



Fountaine Pajot Lucia 40

The French builder of cruising cats celebrates its 40th Anniversary by introducing the elegant and innovative Lucia 40

Strictly Sail Miami has become one of America's largest displays of multihulls and larger cruising cats in particular. For several years, the size of the new cats and trimarans has been increasing to the point where 50 feet seems modest. But last year, Leopard and Nautitech both brought new 40 foot cats to the market and found a very receptive audience for three and four cabin boats of this size and this price range.

Not to be outdone, Fountaine Pajot brought their all new Lucia 40 to the Miami show in February 2016 and the reception was immediate and enthusiastic. The company held a reception for the press the first day of the show and jaded boating writers and sales folk were suitably impressed. There were plenty of honest oohs and ahhs as the gang explored the new boat.

The new Lucia 40 was designed by Olivier Racoupeau at the design firm Berret Racoupeau and is a fine take on where modern cat design is going. The hulls are fairly narrow but wide enough fore and aft to accommodate double berths in both cabins. The topsides are quite high and have large rectangular windows that provide a lot of natural light inside the hulls and great views from the cabins.

The boat has a lot of acreage for a 40 footer which has been put to use to provide plenty of options for easy onboard living, indoor or outdoor meals and

entertaining. With almost 22 feet of beam, the Lucia has really stretched the accommodation factor.

SAILING TRIALS

MQ had a chance to sail the new Lucia 40 after the show in February. We left the docks in Miamarina in Miami with the twin 20-horsepower diesels allowing the boat to spin off the dock and turn in its own length as we negotiated our way into the open channel.

With the helm raised to port where the helmsman is somewhat protected by a small canvas Bimini mounted on the hardtop that covers the after cockpit, visibility forward was good. The chartplotter and all engine controls are handy and accessible. Plus all sheets and control lines lead to the helm so one person can manage sail trim without leaving the wheel.

We put the Lucia through her paces under power and found her very nimble using the twin engines and capable of decent speeds at various revs. At full rpms, the boat will exceed seven and a half knots while at cruising revs of 2500 rpms she will steam in flat water at six and a half knots.

Once we cleared under the Rickenbacker Causeway bridge and entered Biscayne Bay, we turned head to wind, slowed down and raised the big mainsail. With lazy jacks and a furling bag along the boom



the sail is easy to manage but you do have to keep the boat dead into the wind to enable the full length battens to miss snagging on the lazy jacklines.

The main sheet leads to the traveler on the aft end of the cabin top and then runs forward along the boom to the mast and back to the helm and also, the control lines for the traveler run through deck organizers and back to the helm.

We put the engines in neutral and fell off the wind to fill the main and then sheeted it in for close reaching in order to build some speed. Once on course, we rolled out the genoa and sheeted it home, again for close reaching.

The Lucia 40 has a light displacement of 19,500 pounds so the design falls at the lighter end of the cruising cat spectrum. This was obvious as we gained speed in the quite light breezes on the bay. After a couple of minutes, we had the boat nicely in the groove and sailing at almost two thirds of the wind speed—four knots of speed in six to seven knots of wind.

We hardened up to close hauled and then put the boat through a series of tacks. She came through the wind without hesitating, which is a good thing for a cruising cat in light breezes and slow sailing speed. The practical tack to tack angle is about 100 degrees, again quite similar to the angles you will find on other production cats without daggerboards. The Lucia has shorts keels that keep her

draft to just under four feet at three feet, 10 inches.

It was a perfect day for a genniker or reacher, so we hoisted the big sail and rolled in the genoa. The Lucia showed her stuff as we eased her off to about 160 degrees to the true wind which gave us a sailing angle of about 110 to 120 degrees and boat speed getting mighty close to the wind speed.

The Lucia 40 is a fun and satisfying boat to handle under both power and sail and is simple for a couple to manage.

LIVING BOARD

Racoupeau has made excellent use of the platform that the 40 provides. The cockpit is spacious and has an L-shaped dinette that will seat six with folding chairs along one side. Plus there are benches aft and to



starboard. Up forward, a lounging and sunning cockpit has been molded in to the deck so four people can stretch out and enjoy some down time.

The saloon has a wide sliding glass door that opens to the cockpit and provides true indoor-outdoor living. The galley to port has a lot of counter space, four drawers, a three-burner propane stove and twin stainless steel sinks. The two-drawer fridge is built into the cabinetry to starboards and has a large storage cupboard above it.

The dinette will seat six for a meal and offers 360 degree panoramic views of the seascapes around the boat. The chart table has a flip up panel under which a laptop computer can be mounted. Above the table is a raised panel for instruments, radios, satphones and other instruments.

The saloon and cockpit are very liveable spaces with plenty of seating, great natural light and good ventilation. A family or up to three couples will be very comfortable here.

The Lucia can be built with four variations to the sleeping cabin layouts. The owner's version has the master suite in the starboard hull with the king size bed aft, the head and shower forward and the dressing room in the middle. The owner's cabin has a desk that can be used as a dressing table or an office or both.

In this version, there are two guest cabins in the port hull and you can have either two en suite heads or a

single large head with a separate shower stall.

The four cabin version will have two sleeping cabins in each hull. The choice, then, is whether to have four heads without a separate shower or two heads each with a shower.

The boat is finished with Alpi wood that has a distinct wood-like feel and grain but is extremely durable. Plus, if a door or drawer front should get damaged, the builder can replace it with an exact match.

The Lucia 40 is a very pleasing cruising cat that looks great, sails well, motors efficiently and has a lot of living space for it's size. Whether used as a private cruiser or in the charter fleets, 40th Anniversary Lucia 40 will make your time on the water a lot of fun. ■

Fountain Pajot Lucia 40

LOA	38'5"
Beam	21'10"
Draft	3'10"
Displ.	19,500 lbs.
Sail area	1,022 sq. ft.
Engines	2 x 20 hp.
Water	140 gals.
Fuel	80 gals.

www.catamarans-fountain-pajot.com

