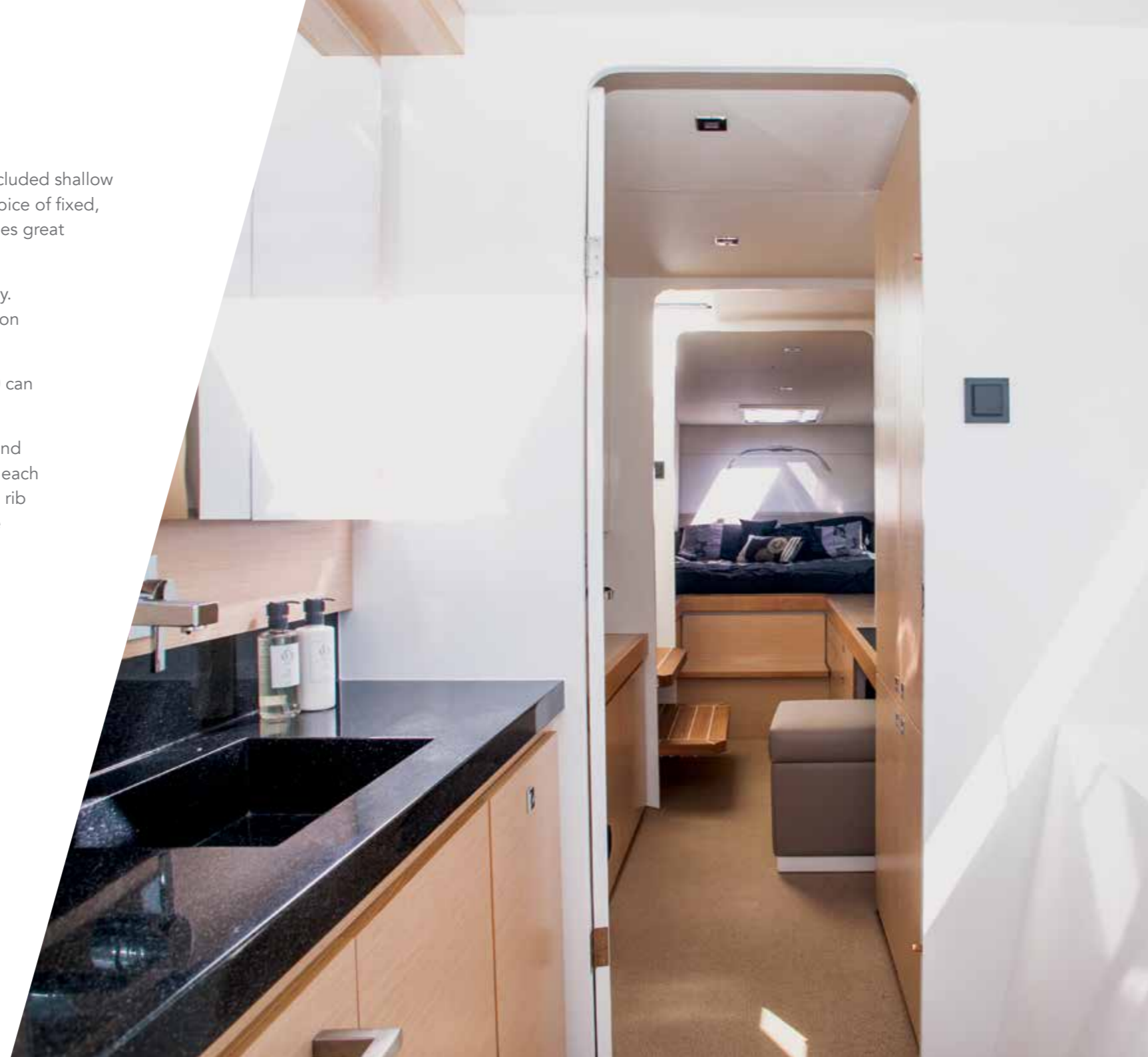
The ambition is to go anywhere, with anyone, and at any time you choose and enjoy the trip....and once you get there, have the space to relax and enjoy each new destination. This is why we have space for canoes, diving equipment, a rib or surfboards – all can be accommodated in deep spacious lockers or in the all-carbon davits.

Having fun with our catamaran

You want a boat that provides for your safety, travel and social needs. But you also want a boat that can provide FUN!

Switch the controls from the forward, enclosed wheel-helm, to the exhilarating dual-tiller points aft. Feel the breeze, control the sails using the rewinding winch controls, and enjoy the feedback on the tiller as you feel the wind pick up and the Rapier 550 accelerate away.

You want to enjoy the performance of your catamaran, afforded by Rapier R550's carbon-epoxy infusion construction and leading-edge design methods.



Layout

Our primary focus will always be you, our Rapier 550 Owner.

This is why we offer an entire Owner's hull, with integrated navigation or office space, a full walk-in rainfall shower, and separate facilities that allow you privacy, as well as the water tank capacity to be free of the need for marina-berthing.

Cabins are comfortable, private and each of the two double guest cabins has an enclosed heads, shower cubicle and stowage for off-shore passage-making.

The galley is huge and resembles a modern home kitchen rather than a pleasure yacht's occasional galley.

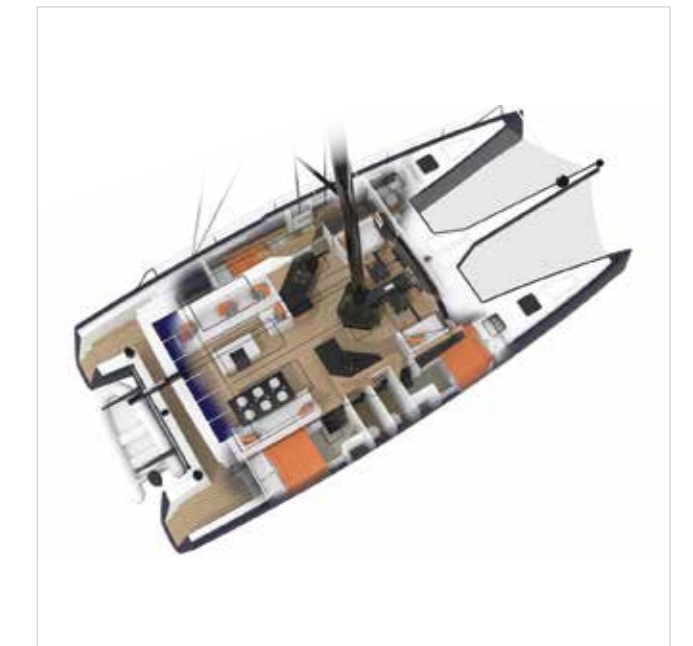
Dining at the extendable table and lounging in comfort is a pleasure on Italian leather sofas.

With the retractable roof and windows open, sun-bathing is a delight in a sheltered space, never far from a cold drink out of the family-sized refrigerator.

Instead of a fourth double cabin, we offer a generous workshop area, housing the port engine and generator. This is designed as an engineering space where you can attend to all those small jobs that crop up when you are cruising for any length of time - safely and securely, away from your crew and accommodation areas. Almost all of the serviceable items aboard are installed here.

We know, from our experience, that should your engines need attention it will usually be in adverse conditions. That's why both engine compartments are located safely, inboard and protected from the weather.

Ultimately, however, our focus is you, our Rapier 550 owner. This is why we offer a semi-bespoke design service, allowing you to specify a vessel for your purposes: a unique-in-class feature.



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