

SISTER **ACT**

Hanse's model revamp has extended to its entry-level 32- and 35-footers. **ALLAN WHITING** reports after a pleasant day on Sydney's Pittwater...



BEING HANSES, THE NEW 325 AND 355 WERE RIDICULOUSLY EASY TO SAIL, THANKS TO SELF-TACKING HEADSAILS AND SIMPLE MAINSHEET CONTROLS



New-boat buyers can bask on one of Hanse's popular shorthanded-friendly sailboats, satisfied they've purchased at the right time (top). Self-tacking headsail track ahead of the boom (above) means you can leave the crew behind and sail on your own. The Hanse 355 (opposite) leads the smaller 325 out on a glorious Pittwater day.

Not everyone wants or can afford a large yacht. Also, some buyers who may have over-boated themselves, finishing up with a craft that's stressful to handle or requires a crew, want to downsize. That's why I reckon there'll always be a place for smaller yachts with good performance and quality inclusions: to suit those with restricted budgets and those who don't need the physical constraints of a big boat. Hanse agrees.

The 2011-year 325 and 355 are like peas from the same pod, but one's a bit bigger than the other. Side-on they look almost identical, with matching cabin-port shapes and wheel pedestals, and the

variations are subtle — a longer forward coach house and cockpit, plus a slightly taller mast on the 355 being the main changes.

Clamber aboard and the differences are more noticeable, with the 355's large cockpit offering more crowd space, uninterrupted by mainsheet and block. Below decks the 355 has room for a third cabin, if required, but the galley, dinette, cabin and head spaces of both craft aren't greatly different.

The 325 and 355 have vee-berths and twin robes forward, with the 325's being slightly narrower and having smaller robes. The saloons are very similar in size, with dinettes that offer comfy seating for six and the 355's table is larger. Highly polished compression posts drop through

[FAST FACTS]

► Keen pricing, outstandingly high-standard equipment levels, ease of sailing, generous accommodation below decks and comfortable cockpits make the Hanse 325 and 355 hard to beat.



TOUGH TIMES IN THE GLOBAL YACHT MARKET AND VERY FAVOURABLE EXCHANGE RATES HAVE CREATED THE BEST ENVIRONMENT IN YEARS FOR NEW-YACHT BUYERS

[HIGHS]

- › Big-boat layout below decks
- › Unprecedented value for money
- › Ease of handling

[LOWS]

- › Lack of anti-slip on cabin tops

the table centres and integrate well with the décor. A movable, round stool with padded top is provided with the 355.

The galleys are almost identical, but the 355 has a tad more bench space. Chart table areas are also similar and the radio and electrical modules are the same, including grey plastic cover mouldings, with roller shutter doors. We found the plastic covers somewhat jarring in a polished-wood environment and buyers have the option of deleting them if they want.

Three-cabin 355s and the 325 have a large head with integral shower, but two-cabin 355s come

with a larger head and separate shower section. Tap and recessed shower-head designs are non-obtrusive and very stylish. The two-cabin layouts of both boats provide huge sail-storage lockers beneath their portside cockpit seats, with additional access from the heads.

Although compact boats, the Hanse “babies” share their larger siblings’ construction features: GRP hull strongbacks, monolithic hull layup with vinylester first layer and isophthalic gelcoat, balsa deck laminate and main bulkheads laminated to hull and deck. Iron bulb keels are fitted, with choice of shoal or deep draft.

Trademark self-tacking 95 per cent, furling jibs are standard, along with single-line, slab-reefed mains that are fully-battened. Rig options include genoas and asymmetric or pole spinnakers.

As with the other Hanse yachts in the Windcraft stable, the concept of ‘base boat’ has had



You too can be like Jessica Watson and sail solo on the Hanse 30-somethings (top). The Hanses share similar interior layouts with subtle variations. Above is the 325's chart table and portside aft head, and right, the comfy saloon and forepeak double-berth cabin.



Facts & figures

PERFORMANCE

We reckon a twilight-race-crewed 325 could give the 355 a run for its money upwind in stronger breezes, especially with optional genoas replacing the standard self-tackers.

