

Leopard 43 PC (2018-)

Brief Summary

The Leopard 43 PC is an evolution of the breed, showing how smart use of space, ease of maintenance, and performance and efficiency can all be rolled into a single multihull package. The builders and designers of these boats have paid close attention to the lessons about needs of owners that an active charter fleet has provided.

Price

Base Price \$479000.00

Prices, features, designs, and equipment are subject to change. Please see your local dealer or visit the builder's website for the latest information available on this boat model.

Key Features

- Spacious flying bridge
- Efficient operation
- Open, accessible foredeck
- Stable cruising platform
- Smart design of shared spaces
- Stowage throughout
- 3- or 4-stateroom layout
- Indoor-outdoor main-deck living space
- Natural ventilation

Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
600	3.5	3	0.3	11.7	10.1	2772	2410.4	52
1000	6.9	6	1	6.9	6	1628	1415.3	67
1250	8.1	7	1.8	4.5	3.9	1069	929.7	70

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
1500	9.5	8.3	2.8	3.5	3	821	713.7	72
1750	10.2	8.9	4.3	2.4	2.1	570	495.9	73
2000	10.9	9.4	6.8	1.6	1.4	382	332.1	74
2200	13	11.3	8.6	1.5	1.3	360	312.9	77
2400	14.9	13	11	1.4	1.2	323	281.1	77
2600	17.4	15.1	13.4	1.3	1.1	309	268.3	77
2800	19.2	16.7	15.6	1.2	1.1	293	254.4	79
3000	21.2	18.4	18.2	1.2	1	278	241.3	78
3200	23	20	21.4	1.1	0.9	255	222.1	80
3400	24.7	21.5	25.9	1	0.8	227	197.4	80
3600	26.3	22.8	30.6	0.9	0.7	204	177.5	80
3730	27.6	24	33	0.8	0.7	198	172.5	79

[View the test results in metric units](#)

leopard_43pc_chart18.jpg

Specifications

Length Overall	42' 8" 13 m
BEAM	22' 1" 6.73 m

Dry Weight	30,700 lbs. 13,925 kg
Tested Weight	32,097 lbs. 14,559 kg
Draft	3' 1" 0.94 m
Draft Up	
Draft Down	
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	N/A
Max Headroom	6' 5" 1.96 m
Bridge Clearance	2' 3.6" 0.70 m
Weight Capacity	8,200 lbs. 3,719 kg
Person Capacity	
Fuel Capacity	264 gal. 999 L
Water Capacity	206 gal. 780 L
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	
Total Weight	32,097 lbs. 14,559 kg

Aft Deck	
Salon Inside Width	
Salon Fore & Aft	
Salon Height	
Salon Volume	
Galley Volume	
Master SR Width	
Master SR fore & Aft	
Master SR Overhead	
Master SR Volume	
Eng. Room Volume	

Acceleration Times & Conditions

Time to Plane	6.3 sec.
0 to 20	
Ratio	N/A
Props	550mm x 515mm x 4
Load	3 persons, 1/2 fuel, no water, 50 lbs. of gear

Contents of Report

- [Mission](#)
- [Back Story](#)
- [Detailed Inspection](#)
- [Swim Platform](#)
- [Aft Deck](#)
- [Side Decks](#)
- [The Foredeck](#)
- [Flying Bridge](#)
- [Helm](#)
- [Interior](#)
- [Salon](#)
- [Galley](#)
- [Accommodations](#)
- [Starboard Master Suite](#)
- [Engine Spaces](#)
- [Available Four-Stateroom Layout](#)
- [Performance](#)
- [Handling](#)
- [Docking](#)

- [Price](#)
- [Some Options to Consider](#)
- [Observations](#)

Mission

The Leopard 43 PC has the onboard space and layout that many have come to expect from catamarans, which seems to suggest an island-hopping itinerary with friends and family, but make no mistake, these boats are oceangoing cruisers.

She is ideal for the bareboat charter trade.

