

Jeanneau - Velasco 43F (2015-)



Captain's Report



The most important difference between the Velasco 43 and the new Velasco 43F is the rake of the forward windshield and the absence of skylights in the forward, flybridge cowling. Also, the radar mast has been moved aft and minimized and fins have been added to balance the overall look of the boat's top hamper and to support the radar arch.



Here we see the Jeanneau Velasco 43 that we tested some time ago. Inside, the two models are virtually the same.

The Jeanneau Velasco 43F is designed to appeal to boaters looking for a more conventional-looking sedan design, rather than something inspired by a North Sea trawler. The concept of the Velasco 43 was to have a good turn of speed and not be a displacement cruiser, so Jeanneau has rectified this apparent contradiction between style and function in the new Velasco 43F model.

By adding double thrusters to the Velasco 43F as standard equipment the boat becomes as easy to dock as she would with a joystick, something that should appeal to all owners, including ones moving up from much smaller boats.

With two private, en suite staterooms, the 43F, just like the 43, becomes a comfortable vessel for two couples on longer cruises. Convertible seating in the salon means the boat can accommodate a growing family.

Power and Propulsion

Using inboard propulsion with V-drive transmissions lets Jeanneau design as much cabin space into the boat as possible, which is one of the major features of the vessel.

Standard power is a pair of 380-hp 6.7-liter Cummins diesel inboards with V-drive transmissions and underwater exhaust.

We have not tested the Velasco 43F so we have no performance numbers. We did, however, test the Velasco 43 with the same engines in 2014 and since the boats are identical in weight and major specs we should see no reason why there would be much difference in performance between the two models. In fact, if anything, the Velasco 43F might be slightly faster as her shape is a little more aerodynamic.

The Velasco 43 we tested ran at a top speed of 31.9 mph at 3070 rpm and had a best cruise speed of 26.1 mph at 2700 rpm. At that cruising speed, the boat's range was 287 statute miles.

For those who would like to travel at displacement speeds, at 1200 rpm we recorded 7.4 knots, burning 4.2 gph, giving her a range on 503 nautical miles.

Handling Characteristics

Under acceleration, the Velasco 43F has a 5-degree bow rise and she seems fairly comfortable maintaining that angle at cruising speeds. With her foredeck angling down slightly toward the bow, she maintains good sightlines for captains at the lower helm. In maneuvers, she leans 10 degrees into turns. She handles sea conditions well and should present a comfortable platform for extended trips.

Construction

Jeanneau builds the Velasco 43F with resin infusion and end-grain balsa coring to provide the best combination of strength and weight. Infusion distributes the resin evenly and prevents over-saturation. To protect against potential water intrusion, the core material is fully encapsulated in vinylester resin. The gelcoat is the industry standard of 22 mils thick and is backed by a vinylester resin skin coat, layers of fiberglass, the core and more fiberglass. Any areas in the hull where a thru-hull fitting is used are solid fiberglass.

The Velasco 43F has narrow window mullions, which provide maximum visibility through all the windows, yet still supports the flybridge and the passengers sitting up there.

Systems and Maintenance

The 12-volt system consists of two 75-Ah batteries and three 115-Ah versions with two 40-Amp chargers. The boat comes with a shore power connection. Freshwater capacity is 106 gallons (401 L) and the water heater is in the engine compartment. Engine access is via a hatch in the cockpit sole.



The flybridge can accommodate a crowd with a U-shaped seating forward and the optional double-wide chaise lounge-style area aft.



When underway, the seat back on the flybridge dinette swings back creating a forward-facing companion seat that we like.

The Flying Bridge

The Velasco 43F's flybridge is accessed by open, ladder-style stairs on the starboard side of the cockpit. A hatch closes off the bridge area once everyone is up there. Forward to port the large horseshoe-shaped lounge has storage in the base and is a good place for the family to enjoy lunch at the adjustable table. The captain runs the boat from a compact flybridge helm that has a swiveling bucket seat.

The extended flybridge is large for a boat in the 45' (13.7 m) range. This adds more usable space on the upper deck including the availability of an optional double-wide sunpad -- and provides shade for the deck below and allows it to be buttoned up with isinglass for 3-season operation.

The lower helm will be the preferred station for running the boat at night or during inclement weather. The Velasco 43F's lower helm has a doublewide seat with a single foldup bolster so if the captain wants to stand, the co-pilot has to as well. The dash panel is darkened to reduce glare on the engine management screens and there's space for navigation equipment of the owner's choice.

