

Avalanche 190

Words and pictures by Andrew Stone

Nu Wave Marine has a real winner on its hands in the form of the Avalanche 190. With its good looks, ample power and competitive price, it's everything a leisure boat should be and more.





Nu Wave Marine has a real winner on its hands in the form of the Avalanche 190. With its good looks, ample power and competitive price, it's everything a leisure boat should be and more.

Based on a Malibu 1900 Sport bowrider, it's clear from the outset that the Avalanche 190 is a great boat. Manufactured locally by Fair Ride Marine and sold by Nu Wave Marine, the 190 has gained a favourable response from boaters since it was launched at the National Boat Show held at the Dome in Johannesburg last year. There's also a 170 version available which is slightly more affordable, but more about that in a later issue.

"We had a lot of interest in the Avalanche at the National Boat Show," says Glenn Wilmott of Nu Wave Marine. "It's a unique boat in that it has a very high and almost chunky windscreen that offers excellent wind protection – maybe the best in its class. Of course the fact that it's a really good-looking boat helps too."

Wilmott is spot on in that regard. The looks of the 190 can best be described as a combination of sporty and elegant lines, resulting in a

package that will make people sit up and take notice. It's not going to be one of the flashiest of boats on the water, but it does make a statement.

Our review boat was decked out in a subdued dark blue and I believe a brighter colour – like the red or yellow that it's also available in – would go a long way to adding a bit of spice to the 190's overall image. Of course this is a feature that comes down to personal preference and you can decide on which colour option you prefer.

Power on tap

The ride and performance of the 190 is out of the top drawer and I was impressed by its handling, ride comfort and stability as we put it through its paces. Power came in the form of a 4-stroke 150HP Optimax Mercury, which delivered more than its fair share of power. With just two of us on board, the 190 planed effortlessly and achieved a top speed of 72 km/h as we raced along the Vaal River on a perfect Gauteng summer's day. With a recommended horsepower range of 125 to 200, there's no doubt that the 190 will meet all your leisure boating needs, including skiing or wakeboarding. The semi deep-V hull ensured an excellent ➤

"It has a very high and almost chunky windscreen"



The U-shaped cockpit seating allows you to stretch out.



A separate copilot's seat swivels.

soft ride as we negotiated chop and swell churned up by other boats, and the comfort and safety cage-like effect created by the high sides will especially appeal to buyers with young children. Another simple but effective feature that I found particularly useful was the deep inset motor well. With the motor sitting low, the pilot has greater visibility over the engine of a skier or wakeboarder for added safety and control.

Creature comforts

The interior of the Avalanche is extremely well laid out. Along with the pilot seat, there's a separate copilot swivel chair and a U-shaped stern bench seat where you can really stretch out and soak up the sun's rays.

The bow area, accessed through a walk-through glass windshield, is spacious and can be converted into a sundeck with the addition of a bow filler cushion. All seats and cushions are finished in a high-grade marine vinyl that is UV resistant and washable for easy maintenance. The 190 is certified to carry nine people, meaning you have no excuse not to take your mother-in-law along for a ride next time you hit the water. As far as storage space is concerned there's a large ski/wakeboard hatch in the deck, plenty of conveniently placed hatches, and a glove box for smaller, valuable items. The 190 features a soft touch dash which I am still in two minds about. It looks good, but I'm not sure how well it will stand up to general wear and tear and could look tacky in the event it becomes scuffed. Instrumentation depends largely on which motor option you go for but does include a speedometer, a mini ski wing, a rev counter, and fuel and trim gauges. Other features that come standard are a bilge pump, navigation lights, moulded cup holders, a radio/CD player with four marine speakers, and non-slip finishes in all high traffic

areas. A clever inclusion is the use of pop-out cleats that lie flush when not in use and can be popped out when you need to tie the boat up.

All in one

The Avalanche 190 is probably one of the most complete leisure boating packages on the market today, and offers power, performance and style at a very competitive price. Starting at R145 000 (depending on which motor package you opt for), the price includes a canopy, boat and motor covers, and a colour-coded, powder coated trailer fitted with mag wheels. A wakeboard tower including wakeboard racks can be fitted as an optional extra and will set you back an additional R17 500. For a demo ride or for more information contact Nu Wave Marine on (011) 795 1616. ●

At a glance

Length	5.64 m
Beam	2.34 m
Weight	743 kg
Hull material	Semi deep V manufactured from GRP
Dead rise	18°
HP range	125 – 200

