



FIRST 45

Philippe Briand designed the new Bénéteau First 45 and if the yacht is anything like as successful as the First 50, this looks like being a sure-fire winner. Essentially, she is designed for high-speed cruising in luxury, but Briand also has an eye on IRC rating and there's no doubt her more effective role will be as a hot club racer.

Twin wheels, a large but ergonomically efficient cockpit, with primaries forward, and a main track that is set on the sole just forward of the steering positions combine to make her worth a close look if you are after a quick cruiser-racer.

www.beneteau.com

Two high-calibre 45s

A couple of 45-footers will be worth comparing when they appear this winter. The Elan 450 has twin rudders, a lot of beam aft and the promise of excellent handling characteristics on all points of sail. The Humphreys design has other interesting features apart from her twin wheels and rudders: a cockpit table that stows in a dedicated space in the cockpit sole and a

swivelling stemhead fitting for the anchor are two.

A recessed headstay furler, flush hatches and retractable sprit make this boat feel more like a racing machine than cruiser, but there are three- and four-cabin layouts below decks, which features horizontally grained maple and American walnut.

www.elan-marine.com



ELAN 450

STADTSHIP 70

Van de Stadt 70 from K&M

This rugged-looking 70-footer with twin cockpits, eight berths in four staterooms, a carbon rig and a 29-ton displacement aluminium hull looks as though she could take on just about anything you cared to throw at her weatherwise.

In addition to her lead-ballasted bulb keel, which draws 9ft 10in/2.9m, the Van de Stadt design is fitted with 1,500lt ballast tanks.

She has a long waterline (61ft/18.60m) for her overall length and should prove powerful and fast on the water.

K&M, the yachtbuilders based in Makkum, northern Holland, say it will take about a year to complete the

70. They launched a Stadtship 47 in July and have had enquiries for 52ft and 58ft Stadtships.

The yard also has four more orders on its books: a Gerry Dijkstra-designed Bestevaer 53ST and a 55, a 39-footer and an Icon 48.

If you're looking for a tough cruising yacht, put K&M on your list as one to visit.

www.kmy.nl