The starboard door adjacent to the helm allows easy passage to the side cleats, bow or stern, for single-handed operation. The Velasco 43F has asymmetrical side decks with 15.5" (39.37 cm) on the starboard side and 12.5" (31.75 cm) to port. On the Velasco 43's port side deck, our Test Captain, Steve Larivee had to twist sideways, but could still make it to the bow.



With a pair of 370-hp Cummins inboards, the Velasco 43F should perform every bit as well as her Velasco 43 sister.

The Great Outdoors

On the Stern. While the flybridge may be the preferred place to hang out on the Velasco 43F, the cockpit and huge swim platform provide other venues for entertaining and other activities. The platform has plenty of space for a tender or personal watercraft and the boarding ladder tucks into a locker to starboard. On that same side of the transom is gated access to the cockpit. The lounge has tall backrests and storage in the base and when swimmers want to wash off the salt there is a hot freshwater shower.



In the cockpit, the LED lights are part of the “Premiere” upgrade package. Note the handrail recessed into the gunwale for security.

Tall bulwarks for the side sidedecks protect deck hands as they move forward to the Velasco 43F’s foredeck. Providing handholds for security seems to be a theme on this boat as we found rails on each side of the raised lounge on the bow. The power windlass will facilitate anchor retrieval.



The foredeck sun pad is all about passenger security with raised outer sections and rails on each side.



The Velasco 43F's cockpit, salon, galley and lower helm are on the same level, creating an attractive layout for entertaining.

Salon and Dining

A smart design, the glass door that opens to the salon from the cockpit has four panels and a total of three that slide, opening as much space as possible to create an "outdoor" feel even when folks are sitting in the salon. To port, a long aft facing lounge has storage in the base. Directly across, the family can relax around the adjustable table while seated on the horseshoe-shaped lounge. The table lowers and a filler cushion turns this area into a berth. If an owner opts for air conditioning, it does restrict the storage capacity of the lounge.



Large windows and narrow mullions let in plenty of natural light and provide excellent views of the surroundings.

Galley

The Velasco 43F's galley is efficiently laid out with twin stainless steel sinks in the forward section and a gas burner and oven outboard. The refrigerator is 4.6 cu. ft. (130 L) and storage drawers provide space for cutlery and related accessories.



The cook can open the sliding galley window to port to let out cooking odors and bring in fresh air.



The Velasco 43F has two heads with separate shower stalls, which is not always a given on a boat that's less than 45' (13.7 m) long. We consider this one of the important features of the boat.

Accommodations

A small central companionway forward of the lower helm leads below decks to the staterooms. The master quarters in the bow have a double berth with integrated storage drawers. Aft to port we find a large hanging locker and entry to the master head, which has a separate shower stall and an electric freshwater toilet. [jeanneau_velasco43f_masterstateroom_2015.jpg](#)

Long side windows with integrated portals and two overhead deck hatches, one of which opens, lets in plenty of fresh air and natural light.



The skylight in the port dash illuminates the master head, creating an open feel.

The guest stateroom, like many in this class, has two single berths with integrated storage, plus a hanging locker. Large side windows let in light and have sections that open. Occupants of this cabin will have their own facilities in the day head, which has its own separate shower stall.

Major Standard Features

- Electric windlass
- Teak swim platform
- Hot and cold cockpit shower
- Helm access door to sidedecks
- Master and day head with electric toilets and shower stalls
- Two 40-Amp battery chargers
- Fire extinguishing system



Long windows in the hull sides and the panoramic glass in the salon provide excellent views and enhance the Velasco 43F's lines.

Options to Consider

The Velasco 43F base boat has over 50 major options available so that consumers can tailor-make the boat for their individual application. Here are a few of the basics, but for a complete list, check the Jeanneau website.

- Flybridge entertainment center with freshwater, refrigerator and grill
- Flybridge Bimini top
- 11 kW diesel generator
- Anchoring kit
- 12V/220V-2000W inverter

Observations

Buyers looking for a flybridge cruiser in the 45' (13.7 m) range with a more conventional sedan styling profile should give the Jeanneau Velasco 43F a look. Those who want to signal to friends a more long distance, sea-going approach to boating should consider the salty-looking Velasco 43.

Either way, with the V-drive, living space below decks has been maximized, and performance capabilities and layout are the same.