Back Story

Robertson and Caine, the largest boatbuilder in South Africa, had formed a partnership with the Moorings in 1994 to manufacture sailboat catamarans for its charter fleet. In 2000, the Leopard brand sail cats started.

Leopard built its first power catamaran in 2007, the 47PC, and quickly followed with the 37PC. The boats sold under the Leopard brand are for private owners, and the evolution of powercat design from the Leopard 37PC to the Leopard 39PC to the 43PC is evident in many features.

The South African builder has long made a habit of delivering boats on its own bottom from Cape Town to the Caribbean and beyond. Leopard Catamarans and the Moorings are both owned by Travelopia, which is owned by global investment firm KKR.

Leopard 43 PC Cruising

The Leopard 43 PC has a LOA of 42'8" (13 m), a beam of 22'1" (6.73 m), and a draft of 3'1" (.94 m).

Detailed Inspection

Swim Platform

We boarded the boat from the dock to one of the boat's two swim platforms, one located at the aft end of each hull. The port side swim platform has a reboarding ladder that is hinged and folds intact onto the swim deck, and is designed to be grabbed and deployed from in the water.

Leopard 43 PC swim platform

The swim platforms extend 5'2" (1.58 m) from the aft end of each hull.

Leopard 43 PC shower

There's a freshwater, pull-out shower recessed and behind a hatch in the bulwarks on the portside swim platform stairs.

The space between the swim platforms is reserved for tender stowage, and there is a tubular stainless davit (optional, \$4,635) affixed to stainless steel vertical pillars that extend from the aft deck to the flying bridge overhang. The davit is operated by cables attached to a winch in the overhead and controlled by a switch in the overhead on centerline.

Leopard 43 PC dinghy

This tubular stainless steel dinghy davit lowers on cables at the touch of a button on the overhead.

Aft Deck

Up a couple of steps from the swim platform, there's a wide aft deck that stretches between the aft bulwarks. Shore power hookups are on the port side. In this platform are hatches to port, which lead to a compartment that contains the 9 kW Northern Lights genset, and to starboard, a hatch leads to stowage space.

Leopard 43 PC idle

The steps on the aft deck lead to the side decks, the swim platform, and the flying bridge.

Leopard 43 PC genset

A genset in a hush box is located aft in the port hull, under a gasketed hatch with a stainless gas-assist ram and a turn-and-lock latch.

Sturdy stainless steel posts support the flying bridge overhang, which shades the aft deck, and has 6'7" (2.01 m) of headroom clearance. Canvas/isinglass curtains (\$1,391), stowed in covers, are snapped to the overhead all around the aft deck and can be unrolled to provide shade or shelter as required.

Seating. There's a molded U-shaped settee with fabric-covered seat cushions (\$2,936) situated around a composite dining table on two fixed pedestals. The aft section of the settee has a backrest that is designed to flip forward, creating an aft-facing seat looking out to the area where guests and children would likely swim at anchor. There's a bench seat opposite.

Leopard 43 PC aft deck

This aft deck welcomes guests for an al fresco lunch, followed by an afternoon of lounging.

Leopard 43 PC test captain

Our test captain and a Leopard representative show the aft-facing seat in action.

Leopard 43 PC bench seat

A bench seat to starboard rounds out the seating on the aft deck...

Leopard 43 PC propane

...and has dedicated, vented propane stowage underneath.

Leopard 43 PC aft deck

Much of the aft deck seating has stowage for gear underneath.

Side Decks

Catamarans generally have deck space galore for their LOA, thanks to the large beam measurement, and the Leopard 43 PC is no exception. Her side decks are 29" (73.66 cm) wide at their narrowest point. But even more than just good footing on this stable platform, the side decks have a tall, 1 ½" (3.81 cm) diameter tubular bowrail, and grab handles along the house top to facilitate safe movement around the boat.

Leopard 43 PC bow rails

Grab handles, a bow rail, and flush hatches in the side decks make it very easy to get around on the Leopard 43 PC.

