

Legacy₁₇

I suspect boat buyers with modest budgets are under the impression that unless they win the Lotto or partake in something unlawful, most multi-purpose and flashy boats are unaffordable. But Honda Marine Knysna understands that not all of us can spend money like water, which is why they offer the Legacy 17 – a sporty little number with all the performance and options to be found as standard in an affordable and sexy package. Leisure Boating reviews Honda Marine Knysna's Legacy 17.

Words and pictures by Anton Pretorius



“Small in stature, with a big heart!”



Angler's golden touch

The Legacy 17 stands out like a Golden Delicious in a basket of Granny Smith apples on Honda Marine Knysna's showroom floor. Apart from her funky yellow hues, she's also a product of Angler Boats, who have been responsible for producing some of the better quality-crafted boats currently seen on local waters.

Intrigued by the sturdiness of the Legacy 17's construction, I phoned up Angler South Africa's general manager Jason Price for a behind-the-scenes look at the production procedure of this sexy little package.


The process of manufacturing an Angler hull starts at the computer where specifications are fed into the boat's designing computer programme, that provides engineers with an infinite number of options for deck layouts and hull specifications.

But the fibreglass laminate is then hand laid into the mould. This is where an Angler becomes the strong boat that the company is renowned for. Several layers of fibreglass, more than possibly required, go into building the hull. You may never see it, but when you find yourself in a situation requiring a boat of substance and strength, you'll be glad it's there. Every Angler is 100% hand-laid and 100% wood-free.

Jason mentioned that Angler's intention with the Legacy 17 was to produce an affordable and compact craft capable of carrying a 90-130 HP engine and one that would first and foremost appeal to the average family man.

General Impression

I've never been able to get my head around a bright, canary-yellow paint scheme on a boat, as I prefer a more classic, timeless colour. But bright colours are intended for attracting lots of attention and with such vivid funky colours, you'll never be able to miss the Legacy 17 when she's on the water!

With the Legacy, an old saying comes to mind: dynamite comes in small packages, a 17-ft (5.18m) package 



I've never been a big fan of a canary-yellow colour scheme, but you're bound to attract attention on the water with the Legacy 17.

to be exact! This sporty-shaped craft weighs in at just 500 kg and has a beam of 2.1 m. She may appear small, but she has enough onboard space for a small family (and a couple of pets!) to roam around in comfortably.

However, it wasn't her canary-yellow colouring, but instead her power and speed that left a lasting first impression. She planes quickly, moves nimbly and roars with a fair bit of power aft. Together, with a spacious deck and sexy lines, the Legacy 17 packs quite a punch.

Conditions for test

Even though we experienced yet another day of absolute idyllic Knysna weather conditions, and not the testing waters we were hoping for, it still proved to be a great day for boating.

She's possibly more suited to inland waters (dams and rivers), but performed mightily on the more choppy waters of the Knysna Lagoon. We commenced the review around mid-afternoon as the sun slowly dipped behind the beautiful Knysna Heads. With a 30°C temperature and a slight

easterly breeze in our faces, this was boating conditions at its very best.

Launching and trailering

Due to her small physique, the Legacy 17 proved extremely light to tow and one hardly feels as though there is anything behind one's vehicle at all. In fact, it's easy to forget that you're actually towing a boat.

Launching was a simple procedure as Knysna's Harbour slipway provides easy access to the Knysna Lagoon. However, I suspect that getting her launched will prove easy at most other sites.

After some nifty manoeuvring, the Legacy 17 was attached to the rear tow hitch of Honda Marine Knysna's diesel bakkie and as quick as a flash, she was off the galvanised trailer and into the water.

Deck Layout

A cleverly designed deck layout offers sufficient room for up to seven passengers to sit comfortably, but any more and it becomes a tad overcrowded. The Legacy 17 is a bow rider and can seat two to three people upfront and even offers storage space underneath all its seats.

The sexy, cream-coloured, marine-grade and UV-protected upholstery with slight touches of yellow matches its exterior coloration, and looks real



Due to her small physique, the 5.18m Legacy proved extremely easy to tow, launch and retrieve from Knysna Harbour's slipway.

easy on the eye. The pilot and co-pilot bucket seats provide a 360° view of the surroundings allowing you to keep a watchful eye on skiers and proceedings.

