

# Sensation 17 DL

**DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH!**

Words by Anton Pretorius

Pictures by Anton Pretorius and Dean Castle

*Let's get the best part out of the way. The Sensation 17 DL is priced at R149 000, which is a far cry from almost anything else you would be able to purchase brand new to date in this segment of the market!*





**T**he sensational boat-building duo of Andre and Riaan van Helsdingen are looking to turn things around from post-recession with their all-new Sensation 17 DL, and once again make boating affordable, just like the good 'ol days!

Factors like the global economic downturn and new legislation have hampered the entry-level segment of our market. Dealers are noticing that more and more first-time buyers being deterred by boat prices. And with tighter belts, virgin boaters have to settle for second-hand craft, which could ultimately lead to their disappointment. With their fingers firmly on the pulse of the boating market, Vereeniging-based boat manufacturers Andre and Riaan van Helsdingen of Twin Boats and Trailers have seen the need to resurrect the demand for affordable, entry-level boats, and thus, lay the foundations for a growing boating industry. After all, they believe in boating for the future.

Thanks to their recent export deal, where 50 Sensation boats were shipped to Denmark due to the demand from the Danish market, the twins were able to subsidise on moulds and material, and create a boat that'll not only be affordable to the average Joe, but also offer the novice boater an all-round boating experience. Behold, the new Sensation 17 DL!

The Sensation 17 DL has been in development for the past year, and meticulous attention to detail was put into its construction. Built with a unique lamination schedule that puts

the strength where it's needed without adding unnecessary weight, it increases the performance and fuel economy of the boat.

The lamination process features an advanced gelcoat that offers superior resistance to yellowing, fading and chalking. To help prevent hull blisters, Twin Boats also use isopholic resin because of its superior bonding and exceptional flexibility. Also, according to Twin Boats and Trailers, all Sensation boats feature 100% wood-free construction, meaning it's more rigid and isn't susceptible to nasty wood-rot.

### Deck layout

Measuring in at 17-ft (5.19 m), and weighing in at under 700 kg, the Sensation 17 DL is the new featherweight champion of the industry. With limited space at their disposal, the twins built her ergonomically that



a family of five can move around yet sit comfortably onboard. The D stands for Diamond, and the L for L-shaped seating - both unique features of the Sensation 17 DL. Subtle diamond-shaped designs are evident in the craft's finishing, as noticed around the cleats, windshield and dashboard — making her look very modern and funky.

The L-shaped stern seating provides enough space to stretch your legs or soak up some sun, while the spacious bow area provides a nice, upfront ride for additional family members. Both areas are complemented with quality and comfortable upholstery with plenty



of storage underneath.

The helm area is particularly fancy, but consists of all the necessary instrumentation you'd expect on quality, but standard boat. Built into the binnacle is a beautiful set of stylish analogue gauges and switches set into a carbon-fibre backing. The analogue readouts give you speed, RPM, trim/tilt and fuel.

Stepping onboard the Sensation 17 DL, you instantly feel safe, ➤



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protected and out of harm's way, an important aspect to consider for the safety-conscious family boater. The boat features an elevated hull, high gunnels and a large wrap-around windscreen — that keep you dry inside and the elements out.

Standard features include navigation lights, boarding ladder, ski pole, boat cover, gauges, trailer with winch and a 75-litre fuel tank, while extras include clip-on carpets, CD/Radio player, and motor cover. The boat also consists of enough grab rails and cupholders for

your safety and enjoyment.

### ***Performance and handling***

Now that we've covered the interior, we can move onto the really exciting part — what's mounted on the back. As tested with her standard 115 HP Mercury Optimax outboard motor, the 17 DL reveals some serious speed on the water.

This shining black beast of a motor purred like a kitten while idling and didn't overpower passenger's conversations. Fitted with a 18-pitch propeller for great

all-round performance on the Reef, the 17 DL top-ends at 80 km/h (43 knots) at 5 780 rpm — is more than adequate should you want to indulge in a bit of skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, or any other watersport that tickles your fancy.

The Optimax 115 HP proved to be exceptionally fuel-efficient, powerful out of the blocks, and her cornering ability is of a high-class and finger light (much thanks to the boat's non-feedback steering). The hull grips the water and turns sharply without fault.

While cutting through the wake, it's evident that she's built for strength as there was no reverberation felt through the hull. Just because she's silent when skimming across the water, it doesn't mean she isn't responsive — her overall handling capabilities proved more than adequate.

### ***Conclusion***

The South African boating public is currently in desperate need of a well-priced, quality, small entry-level boat to entice novice boaters, which is where the 17 DL comes in play. Her possibilities are endless, and more than capable of entertaining family and friends, while offering exceptional value for money. But, don't think for a second that this is only a choice for first-time boaters, and even advanced skippers



will enjoy her ride.

The boat comes with a full lifetime structural guarantee and a five-year guarantee on the Mercury Optimax motor. The 17 DL is also 100% seaworthy.

Should you want, the possibilities are almost endless as you can add more power at the stern, a wake tower, and much, much more.

Strapping, strong and sturdy with a commanding and reassuring on-water presence, the Sensation 17 SD can be your passport to endless hours of fun on the water — without having to rob Fort Knox to own one. For more information, contact Andre or Riaan van Helsdingen on (016) 366 1630, or drop them an email on [sales@twinboats.co.za](mailto:sales@twinboats.co.za) or visit [www.twinboats.co.za](http://www.twinboats.co.za)

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#### TEST SUMMARY

LOA:	17-ft (5.19 m)
Max passengers:	5
Engine:	Mercury Optimax 115 HP
Max horsepower:	150 HP
Min horsepower:	90 HP
Top Speed:	80 km/h @ 5 780 rpm
Price:	Contact for price

\*The manufacturer has verified that all specifications are correct prior to print.