

Bavaria Cruiser 56

Bavaria have so reworked their 55 with Farr that it's almost unrecognisable from the boat launched just four years ago. This new 56 is as big as the German giants can go in their factory and it represents another huge leap in quality. The hull comes from the same mould, but the sheerline has been reduced and a different keel designed.

The main change is that her renewed, innovative interior now features 1.9m berths in the aft cabins, yet can still fit a 3.10m dinghy in the transom. To achieve this Bavaria developed an inflatable dinghy with a bow section that collapses – an ingenious system that allows the stowage of a large V-keeled dinghy. To recover it onto the transom, the front half is deflated to fit into the garage, with the outboard still mounted. An electric high-pressure pump is installed

 LOA
 16.75m
 54ft 9in

 LWL
 14.96m
 49ft 0in

 Beam
 4.87m
 16ft 0in

 Draught
 2.35m/
 7ft 7in/

 1.90m
 6ft 2in

in the garage, so you can launch it literally within a couple of minutes.

The deck liner, mast and deck have all changed on the 56, and, thanks to the imagination of Design Unlimited, the interior is a world away from her predecessor, with a superb U-shaped galley amidships and a chart table ruling over it aft. Six layout options provide three to five cabins, including for the first time a crew cabin.

The overall finish, including the teak Alpi veneer, is impressive. Those in the market for a Jeanneau 57, Hanse 575 or Oceanis 55 may need to think again.

Price ex VAT €262,900 (£227,155) www.bavaria-yachtbau.com