Foredeck Access

One aspect of the Leopard 43 PC that we found particularly appealing is the direct access on the centerline to the foredeck from the salon and galley. On a pleasant evening at anchor, the foredeck is a terrific spot to take in the sea breeze, and the forward door prevents the entire family from needing to traipse around the superstructure on the side decks, wide and pleasant as they are.

Another advantage to this door is ventilation, to the degree where it can make the air conditioning, and therefore the genset, are unnecessary.

Leopard 43 PC door

The forward door from the salon and galley to the foredeck makes it even easier to get around on the Leopard 43 PC.

The Foredeck

The foredeck measures 7' (2.13 m) fore and aft, and scuppers provide drainage all around. Just forward of the wide, flat, vertical forward windows, which are made of tempered glass, the aft section is elevated and is shaded by a brow and sections of bulkhead to either side. It is designed for cushions when not underway for laying out.

This aft section has hatches where the water tanks, stowage, the windlass, and ground tackle are concealed. The foredeck has small benches at each forward corner, welded into the corner of the all-around bowrail. There's a toe rail all around as well, and cleats are mounted to it to either side of each bow and along the forward edge of the foredeck, precluding the need for fairleads and also mitigating a trip hazard for those getting around.

Leopard 43 PC shade

The shady area of the foredeck adds another social space. The vertical windshield looks odd, but by eliminating a raked windshield saves lots of valuable space both inside and out.

Leopard 43 PC ground tackle

The ground tackle is deployed from here, under a hatch, with a wired remote operating a Lewmar windlass through an anchor roller at the forward end of the locker.

Leopard 43 PC

The port side water tank is easily accessible in this wide opening locker.

Leopard 43 PC water tank

The starboard water tank is in a large locker with substantial stowage volume.

Leopard 43 PC

Seats in the forward corners of the bow rail give scale to the large open space.

Flying Bridge

Access to the flying bridge is from a set of stairs on the aft deck outboard and then make a 90-degree right turn so climbers emerge onto the flying bridge facing aft. The flying bridge on the Leopard 43 PC is definitely a gathering spot for the entire crew and has the most open space for social gathering.

With a substantial hardtop with 6'9" (2.06 m) headroom covering much of the upper deck, the space is protected and can even be enclosed by curtains all around.

The helm is to starboard forward, with a bench seat. Opposite is a U-shaped settee with cocktail table, with an al fresco galley with sink aft.

There's a sun pad on the forward rooftop measuring 6'3" by 5'2" (1.91 m by 1.58 m). It extends beyond the flying bridge surround, and it has a grab rail all around it, as well as grabrails on the raised section of the surround to either side. This should only be used when the boat is at rest.

Leopard 43 PC stairs

The stairs make a right turn as our test captain ascends to the flying bridge, hanging on to the vertical grab bar. Note the tubular stainless steel supports in an open riser design which is sturdy but maintains better lines of sight.

Leopard 43 PC headroom

The flying bridge has good cover from its molded hardtop, which provides shelter and 6'9" (2.06 m) headroom and is held up by fiberglass aft by diagonal columns and forward stainless steel supports, none of which impinge on sightlines.

Leopard 43 PC lounge

This U-shaped lounge will let a large group keep the helmsman company and has stowage beneath the seats.

Leopard 43 PC flying bridge

The forward flying bridge sun pad has grabrail all around.

Leopard 43 PC galley

The al fresco galley console on the flying bridge has a grabrail for safety and a stainless steel sink. There's stowage beneath as well as a refrigerator and icemaker. An optional grill on the counter is available.

Leopard 43 PC flying bridge

The flying bridge will be a very popular spot for family and friends to gather for cruising.

Helm

The helm console is situated forward and to starboard on the flying bridge. The remote microphone to the Raymarine VHF is mounted on the port side of the console. On the helm dash, the wheel is to starboard and has a compass mounted above on the top of the console.

