

BIG & BOLD

THE NEW RIVIERA 645 SUV COMBINES LARGE, VERSATILE SPACES WITH SMOOTH PERFORMANCE THAT WILL KEEP EVERYONE HAPPY WHETHER AT THE DOCK OR UNDERWAY.

BY ARNIE HAMMERMAN

INSIDE & OUT



The flagship of Riviera's SUV line, the 645, is a perfect family or couple's cruiser with a variety of accommodations ideal for different sizes and types of entertaining. Since popular boating spots in Riviera's native Australia have similar climates to those in Florida, the company builds its boats with both indoor and outdoor spaces that can take advantage of the weather. Doors, windows, and sunroofs can be open wide to let in gentle breezes and connect the spacious living areas, or they can be separated and climate-controlled.

The single-level living area at the heart of the SUV concept works well by keeping everyone together when the boat is underway and providing a central core when entertaining. Like the popular kitchen/great room found in nearly every modern house, this layout has tremendous adaptability. The 645 SUV helm is adjacent to the salon and galley so the driver can interact even while underway. A door to the side deck and a large slider and pop-up window aft open the salon to the mezzanine, cockpit, and foredeck lounge.

The helm features three large, comfortable bucket seats that electrically slide and recline, and the triple Garmin multifunction display screens are within easy reach as are most controls.

On the Water

Easing out of Palm Beach, the Twin Disc EJS joystick provides variable control of transmissions and thrusters and is impressively smooth and accurate. At 69 feet LOA, the 645 SUV is a sizable craft but maneuvers easily, even in the incredibly tight area from which we had to depart. Concealed cockpit wing stations that open on both sides offer additional visibility and keep docking under control.

Once out of the inlet, we spool up the optional twin 1,550-hp MAN V12s and hit a peak speed of 35.8 knots, impressive for a boat with a dry weight of 88,119 pounds. The Riviera 645 SUV accelerates evenly, transitioning easily onto plane. V-drives and a Seatorque system, where the shafts are encased in a sealed tube and bathed in oil all the way from the engine couplings to the props, reduces vibration and noise. Cruising at 2,150 rpm, we hit a sweet spot at 31 knots using 128 gph yielding a calculated range of 372 nautical miles with a 10 percent reserve.

The boat is fun to drive and handles admirably with little speed loss during tightly controlled turns. There is only a light chop, so I aim for the wake of a nearby boat—she slices through without spray or fuss.

It is amazing that a boat this large is as agile and easy to handle. The helm configuration provides excellent visibility for drivers and passengers, and with four of us on board, there is ample seating for everyone.

Well-appointed Interior

On the main deck, high-gloss walnut accents nicely contrast solid-surface, synthetic pearl quartz counter tops with elegant waterfall edges. The galley has abundant drawer-style fridges and freezers and a lengthy island counter perfect for meal prep and serving. A Miele three-burner electric cooktop, combo microwave/convection oven, and a deep stainless steel sink with a garbage disposal provide functionality.

The adjacent lounge with an ottoman faces the galley with a large flatscreen TV housed on the island. A TV can also be placed on a lift behind the helm, but on this boat, that cabinet showcases Riviera-embossed martini and wine glasses in a varnished wood-and-glass display case. The "Newport" option adds a wet bar with

Announcing the Riviera 78 Motoryacht

The largest Riviera to date, the 78 Motoryacht, recently debuted in Australia. The Riviera 78 (81' 5" LOA, 19' 8" beam) hosts abundant accommodations on a grand scale with three decks. The finish is contemporary and elegant with gloss varnished teak contrasted by quartz solid-surface counters, plush fabrics, and richly textured panels. The salon, galley, and alfresco deck provide a host of comfortable gathering areas and enough room for parties of all sizes. The enclosed flybridge has plenty of seating with three helm chairs and lounges both inside and on the sundeck, and features a convenient day head. An open flybridge version is also available.

