

Yachting World



MARCH 2021

15

FASCINATING
NEW YACHTS
TESTED

EXPERT TIPS

Steer fast downwind
Cope with seasickness
Reduce human error

Your greatest

ADVENTURE...

Lessons from 200,000 miles at sea // Cruising in an uncertain world
Atlantic crossing experiences // The ultimate expedition sailor



BLUEWATER CRUISERS

NOMINEES

Boreal 47.2 // Garcia Explocat 52 //
Ovni 400 // Pegasus 50 //
Viator Explorer 42 DS (no show)

Although this is an irregular category, it proved particularly stimulating to have a crop of go-anywhere boats to zero in on this year. To have five contenders, four of which are bare aluminium yachts, shows the recent spike in interest in expedition-style cruising.

Garcia's Explocat 52 adds the other popular area of growth in sail – multihulls – to create an innovative, well-conceived and well-built luxury bluewater boat. It proved a hit on the water, with most judges enjoying the sailing experience, particularly in stronger breeze and is clearly capable of much faster passagemaking speeds than expedition monohulls of a similar length.

The Garcia has a high standard of finish, excellent thermal insulation, and generous tankage and stowage. For more, see our February 2021 issue test on yachtingworld.com.

We also did a report on the Ovni 400 in our October issue, remarking how the shoal draught ability of aluminium Ovnis have attracted serious cruisers since the 1970s. This 400 is the modern iteration, with beamy hull, purposeful coachroof, and generous volume. It may not be as refined as some judges were expecting, but it offers plenty for the serious voyager to consider.

The Pegasus 50 is our cover model this month, an appealing new and original concept from a new Slovenian brand formed of experienced hands. They wanted to produce the best possible combination of comfort, safety, speed and ease of maintenance. Innovative features include gimbaling saloon seating and a tandem fin keel connected by a bulb.

The jury was frustrated not to have enough breeze in Cannes to do the boat justice, but those who sampled it wind up to 10 knots reported that it sailed really well. The comfortable internal pilotstation is a key feature, as is having only two steps between cockpit and saloon.



Jérôme Houyvel/Garcia Yachts

The €1.3m Explocat 52 has versatile appeal, including speed



EYOT/Andreas Lindblom

Ovni's modern take on its proven formula. From €309,000



Samo Vidar

The Pegasus 50, a new concept from Slovenia, is full of interesting ideas. We hope to feature more soon. Sailaway price is €650,000

EYOT/Andreas Lindblom