

*Frances and Michael Howorth are on-hand for the launch of Evil Zana, the first of Sunseeker's new Predator 130s, and find that three more are headed to Hong Kong*

# GREAT YACHTS, WICKED THOUGHTS





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► **THE RECENT SOUTHAMPTON BOAT SHOW IN THE UK WAS THE SETTING FOR THE STAR-STUDED LAUNCH OF *EVIL ZANA*, THE FIRST IN THE NEW PREDATOR 130 SERIES FROM SUNSEEKER.** At 11:30 in the morning, an expectant crowd gathered around the stern of the 38-metre superyacht that had arrived straight from the yard onto her berth just four hours earlier. This was to be the world premier of a brand new boat and as with all Sunseeker unveilings, it was set to be a spectacle.

Company CEO Robert Braithwaite CBE climbed the stairs and stood on the aft deck. Welcoming those attending, he said his guest would cut the ribbon immediately after we had been entertained, whereupon he invited *Escala*, the female classical quartet, who shot to fame after appearing on a TV talent show, to perform. Up on the sundeck, the seductive, all-girl string quartet started into their distinctive renditions of well-known hits. After, Formula 1 race celebrity Eddie Jordan, a serial Sunseeker owner, cut the ribbon and officially launched the yacht onto the market.

It is this combination of showmanship and a hard-earned reputation for excellence and an unceasing desire for improvement that has driven Sunseeker to greatness over the past 40 years. The company has become known both as an innovator and a guardian of traditional boat-building skills – not an easy feat. Despite its success, the company refuses to stand still.

From the early models of the mid-1970s to today, the company's reputation for performance is also matched by its ability to design and develop stunning interiors and

*Evil Zana* is no exception. Her sleek design provides a two-and-a-half deck layout along with an exceptionally large flybridge that offers plenty of seating and sunbathing space, plus a full bar layout and spa tub. The hardtop with opening sunroof gives shelter over the flybridge helm and seating/dining areas.

As larger craft have become more popular, so the demand for more highly specified interiors has grown. To meet this demand, Sunseeker has built up a team of designers to provide individual clients with a personalised service that ensures every consideration is thought through and implemented to the highest standard.

Like every Predator 130, *Evil Zana* is a one-off, bespoke to a unique set of specifications, which determines layouts and configurations throughout the boat and offers spacious accommodation for up to ten guests. To some, this would be a challenge, leaving them open to mistakes. Sunseeker has implemented lean manufacturing techniques to ensure every yacht achieves excellent build quality and finish that is prized by owners and envied by anyone else.





*Evil Zana*, the first in the series, will not be delivered until early next year when she will be shipped to the Aegean. Hull number 2 is Australian bound, hull 3 is off to the USA and hull numbers 4, 5 and 6 are all bound for Hong Kong and will arrive in 2011 thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of Gordon Hui at Sunseeker Asia.

#### LUXURY LOADINGS

The large aft cockpit aboard *Evil Zana* provides ample space for al-fresco dining and seating, it also offers the main entrance into the yacht. Hull 1 has been finished throughout with a light oak interior and touches of ivory lacquer, highlighting the contemporary decor and giving the interior an airy and spacious feel. The large saloon feels even bigger and lighter due to one of the special options included on this yacht, two hydraulically opening symmetrical side-opening balconies, one on each side. The dining room forward is partly separated from the main saloon by a central unit, an



elegant partition of shelving and lockers, giving privacy but continuing the open feel and giving definition to a large space.

Moving forward, the well-laid out, fully-equipped galley is to port with separate work and preparation areas and large storage capacity. To starboard, steps lead up to a raised bridge to starboard. This large open wheelhouse has direct access onto the flybridge, which is a rather dramatic entertaining area that has dining, seating, a bar and glass-fronted Jacuzzi. An ingenious sunshade folds out from the radar arch – the models to be imported into Hong Kong, where the heat can be oppressive, this space is likely to feature a glass roof and an air-conditioned sky lounge beneath.

The full-width owner's stateroom is located forward on the main deck and includes another opening balcony on the port side – the first ever to be featured onboard a Sunseeker. With the private terrace open, the master bedroom feels huge and this is sure to make the series extremely popular. Sunseeker plans to add this option to other models. The full width en-suite bathroom features a walk-in shower and steam room with chromed fittings and body jets from the Axor Stark range by Hansgrohe and stylish Massaud basins with waterfall taps.

