

CONTEST 42CS

Category – **Luxury cruiser**

Once again the luxury cruiser category was full of excellent boats, despite those shortlisted showing different interpretations of the term 'luxury'. But all credit to Contest. While competitors continue to go longer and larger, the Dutch company have produced a manageable-sized family cruiser that still excels.

When Contest introduced a 42-footer 37 years ago, it was one of the largest in their range. Today's 42CS is their smallest offering, charged with getting people aligned to the brand. This highly experienced family-run yard have poured their big boat know-how into the new family cruiser, marketing her with 45 different interior layout combinations. Five different cockpit designs are also available to suit owners' needs. We sailed the short-handed cockpit version, with a single point mainsheet and a low pedestal, allowing the helm to still reach both sheets.

With her tall rig and fully battened main, the 42CS offers lively performance and seemed the most nimble of the larger displacement yachts in the light airs we experienced in Southampton Water.

Contest are long versed in using vacuum infusion for their composite-sandwich construction technique. This, together with bonding every bulkhead to the stiffened hull with glassfibre, ensure a fundamentally solid yacht.

Contest have divided the boat in three to give owners the option of many different interior formats. Space is available for a genset and watermaker for those looking at bluewater cruising. Most instrument information can be shown on an iPad or flatscreen TV, and the Mastervolt digital switching electronics are slick. I still don't quite understand the coachroof windows that are too high to see out of, and a master cabin with a view is something one comes to expect these days. But the interior seems very spacious and modish, with colossal headroom and plenty of space. Indeed, it feels like being aboard a 45-footer.

CONCLUSION

Above all else the 42CS retains the seaworthy design and build quality on which this 55-year-old yard built its name. She oozes class.



▲ Above: Contest have produced a manageable-sized family cruiser. She is available with 45 different interior layout combinations. ◀ Left: five different cockpit designs are also available

SPECIFICATIONS

LOA	12.85m	42.15ft
Beam	4.15m	13.61ft
Displacement	11,000kg	24,251lbs
Draught	2.20m	7.21ft
Mainsail	57m ²	613.54ft ²
Genoa 108%	47m ²	505.90 ft ²
Fuel	250lt	65.99gal
Water	480lt	106gal
Engine	54hp Yanmar	
Design	Georg Nissen	
Price (ex VAT)	€389,000	




“ Contest, a highly experienced family-run yard, have poured their big-boat knowhow into this family cruiser ”




▲ Above: the Wetzels Brown Partners-designed interior holds its own against her exterior styling ▶ Right: the 42CS offers lively performance and is nimble for a medium-high displacement yacht





WHAT THE JUDGES SAID


 ESP – Three well thought out cockpit layouts aimed at three different kinds of owners/sailors. Good looks and excellent sailing complete the package.


 NOR – Looks and feels like a 50-footer under deck. She sails surprisingly well and will be the new benchmark in the medium-sized luxury yacht category.

 NLD – A 2014 boat with the pedigree of almost half a century of Contest. A very spacious and luxurious interior for a 42ft boat. In this size and segment this boat is really something new... with a very high build quality.


 FRA – We were very impressed by the accuracy of the choices made on the deck: easy to sail and easy to trim with real comfort for the crew.


 SUI – She shows that luxury is not only a matter of size. Promising are the spacious cockpit, the easy handling and the individuality below.

 ITA – Aims to appeal both to sailors who are seeking sailing performance and to families looking for comfort during their cruises. At sea she performs really well and you forget you are on a medium-high displacement boat.

 GER – Down below she offers so many options she is a semi-custom yacht rather than a serial production yacht. A connoisseur's choice!

 AUT – Variable aft-cockpit-concept with two wheels, good sailing performance, modern design, different layouts under deck, very good build quality and sensitive steering system.

 DNK – She performs well and is a true sail yacht. She is 'only' 42ft but feels like a much bigger boat.

 SWE – Stunning design and the highest level of build quality. Excellent performance and superb manoeuvrability.