To port of the wheel is a wide shelf with a fiddle to keep binoculars and other odds and ends in position. There's a bank of switches at the top port side of the console. A Fusion stereo control head and covered USB and 12-volt receptacles are on the dash. There are two Raymarine Multifunction displays flush-mounted on the helm dash as well, and an autopilot control is positioned right above the wheel.

To starboard of the wheel, we find another fiddled shelf, a Yanmar engine display, the engine throttle and shift control, as well as engine start-stops mounted on the inboard side of the bridge surround. A pair of large beverage holders are positioned down low, aft of the engine control binnacle.

Leopard 43 PC helm

The helm has excellent lines of sight.

Leopard 43 PC helm seat

The helm seat is a single bench for two with a wraparound backrest. We would prefer the bench seat to adjust fore and aft instead of being stationary.

Interior

The salon and galley basically share the interior main deck space evenly, with the navigation station and the electrical panel rounding out the open space that allows easy movement by several people at a time.

Leopard 43 PC layout

This layout shows the deck plans for the shared space of the main deck as well as the accommodations within each hull for the four-stateroom layout. This layout is ideal for bareboat chartering.

Salon

The main deck salon and galley area can be entered from the foredeck or the aft deck. There's an L-shaped lounge with a folding leaf dining table on a high-low pedestal so it can be lowered and used with a filler cushion to create an additional berth for guests. The aft bulkhead here is made up of a sliding glass door to starboard that offers access from the cockpit. Two glass windows abaft the salon settee slide to port to open up much of the aft bulkhead to the cockpit.

Leopard 43 PC aft door

The open aft-bulkhead door and windows create an indoor-outdoor space that many boaters enjoy.

Leopard 43 PC salon table

The salon table has folding leaves to keep it from being in the way when serving a smaller group or when people are moving through the salon on their way fore and aft.

Three boxes in the sole have removable lids and offer additional stowage for provisions and gear. To port and starboard amidships are the companionway stairs to the accommodations on the lower deck within each hull.

Leopard 43 PC sole storage

True to her cruising heritage, the Leopard 43 PC has in-sole stowage in the salon.

Docking Helm

Inside the cabin on the port side is the navigation station which faces forward. It has a throttle-and-shift binnacle mounted on a flat chart table. An autopilot control head, mounted on the forward bulkhead is within relatively easy reach.

In shorthanded docking, the captain can use the binnacle to move the boat into position and then get forward quickly to manage the tie-up. For this procedure, it would help if the door opened to starboard, instead of to port, for going forward. The chart table has a locker beneath the lid to stow cruising guides and navigation gear.

A stool stows out of the way in its corner and also contains stowage under its removable top cushion. We'd like to see a little padding on the polished stainless safety railing that serves as a backrest.

Leopard 43 PC navigation table

The small navigation table facing forward by the centerline door to the bow has a control binnacle for docking.

Electrical Panel

The electrical panels are contained in a locker with a tinted-glass door. In this panel are inverter controls, the VHF main unit, engine and genset controls, panels for 120-volt AC and 12-volt DC system, air-conditioning controls, and the control head for the Fusion stereo.

Leopard 43 PC panel

The glass covering of the panel ensures that an astute skipper will notice any warning signs, but the glow of the digital readouts will not affect the salon's ambience. Note the large air conditioning grate behind the electrical panel at left.

Galley

The galley is located at the starboard forward end of the salon and features an L-shaped Corian counter with lockers beneath. There's an underhung stainless sink with a single-lever stainless faucet. The large forward window has a rectangular opening port set into it, and the galley is closed by the door to the foredeck. On the starboard side, the counter has a three-burner gas cooktop equipped with sea rails, and an oven.

Leopard 43 PC L-shaped counter

The L-shaped counter and cabinets of the galley have stowage in drawers and bins. Even though this boat is very stable, we'd like to see high fiddles all around the counter's edge.

Leopard 43 PC trash can

Dedicated trashcans are a good idea on a boat geared for large groups.