The lower deck normally comprises two large double guest suites aft and two double cabins all with their own en-suite facilities. Again, as an option, one of the lower deck guest cabins has been customised as a gymnasium. The crew area located forward, with separate access through the galley, includes a mess, galley and accommodation for up to seven crew in four en-suite cabin.

#### PREDATOR PERFORMANCE

The Predator 130 is the latest and largest in the company's performance motor yacht range and has been designed with true blue-water cruising in mind. *Evil Zana* has a well-proven hard-





### SPECIFICATIONS – SUNSEEKER PREDATOR 130

Length overall	38.62m (126'8")
Length waterline	30.93m (101'6")
Beam maximum	8.00m (26'3")
Draught	2.66m (8'9")
Height	7.24m (23'9")
Displacement	177600kg (391541lbs)
Total fuel capacity	27800 litres (7347 US gal.)
Fresh water capacity	5228 litres (1382 US gal.)
Black water capacity	1483 litres (392 US gal.)
Grey water capacity	1435 litres (379 US gal.)
Propulsion	Twin shaft
Generators	2 x 70kW 400/230V 3 phase 50Hz

### ENGINE OPTIONS

Option 1	2 x MTU V12 4000 M70 2335 bhp @ 2000rpm
Option 2	2 x MTU V12 4000 M90 2735 bhp @ 2100rpm
Option 3	2 x MTU V12 4000 M93L 3460 bhp @ 2100rpm
Maximum speed	27 knots
Range at 12 knots	1500 nautical miles
Classification	RINA
Notation	C HULL MACH Y Unrestricted navigation

chine and deep-V hull design that offers good sea-keeping qualities, making her easy to handle in most sea conditions.

*Evil Zana* comes packed with most of the features expected, such as the latest navigation and communication equipment. Her computerised engine management coupled with touch screen monitoring provides the crew with information that is quite literally available at their fingertips, which not only improves efficiency and safety but it also helps prevent malfunction. Use of hydraulics, computer-controlled generators and electrical systems add to the boat's reliability. A substantial garage aft offers space to house a large tender, jet-ski and other water sport equipment.

The quest for both economy and performance in motor yachting may sound contrary, but the design and engineering team have delivered a well-balanced combination of innovation and proven form.



Settling into the helm seats on the fly bridge, the visibility is about as good as you would expect on a boat this large. It is not great aft, mainly because of the long fly bridge overhang, but the powerful thrusters did see us clear of the dock without any problem. On passage from Poole, *Evil Zana* achieved speeds of around 25 knots and Sunseeker believes she will achieve around 27 knots before she is handed over to her new owners.

### DESIGN IN DEPTH

The design for the new Predator 130 began with Sunseeker's Technology Centre, where all of the range starts life. Here, computational fluid dynamics test the yacht's structure, honing the shape until optimum performance is achieved. A virtual 3D drawing is then created, so all the different departments – from metal work to

interior design – work from the same blueprint. This means that, when the physical build began every measurement was accurate to the last millimetre.

*Evil Zana* features a hand-laid FRP structure with XL gelcoat for the white hull to give the best possible weathering resistance and gloss retention. The hull is stiffened with longitudinal stringers supported by transverse bulkheads and floors, and is stitched to a multi-axial reinforced single skin bottom. Balsa core is used for the hull topsides and PVC foam core is used for the deck and superstructure.

The company employs the Six Sigma production processes system, a statistic-based manufacturing climate perfected in the motor car industry that maximises efficiency and accuracy, and drives out problems during production. Step aboard *Evil Zana* and the meaning of this becomes apparent. Close a door, turn on a tap, run a finger along a cabinet's surface and it all feels right.

From the smallest day-boat to the largest tri-deck yacht, Sunseeker maintains a high-performance hull design pedigree that ensures exceptional levels of performance, handling and sea-keeping.

Despite success, the company never stands still the team constantly seeks ways of pushing performance and creating ever-more spacious and luxurious interiors. The result is that they now provide a global benchmark for power and luxury motor yachts and *Evil Zana* is very good at upholding that status. ■■■

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