A large bench seat aft sits three to four people and allows adequate legroom to stretch out and relax, with lots of sufficient storage space for free. A large ski hatch in the deck keeps your deck clutter-free from skis and larger equipment.

A wrap-around windscreen with a walk-through window to the bow keeps all the elements at bay and gives the skipper maximum visibility. A modern helm area with simplistic instrumentation and a hydraulic, racing-like steering wheel with side-mounted control box add to the boat's sporty appearance.

High padded gunnels provide an element of safety for the kids. A marine grade carpet is fitted in the stern and helm area, while the bow area features a wet deck, both withstanding normal boating conditions.

Performance

Honda Marine is renowned for getting their rigging spot on and the Legacy 17, fitted with a powerful Honda 90HP 4-stroke V-TEC engine is no exception. This is the programmed fuel-injected dynamite I spoke of earlier, and the V-TEC (which kicks in after 3 500 rpm) provides a hair-raising ride on the water, for both skier and passengers.

She shot out of the blocks and planed within 3.5 seconds and registered a top speed of 72 km/h at 6 500 revolutions (GPS Speed). And there's no slow cruising with this craft as we established a decent cruising speed of 60 km/h at 4 800 rpm, still pretty quick for such a small craft.

With a maximum horsepower rating of 135, she's more than capable of towing a heavy-set skier at a blistering pace. So when you see a yellow bolt of lightning on a dam near you, look for the logo, it'll probably read: LEGACY.



The Legacy 17 is a bow rider and her roomy front section offers sufficient space for seating as well as for storage.



Sexy instrumentation, comfortable bucket seats and hydraulic steering makes the Legacy 17's helm area a dream for any skipper.



"So if you see a yellow bolt of lightning on a dam near you, look for the logo, it'll probably read: LEGACY"



A three-step telescopic ladder at the stern makes boarding and disembarking easy.

Handling

At the touch of the throttle, she came out of the hole very quickly, making her one of the most responsive crafts currently on the market. With 90HP at your fingertips, cornering was sharp, and the hydraulic steering made those tight turns thankfully light on the arms.

As we leaped around the choppy lagoon, I noticed how her sharp-shaped hull smoothly cut across the choppy waters without the bumpy ride or hull banging one can experience on the Knysna Lagoon. She sits solidly on the surface with her stern high out the water.

Apart from her excellent manoeuvring ability, she also proved to be extremely dry even when approaching the mouth of the treacherous Knysna Heads where rough waters are a common sight.

Finishing touches

Angler seems to think of everything when building a boat and is focused on executing exquisite finishings. She boasts stainless steel grab handles in the bow and a couple more at the stern. She also has an abundance of cup holders, each with a draining hole for the spillage.

She also features a stainless steel telescopic ladder aft making boarding and disembarking easy for skiers onto the swim platform. What's more, she also has a stainless steel ski-bar that comes standard.

Other standard features include a boat cover, retractable cleats, navigational lights, spare wheel, sun cover, 70-litre built-in fuel tank and a trailer and winch. Optional extras include radio/MP3/CD player, Garmin Fishfinder, GPS Navman, rodholders, safety equipment, VHF radio, fire extinguisher, a rear view mirror and more.

Conclusion

This sexy little package is ideally suited for the family boater with a small amount of relatives and siblings and possibly an even smaller budget. This boat is

likewise designed for those who enjoy a spot of skiing, tubing or just basking in the sun come summer time.

With a price of R196 000 (as tested), she represents outstanding value for money. Not only is she powerful, spacious and good-looking, but the price proves affordable for any entry-level boater. She's the perfect all-rounder and if Angler keeps this up, we might see the Legacy 17 grow in numbers on our waterways.

For more information, please contact Dave Hoets at Honda Marine Knysna on (044) 382 4090 or visit www.hondamarineknysna.co.za or email info@hondamarineknysna.co.za. ■

At a glance

LOA:	17-ft (5.18 m)
Beam:	2.1 m
Weight:	500 kg
Engines:	Honda 90 HP 4-stroke V-TEC
Max Passengers:	7
Fuel Capacity:	70-litre built-in tank
Top Speed:	72 km/h @ 6 200 rpm
Price:	R196 000 (as tested)

RPM	Speed
1 000	9 km/h
2 000	11 km/h
3 000	19 km/h
4 000	47 km/h
5 000	53 km/h
6 000	62 km/h

