RKL 28 PICNIC LAUNCH

FIRENZE was launched in late August, 1992 to take her place among the small fleet of custom built wooden speedboats lovingly created and kept alive for generations by their owners. Her design is of the moderate displacement warped vee bottom philosophy, and she takes advantage of the propulsive efficiency of a Volvo DuoProp stern drive. Her trials yielded the eye opening speed of thirty-three knots.

An ideal day boat for commuting to an island cottage and for picnicking, *FIRENZE* was built by Bob Lincoln of Mount Desert, former builder of the fine WEST system cold molded wooden rowing craft. She is as much a testimonial to the love of wood and the way this living material can be fashioned into durable artwork, as she is proof that a simple bottom can be combined with a single engine and still produce thrilling speed. Unfortunately Bob himself has moved on to other pursuits. However we are able to offer plans and further construction advice to others who might desire a sistership.

The combination of a large tentlike cockpit cover which folds forward of the windshield, plus two berths and an environmentally compatible Lectra San beneath the mahogany and holly clad foredeck, make fair weather overnights an intriguing possibility. We have specified unusual amounts of sound insulation within the aft engine space, and an oversize 100 gallon gasoline tank, enabling long sprints to be accomplished in quiet comfort should the inclination arise. Your sistership could be propelled by diesel as opposed to gasoline at a sligh deficit in speed.

FIRENZE makes an interesting contrast with *MANDALAY*, illustrating the versatility of the design team at Paine Yacht Design. We are happy to undertake projects of any size, power or sail, in wood, composite GRP, or aluminum, the only requirement being on owner of exceptionally good taste who views a yacht as a work of art which enhances not only his own life but in its small way the aesthetic quality of the nautical environment itself.


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