PRICE AS TESTED

\$183,465

OPTIONS FITTED

Spring cleats, primary sheet winches, 10kg anchor and 30m of stainless steel chain, mainsail bag with lazy jacks, additional battery, 30amp charger, shorepower wiring, water heater, 12V fridge, wind indicator, flagpole, mooring kit, Simrad IS20 wind display, Simrad NX40 chartplotter, Simrad AP24 autopilot, rail gates, anchor windlass, 27hp engine upgrade, two-blade folding propeller, bimini, dodger, and cockpit cushions

PRICED FROM

\$168,000

GENERAL

MATERIAL: Monolithic hull and balsa-cored laminate deck with isophthalic gelcoat and vinyl ester first layer

TYPE: Keelboat

LENGTH OVERALL: 9.63m

WATERLINE LENGTH: 8.72m

BEAM: 3.30m

DRAFT: 1.84m (standard);

1.53m (optional)

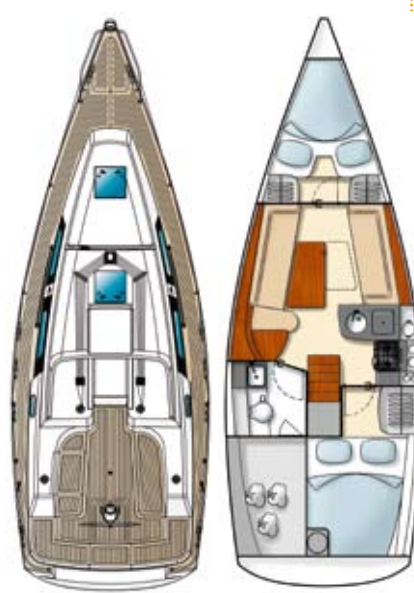
MAST HEIGHT: 14.77m

WEIGHT: 5200kg

BALLAST: 1480kg (standard);

1700kg (optional)

LAYOUT



HANSE 325

CAPACITIES

BERTHS: Two-cabin layout

FUEL: 90lt

WATER: 240lt

SAILS

MAIN: 28.47m²

JIB: 22.87m²

ENGINE

MAKE/MODEL: Volvo D1-20 diesel;

D1-30 (optional)

TYPE: Saildrive

RATED HP: 18; 27 (optional)

SUPPLIED BY

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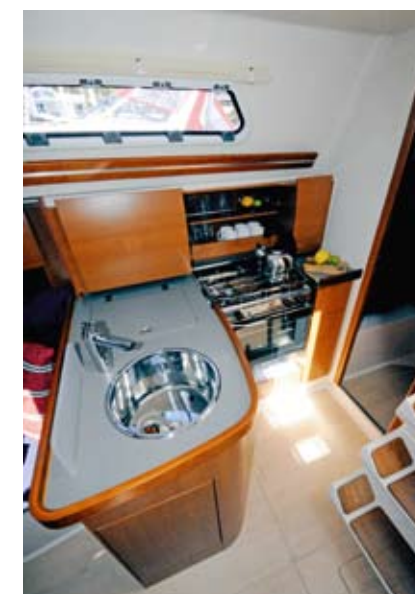
The Hanse 325 provides simple, low-effort sail and boat handling at an entry-level price that includes a host of items that are usually extras. The boat should allow easy family-cruising with some club-racing performance potential.



The 325's galley and doorway (top) to the starboard double-berth aft cabin (above).



The 325 differs with end-boom sheeting to a cockpit-sole block and cleat (top). Bimini and dodger are welcome options on the 325.



something of a transformation. For a RRP of \$168,000 the 325 comes with cruise and navigation packs, containing many items that are normally extras, inc. chartplotter, autopilot, wind instruments, mooring kit, anchor with stainless steel chain, extra battery, charger and shorepower. The 355's ticket of \$188,000 has similar add-ons, plus an engine upgrade from 18hp to 27hp.

ON THE WATER

Being Hanses, the new 325 and 355 were ridiculously easy to sail, thanks to self-tacking headsails



Mid-boom sheeting on the 355 (above) is via a German mast-base turning block system to cabin-top winches. You'll find a longer table in the 355's saloon (right), the dinette comfortably seating six. The galley on the 355 (below left) has more bench space, and inside the forepeak cabin (below right).

and simple mainsheet controls. The major difference between the boats was with the mainsheet systems: end-boom sheeting on the 325 to a cockpit-sole block and cleat; and mid-boom sheeting on the 355, via a German mast-base turning block system, to cabin-top winches.

The 325's smaller cockpit and the fact that it had a multi-purchase mainsheet tackle in the middle of the sole certainly restricted people-room in comparison with the larger boat, but sheet purchase was powerful enough to allow easy control of the smaller mainsail. A stop at the base of the mainsheet deck block served to lift the cleat to optimum height for easy mainsheet adjustment, even when the mainsail trimmer was hiked out on the cockpit coaming.

Another mainsheet control option is to run the mainsheet clear of the block cleat and feed it to one of the genoa sheet winches. We reckon





The chart table on the 355 includes a movable stool.