Leopard 43 PC sink

A covered sink in the counter corner serves as a concealed drying rack handy to the main sink. It can also be used for storage.

Accommodations

Leopard 43 PC layout

The layout seen here is the one we tested – a three-stateroom version.

Staterooms: Cat vs. Monohull

Perhaps the hardest thing for boaters used to monohull cruisers to get their head around is the very different shape of the staterooms in a catamaran. Typically a 43' (13.11 m) cruiser will have two staterooms and one or two heads. Generally, the master is forward in the bow, and the guest stateroom is under the bridge deck amidships, usually with a stand-up entrance and a crawl in bed or beds. The master is narrow at the head and wider aft where the head is, but not quite as wide as the maximum beam. The guest stateroom is often full-beam, which might be 13' to 15' (3.96 m to 4.57 m), generally.

On the Leopard 43 PC, the staterooms are just a little over 6' (1.83 m) wide, making them narrower than either stateroom in a typical monohull of similar length. But, in the case of the master stateroom on our test boat, there is quite a bit of deck space between the bed and the head. This turns out to be far more room than we find at the foot of a bed in a forward cabin of this size of a monohull. Virtually none have a vanity/desk, much less one as big as that on the Leopard 43 PC. Plus there is much more deck space for changing clothes and moving around. And, the heads are about the same size.

The guest stateroom in our test boat had full headroom, unlike the typical 43' (13.11 m) monohull guest stateroom. What's more, there is a third stateroom that few 43' monohulls have. At the end of the day, this cat has the same or more actual square footage of accommodation space as we find in a typical 43' monohull.

Starboard Master Suite

A set of four molded stairs lead down the companionway to the master suite. On our test boat, this owner's stateroom takes up the entire starboard hull of this catamaran, and consists of a sleeping compartment with the berth aft, a dressing area amidships, and a head forward.

Leopard 43 PC hull

The entire space of the starboard hull is given over to owner comfort in the master suite. It is clearly more comfortable than the forward cabin of most 43' monohulls.

The sleeping compartment in the master suite is aft and features a crawl-in berth. The space avoids a cave-like feel with an elongated hullside window outboard, an integral, framed opening portlight, and another opening portlight aft. An electric fan situated at the foot of the berth helps ventilate the space even more, and there's an overhead hatch that can be opened for ventilation, and also serves as an escape route.

There are two LED reading lamps over the head of the berth and the inboard side of the berth has a pair of shelves along the berth for stowing odds and ends. We'd like to see electrical outlets and USB ports here for cell phones and iPads.

Leopard 43 PC owner's stateroom

The owner's stateroom berth measures 59" (1.50 m) wide and 78" (1.98 m) long, with 3'7" (1.09 m) headroom over the berth.

Leopard 43 PC air

Moving fresh air around is sometimes an excellent alternative to air conditioning. There's also an overhead hatch for air and egress.

The amidships dressing area has 6'2" (1.88 m) of headroom and is finished in laminate with solid-wood trim, and has a sole finished in laminate. The area has a dressing table or desk with stowage bins beneath lids, a fold-up vanity mirror, and a stool that stows underneath. There's a hanging locker and a locker with shelves, as well as a chest of drawers.

Because the companionway to the stateroom is open wide at the top, the sliding door has a large panel to cover it, but it all slides out of the way unobtrusively, and slides into position where it can be locked, both open and closed.

Leopard 43 PC desk

A combination desk and dressing table with stool and chest of drawers are flanked by a hanging locker aft, at right, and a locker of shelves, forward, to the left.

Leopard 43 PC floor lockers

Within the master suite, the sole has numerous lockers that offer stowage.

Leopard 43 PC companionway

The companionway is closed off with a sliding door shaped to ensure privacy. Note the top section that angles overhead.

Master Head

The head compartment is at the forward end of the amidships dressing area and has 6'4" (1.93 m) of headroom. The compartment has a door that swings in. The marine toilet is outboard as we enter and there's a hullside window with an integral framed portlight for ventilation.

