

Comfort is built into the Thunder, which has undergone a refit

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Palm Beach International Boat Show 2022: The superfast Thunder has undergone two refits to make interiors super sleek, too

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Custom built for speed in 1998 by the Australian yard Oceanfast, designed by Jon Bannenberg, and bringing with it a storied past that does not stop, the 164-foot Thunder, has gone through a few amazing iterations that included a Thunder A, a Thunder B, and a just plain Thunder. But the yacht is anything but plain.

In its first iteration, to garner speeds up to 49.4 mph per its owner's request, the hull and superstructure were constructed of super-stiff carbon fiber. It had two 2,950-hp diesels, KaMeWa water jets and a 4600-hp Textron Lycoming gas turbine. To make it look as fast as it went, the boat was embellished with military-style top-deck air intakes and two fighter-jet-style circular exhausts that protruded from the stern.

In a more recent version, Thunder was sold to a new owner in 2013. It then underwent a no-expense-spared refit in 2016 — which included interiors lavishly redone, reportedly by Italian designer Roberto Cavalli, with finishes that included stones, metals, ceramics, rare wood inlays, and skins and hides of stingray, crocodile, alligator and cobra.

Then, after it was sold again in 2019, it underwent yet another refit at Rybovich in 2021. Leaving the Cavalli interiors largely intact, the yacht's exterior was completely repainted, the gas-turbine and its five-ton gearbox were removed, and the jet exhausts were sealed.

That's pretty much the basis of where we are now, said IYC yacht consultant Michael Rafferty, clarifying that "the present owner bought the boat a year-and-a-half ago, and planned on doing a refit. He did three-quarters of it — everything but a new interior. He found

another boat, which he decided he wanted to buy, and put this one on the market.

“This has a brand new Rybovich paint job and it shows well,” he said. “We’ve had it in two boat shows and it has received a lot of interest. Most people would prefer to change out the interiors, but some people like it.”

For its layout, on the main deck are the dining area and main salon, galley, and a guest stateroom forward. In the bow is a large pool. The sundeck offers seating for lounging. Below deck, the master stateroom, three additional staterooms and a massage room are forward, with the engine room and crew quarters aft, separated by a soundproof bulkhead. There’s also an aft swim platform.

The master stateroom centers on a king-size bed, and one of its ensuite bathrooms is fitted with a steam shower. The ceiling in the salon soars 10 feet. Air-conditioned and with sliding glass doors, the dining area doubles as an indoor and outdoor space. When the pool is not in use, it can house the tender.

Thunder now has two 2,800-hp diesel engines giving the yacht a top speed of 25 knots and a range of 3,000 nautical miles. Thunder is priced at \$8.8 million.

For information, call Rafferty at 561-758-5608.

As of press time, the FD92 is slated to be shown during the 2022 Palm Beach International Boat Show at slip E105.