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UP FOR SAIL

You're in for a huge surprise. You'll soon find the coolest looking sports boats speeding off Mumbai's Chowpatty

IT'S not often that one gets to spin off in a sports boat off Mumbai's famed Chowpatty at 11 in the night with a searchlight so powerful you think you can see Mandwa on the other side. Add the fact that it is a Sea Ray 290 Sun Sport, the fastest boat on Indian shores so far and costs post landed duty etc, a cool crore. Bought by Bajaj Holdings, this is the industrial family's first foray into the world of water vehicles. Next we hear is a yacht and we hear they are looking at the likes of a Ferretti, the price tag which could be anything upto Rs 4 crore.

The futuristic-looking white sleek craft, features the latest in nautical design coupled with a European flair and is powered by twin Mercruiser 350 Magnum MPI engines delivering an earth-shattering propulsion power. "The aim is leisure boating. Yes, the consumer of a Sea Ray is definitely brand conscious too and is an individual who likes style, speed and comfort in addition to results," says Anju Dutta of Marine Solutions, which brought in the boat. Dutta is also in the process of bringing in a large number of other Sea Ray models of different sizes and styles as the number of sea farers and lifestyle clientele is increasing.

The absence of a marina and inadequate docking facilities do not seem to be a deterrent to the small yet growing number of people interested in buying quality speed boats. "There are a number of people who just see the catalogue, want the same boat and ask us if we will take care of the rest, from maintenance to docking, etc," adds Dutta. Of course, the Bajaj family has also gone in for a Floatlift, which is an ultra high speed hy-

draulic lift which keeps the entire boat off the water and covered with a special canopy too at an additional cost of Rs 1.6 lakh.

The Sea Ray is America's most loved boating brand. The 290 Sun Sport is an attractive new model with great looks that incorporates a deep V hull for improved speed and smoother rides and an air-conditioned cuddy cabin with all the amenities for a comfortable over-

night stay. A definite eye-catcher which was obvious from the kind of corporates who walked over out of a curiosity to check it out.

The 290 Sun Sport offers a cockpit with good seating room, a wet bar with sink, glove box, in-floor and side storage. The integral swim platform has a three-step swim ladder with grab handle for easy, safe boarding. The cabin features a classy bed cum seating arrangement, galley complete with refrigerator, sink, microwave oven and good storage and a comfortably appointed toilet. The helm has a simulated burl wood dash, custom instrumentation and gauges, and a Euro style tilt steering wheel. All accessories are neatly grouped on two ergonomically friendly illuminated keypads.

Operational controls are perfectly placed for easy navigation and the helm seat features a flip up thigh rise bolster for added comfort and enhanced navigational view as well. The stringent USCG and CE certification norms adhered to by the Sea Ray yard ensures that the craft is completely safe and sea-worthy. "Well, our clients do not want to go further than Goa, which they can with permission, as for Mandwa, it is a six minute ride in this, at its full speed of 55 knots," says Dutta.

Well then, bon voyage.

NANDINI RAGHAVENDRA



Bharat Chanda

boards change spots



ks are no walkover

cene, the banking hall of a nation-
(any one) in one of the metros. You
ask the counter clerk, busy knit-
talking the latest episode of 'Saas
you could have your pasbook up-

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