[FAST FACTS] **Hanse 355 charity raffle**

Windcraft has launched a fund-raising campaign to assist Bear Cottage, an annex of the Children's Hospital at Westmead in Sydney. A new Hanse 355 (above and top) is the grand prize in an art union raffle. The charity-raffle announcement was made to 200 members of the Hanse Owners Club at a prize-giving dinner, during the fifth annual Hanse Owners Regatta. The 50-boat event was held on Saturday, March 26 on Pittwater. Only 5000 tickets will be sold and the lucky winner will be

presented with the Hanse 355 on July 31 at the Sydney International Boat Show. Bear Cottage, located in the beachside suburb of Manly, is a hospice dedicated to caring for children with life-limiting conditions and to assisting their families. The aim of Bear Cottage is to ensure that every life, however short, is enriched, enjoyed and celebrated. Families do not have to pay for any services they receive from Bear Cottage, because the \$2.5 million amount required annually to keep the service operating is contributed entirely by the community. Bear Cottage celebrated its tenth birthday last

March and Windcraft hopes to make it a birthday to remember. The extraordinary support provided by Bear Cottage was movingly described at the Regatta dinner by the parents of a seven-year-old who suffers from a very rare disorder. Windcraft has named their Hanse 355 company demonstrator *Bear Away*, to help promote awareness of Bear Cottage and the fundraising campaign. This yacht can be viewed at the company's Bayview HQ on Pittwater. Full details of the Hanse 355 for Bear Cottage fundraiser and how to purchase tickets can be found at www.windcraft.com.au

Facts & figures

PERFORMANCE

We had an impromptu "race" around Pittwater in breezes that hit the 12-knot mark and as expected, the longer, more powerful 355 outpaced the 325 on and off the wind. Off the wind the 355 should always have the legs to outrun its shorter sibling.

PRICE AS TESTED

\$188,000

OPTIONS FITTED

Spring cleats, primary sheet winches, 10kg anchor and 30m of stainless steel chain, mainsail bag with lazy jacks, additional battery, 30amp charger, inverter, shorepower wiring, water heater, 12V fridge, wind indicator, flagpole, mooring kit, Simrad IS20 wind display, Simrad NX40 chartplotter, Simrad AP24 autopilot, and 27hp engine upgrade

PRICED FROM

\$188,000

GENERAL

MATERIAL: Monolithic hull and balsa-cored laminate deck with isophthalic gelcoat and vinylester first layer

TYPE: Keelboat

LENGTH OVERALL: 10.59m

WATERLINE LENGTH: 9.6m

BEAM: 3.56m

DRAFT: 1.92m (standard);

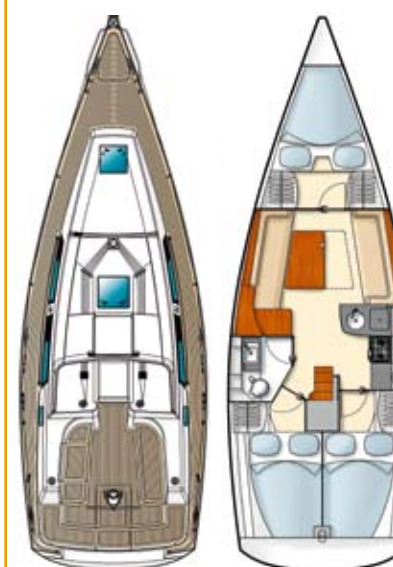
1.52m (optional)

MAST HEIGHT: 16.43m

WEIGHT: 6360kg

BALLAST: 1845kg (standard);
1925kg (optional)

LAYOUT



HANSE 355

CAPACITIES

BERTHS: Two- or three-cabin layout

FUEL: 90lt

WATER: 240lt

SAILS

MAIN: 35.25m²

JIB: 29.61m²

ENGINE

MAKE/MODEL: Volvo D1-30 diesel

TYPE: Saildrive

RATED HP: 27

SUPPLIED BY

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tradeboat SAYS...

Tough times in the global yacht market and very favourable exchange rates have created the best environment in years for new-yacht buyers. There's never been a better time to pick up a new boat and there are worse places to start than with the Hanse 325 and 355 entry-level cruisers.

The Hanse 355 offers three double-cabin accommodation in a small package size, or a spacious two-cabin layout with luxury separate shower and ample sail-stowage space for dual-purpose cruise-race buyers. Standard equipment includes items that are usually extras, making the 355 a sail-away, no-more-to-pay proposition for well under \$200K.



Campionway lifts on gas struts for engine access.