Inboard is a vanity with Corian top, a sink, stowage, a shaving mirror and in the locker beneath, the holder for the toilet-paper roll on the back of the door. A dedicated trashcan is hinged on the bottom.

Leopard 43 PC head

The head is finished with a fiberglass liner for easy cleaning.

Leopard 43 PC head

The head makes the most of the space with such design elements as the offset faucet and the vanity counter extending into the shower to serve as a shelf.

The shower has a glass door with stainless hinges and a European style wand spray nozzle with single-lever mixer. The shower sump has an automatic drainage system. At the forward end of the shower compartment is a hatch in the bulkhead that offers access to a washer-dryer combo unit.

Leopard 43 PC washer dryer

Leopard put a welcome combination laundry machine behind a door in the shower.

Engine Spaces

Because Leopard is using so much of the onboard volume for accommodations, those who are new to catamarans may be surprised to discover the engine spaces are just inches away from the staterooms – and directly below the aft beds.

Leopard 43 PC engine

The engine is beneath the berth, under a lid that raises with electric rams.

Leopard 43 PC

A light on the bed substructure makes engine inspections easier, and the lid is insulated for sound and heat.

Leopard 43 PC service points

Service points such as, left to right, the coolant overflow tank, sea strainer, and fuel-water separator are easy to see and reach as they are mounted prominently on the upper outboard side of the engine compartment. This makes daily fluid checks easy and quick. The engine room is extremely tight, but operators are not going to be working on the engine in any case.

Leopard 43 PC rigging

Access to much of the boat's electrical rigging is located to inboard behind a hatch just forward of the master suite sleeping compartment.

Aft Port Guest Stateroom

The aft guest stateroom has a berth situated in a crawl-in compartment identical to that in the master. There's a hullside window with opening portlight built in, as well as an opening portlight aft and a hatch overhead. A pair of shelves with lipped edges run the length of the berth on the inboard side. Again, electrical outlets and USB ports would be welcome.

Leopard 43 PC guest stateroom

The aft port guest stateroom has similar dimensions to the sleeping compartment for the master...

Leopard 43 PC space

...but it has some space at the foot of the bed for dressing in privacy and a hanging locker within its confines.

Leopard 43 PC engine access

Engine access on the port side is beneath the berth in the aft stateroom just as in the master.

Guest Head

The guest head compartment has an opening portlight, mirrored medicine cabinet, a sink with offset faucet, a separate, glass-enclosed shower with European-style shower wand, and a manual-flush freshwater head. It is used by both portside cabins and doubles as a day head for the vessel.

Leopard 43 PC guest head

The guest head optimizes space and has an opening portlight for ventilation in the shower.

Available Four-Stateroom Layout

The available four-stateroom layout (as seen in the layout above) has shared heads amidships in either hull, between the fore and aft staterooms, just like the port hull on the three-stateroom layout. The forward berth in the port hull is open to the forward guest double stateroom, while the starboard forward berth is for crew or a kid (or a nimble adult), and is accessible through a hatch in the foredeck. They are also useful as stowage.

Performance

The Leopard 43 PC has a LOA of 42'8" (13 m), a beam of 22'1" (6.73 m), and a draft of 3'1" (0.94 m) powered with a pair of 320-hp Yanmar 8LV320 diesels matched to 21.65 x 20.27 (550 mm x 515 mm)

props. With an empty weight of 30,700 lbs. (13,925 kg) and a half load of fuel, no water, 50 lbs. (23 kg) of equipment, and three people on board, our test boat had an estimated test weight of 32,097 lbs. (14,559 kg).

During our test, she had a top speed of 24 knots at 3730 rpm. At 1500 rpm, she had a cruising speed of 8.3 knots and a fuel burn of 2.8 gph (10.4 lph) for a fuel economy of 3.0 nmpg (1.47 kpl) and a range of 713.7 nautical miles (1,321 km).

