

PANACHE 1750

When good times go great

Various ranges of boats are available from different dealers – and each has their particular choice in outboard brand to power it. So, although the Panache 1750 has graced these glossy pages before, I have no recollection of it being done with a class-leading Honda at the transom.

Instead of boring you with the same details that we have mentioned in previous reviews, I'll simply state a few of her great selling points as to onboard comfort, moving towards the biggest difference from other reviews, the new 2011 Honda BF 115HP 4-Stroke motor.

Words and pictures by Dean Castle



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SA's Top selling power boat magazine



Deck layout

Panache itself is a great, well-trusted brand. The Panache range of craft have been built in South Africa for over a decade, but built by Don Jarratt — who in my opinion is up there with the best of the SA builders to date. Known for their good finishings, great quality, strong build and excellent comfort, the Panache 1750 delivers everything you'd need from a small skiing boat.



With comfort for up to eight passengers, this craft can be used for skiing, intermediate wakeboarding (if you add a wake tower), tubing and leisure family time — and suits all of the above admirably.

She's got two boarding platforms at the stern with a telescopic ladder. Also aft, the craft has got a stylish ski pole.



The Panache is a bow rider, which is a popular place for the kids. This means moms can sit in the cabin — which maintains warmth if the sun is starting to set and you're travelling home as the air becomes crisp.

A ski-hatch in the walk-through section is present — to keep your gear with you safe and sound at all times.



Performance

Alright, so onto where the real change is. What's it like with a Honda 115 HP? With a 115 HP from Honda, the craft has got plenty of low down grunt, getting onto the plane in roughly 2.5 seconds. At skiing speed of around 30 km/h, the engines are merely at idle at 3 000 rpm. At her top end with little weight on board and the engine trimmed high, she clocked in at 80 km/h at 6 100 rpm. The Honda is pleasantly quiet when you get up to around the 4 000 rpm mark. From there she really starts coming to life with a sporty growl show to show she's awake.

In neutral, the Honda pushes out a low amount of exhaust — and as such, one doesn't have any overwhelming effects from petrol fumes.

With other great benefits, exclusive to the Honda brand for this HP outboard, is BLAST (Boosted Low Speed Torque), that is an optimisation of the fuel supplied and ignition timing during rapid acceleration. ECOmo (Economy Controlled Motor) is another Honda system which facilitates low fuel consumption through the use of lean burn technology. This outboard is also NME compliant, which means the engine permits connection to on-board electronic display equipment such as GPS and Sonar.

Honda also boasts that this engine is in at the top of her class for fuel efficiency and total power output, I would imagine it is, since the fuel tank was still showing full after some time spent in action. This Honda engine is magical, and provides more than enough horses at the transom of this craft.

Fuel to run the Honda outboard is supplied by a 90-litre built in tank — since the Honda seems to be frugal, you can expect to get the most part of a full day's skiing in tow.

This powerful 4-Stroke outboard houses the latest technology to provide an excellent all-round performance for years and years!



On the subject of the Panache 1750 hull, the motor is a great match. She turns more than tightly enough, avoiding cavitation, loss of speed, or control. The deck stayed surprisingly dry, even when driving side on to the wind in a decently choppy Knysna lagoon on the day of the test.

Conclusion

The 1750 Panache is going to be a great boat with just about any brand of outboard motor. But why wouldn't you choose a Honda? It really is a fantastic power option and has got a lot to offer. Honda's are already well known for their reliability and great performance, and are selling like cold drinks on a hot day!

To put it simply, I don't think you could go wrong with choosing a Honda BF 115 for this package.

The craft as reviewed is priced at R255 000 (Full House). For more information contact Honda Marine Knysna on (044) 382 4090, or Honda Marine Somerset West on (021) 851 7710.

