

5/20/2022

pearl-beach-soel-catamaran



Electric Ship

Electric boat: Pearl Beach Resort French Polynesia Bora-Bora

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This webpage QR code

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Le Pearl Beach in Bora Bora was one of the first early adopters for the Soel solar powered electric carbon fiber catamaran back in 2018. My comments are provided in the review.

PDF Version of the webpage (first pages)

Pearl Beach Resort and Spa Solar Cat Review

Overall Impressions: Silent. Sleek. Beautiful. I had the pleasure to do two sunset charters, and a daytime transfer between Pearl Beach Resort and the Conrad Hilton Resort, in Bora Bora. During the first charter, we electrically cruised for sunset, did some power ramp-up and ramp-down tests. Beverages were served in the center bar for our charter of four. The night LED lighting onboard, and underwater are very impressive and mood setting.

The second charter was a transfer between resorts, midday. This session I was able to take drone images and video of the cat in operation. It was in this session that we saw the solar panels on top had turned white due to UV degradation.

The last charter was another sunset charter, running with the port electric propulsion only, since the right (starboard) side motor was overheating. Operation of the cat was unimpaired. While we launched from the Bora Bora Hilton, we docked at The Yacht Club for dinner. All seamless operation, and without any noise from the engines.

The craftsmanship is incredible. I would put this in the luxury yacht category for fit and finish of the beautiful fiberglass (carbon) hulls. This is the perfect platform for luxury charters (both day and night). There is plenty of protection (both freeboard and from the wind), for the lagoon operations in and around Bora Bora. It was a thrill to ride, and even the non electric-propulsion-fan guests were very impressed (silent operation, and no smell from a hydrocarbon fueled engine).

Comfort: Excellent for both crew and passengers. Very comfortable bench seating on the partially enclosed deck. There is a net/trampoline forward of the steering station on the bow. Seating was very comfortable. The basic design could easily be multi-platform (hauling, cruising, patrol, etc.) with minor modifications.

Seaworthy: The electric boat catamaran tracked well, and has good handling qualities. The light weight might of the hulls did not seem to adversely effect motion, even with large wake/waves from other boats, the craft performed well. While the craft was only operated in the lagoon area (on my charters), it appears to be well suited for any lagoon and near-island activities. It's an extremely comfortable and stable ride.

Access: Engine and systems access is poor. While the bathroom in the port hull is nicely tucked away below, the access is poor, and somewhat of a challenge (you have to climb down a vertical ladder/stair). There is a side ama boarding access for occupants on both port and starboard. As a luxury charter craft, a single level access is desired. There is a hinged (retractable) water ladder at the stern. The anchor is in the front middle, between the amas.

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