Leopard 43 PC Running

While she has a top speed of 24 knots, she is essentially a displacement cruiser and will reward her owner with 3 nmpg at 8.3 knots.

Fast Cruise. This catamaran offers a range of useful speeds and some boaters may want to go a little faster to get from place to place with limited cruising time. In that case, a fast cruise of 16.7 knots at 2800 rpm had a fuel burn of 15.6 gph (58.9 lph) for a fuel economy of 1.1 nmpg (0.52 lph) and a range of 254.4 nautical miles (471 kph).

Leopard 43 PC hull

The sharp entry on the hulls means she is driven a little differently than a monohull – accelerating through the seas makes her handle the way she should – it's counter intuitive.

Acceleration

From a standing stop, the boat got on plane in 4.2 seconds and went from zero to 20 mph in 6.4 seconds.

Leopard 43 PC Running

Even under hard acceleration, she maintained a near-level running attitude.

Handling

The Leopard 43 PC is sporty in her acceleration and responsiveness to the throttle. That said, she is a bit resistant to the helm at slow speeds, until we got the water flowing past those rudders a bit. She had a flat running attitude in tight turns that may take some getting used to for monohull veterans, but it is proper and doesn't ever give the unsteady or vulnerable feeling that it does in a monohull.

We took our test boat into a tight turn at 19 knots and she made the 360 rotation in 40 seconds and only bled off a knot and a half of speed. This means that there's no need to accelerate into the turn as many monohull drivers may be inclined. We were at a loss for rough conditions so we took her through the wake of our test boat a few times. When taking the waves on the sharp entry forward, the boat asks the driver to

accelerate through the waves, rather than throttling back, and our test boat had no sneeze effect to speak of, in the conditions we created.

Leopard 43 PC running

She kept her level attitude as we passed through the waves of our camera boat.

Docking

Because it's a catamaran, the props are very far apart, so the differential thrust is extremely responsive, countering misgivings someone might have about the response to the rudders. We would not want to be spinning this wheel to try to get into a slip since it's relatively hard to turn (this is not fingertip control) and also it requires 5.5 turns to go from lock-to-lock.

Best to use the steering indicator on the Raymarine autopilot control head above the wheel on the helm dash, turn the wheel to set the rudders to straight ahead, and use the throttle and shift levers to back her down. The Leopard 43 PC is a pussycat, very easygoing and responsive to the controls.

Leopard 43 PC docking

Because the props are so far apart, it is much easier to dock her than a monohull.

Leopard 43 PC throttle

Using the throttle and shift levers, moving them into forward or reverse as needed to adjust position, and the boat is easily maneuvered into a dock.

Price

Base price is \$499,000.

Some Options to Consider

- Northern Lights 9 kW genset (\$30,130)
- Air conditioning, two 16,000-BTU systems (\$16,010)
- Solar panels, 70 watts each (multiple options starting at (\$3,708)
- Watermaker and water treatment system (\$25,718)
- Washer/dryer (\$2,089)
- Electric grill on flybridge (\$1,530)
- Composite teak decking on aft deck, foredeck, transom steps, and flying bridge (\$15,451)

Observations

The Leopard 43 PC has shown how a design can evolve from generation to generation, with new features that remedy problems that arose with earlier designs. The designer Alex Simonis says the interior volume of the 43 PC is 30% larger than the previous model.

The oceangoing capability of this model is belied by its 264-gallon (999 L) fuel capacity, and delivery crews carry a substantial amount of extra fuel (more than the boat's tank capacity) for deliveries from Cape Town to the Caribbean.

While there are those who will say the interior is relatively sterile, we would suggest that it's a clean canvas to better show the personality of her owner.

Because the boats are primarily built for charter, the simple and robust systems should serve owner-cruisers well.

While it has been challenging to find dock space for a boat with a 22'1" (6.73 m) beam in the past, catamarans are considered to be a fast-growing segment globally and new marinas are being built to accommodate them.