Twin 2,000-hp MAN V12s with V-drives provide plenty of power and a Twin Disc EJS joystick system makes for easy docking. A Seatorque BOSS system isolates the shafts to ensure smooth, quiet performance and allows thrust to push directly on the vessel rather than pressing back against the engines.

The vessel sleeps eight in four cabins (more if you include the crew cabin) each with its own head. The full-beam master features a walk-in closet and a spacious head with two sinks. Hull No. 1 will be at the Fort Lauderdale boat show in October.



Top: The helm offers excellent visibility from large windows, three comfortable bucket seats, and controls within easy reach. Bottom: The full-beam master suite boasts a king-size berth.



a removable stool, additional drawer fridges, bottle storage, sink, and serving space. The entire salon/galley/bar provides a luxurious area for gatherings, or drop the roller blinds for privacy, to watch the big game, or for movie night.

The accommodations are spacious even in this four-cabin layout. The full-beam master features a king island berth and has huge hull windows on both sides to let in natural light. The ensuite head includes a large separate shower and an access door that leads to a utility/crew room with a washer, dryer, storage, optional bunk, crew head, and engine room access.

A VIP cabin forward has a centerline queen and its own ensuite head. Side cabin twin berths are more than six feet long, suitable for kids and adults. Another guest cabin has twins that can

push together to form a double, and a connecting head that also exits to the foyer for day use.

Outdoor Living

I head up to the salon and out the stainless steel and glass slider to the alfresco deck. This mezzanine creates a perfect transition between the cabin and outdoors. It is covered by the coach top overhead and can be enclosed with Strataglass panels and air-conditioned. Comfortable seating, a folding teak table with integral bottle/glass holders for casual dining, an icemaker, stereo, and a 32-inch flatscreen TV complete this porch-like gathering spot. When weather permits, the overhead sunroof and aft panels open, and a pop-up window and the cabin door can join this space to the interior.

A few steps down, the nearly 100-square-foot cockpit is suited for fishing or can be used to entertain with a dance floor, a cocktail lounge (wet bar included), a place to barbecue with the built-in grill, or all of the above. Buyers can choose transom seating or a windowed, lighted livewell. Twin transom doors connect the cockpit to a large swim platform with a standard hydraulic lift that raises and lowers a tender. I like the idea of slightly lowering the platform to create a wading area or setting up a table and chairs for lunch, or a cocktail while your feet dangle in the water.

Side decks covered in optional teak lead forward from the cockpit, protected by bulwarks and sturdy rails. The port side has both a watertight door into the salon/galley



The open salon/galley area is a great room where all are involved in the festivities.

and a pathway that cuts through into an expansive bow lounge. The deck is recessed ahead of the broad, three-paneled windshield to accommodate the Sunbrella-cushioned seating area complete with a removable table and a Fusion Apollo SRX400 stereo. There is room to sunbathe, but an awning on carbon fiber poles provides shade as well.

At anchor or when Med-moored, I picture quiet times here enjoying the breeze, separated from activities in the cabin or dockside. The

bow is complete with storage, an anchor locker with washdown, a Muir vertical windlass, recessed anchor, and ground tackle.

The Riviera 645 SUV living areas are stylish, comfortable, and spacious. Entertainment spaces are easily connected or separated to best suit the needs of those on board. If you are not sure which you like better, the comfort of the cabin or the fresh air and the stars, you don't have to choose—the Riviera 645 SUV delivers plenty of both. 🍷

SPECS

LOA: 69' 8" (with swim platform and bow sprit)	Power: 2x MAN V12 with V-drives @ 1,550-hp (as tested)
Beam: 19' 1"	Cruise/Max Speed: 21/35.8 knots (as tested)
Draft: 5' 4" (with props)	Range: 372 nautical miles @ 31 knots (based on 90% of fuel capacity)
Dry Weight (approx.): 88,119 lbs.	Contact: Riviera Yachts• rivieraaustralia.com
Fuel/Water: 1,717/198 U.S. gals.	